

PAKISTAN TODAY

Tuesday, 25 June, 2019 | 21 Shawwal-ul-Mukarram, 1440 | Rs 20.00 | Vol IX No 355 | 16 Pages | Lahore Edition

QATAR ANNOUNCES \$3BN INVESTMENT IN PAKISTAN

■ QATARI FM SAYS ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN QATAR AND PAKISTAN WILL REACH \$9BN

■ PAKISTAN AND QATAR SIGN THREE MOUS ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT, COOPERATION ON FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND TOURISM

ISLAMABAD
STAFF REPORT

QATAR is making \$3 billion worth of new investments in Pakistan, in the form of deposits and direct investments, said Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Monday.

The economic partnership between Qatar and Pakistan will reach \$9bn, Qatar News Agency quoted Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani as saying.

"The Qatari-Pakistani economic partnership will amount to \$9bn. Qatar affirms its aspiration for further development in the relations between the two countries at all political, economic, sports and cultural levels," said the foreign minister.

The announcement comes a day after Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani wrapped up his visit to Pakistan during which he held a one-on-one meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan. Delegation-level talks were also held between the two sides.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh thanked the Emir for "announcing \$3bn in deposits and direct investments for Pakistan and for Qatar's affirmation to further develop relations between the two countries."

Dr Awan, while talking to the media, thanked the Qatar Emir and his cabinet for the announcement. She said that this amount will help Pakistan overcome its economic challenges, adding that Prime Minister Imran's announcement to grant visa on arrival for Qatari citizens will develop tourism sector in Pakistan.

She also hailed Qatar lifting the ban on Pakistani rice, saying it was good news for rice exporters and the economy of the country.

AGREEMENTS SIGNED: On Saturday, fol-



lowing the Emir's arrival, Pakistan and Qatar signed three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on trade and investment and cooperation on financial intelligence and tourism.

The signing of the MoUs was witnessed by Prime Minister Imran and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim.

The MoUs related to the establishment of the Pakistan and Qatar Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment, cooperation in the field of tourism and business events and cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence related to money laundering — associated offences and terrorism financing. The last MoU was signed between Qatar's Financial Information Unit and Pakistan's Financial Monitoring Unit.

On Sunday, President Dr Arif Alvi and Emir

Sheikh Tamim held wide-ranging talks, particularly the Afghan issue.

Alvi lauded Qatar's role in promoting efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, which was a notable contribution to regional peace.

While thanking the government and leadership of Pakistan for the gracious invitation and hospitality extended to him and his entourage during his two-day visit, the Qatari Emir acknowledged the sacrifices made by Pakistan in the fight against terrorism.

Taking note of the progress achieved in Afghan peace talks, the two leaders agreed to continue working closely for regional peace and stability.

President Alvi conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan upon Sheikh Tamim at a special investiture ceremony.

Opp protests selective censorship in NA

■ PPP CHIEF BILAWAL SAYS 'PM IMRAN'S EGO HURT BY WORD 'SELECTED', SAYS CENSORSHIP WOULD ONLY UNDERMINE PARLIAMENT

PPP to challenge ban on using word 'selected' for PM

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Register now, pay taxes later, PM Imran tells nation

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Faryal Talpur's physical remand extended till July 8

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Pakistan, UK militaries hold strategic dialogue

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PPP CHALLENGES LEGALITY OF BAN ON USING WORD 'SELECTED' FOR PM

ISLAMABAD
STAFF REPORT

THE Pakistan People's Party (PPP) on Monday vowed to oppose the ban imposed by the National Assembly deputy speaker on the use of the word 'selected' for Prime Minister Imran Khan.

PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari questioned the legitimacy of the move and said the PPP would hold consultations with lawyers to ascertain all possible legal options.

In an informal talk with reporters on Monday, the former president said all parliamentarians should deliberate on

the issue. "We must ascertain whether the government even has the authority to impose such a ban," said Zardari.

Similarly, PPP Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman said the ban on the word 'selected' was a manifestation of the prime minister's insecurities. "PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari was the first person to use the word 'selected' for PM Imran. It is quite telling to see that this word has now become a part of Imran Khan's identity; this single word sums up his political journey," she said. She said imposing such a ban only serves to validate the assertion that PM Imran was handpicked for Pakistan's highest office. "If the premier has not been selected, then why is the

word being banned?"

The senator also called out what she termed the premier's hypocrisy on the matter. "A little while back, Imran Khan was clapping when the word was used [in NA] but now he is endorsing this ban. It is amusing to see a person [PM Imran] who used words such as dacoits and thieves for political opponents be this afraid of a word as inane as selected." She also took a swipe at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's performance in government. "If Imran's selectors had first helped him become a councillor in Mianwali in the past, maybe Pakistan would not be in the condition it is today. This is what happens when a person who cannot even win a councillor's

election is made the prime minister of a country," said Rehman. The senator concluded her remarks with a vow to oppose the PTI-led government's attempts to stifle criticism. "They [the government] can impose as many restrictions as they want, but the public will always know that their prime minister has been selected for the post."

The PPP's reaction came after NA Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri directed MNAs to refrain from using the word 'selected' for Prime Minister Imran Khan. "The members of the assembly have been elected through votes and the house will not tolerate any insult to them," he said during Sunday's NA session.

PAKISTAN, UK MILITARIES HOLD STRATEGIC DIALOGUE FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION

RAWALPINDI: The militaries of Pakistan and the United Kingdom held on Monday delegation level strategic dialogue to discuss geo-strategic environment and bilateral military cooperation. According to the ISPR, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Bajwa, who is in Britain on an official visit, visited the Ministry of Defence, where he was received by UK's Chief of Defence Staff General Sir Nick Carter. On Sunday, the army chief along with DG ISPR Major General Asif Ghafoor was in attendance at the Lord's stadium to support Pakistan cricket team in their World Cup match against South Africa. The COAS, who reached London on June 20, last visited the UK in October 2018. "Gen Qamar will discuss matters of mutual interest including evolving geo-strategic environment, defence and security," the ISPR had said last week. **STAFF REPORT**

Faryal Talpur's physical remand extended till July 8

ISLAMABAD
STAFF REPORT

An accountability court on Monday granted the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) 14-day physical remand of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Faryal Talpur to investigate a corruption case. Talpur, sister of PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari, was nominated in a fake accounts case that is being probed by NAB. She was arrested by NAB on June 14 for alleged money laundering through fake accounts.

During the hearing, a NAB prosecutor told the court that Talpur had admitted that she transferred money to one Owais Muzaffar through the accounts, which are allegedly fake. The PPP leader had told the interrogators that she "did not know"

that the accounts were fake, he said.

The NAB prosecutor said that Talpur had told them that the Zardari Group supplied sugarcane. The anti-corruption watchdog said it had to question Talpur regarding the statements of owners of land where the sugarcane was being grown.

The NAB prosecutor said that it was earlier claimed that the Omni Group had transferred payments after Zardari Group supplied them with sugarcane, but in recent interrogations, Talpur had said that she did not know which sugar mill sent her the money. According to her, she was aware that sugarcane had been sold but did not know which sugar mill had bought it.

Talpur told NAB that she had received payments from those who bought sugarcane, the accountability bureau's counsel said. The

anti-accountability watchdog needs to ascertain the validity of her statement by examining the records, he added.

Latif Khosa, who is part of Talpur's legal team, said that her share in the Zardari Group was merely one per cent. Her lawyer, Farooq H. Naek, said that she had no role in the Park Lane corruption case either and that NAB was "mixing everything up". Khosa also asked why NAB was not taking action against Aleema Khan, who was nominated in a case pertaining to assets beyond known means.

"Make up [whatever cases] you want," he said in court. "We (PP) have been bearing this for 20 years."

He also demanded NAB to provide a copy of its findings from Talpur's interrogation so far.

FINAL NOTICE FOR ALL NBP ACCOUNT HOLDERS

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In order to facilitate the Biometric Verification of your bank accounts, NBP branches will remain open on Saturday (29th June 2019) and Sunday (30th June 2019).

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QATAR MAY SECURE NAWAZ'S RELEASE: ARIF NIZAMI

LAHORE
STAFF REPORT

VETERAN journalist, analyst and Pakistan Today Editor Arif Nizami on Monday said that Qatar may be able to broker a deal between the government and former premier Nawaz Sharif, thus securing his release.

Speaking on Channel 92's programme 'Ho Kya Raha Hai?', Arif Nizami said that Qatar is an old friend of Pakistan and was previously involved in securing Nawaz's release when former military dictator General (r) Pervez Musharraf arrested him following the 1999 coup.

"When Musharraf came into power and detained Sharif, the emir of Qatar was the first person to initiate the process for his release," he said, adding that Saad Hari, the incumbent prime



minister of Lebanon also aided in this task. He also said that sources have claimed that the recent visit of the emir was also connected to this task. "I have

been told that the process has been completed by up to 80 to 90 per cent," he said. "Sources have claimed that Nawaz's health is not stable and accord-

ing to his daughter Maryam, he has already suffered a stroke thrice," he said, adding that the emir of Qatar wants to pay the fine to secure his release so that he and his daughter can live in England while Shehbaz and Hamza will stay here to run the party affairs.

He said that while Prime Minister Imran Khan has vowed to give no amnesty to Nawaz, there have been many instances where he did not keep his promises, so it is possible that he may release Nawaz due to international pressure.

"The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) chairman once said something about a deal but he mentioned Shehbaz Sharif instead of Nawaz Sharif," he added.

Talking about Qatar's decision to invest \$3 billion in Pakistan, he said that Qatar may invest another \$7-8 billion later on.

Charter of economy has lost effectiveness: Ahsan

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ahsan Iqbal said that charter of economy has become ineffective due to the attitude of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He further said that PML-N is not interested in obtaining National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO). He asserted that everyone in the country knows how Imran Khan was installed through rigged elections and if this method gets repeated in the future, democracy will become a blot. "Government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has sabotaged the charter of economy," he added. He clarified his party's stance on charter of economy and said that PML-N will only consider it if the government is serious to address the issues of opposition. **STAFF REPORT**

Nawaz Sharif a 'certified corrupt' person: Murad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communication and Postal Services Murad Saeed said on Monday that the government has gathered all the evidence regarding the illegal and lavish spendings of the erstwhile leaders and each penny will be recovered from them. While addressing members of the National Assembly in response to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's remarks, he said that we all are well aware of the kind of language used in Nawabshah and if becoming chairman of a party on a chit is considered merit then he salutes Bilawal. He also said that former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif is a certified corrupt person. Murad further said that a total of Rs340 million had been spent on Nawaz's treatment, while Rs280.36 million had been spent on construction of Raiwind Road. A sum of Rs1 billion had been spent on the security of Jati Umr. He told the session that PML-N leaders plundered the wealth of country mercilessly while on the other hand, PM Imran is bearing all day-to-day expenses from his own pocket. **STAFF REPORT**

Govt to crackdown on sugar mafia, says Azhar

ISLAMABAD
INP

State Minister for Revenue Hammad Azhar on Monday said the government has imposed a tax of only Rs3.30 per kg of sugar but it is being sold at excessive rates in the market. "The price on which the sugar is being sold in the market is high," he said while talking to media. He said the government has presented a balanced budget in difficult economic conditions, the

country passing through right now.

After the passage of the budget, we will conduct a survey of sugar mills with the provincial governments, Azhar said and added the crackdown will be launched against those, who will be found involved in hoarding the sugar. State Minister for Revenue Hammad Azhar while presenting the budget in the National Assembly, on July 11 maintained that presently sugar was subject to sales tax at 8 percent. He stressed that there was huge economic potential, but tax collection



from this sector was Rs18 billion which was much lower than actual potential. "To maximize this tax gap and to harmonize its rate with other items, it is proposed that the sales tax rate on sugar may be increased to 17 percent," the state minister continued. As a result of this measure, the price of sugar was expected to increase by Rs3.60 per kilogram.

IHC DECLARES ARBITRATION COUNCIL'S PERMISSION NECESSARY FOR SECOND MARRIAGE

ISLAMABAD
STAFF REPORT

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday made the consent of the Arbitration Council mandatory for second marriage. IHC Justice Athar Minallah issued the detailed verdict which stated that the approval from the Arbitration Council is obligatory for the husband despite getting a go-ahead from the first wife. According to the 1961 Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, "the person who performs a marriage without permission will be punished and fined". Furthermore, the individual "will also be penalized for second marriage if the Arbitration Council does not permit it in spite of the approval by the first wife". The IHC also nullified the decision of an additional session judge who released a person namely Liaqat Ali Mir in the same case. The aforementioned person married Dilshad Bibi in 2011. Mir performed a second marriage in 2013 without the consent of his first wife as well as the Arbitration Council. He was handed over one-month jail sentence by an Islamabad magistrate for his offense and was fined Rs5,000. An additional session judge released Mir afterward on the grounds that he was a native of Azad Kashmir. The Islamabad High Court - after annulling the decision - said in its remarks that all laws are applicable to the person who possesses the national identity card. The IHC further directed the additional session judge to hear the case on merit. The second marriage is registered in Islamabad and the court holds the authority to conduct its hearing, the IHC declared.

Afghan President Ghani to visit Pakistan on June 27

President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani will be visiting Pakistan on an official two-day trip in the coming week.

The Afghan president will arrive in Pakistan on June 27.

During his official visit, Ghani will hold meetings with high-level government functionaries.

The Afghan president

would travel to Lahore on June 28 where besides meeting top officials of the province he will also pray at the Badshahi Mosque.

It is believed that this visit holds too much importance as it is scheduled right after the first Afghan peace conference titled 'Lahore Process' held on June 22 in

Bhurban Murree.

Around 50 delegates, including heads of all Afghan political parties and the political adviser to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, attended this moot. Former Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, senators and members of Afghan parliament were also in attendance. **NEWS DESK**

Former IB chief records statement in bulletproof vehicles case

ISLAMABAD
INP

Intelligence Bureau's (IB) former director general, Aftab Sultan, on Monday appeared before the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to record his statement in an investigation into bulletproof vehicle case. Sultan appeared before NAB's Rawalpindi chapter to record his statement after being summoned by the anti-graft watchdog body. Former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi have already recorded their statement in the case. According to the NAB 34, bulletproof vehicles were procured from Germany for the guest of the South Asian Association for

Regional Cooperation (SAARC) conference. The vehicles were bought without paying import duty, it added.

It may be noted that last week, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had decided to transform bulletproof vehicle case inquiry into the investigation against former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. The approval was given in an anti-graft watchdog body's executive board meeting chaired by its chief Justice retired Javed Iqbal, at the bureau's headquarters.

Talking on the occasion, Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal had said taking the mega corruption cases to the logical conclusion is the foremost priority of the bureau.

Government of Pakistan

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, ISLAMABAD

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No. 03/2019-20/PIMS

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Tender issue venue	Purchase Department PIMS
Tender Fee (Non-refundable)	Rs.500/- each per schedule
Last date for issuance of Tender Schedules	23-07-2019 at 01:00 PM
Time for submission of tender / drop in Tender Box, available in Purchase Department	24-07-2019 at 11:00 AM
Tender opening date and time	24-07-2019 at 11:30 AM
CDR Value:-	As mentioned in Terms & Conditions / Tender Schedule

NOTE

- Tender schedule can be obtained from Purchase Department PIMS on written request on Letter Head Pad along with copy of Income Tax & Sales Tax Registration Certificate if applicable and proof of Active Taxpayer List of the FBR during working hours.
- The firms will adopt Single Stage Two-Envelope Procedure as provided in the Public Procurement Rules 2004, vide clause # 36(b).
- No tender will be received after due date & time. Incomplete, conditional and without deposit at call bids will not be entertained.
- Tender is also available at PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk as well as at PIMS Website www.pims.gov.pk.

Executive Director

PID/0172/18

14 faint after consuming unhygienic food

NAROWAL: Yet another incident of consumption of low-quality foods putting several lives at stake took place in Narowal where 14 members of a family fainted after eating such food. The incident took place in a village of Narowal where children and women were among the 14 who fell unconscious. They were later shifted to a hospital where Medical Superintendent Dr. Latif revealed that the family had consumed 'stale food'. He added that the health condition of all affected family members was 'out of danger'. **INP**

Buzdar calls for immediate draining out of rainwater

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar on Monday said that negligence will not be tolerated in draining out the accumulated rainwater in the province. Buzdar has ordered the concerned departments to be on their toes owing rain in the parts of the province. "No negligence will be tolerated, officers should go in the field to monitor draining out of the rainwater in order to save people from hurdles", he directed. Rain in several cities of Punjab, including Lahore, on Sunday afternoon, provided relief to the residents who were reeling under the scorching heat for the past week and turned the weather pleasant. Rain with gusty winds was reported from Faisalabad, Chiniot, Bhalwal, Shah Kot, Toba Tek Singh, Mindi Ghab, Quaidabad, Daud Khel, Chasma, Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Sangla Hill, Sahiwal and Murree in Punjab. Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast rain with gusty winds at scattered places in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan, while at isolated places in Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, D.G. Khan, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Mirpurkhas, Kalat and Zhob divisions and Islamabad during the next 24 hours. Hot and dry weather is expected elsewhere in the country. **STAFF REPORT**

Opp wants to curtail development, says Sarwar

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhary Muhammad Sarwar has said that every step of opposition including all parties conference is nothing but a hurdle in the path of progress and prosperity. On Monday while talking to different delegations, he said that Ameer e Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad's successful visit to Pakistan is not being absorbed by our political opponents. The provision of three billion dollars to Pakistan is manifestation of the trust between Qatar and Pakistan. "We have firmly decided that we shall not tolerate any conspiracy against the peace, progress and prosperity of the nation. Allah Federal and Provincial budgets will get passed from the respective assemblies very soon". Governor Punjab said that unfortunately the previous governments paid no heed to good governance, institutional autonomy and spending on human development. They primarily focused on cosmetic development and had no plan for long term sustainable economic stability. He said that the flawed economic policies of previous two governments caused inflation, unemployment and corruption. Now they are diverting the attention of people by calling for protests and organizing all parties' conference. They should play constructive role both within and outside the parliament instead of creating chaos and disorder. He added that parliament is a sacred platform for every Pakistani where the interests of the people of Pakistan should be promoted and protected. But unfortunately, people are witnessing what they have been doing in the Parliament-creating chaos and disorder. He said that PTI has come into power by the votes of the people and it is striving hard to promote and protect the interests of the people. People of Pakistan have complete trust in PTI and it will continue to maintain this trust. **ONLINE**

LAND GRABBERS OPEN FIRE AT ETPB TEAM IN PAKPATTAN

LAHORE
SHAHAB OMER

THE land grabbers of Pakpattan opened fire on the team of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) while the team was sealing the properties under illegal possession of locals whereas, the local police have registered an FIR against the accused and started investigations, Pakistan Today learned here on Monday.

An ETPB official told this scribe, "A large piece of land in Pakpattan is under illegal possession of locals who have constructed houses and shops there. The team planned to take action

against the occupants but when they reached the site and started sealing the shops and houses, a group of people opened fire and took the team into their custody for almost five hours. Later, the team called the police who rescued them from the angry people."

The official further told that police had registered an FIR; however, the FIR was registered against only one person named Rana Ahsan Khan, a copy of which is available with Pakistan Today.

It was further learnt that newly appointed ETPB Chairman Dr Amir Ahmed had issued strict orders to vacate illegally possessed properties owned by ETPB to all administrators of different zones in the country. Currently, the teams are col-

lecting and making a database of all illegally possessed properties.

According to sources, "Most of the teams are working actively against the illegal occupants after the orders of the newly appointed chairman. But on the other hand, the same team is also harassing innocent and poor people. Most of the officials in ETPB are corrupt and it is only with their consent that a large people have possessed the organisation's properties illegally".

While talking to Pakistan Today, ETPB Spokesperson Amir Hashmi told this scribe, "The mentioned incident happened when our teams were doing their work. However, despite this attempt, our teams are ready to do their work again".



LAHORE: The rain turned the weather pleasant in the provincial capital on Monday. Pictured here are people who rushed to the Greater Iqbal Park to enjoy the beautiful scenery. **ONLINE**

Rain turns the weather pleasant, leaves several areas without power

LAHORE
ONLINE

Persistent rain in Lahore inundated low-lying areas and several neighbourhoods in most areas of the city remained without electricity due to tripping of more than 150 feeders.

Besides, the scattered rain broke the prolonged heat spell in Lahore and its adjoining areas.

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has also predicted rain in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

(KP), Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Neighbourhoods which were hit by prolonged power outages included Bhatta Chowk, Chauburji, Multan Road, Samanabad, Saddar and the adjoining regions. In the recent days, it was extremely hot in Lahore, and the searing heat was energy-sapping and even the wind was markedly hot under the blazing sun.

On the other hand, Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has issued strict directives to the concerned departments to remain alert, and sub-

sequently the workers have been ordered to perform the drainage work effectively.

The administrations of the relevant departments have been directed to utilise all available resources to prevent streets from flooding, and coordinate with each other. Officers have been told that negligence in the drainage works would not be tolerated, and that they must monitor the work actively in the field instead of 'sitting in their offices'.

Traffic police have been ordered to ensure smooth flow of traffic inside the city.

Court seeks challan in China bride trafficking case

FAISALABAD
STAFF REPORT

A local court on Monday extended judicial remand of Chinese nationals in a case related to alleged fake marriages with Pakistani girls.

FIA had launched a crackdown against Chinese nationals following media reports about mistreatment and sexual exploitation of Pakistani women in China after their marriage with Chinese nationals.

The accused were presented in the court of Judicial Magistrate Aamir Raza.

At the outset of the hearing, lawyer of the accused Chinese nationals said the Investigation Officer (IO) has failed to produce challan in the case.

"My clients landed on a legal visa in Pakistan and doing business here," he said.

The court ordered the IO of the case to

present the challan of the case on next hearing of the case and extended the remand of the accused of 14 days.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had revealed that fake religion certificates were used for marriages of Chinese citizens with Pakistani brides.

According to FIA officials, it was found that the gang member comprising of Chinese nationals have prepared fake religion certificates to deceive Pakistani families. It was revealed that several fake marriage registration certificates were also generated in concerned Union Councils (UCs) of Christian girls who had married to the Chinese men.

Earlier, the Lahore court had rejected bail pleas of eleven Chinese nationals in the Pakistani bride trafficking case on May 16.

Judicial Magistrate Amir Raza, however, approved the bail of their local facilitators - Ansar and Shaukat.

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NEW MEDIA ADVERTISING POLICY ON THE ANVIL: FIRDOUS

ISLAMABAD
APP

SPECIAL Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Firdous Ashiq Awan said on Monday the government would soon launch a new media advertising policy to make it compatible with the modern requirements.

Speaking at a meeting of Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) here, she said all the stakeholders would be consulted for preparation of the new policy.

She said the government was taking measures to resolve issues of the media houses so that the media workers were not affected and they were paid salaries timely. The Special Assistant said changes would be introduced in the role of the advertising agencies.

Firdous Ashiq Awan said the government would make efforts to create a comfort zone for the media industry in order to ensure a conducive environment for media workers.



She said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would come up to the expectations of the media community. Media workers were close to the heart of the prime minister and during the present media situation he had sympathies with

them. The SAPM said that the government was desirous of settlement of all issues related to media through consultation and dialogue.

She said that she had advised Principal Information Officer Tahir Khush-

nood to hold consultations with media organizations and media workers organizations and prepare strategy for resolution of their problems.

She said that in the past anti-PTI campaign was launched on the media by the previous government from public sector funds and ironically payment of that media campaign would have to be done by the present government.

She said that fake news was a big challenge and media help was required to overcome this problem.

ALVI ASSURES SUPPORT: The CPNE delegation also called on President Dr Arif Alvi.

Talking to delegation, Alvi said that his office will continue to play its constitutional role for bringing social change in the country. The President expressed his strong resolve to continue his efforts to create awareness on the most vital social issues such as malnutrition, infant mortality, population growth, and women's right to inheritance and he has taken all concerned stakeholders on board in this regard, he added.



Hamza denies discord in Sharif family

LAHORE
STAFF REPORT

Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Hamza Shehbaz on Monday rejected reports that serious differences had surfaced in the Sharif family over the party's affairs.

While addressing a press conference, Shehbaz said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) belongs to Nawaz Sharif and we all follow his narrative.

"There may be differences arising in other parties but PML-N is united under Nawaz Sharif," he further said. He said that PM Imran is a selected PM and if this title bothers him then he should consider covering his ears. While speaking on the economy, he said that the PTI government is completely responsible for the mess and very soon they'll face the public's ire.

He told media that PTI has not fulfilled even one promise and the day they would be able to deliver half of what PML-N delivered in its tenure, people will start accepting Imran a leader.

FIA probes alleged corruption in PLA aircraft deal

KARACHI
INP

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has launched an investigation into alleged corruption in buying A 310 aircraft from a US-based company in 2012 for the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), it was learnt on Monday. The deal was struck by the then chairman Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar in the year 2012 with the cost of \$30mn and \$15mn additional were spent over the ren-

ovation of the aircraft.

According to the FIA, the planes despite the heavy amount spent on their renovation were grounded after one year, which cost Rs5 billion losses to the national exchequer.

Mukhtar was asked to appear before the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for probe into the matter on June 20, but he skipped. Sources said former MD PIA Nadeem Yousufzai has also been summoned for the probe into the scam. On January 7, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had initiated a probe into

alleged corruption in the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) in the wake of the Supreme Court's order.

As per details, a 7-member investigation team of the FIA has started probing into alleged corruption in the national flag carrier, in the light of 10 years' audit report, compiled by the government's auditors.

According to the audit report of the last 10 years, the national entity had suffered the losses of Rs360 billion since 2008. PIA incurred the losses of Rs28 billion in 2001, Rs36 billion in 2008, Rs45 billion in 2016, and 44 billion in 2017.

Nigerian delegation lauds healthcare initiatives in Punjab

LAHORE: On the invitation of Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid and Punjab Health Services Director General Dr Haroon Jahangir, 16-member Nigerian delegation visited Health Services DG's office on Monday. Dr Saeed Ghuman, Dr Shahzad Naeem, Dr Khalid and Dr Yaqub Ullah were also there. Punjab Health Services Director General Dr Haroon Jahangir briefed the delegation about the initiatives of the Punjab government to facilitate maximum patients. He also briefed about healthcare service delivery, anti-polio campaign, universal health coverage, the role of donor agencies, health



budget and specially health policies. The Nigerian delegation appreciated the efforts of Punjab health minister to take initiatives to facilitate maximum patients in government hospitals. Nasir Deen Usman led the Nigerian delegation as well. Punjab Health Services Director General Dr Haroon Jahangir said

on this occasion that on the direction and vision of the health minister, they are making hundred per cent effort to ensure maximum facilitation of patients. "We are trying to ensure facilitation of patients in government hospitals according to the international standards," he said. **STAFF REPORT**

KP govt determined to eradicate polio: CM

PESHAWAR
STAFF REPORT

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan said on Monday that his government is determined to eradicate polio from the province and is taking concrete steps in this regard, media reported. He said, while chairing a high-level meeting, that strict action would be sought against those health officers whose performance during the anti-polio campaign remained unsatisfactory. He also directed the related authorities to convince parents about benefits of polio vaccination by educating them. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on polio Babar Bin Atta also addressed the meeting and told the participants that government has planned to start special social media campaign to create awareness among the general public about polio. It was finalised in the meeting that no legal action would be taken against the parents who refused to administer anti-polio vaccine to their children earlier. On June 13, another polio case had surfaced in Shangla, a district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sources told that with addition of this case the total number of reported cases in KP now stands at 20.

China-Pakistan traffickers force brides into prostitution

FAISALABAD
STAFF REPORT

At first, in her desperate calls home to her mother in Pakistan, Natasha Masih couldn't bring herself to say what they were doing to her. All the 19-year-old would say was that her new husband — a Chinese man her family sold her off to in marriage — was torturing her. Eventually she broke down and told her mother the

full story, pleading with her to bring her home. The husband had hidden her away in a hotel in a remote corner of China and for the past weeks had been forcing her to have sex with other men.

"I bought you in Pakistan," she said her husband told her. "You belong to me. You are my property." Her mother turned to the only people she knew who could help, her small evangelical church in a run-down slum of the Pakistani city of

Faisalabad. There, a group of parishioners began putting together an elaborate plan to rescue the girl from the hotel more than 1,100 miles away. Natasha was one of hundreds of Pakistani girls who have been married off to Chinese men in return for cash payments to their families, most of them Christians, a community that is among the poorest of the poor in the country. The Associated Press reported previously how Christian pastors and Pakistani and Chinese brokers work together in a lucrative trade, aggressively pursuing Pakistani girls who are tricked into fraudulent marriages and find themselves trapped in China with sometimes abusive husbands.

Since then, police investigations have uncovered that many of the women are forced into prostitution in China. A picture of the extent of the trafficking networks has emerged from a series of arrests and raids in recent weeks by Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency, as well as testimony from victims, many of whom were previously too frightened to come forward. The AP spoke to seven girls who had been forced into prostitution — four of them still in China.

Families are told their daughters will be wed to well-off businessmen and given good lives in China, and the marriage trade is depicted as a benefit for all sides — impoverished parents receive money, while Chinese men find brides in a country where men outnumber women. But investigators are increasingly convinced that the majority of the girls are sold into prostitution, two law enforcement officials familiar with the investigations told the AP. "The girls who are interviewed say they were tortured" — using a euphemism for rape and forced prostitution, said one of the officials. "They are afraid for their families and for the disgust they fear they will feel. ... Make no mistake, this is trafficking." However, even as investigators are uncovering the scope of the trade, the Pakistani government has sought to keep it quiet. Senior government officials have ordered investigators to remain silent about the trafficking because they don't want to jeopardize Pakistan's increasingly close economic relationship with China, the two officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity for that reason.

Beijing is investing billions of dollars

in Pakistan as part of its Belt and Road Initiative, a global endeavor aimed at reconstructing the Silk Road and linking China to all corners of Asia. Under a \$75 billion project known as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Beijing has promised a sprawling package of infrastructure development, from road construction and power plants to agriculture. The largest component is a 3,200-kilometer (2,000-mile) road linking China to Pakistan's deep-water port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea.

In Pakistan, it has been billed as a massive development program that will bring new prosperity to the South Asian nation, where the average citizen lives on just \$125 a month. Since 2015, thousands of Chinese have arrived in Pakistan to work on a multitude of projects. China's ambassador to Pakistan has gone on local television channels denying girls are trafficked to China and sold into prostitution. The issue of human trafficking was not discussed during a visit to Pakistan this month by China's vice president, Wang Qishan, who held talks with Prime Minister Imran Khan and Pakistan's president.



WAR ON THE ROCKS
CATHAL J. NOLAN

DO generals matter? Well, of course they do, on some level. But do they matter as much as military history suggests they do, or as much as most people believe? In thinking about generalship and outcomes while writing *Allure of Battle: A History of How Wars Have Been Won and Lost*, I was surprised to come to the conclusion that generals matter far less in the history of war than is usually represented in traditional military history. This is especially true of those generals praised by military historians as geniuses of maneuver warfare. Superior generals may win a tactical or operational victory by outmaneuvering an opponent in a day of battle or a campaign, but in the protracted fighting that marks major wars among modern nations and coalitions, they do not deliver strategic victory.

I didn't always think that. I was impressed by histories of spectacular battles and brilliant campaigns said to be obvious fulcrum moments in war — the ones where a genius on horseback found a way to maneuver past stone borders, to isolate a plodding enemy army and defeat it in battle on a red day or in a summer campaign. Those rare, and rare, "Great Captains" of history whose military genius stand as exemplars for all times and wars, and whose close study and emulation Napoleon recommended as "the only means of becoming a great captain, and of acquiring the secret of the art of war." The timeless generals who changed the face of war for our time with a unique coup d'oeil and highly aggressive tactics that historians and theorists celebrated ever after.

We have all read the too-common histories wherein even the failed heroic on offense beats stoic defense every time, at least in military history's assignment of command "genius" to dead generals. Histories in which laddled praise tells us how wars should be fought in imitation of the "Great Captains," ancient or modern, even if wars are lost, instead of telling us how they are fought by those who win.

We are all familiar with nationalist military histories in which armies are led to mass slaughter, yet scholars declare Marlborough the finest of English generals. Or in which Prussia is wrecked and Frederick contemplates suicide, saved only by a stroke of fortune, yet he is the greatest of Germans. We have all perused bookshelves stacked with adulation wherein France fights for a generation only to lose and be left in ruins, twice, yet an age is named by historians for Louis XIV and another for Napoleon.

What I found more interesting, more telling about real-world outcomes, is the far greater number of generals and armies that never tried for, or outright avoided, the modern ideal of Clausewitzian climactic battle. These generals knew they could not achieve it, or were not allowed to try — either by nations and empires afraid of losing their capability to a superior enemy, or just to vanity in the saddle of the man in command of their own army. More often, the winning side in modern wars understood that the operational doctrine of the modern aggressor, offensive maneuver warfare heading to the decisive battle, was not suited to the policy or interests of a status quo power. Nor was battle-seeking actually decisive in prolonged strategic contests between great powers or empires, or opposing coalitions provoked into existence by the opening rounds of fighting. Tactical and operational dexterity almost never brought the promised strategic victory as quickly as proponents promised, or at all. Instead, it descended into coalition war destined to be decided by attrition, or to be fought over and again under different names, resuming after generational pauses to recover and rearm. Clausewitz recognized this more limited and endless character of real war late in life, but he never resolved the clash between history and his younger self's theory and idolatry of battle and of purported "military genius."

DO GENERALS MATTER?

I WAS SURPRISED TO COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT GENERALS MATTER FAR LESS IN THE HISTORY OF WAR THAN IS USUALLY REPRESENTED IN TRADITIONAL MILITARY HISTORY

Wiser leaders, less aggressive ones, the ones more likely to win, told their armies to sit behind stone walls or a riverine defense, behind 18th-century fortified frontiers, inside 19th- or 20th-century trenches, accepting acceleration of attrition that intermittent battles delivered instead of decision. They said to their generals, "avoid rather than seek decisive battles. Let the aggressor recklessly smash his legions and expend his national treasure against my strong, defensive positions." Winning nations endured defeat after defeat but kept fighting, while activating latent military resources and assembling a grand coalition to wage a long war that blunted the short war delusions of the aggressive power that started it all. They did not always win: War is too contingent and complex to predict or perfect. But they won far more often than highly offensive-minded aggressors, deluded that in decisive opening campaigns and battles of annihilation, in their own operational or national genius, lay a short-war solution to decades of unresolved geopolitical issues and ambitions.

Attrition is not the only reason modern wars are won and lost. There is no one thing that guarantees victory or defeat in the most complex of all human activities. But one deep pattern in history is that victory goes more often to those who resist the allure of battle, which blinds us to the deeper reality of great power strategic balance, and hence to the far greater likelihood of bogging down in long wars of attrition. More wars are won by digging in and enduring, by grinding rather than by genius, by hanging on after initial defeat to recover and fight the slow war that defeats the short-war delusion of aggressors. Defensive strategy, and with it acceptance of the necessary role of attrition in the final outcome, has won far more often than reliance on operational brilliance. Endurance of defeat, recovering to fight on, tapping into long war acceptance of attritional outcomes, has more often won than lost. Attrition stymied aggressors (and would-be liberators) who rolled the iron dice hoping for a short war, who crossed a border looking to win fast in a great and decisive battle or campaign, only to tumble their nation into long and losing wars of malingering resistance.

Military history and theory are still burdened by an offensive bias. We need to better understand those who made war within the real limits of their time rather than seeking to overcome and redefine war for all times. Accepting the limits of one's era, fighting within its technological and cultural constraints, matters a great deal. Humility about the possibilities for offense and the strengths of defense matters very much, whether what one must overcome is stone and cannon, slow fortification by long sieges, or complex trench systems supported by modern artillery, but far more importantly by the activated resources and committed will of whole nations and empires. This is what ensures attrition, rather than doctrine, decides most wars. We should look past the handful of generals who sought to impose their will or the aggressive will of their nation with clever projects for short offensive war. If we are to understand the major factors that actually decide victory and defeat in most modern wars, we should study spectacular plans and offensive doctrine less, and the capacity for endurance and acceptance of attrition more.

Ignored and indeed belittled in traditional military histories are the many successful generals who fought their opponents to a stalemate because defense and not aggression was their mandate. Military history, or at least military historians, have tended to favor the bold, aggressive few over the more plodding, but often more successful, many. Historians too often pointed to strings of battles as the decider of wars instead of exploring the deeper complexities and contingencies of war, which are its greater truths. Why is there this deep bias toward offense over defense in military history? One reason is the aesthetics of war, the "lust of the eye" and raw excitement that accompanies any battle. The sheer spectacle of a grand battle seduces many military

historians and military theorists, governments and generals, aroused nations, and people who buy books and watch war movies. Attrition does not pivot war on the fulcrum of genius the way battles too often wrongly are said to have done. We despise it as morally vulgar, without redemptive heroism. We fear we will find only indecision and tragedy without uplift or morality in the trenches and roll calls of dead accumulating over years of brutal effort and endurance. So we elevate battles to summits of heroism and generals (and admirals) to levels of genius that real history cannot support.

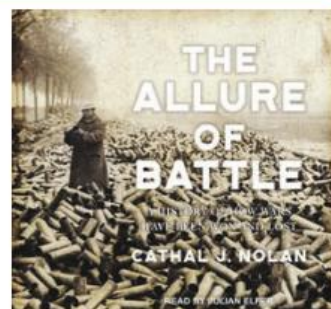
Bluntly stated, we should accept the grim reality that victory in modern major wars was most often achieved by mass slaughter, not by heroics or the genius of generals. Winning at war is much harder than winning in battle. Cannae, Austerlitz, Tannenberg, and Kharkov were all hugely lopsided battles that did not ensure victory in war. Hannibal won at Cannae, Napoleon won at Austerlitz, and Hitler won at Kiev and in many other battles from 1939 to 1941. Then all proceeded to lose the wars they started — and catastrophically.

While there is much heroism in battle, usually on all sides, there are no geniuses in modern war. And even if there are, war is too complex even for a genius to control. All the rest, the parlor game of comparing generals' reputations, or elevation of one tactic (say, redcoat musketry over French heavy column), descends into armchair idolatry divorced from real explanation of victory and defeat. This explanation comes from long-term preparation for war, from strategic capacity to absorb defeats and endure suffering, from waging war with national resources marshaled by modern bureaucracy, from effective domestic propaganda and management of morale.

Major wars are won by strategic depth and aroused long-war resolve, whether natural to self-defense or whipped up by the modern state. Those factors are far more important than any general or admiral, even clearly superior ones. Strategic depth and resilience are what made Rome militarily dominant for centuries, saved Tsarist Russia in 1709 and again in 1812, sustained France in 1914, Britain after 1940, the Soviet Union in 1941, and let the United States win in the Pacific rapidly and certainly. Massive, early defeat of an enemy's army in a great, "decisive battle" did not avail Carthage in the Punic Wars or England in the Hundred Year's War. Early victories did not bring final victory to overmatched France by 1815. Success in the east in 1914 did not rescue hubristic Imperial Germany from defeat in the west in 1918. Two years of uninterrupted triumph by overstretched Nazi Germany from 1939 to 1941 only delayed the foreseeable catastrophe of 1945, while making the war both then and now look more strategically even than it ever was. The spectacular success of overreaching Imperial Japan in the opening months of the Pacific War did not prevent total war defeat across the entire military spectrum in 1945.

All these losers of major wars lost because they overestimated their own operational dexterity (and often, also laid a claim to superior moral or even spiritual virtue), and underestimated the strength of their enemy's defensive capabilities and resolve. Then they failed to overcome their opponents' strategic depth, capacity for recovery, and willingness to accept attrition until the tide of war reversed. Winners absorbed defeat after defeat yet kept fighting until they overcame initial setbacks in battle to win by more effectively mobilizing their societies, by forming defensive coalitions, by committing to drawn-out wars of material and moral forbearance.

I suspect the deepest problem in the way of our understanding modern war is very old-fashioned: vanity. The vanity of civilian elites who make short-term policy and call it long-term strategy. The vanity of generals (and admirals) who implement flawed or inept war plans knowing the means they have cannot achieve the goals for which they reach. The vanity of nationalists and historians (too often one and the same) who misrepresent how wars actually are won



and lost, so that the old pattern repeats. But above all, the vanity of nations and empires. All that pride in our short-war capability, our superior moral virtue, our sublime doctrine and the fighting quality of our army (or navy, or air force), cometh before a fall into unplanned wars of attrition. Civilian leaders promise too-eager publics a "short and lively" (Kurtz and Vives) war, hand off the problem to their military, then are surprised by and lament a rough parity among the great powers that conduces to protracted war. This is one of the major patterns of history that ensured long wars of attrition followed from short war delusions, including, after 1945, proxy guerrilla wars of attrition.

A national policy accepting protracted war as inescapable is not pretty or exciting, or flattering to military chauvinists of any country. They would rather assume their side's operational or cultural or historical or racial superiority to the enemy, cleaving to the short-war delusion, rather than reconsider whether the goals at stake are worth the attritional war that is surely coming. And so the allure of battle persists, and we all walk along the knife's edge in the latest crisis of cultural vanity in the Middle East, or Kashmir, or the Koreas, or the Strait of Hormuz, or some as-yet undeveloped and undiscovered locale of future crisis and war.

As I have come to admire defensive warfare more and offensive warfare less, I discovered a secondary theme laced throughout military history that irks. At least since Clausewitz, the idea of "military genius" is comparably prevalent in too much military theory. Too many historians point to asserted rather than defined genius (usually in a not-so-hidden nationalist form) as decisive in war instead of explaining how a given war actually was won or lost by logistics and finance, or by advanced bureaucracy and mobilization of national resolve. Among military professionals we have seen nearly two centuries of effort to capture the sunbeam of command genius and bottle it, from eternal "principles of war" to general staff planning and officer training, to doctrine based on reams of "lessons learned." Let us leave aside talk about military genius as it pertains to generals and decision in and by war. It is wrongheaded, superficial, and ultimately distracting from what is far more important. We need to reassess military history and operational doctrine that can flow from it. We need to better understand those who made war within accepted limits, rather than always praise those who sought to overcome the limitations of war with the lives of young men, and now young women, too, spent like pennies to service the vanity of their leaders and their nations.

Will we do it? Two summers ago, a variety of senior, active duty, and highly thoughtful American officers and civilian planners gave me a formal briefing. I asked one group if they would accept that, after the initial crushing of the Taliban and "thunder run" into downtown Baghdad, we are now engaged in a new Thirty Years' War of protracted attrition in the Greater Middle East. Many heads nodded affirmatively. So I asked if they would accept that it could become a Hundred Years' War. The question did not shock them, and again many in the room agreed it was possible. In a smaller briefing the next day, a supremely competent, sharp-as-a-knife colonel delivered "lessons learned" by the U.S. military in Afghanistan and Iraq. I rather too cheekily asked: "Have you learned any lessons?" He replied, without missing a microsecond, "We have. The politicians have not."

Cathal J. Nolan teaches military history at Boston University. His most recent book is *The Allure of Battle: A History of How Wars Have Been Won and Lost* (Oxford University Press).

A madrasa teacher thrashed for not chanting 'Jai Sri Ram' in Kolkotta

COUNTERCURRENTS TEAM



In a hate crime in Kolkotta, the capital city of West Bengal, a madrasa teacher, twenty-year-old Mohammad Shahrukh Halder was thrashed by a mob for not chanting Jai Sri Ram. Halder a resident of Canning, a town in south 24 Parganas was travelling to Hoogly on Thursday afternoon. A group of people, assaulted and bullied him for sporting a beard and skull cap and refusing to chant Jai Sri Ram.

Speaking to eNewsroom over the phone he said, "I had boarded the local train from

Canning, to reach my Madarsa in Hoogly, like I usually do. However, on Thursday, when the train reached Dhakuria, a lot of people boarded chanting religious slogans. From their attire, it seemed like they were going to attend some rally and seemed to be members of Hindu Samhiti. We were seated and kept quiet. Soon we heard some ruckus, it seemed like there was some quarrelling on in the compartment, just next to ours. However, we little realised that it would reach our compartment soon."

He took a pause and then went on to narrate, "As the train reached Ballygunge, these people

then began harassing men sporting skull caps and beard. They then asked me as to why I was sporting a skull cap and beard. They also asked me chant Jai Sri Ram. When I didn't reply to their questioning, they began assaulting me. By this time the train entered Park Circus. Here they pulled me along with others towards the train and pushed us off. Some locals came to our rescue. By the time I narrated my ordeal the train chugged away. So, we went to the Topsia Police station and lodged a police complaint, following which the case has been taken up by the GRP. However, my assailants are yet to be traced and booked."

POMPEO HEADS TO SAUDI ARABIA, UAE FOR IRAN CRISIS TALKS

WASHINGTON
AGENCIES

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Sunday he will visit Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for talks on the crisis sparked by Iran's downing of an American drone.

"We'll be talking with them about how to make sure that we are all strategically aligned and how we can build out a global coalition" on Iran, he said.

Iran shot down a US Global Hawk drone on Thursday, saying it had violated its airspace near the strategic Strait of Hormuz — a claim the United States denies.

US President Donald Trump called off a planned retaliatory military strike Friday, saying the response would not have been "proportionate," with Tehran warning any attack would see Washington's interests

across the Middle East go up in flames.

Pompeo said he would stop in the two countries on his way to India, where he begins a visit on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters as he left Washington, Pompeo called Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates "great allies in the challenge that Iran presents."

Pompeo denounced a map that was released by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif that purported to show a spy drone encroaching its airspace in late May and urged media not to find it credible.

"You've seen that child-like map that Foreign Minister Zarif put out that contrasts with the excellence and professionalism of America's military and intelligence services," Pompeo said.

Pompeo said that Iran's map "should leave no doubt in anyone's mind about

where that unarmed vehicle was — it was flying in international airspace."

"We shouldn't let the Iranians have one moment where any reporter would write that there is even a credible response to the data set that the Americans have put forward," he said, accusing Iran of "sowing disinformation in lots of lots of places."

But Pompeo reiterated Trump's offer of dialogue to improve relations with Iran, which the US administration has sought to isolate through harsh sanctions.

"We're prepared to negotiate with no preconditions. They know precisely how to find us," Pompeo said.

"And I am confident that at the very moment they're ready to truly engage with us, we will be able to begin this conversation," he said. "I'm looking forward to the day," he added.



US, Taliban aim to firm up date for foreign force exit from Afghanistan

KABUL
AGENCIES

Upcoming peace talks between the United States and the Taliban will focus on working out a timeline for the withdrawal of U.S.-led troops from Afghanistan and on a Taliban guarantee militants won't plot attacks from Afghan soil, sources said on Monday.

A seventh round of talks between the warring sides begins on Saturday in Qatar's capital of Doha, where U.S. and Taliban negotiators have been trying to hammer out a deal to end to the 18-year-long war since October. "Once the timetable for foreign force withdrawal is announced, then talks will automatically enter the next stage," said Sohail Shaheen, a spokesman for the Taliban's political office in Doha.

"We don't need to wait for the completion of the withdrawal, both withdrawal and talks can move forward simultaneously."

The focus of the talks has been a Taliban demand for the withdrawal of U.S. and other foreign forces and a U.S. demand the Taliban guarantee that Afghanistan will not be used as a base for militant attacks.

Two other main issues in the process are a ceasefire and talks between the rival Afghan sides - the insurgents and the Western-backed government.

But the Taliban have long refused to talk to the Afghan government, denouncing it as foreign "puppet", and fighting has seen no let-up.

Two other sources with knowledge of the talks said the sixth round in May ended with unease on both sides, but since then informal meeting had taken place to work out what can be agreed on.

The U.S. special envoy for peace

in Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, has also held informal meetings with the Taliban leadership in Doha.

"Based on my recent visits to Afghanistan and Qatar, I believe all sides want rapid progress," Khalilzad said on Twitter.

Khalilzad, an Afghan-born American diplomat has been leading the talks to secure a political settlement with the hardline Islamist group that now controls more Afghan territory than at any time since being toppled in 2001 by U.S.-led forces.

About 20,000 foreign troops, most of them American, are in Afghanistan as part of a U.S.-led NATO mission to train, assist and advise Afghan forces. Some U.S. forces carry out counter-terrorism operations.

At least 3,804 civilians were killed in the war last year, according to the United Nations. Thousands of Afghan soldiers, police and Taliban were also killed.

Nevertheless, the Taliban leader vowed this month to sustain the fight until their objectives were reached.

In March, a draft agreement was reached on the withdrawal of foreign forces in exchange for a commitment by the Taliban to cut ties with militant groups such as al Qaeda.

A Taliban source said both sides were expecting some clarity and results on the prime issues in the new round talks.

"A ceasefire and intra-Afghan talks will not be discussed during the seventh round," said the Taliban source, who declined to be identified.

Some Afghan government officials side fear the United States and the Taliban will strike a deal on the withdrawal of foreign forces, enabling the United States to get out of an unpopular war but leaving government forces to battle on alone.

7.5 magnitude earthquake hits Indonesia

JAKARTA: An earthquake of magnitude 7.5 struck in a remote area of Indonesia in the Banda Sea on Monday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said, but there were no initial tsunami warnings. The quake hit at a depth of 136 miles, the USGS said. There were no immediate reports of damage or injury. The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said in a bulletin a destructive Pacific-wide tsunami was not expected after the quake, which was initially recorded with a magnitude of 7.2. AGENCIES

Bangladesh train derailment over canal kills five, injures 100

DHAKA: A passenger train derailed in Bangladesh on Monday, killing at least five people and injuring more than 100, and there could be more casualties inside two carriages that fell into a canal, a police officer said. The train was crossing a bridge on its way to the capital, Dhaka, from the eastern city of Sylhet when it went off the rails, police superintendent Mohammad Shahjalal said. He said there could be more bodies in the carriages that were submerged in the canal, he said. The derailment occurred near the Moulavi Bazar district, 130 miles east of Dhaka. AGENCIES

Yemeni rebel attack on Saudi airport kills one, wounds 21

AGENCIES

A Yemeni rebel attack on a civilian airport in southern Saudi Arabia killed a Syrian national and wounded 21 other civilians on Sunday, a Riyadh-led coalition said, in a new escalation following a series of strikes on the site.

The attack on Abha airport, which the coalition said left a McDonald's outlet at the site littered with shattered glass and damaged 18 vehicles, comes amid spiraling regional tensions with Iran.

The escalation of attacks by Iran-aligned Houthi rebels on Saudi cities threatens a hard-won UN-sponsored ceasefire deal for the Red Sea port city of Hodeida, war-ravaged Yemen's main conduit for humanitarian aid.

"A terrorist attack by the Iran-backed Houthi militia on Abha airport ... killed a Syrian resident and wounded 21 civilians," the coalition said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The wounded — from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, India and Bangladesh — also included three women and two children who had been taken to a hospital for treatment, the coalition said.

It did not provide details on how the airport was attacked, but Houthi rebels have repeatedly struck the civilian facility this month with drones and missiles.

Earlier on Sunday, the rebels' Al-Masirah TV said they had targeted Abha and Jizan airports in the south of the kingdom with drones.

The coalition did not confirm the attack on Jizan airport.

Abha airport authorities said on Twitter that air traffic had resumed and operations were running normally, without saying how long they were disrupted.

On June 12, a rebel missile attack on Abha airport wounded 26 civilians, drawing promises of "stern action" from the coalition.

Human Rights Watch denounced the strike as an apparent "war crime", urging the Houthis to immediately stop all attacks on civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia.

The latest raids come amid spiraling regional tensions after Washington — a key ally of Riyadh — accused Iran of shooting down a US drone and carrying out attacks on oil tankers in the strategic Gulf of Oman.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Britain and the US, in a joint statement published on Saudi state media on Sunday, voiced alarm over escalating regional tensions and the "dangers posed by Iranian destabilizing activity". Saudi Arabia has repeatedly accused Iran of supplying sophisticated weapons to Houthi rebels, a charge Tehran denies.

Palestinians rally against Kushner's economic peace plan

GAZA/RAMALLAH
AGENCIES

Palestinians burned portraits of President Donald Trump as they protested in both the Gaza Strip and the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Monday against U.S.-led plans for a conference on their economy in Bahrain.

Many Palestinian business groups have said they will boycott the June 25-26 event, billed as part of Washington's long-awaited Israeli-Palestinian peace plan and spearheaded by Trump's adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner.

"Down with Bahrain, down with Trump, down with the Manama conference," chanted crowds in Gaza, which is ruled by the armed Islamist group Hamas. Some burned large paintings of Trump marked with the words: "Deal of the devil".

Leaders in both territories have accused Washington of pro-Israel bias and railed against the conference's focus on economics, rather than their aspirations

for an independent state.

Kushner told Reuters on Saturday the plan would create a million jobs, halve Palestinian poverty and double the Palestinians' GDP.

In the West Bank, hundreds marched through Ramallah's main squares, waving posters in support of President Mahmoud Abbas, whose Western-backed Palestinian Authority exercises limited self-rule in the territory.

Protesters there burned posters of both Trump and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The rallies marked a moment of political unity against the Bahrain conference, despite a 12-year political feud between Abbas's Fatah party and Hamas. "A WEDDING WITHOUT THE BRIDE": "The Manama conference is a comedy show, a wedding without the bride (the Palestinians) ... it will not succeed," said a protester who gave her name as Siham in Gaza City.

The Bahrain conference will be attended by Gulf Arab states as well as Jor-



dan and Egypt. Israel is expected to send a business delegation but no government officials.

Mahmoud Barhoush, 25, said he did-

n't know whether to laugh or cry at what he called Arab states' "treasonous" participation.

"Enough of your running into the

arms of Trump and (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu," he said at the Ramallah protest.

Other demonstrators criticized the lone Palestinian businessman named as an expected attendee in Bahrain, Ashraf Jabari. A U.S. official told Reuters that at least 15 Palestinians were expected to attend.

"Whoever attends is not a Palestinian and is not welcomed in Palestine. There should be measures taken against them," said Maisoon Alqadoomi, 32, a Fatah activist from Ramallah.

Palestinian leaders on Monday renewed their calls for a boycott of the conference.

"This workshop is simply a political laundry for settlements and a legitimization of occupation," Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh told journalists ahead of a cabinet meeting.

In Gaza, Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said: "They (Palestinians) will not sell out their rights for all treasures on earth"

Pak-Qatar economic relations

Where is the mega Qatari investment?

IN January, PM Imran Khan visited Doha as the head of a delegation to discuss economic cooperation with the Emir of Qatar. Following the premier's visit, the Board of Investment organised a Pakistan-Qatar Investment Forum between the business communities of the two countries. In April Qatar Investment Authority head Sheikh Faisal Bin Thani Al-Thani came to Islamabad to hold talks with Adviser to PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood and BOI Chairman Haroon Sharif. The Qatari official was told about the fields wherein Pakistan would welcome investment. A cautious Sheikh Faisal however made it clear that Qatar was looking for a long-term partnership and not "quick wins." Interestingly Asad Umar and Haroon Sharif, the two major figures closely related to talks with Qatar were made to leave the government after eight months creating questions about the continuity of government's economic policies.

One wonders which one of the several advisers fed the idea to PM Imran Khan that Qatar was itching to outbid the Saudi Crown Prince MBS by investing more than \$21b in Pakistan. Khan is no doubt keen to bring good news to the people of Pakistan in general and the PTI followers in particular who are thirsting for it. This leads those around him to feed stories based on hopes, expectation and miracles thus causing embarrassment to the PTI chief. Not long ago, the PM expressed the hope that Pakistan was on the verge of hitting the jackpot by discovering a huge reserve of oil and gas in the Arabian Sea.

Qatar is keen to develop alternate sources of food and items of daily use after the blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia and UAE. This has helped India and Pakistan increase exports to Qatar. Qatar also signed three MoUs with Pakistan on Saturday on trade and investment, cooperation on financial intelligence and tourism. There are expectations of more Pakistanis getting jobs as preparations for World Cup Football are speeded up. Although Qatar has agreed to extend a loan to Pakistan like Saudi Arabia and UAE, any large investment is contingent on improvement of business climate. A lot will have to be done before any big foreign investment is committed in Pakistan.

Statistical discrepancies

Government must clarify

A part from setting a record high tax collection target another focus in the first federal budget tabled by the PTI is austerity; a combination of reducing expenditures and increasing revenue is the plan to get the country back on its feet. One of the most notable contributions to this belt-tightening was the Armed Forces taking a voluntary cut in their allocated expenditure by refusing the routine increase in the defence budget. Considering the economic condition of the country it was a reasonable decision that would not only support the government in its efforts to plug the revenue-expenditure gap but also in terms of optics, displaying that every institution was doing its part. However, the Finance Ministry has now informed parliament that a total of Rs222 billion were spent by the government without parliamentary approval of which Rs36 billion was spent by the army making it the recipient of the largest supplementary grant last year. In addition to this the documents also reveal that apart from an increase of 1.4pc over the revised defence budget figure (Rs1.138tr to Rs1.152tr) a separate 'development expenditure' for the defence division of Rs370.5bn for the upcoming fiscal year translates into a combined increase of 21.5pc in defence spending over last year.

A discrepancy of this magnitude requires explanation on part of the government. If there is misreporting of figures now, it is the government's responsibility to provide an acceptable clarification. If in fact the budget cuts were initially part of the plan and there was a revision later then it again falls upon the government to explain why such a reversal was necessary. PM Khan himself through his twitter account lauded the proposed expenditure cuts in the defence budget and promised that the funds would be spent on development in Balochistan and FATA. Details that are now being reported suggest otherwise. Given the regional threats that the country faces, especially the recent escalation with India, any proposed increase in the army's budget can be justified. But it would be best that some rationale is presented by the Finance Ministry in relation to these updated budget allocations otherwise an unnecessary controversy will unfold very quickly.

PAKISTAN TODAY

Dedicated to the legacy of the late Hameed Nizami

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We buy, therefore we are

How acquisitiveness shapes everything around and about us



SHAH NAWAZ MOHAL

WE buy and consume, therefore we are. We consume calories to live. We consume heat to survive. We consume water to exist. We consume love to feel alive. We consume information to make sense of the world. We consume all we can lay our hands on. We acquire to consume. We consume to acquire more. We, dear folks, are through and through consumers from the day we enter the world to the day we bid farewell.

Why do you buy something that you don't need but want to have? Why do you buy impulsively? Why you indulge in so-called 'shopping therapy'? Why, when you are not paying for something you are the product? Why are social media feeds inundated with sales and stuff you showed interest in? Why do you crave and hanker after contentment of soul and seek it in delicious food, designer clothes, expensive watches, swanky cars and trips to exotic lands?

Dear folks, the answer to many of these woes lies in our species' perpetual sense of incompleteness. From cradle to grave, we strive for completeness in relationships, achievements, possessions, and 'stuff'. Be it the modern man with his limitless reservoir of distractions or ancient hunter-gatherer who had to use his fight or

flight instincts at the spur of the moment, the journey to feel whole continues.

And here enters acquisitiveness along with its various traps. Acquisitiveness is neither evil in itself nor worthy of hatred. The need to acquire more, buy more, possess more, consume more, however, has turned the majority of us into folks who solemnly believe that every ill, every evil, every dilemma has its solution in acquiring more, buying more, possessing more, and consuming more. And that, as most of us are slowly coming to realize, is certainly not the case.

You are what you own is the mantra of our times. Owning more things, owning better things, owning what most don't or can't own has reduced us to maniacs whose sole concern is to feel better through acquisition. The cars we drive are messages. The clothes we wear tell our position in life. The houses we live in are banners. The jobs we do decide what social status we possess. The people we know decide where we stand in society's hierarchy.

There are those who manufacture, produce, create and sell. And there are those who buy, consume and acquire. Then, there are those who facilitate them both i.e. advertisers. They facilitate the manufacturers by advertising their product and buyers by offering them a chance at happiness, contentment and fulfillment.

In short, an advertiser's job is to sell things, stuff and ideas packed, packaged and ready to be delivered as bundles of joy and contentment to consumers.

The folks in the advertising business invoke

passion, manipulate emotions, ask a celebrity to endorse a product as a magic bullet, inculcate fear of being left-out, promise fame and recognition, and make many believe that happiness is just a purchase away. They know that the average consumer is not a moron; they also know he just masquerades around donning a rational, logical persona. And deep down, a consumer is as much prone to calls of enticement, excitement and adventure as a kid would be.

If you can't flaunt it with wanton abandon, it does not matter. If it isn't better than others, it does not count. If what you possess is not unique enough, it is run of the mill. Our quest for identity has taken us to many places and given us great men who were astronomers, scientists, mathematicians, painters, writers, poets, leaders, prophets and leaders. They sought their identity through their deeds, acts, invention, preaching and discoveries. The hoi polloi, however, since time immemorial sought prestige, position and identity by acquiring wealth, making profits, grabbing posts and positions of influence and caring for their progeny.

The Prince of Paradox, G.K. Chesterton may be of some help here. Chesterton wrote and I quote, "There are

two ways to get enough: one is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less."

To acquire more and perpetuate the craving or to desire less and be at peace with ourselves? The choice, dear folks, is ours.

Shah Nawaz Mohal is a law graduate and member of staff, Islamabad Bureau.

Transformation of Pashtun culture

Through misrepresentation and biases



TAJ NABI KHAN

THE cultural landscape of Pashtun society has undergone more drastic changes during the last few decades than ever before due to the fast changing geo-strategic, geo-political conditions and globalization in the region. The area has become the battle ground for world powers which has affected the overall social structure of the society.

Firstly, the collective centers of culture that held the Pashtuns strongly connected were targeted by the colonizers, the British Empire with peculiar oppressive laws when they were ruling over the sub-continent. Secondly, after independence, excessive religiosity of the typical mullahs has targeted the creative arts and healthy activities in the region.

Thirdly, under the Zia regime of Islamization and Afghan war had changed the entire landscape of the Pashtun culture – replaced the Pashtu literature with Jehadi stuff of literature, pens with weapons, and musical instruments with loud speakers. Afterwards, the militant groups started targeting the artists (musicians and singers) and the art centers along with historical sites of heritage and tombs of saint poets.

Islamization in the society was followed by 'Talibanic version of Islam' and their world-views. Thus after radicalization of madrassah

students with 'Jehadi narrative', their approach turned towards forceful assertion of religious teachings in public domains. Resultantly, the society was introduced to the *kalashnikov* culture. It has also witnessed imposition of Sharia law with extreme acts of violence. Likewise, media has also generalized and shaped the identity of the community more with the approach of racial profiling – militants wearing typical Pashtuns' dress with turban. In the post-9/11 scenario, terrorists were identified and generalized with Pashtun and vice versa – almost all of the cultural peculiarities of Pashtuns were attached to the terrorists.

The community has suffered and still continues to suffer in reaction to *Talibanization* and terrorism – a number of military operations were launched to address the issue of rising militancy in the area has turned a large part of the community internally displaced. Consequently, their businesses destroyed, infrastructure dismantled, and their cultural institutions and entertainment activities have affected to a great deal.

The community sheltered in other areas for seeking livelihood. The process has also dismantled the strongly enacted combined family system to nuclear families for adopting more urbanized lifestyle – some still searching from pillar to post to get peaceful and secure environment for their businesses in bigger cities.

The commercial Pashto dramas, a cheap source of entertainment, had on one hand negatively misrepresented the Pashtun culture and way of life – most of the scenes reflect violence, drugs, weapons and abusive language. It has

brought about negative effects on minds of the youngsters – with excessive display of 4-W's (Women, Weapons, Wine and Wealth).

The poetry has also affected to a great deal – incorporated words from war, terror, blasts, and trauma. The songs too turned from rich thematic to surface meanings with noise and music in the background. The film industry could not survive at all – the cinema too targeted with bomb blasts.

The creative artists and musicians of the area were targeted and criticized along with their musical instruments. The concept of collective and social lifestyle with unique cultural institutions of the community: *Hujra, Jirga, Nanawati*, collective sense, celebrations, traditional and social events were also criticized both by the religious orthodox and modernists.

The religious seminars whose number multiplied in the wake of the Afghan war in the Pashtun dominated areas were defended and supported by the leaders of religio-political parties who failed to understand the international game being played in their areas by the world powers.

However, throughout the nationalist progressive political parties remained loyal to the land and its people in their narrative against the foreign onslaughts on Pashtun culture. As a result, they had also suffered the brunt of terrorism more than others in the region.

The collective memories about the great Pashtun heroes and their deeds of bravery against the oppressors and colonizers have almost washed away along with the old generation. The Pashtun are actually different from the way they have been presented to the world – they are more misrepresented like Muslims in the western world.

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Netanyahu's defunct strategy to keep Hamas at bay

One violent episode after another



DR ALON BEN MEIR

NETANYAHU has served as prime minister for the past 11 years, coinciding with Hamas' rule over Gaza ever since it usurped power in 2007 from the Palestinian Authority after a brief violent confrontation between the two sides. During this period, Netanyahu has deliberately perpetuated the conflict with Hamas as a means by which to promote his sinister political agenda. At no point has he contemplated finding a mutually acceptable solution that could end the hostilities and gradually lead to peaceful coexistence. Instead, he has portrayed Hamas as an irredeemable foe committed to Israel's destruction, insisting there is nothing that Israel can do other than maintain the status quo and handle Hamas with force.

The recent flareup between the two sides is just another violent episode in a continuing bloody conflict, including three wars that killed thousands of Palestinians and scores of Israelis, not to speak of the massive destruction inflicted on Gaza and the social and economic dislocation that the Israelis endured.

Netanyahu often uses disproportionate force to "teach Hamas a lesson". He knows, however, that the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is of such magnitude that it is impossible for Hamas and the public to accept, as in the past, incremental and temporary relief while the blockade remains in place and hopelessness and despair continue to reign. Predictably, the vicious cycle of violence continues, and managing rather than solving the conflict has been Netanyahu's strategy all along.

Netanyahu is resisting calls from his own party, as well as from some of the opposition members, to invade Gaza and decapitate Hamas' leadership—as Energy Minister and Security Cabinet member Yuval Steinitz described it to Army Radio on Monday, "to get rid of Hamas, we have to conquer Gaza." He and others foolishly believe that such a drastic move would guarantee calm and lead to a peaceful transition from Hamas to the PA, which is nothing short of a pipedream. Unless Israel occupies Gaza permanently, a new cadre of Hamas leaders will rise almost overnight who will be even more militant and resilient than the current leadership.

Netanyahu objects to another incursion, fearing that this time Hamas will not agree to

any ceasefire that does not permanently provide relief and lead to the lifting of the blockade, which he vehemently opposes.

He also refuses to reoccupy Gaza, as this would force the Israeli government to care for nearly two million Palestinians, which would be nothing short of a nightmare. Not only would such an ill-conceived move require the establishment of a massive security apparatus that will constantly put the lives of soldiers at serious risk, it would also cost hundreds of millions of dollars annually to sustain.

Netanyahu has constantly strived to prevent any reconciliation efforts between the PA and Hamas, which allows him to claim that there is no negotiating partner. And when the PA and Hamas have agreed twice in the past to form a unity government, Netanyahu refused to enter peace talks, insisting that he won't negotiate with a Palestinian government that includes Hamas.

Netanyahu often accommodates the Egyptians in dealing with Hamas, given Egypt's important role in mediating between Israel and Hamas. Egypt is interested in maintaining calm in Gaza, but does not mind the punishing blow that Israel frequently inflicts on Hamas. As Hamas is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, which Egypt has designated as a terrorist organization, it imposes serious restrictions on the crossing of Palestinians from Gaza into Egypt.

Finally, Netanyahu consistently opts to maintain pressure on Hamas by seizing any opportunity to interrupt the flow of goods and building materials to ensure that Hamas remains

vulnerable and dependent on Israel's goodwill. He wants the Palestinians in Gaza to blame Hamas and Islamic Jihad for their plight, hoping to instigate unrest—which has not materialized in any significant way. He skillfully led the majority of Israelis to believe that Hamas is a mortal threat while ignoring the irreversible facts on the ground, which he must face in order to find a permanent solution to the conflict with Hamas.

Gaza is in effect a large open-air prison with nearly two million destitute Palestinians that cannot be wished away. Gaza is territorially separated from the West Bank and is governed by Hamas, which embraces a different ideology than the PA. There is no prospect that the PA and Hamas will reconcile their differences; Hamas will not relinquish power and surrender their arsenals to the PA, which, from its perspective, is tantamount to capitulation. Hamas' priority is to end the Gazans' 'imprisonment' and it will continue to fight and sacrifice to achieve an end to the blockade.

It should be made clear though that Hamas has been its own worst enemy. Even though it knows Israel is here to stay and no power can dislodge it, it openly calls for Israel's destruction,

which plays directly into the hands of Netanyahu and a majority of Israelis. Hamas' militancy and buildup of military arsenals provides further proof to many Israelis that Hamas is an irredeemable enemy that deserves what has befallen it.

The validity of this argument, however, does not change the reality that the Palestinians in Gaza are largely living under subhuman conditions. And regardless of Hamas' bellicose narrative against Israel, it too wants to end the conflict without being humiliated in the process. The solution to the conflict with Hamas is not another incursion into Gaza, or raining destruction from the air, or decapitating Hamas' leadership, and certainly not re-occupying Gaza. Instead, Israel needs to treat Gaza as a separate entity from the West Bank, as there is hardly anything in common between the two sides.

Hamas has proposed time and again a long ceasefire (*Hudna*) for 15-20 years, during which Israel would allow Hamas to embark on building infrastructure, housing, hospitals, schools, seaports, and other development projects. This would create thousands of jobs and an improved quality of life that every Palestinian in Gaza yearns for.

These projects should be implemented under the supervision of a special international commission to ensure that all funds raised from donor countries, including the US, the EU, and the oil-rich Arab states, are channeled to these projects. Hamas would certainly develop a vested interest in safeguarding the new development, and would therefore refrain from provoking Israel, and rein in Islamic Jihad to maintain the calm.

Hamas knows that Israel will always be able to wreak havoc on Gaza should it not fully adhere to the terms of the ceasefire. A long-term ceasefire in conjunction with confidence-building measures will certainly change the nature of the bilateral relations between Israel and Hamas, which could gradually lead to lifting the blockade altogether. Furthermore, a resolution to the conflict between Hamas and the PA can and should take place, provided that it will not in any way undermine Israel's national security, after Israel resolves its separate conflict with the PA.

There are many cynics who believe that peace between Israel and Hamas is nothing but an illusion. On the contrary, anyone who maintains that the current situation is sustainable is misguided, as they ignore both the turmoil and the bloodshed over the past 12 years, and the reality on the ground that cannot be changed.

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EDITOR'S
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Escalation in India's belligerence

INDIA has rejected media reports that it was no longer abhorrent to India-Pakistan dialogue. India shrugged off all efforts (including our prime minister's letters) to resume talks. Even Indian president Kovind, in his address, underscored national security as number one priority. His declaration to focus 'persecution due to their faith in neighbouring countries' [Pakistan] is alarming. He made no mention of lynching of Muslims for wearing a prayer cap, growing a beard, offering prayer on road because of mosque being overcrowded, and eating selling or transporting beef.

By October India would make reinvigorated efforts to get Pakistan blacklisted at FATF's meeting. By then, the so-called operationalised 'integrated battle groups' would mount a series of 'strikes' inside Pakistan's territory. India claims to have seized heroine and sedative tablets along Pakistan's border. India is supported by USA who is infiltrating defeated IS elements from Gulf to Afghanistan (to whittle down Taliban's prowess).

The portents are that India is bent upon portraying Pakistan as a narco-terrorist-persecutions regime. We need to see through dark recesses of pugnacious Indian mind.

MARYUM MALIK
Rawalpindi

Cricket – Too many cooks

IF memory serves me right, when Captain Imran Khan was playing a cricket match in Karachi, the Chief Selector entered Dressing Room and the skipper told him you cannot enter. Entry into Dressing Rooms are restricted and other than players, coaches, manager, Physio etc nobody including Chief Selector etc are allowed inside.

In any case the role of Chief Selector is to finalise the squad and once that is done, the match selection team makes decision for individual matches. May we know how many other national team Chief Selectors, other than the host team, were accompanying them on a tour with all expenses borne by their Cricket Board? What purpose was served by the Director International who is accompanying the team?

From Chairman PCB, to MD and numerous other officials, all were present in UK, although they had no role to perform. This problem is not just with Pakistan Cricket Board, but with Pakistan Olympic Committee, headed by a retired general who has been at the helm now for almost 15 years and during his tenure this country has hardly won any medal worth mentioning at the Olympics. Similar is dismal state of affairs with hockey, squash, football etc. Many times, the number of accompanying officials to Olympics exceed the number of players participating in various events. It is time Pakistan takes appointments in various sports boards seriously instead of considering them as dumping grounds for welfare of few.

G ZAMAN
Peshawar

Increasing population

THE increasing population is thoroughly an adversity for the whole world. As the specifically targeted countries are experiencing it even though the governments have failed to maintain an effective law. On the other side, the populace is aware of its consequences but do not practice of its control voluntarily. Population growth is now a chronic debate which is not only a social but also a political obstacle.

The United Nations issued a new report, the world's current population (7.7 billion) is predicted to reach (9.7 billion) by 2050.

Pakistan and eight others as India, Nigeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt and the United Nations are exceedingly contributing in this projected growth. Pakistan is moving up to fifth from eighth position with current 217 million of populations and at the end of projected assessment, Pakistan will be with 403 million inhabitants. Yet in 2019, 40pc of world's population lives at a point where women have 2.1 and four births of fertility over a lifetime.

The main reasons behind the overpopulation exclusively in Pakistan are illiteracy, early marriages, desire of male child, polygamy and lack of governmental population planning policies. Additionally, illiteracy is a major problem. The illiterate families are unaware of its impacts and don't consider it a problem exists. After this, early marriages in almost all rural areas of Pakistan have become a traditional norm that's how it causes high births rate. On the same track, the desire of male child is considered a pride and tomb of family in rural areas and this practice also causes numbers of births rate. The impacts of overpopulation are harsh for the county. These include low economic growth, unemployment, poor management and many social evils. Pakistan's economy has nearly sunk with plethora of obstructions including IMF loans and now the problem of increasing overpopulation is also around the corner. The government of Pakistan must strongly look upon the matter and take some concrete steps to avoid the malaise of increasing population as expected it to restrict the progress of Pakistan.

ASIF MURAD UMRANI
Karachi

ETHIOPIA MOURNS AFTER ARMY CHIEF, TOP OFFICIALS KILLED

ADDIS ABABA
AGENCIES

THE death toll from two attacks believed linked to an attempted coup in Ethiopia's northern Amhara state rose to five on Monday, as flags flew at half-mast on what was declared a national day of mourning.

Police were hunting for Amhara's security chief Asaminew Tsige, accused of masterminding an attack on the leaders of the state and suspected of playing a part in the killing of the country's army chief in Addis Ababa.

The attorney general of Amhara state, Mighbaru Kebede, died of gunshot injuries from the attack on Monday, state broadcaster EBC reported, making him the fifth victim of the violence.

The unrest has delivered another major challenge for Ethiopia's young Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who has embarked on a series of reforms in a bid to open up the authoritarian state which has unleashed ethnic tensions and bitter political rivalries.

The attacks, whose exact motives remain unclear, began on Saturday afternoon when gunmen attacked a meeting of top officials in Amhara, the second-largest of Ethiopia's nine autonomous states.

Amhara president Ambachew Mekonnen, who was an ally of Abiy's, as well as his adviser were killed, while Mighbaru succumbed to his wounds on Monday after what Abiy described as an "attempted



coup" in the region.

A few hours later in an upmarket suburb of the capital Addis Ababa army chief Searé Mekonnen, who was co-ordinating the response to the unrest in Amhara, was shot dead by his bodyguard. A visiting general was also killed.

Abiy's office said the killing of Searé "seems like a co-ordinated attack", however there have been no further official details and observers point out that there were no telltale signs of a concerted national coup.

A statement from his office announced that the bodyguard and other perpetrators had been arrested, while a police source on

Sunday told AFP that Asaminew was still on the run.

Asaminew was only last year released from almost a decade in prison over a 2009 coup plot under an amnesty.

Analysts describe him as a hardline Amhara nationalist who was likely facing removal from his job over efforts to form a militia and rhetoric pushing for territory in neighbouring Tigray to be reclaimed.

He recently appeared in a Facebook video calling for civilians to arm themselves in preparation for attack.

A statement read on state television on Sunday night from parliament speaker Tadesse Chafu called for the country to

"stay together and united" as he announced a national day of mourning.

"All of us will remember the people who lost their lives for our togetherness and unity," a television announcer said, reading a statement from speaker Tadesse Chafu.

"It is a sad day for the whole nation. We have lost people who were patriotic. They are martyrs of peace."

The European Union in a statement urged "restraint from all sides of the Ethiopian political spectrum, both at national and regional levels."

"The EU firmly reiterates the need for continued peaceful and democratic reforms in Ethiopia and its support to the efforts of the Prime Minister and his government in this context," said the statement.

Minister of Defence Lemma Megersa described Searé as "humble, a very good colleague, a brother", on national television on Sunday night.

"The attack left the country in a difficult position. It is important for the army to remain united in this difficult time," he said.

The internet remained completely cut across the nation for the third consecutive day, after being severed for much of the prior week without explanation.

In the capital Addis Ababa it was a busy morning as people went about their business as usual, however security at the airport had been beefed up with the presence of special forces.

In the Amhara capital Bahir Dar there

was a significant presence of federal police officers around government offices, residents told AFP.

Observers have said that the killings underscore the tensions across Ethiopia sparked by Abiy's efforts since he came to power in April 2018 to loosen the iron grip of a state long run by emperors and strongmen.

His efforts to transition from one-party state to democracy have seen him embarking on economic reforms, he has allowed dissident groups back into the country, sought to crack down on rights abuses and arrested dozens of top military and intelligence officials.

His moves have been lauded abroad, but have made him enemies at home, and exactly a year ago he survived a grenade attack at a rally which left two dead.

Long-simmering ethnic tensions along the borders of the autonomous regions — divided along ethnic lines — have burst into violence, leaving scores dead and more than a million displaced.

Meanwhile the prospect of elections in 2020 has shaken up local politics as long-standing regional parties find themselves facing challengers to their power, while observers say there has been a surge of ethno-nationalism.

The Amhara are the second-largest ethnic grouping after the Oromo, and both spearheaded two years of anti-government protests which led to the resignation of former prime minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

Turkish civil society leaders on trial over 2013 protests

ISTANBUL
AGENCIES

Sixteen leading Turkish civil society leaders appeared in court Monday, accused of seeking to overthrow the government during the "Gezi Park" protests of 2013, in a trial dubbed an absurd sham by critics.

The group includes renowned businessman and philanthropist Osman Kavala, whose detention since November 2017 has made him a symbol of what critics say is a crackdown on civil society.

Kavala rejected the "irrational claims which lack evidence" in his opening statement, shortly after the trial began under high security in the prison and court complex of Silivri on the outskirts of Istanbul. He is accused of orchestrating and financing the protests which began over government plans to build over Gezi Park, one of the few green spaces left in Istanbul.

The protests snowballed into a nationwide movement that marked the first serious challenge to Erdogan's brand of Islamic conservatism and grandiose development projects.

The 657-page indictment seeks to paint the protests as a foreign-directed conspiracy with links to the Arab Spring, which, ironically, the Turkish



government supported.

"None of these actions were coincidental... they were supported from the outside as an operation to bring the Turkish Republic to its knees," the indictment says.

Amnesty International's Andrew Gardner said the trial "speaks volumes about the deeply flawed judiciary that has allowed this political witch-hunt to take place."

"It is absurdly attempting to portray routine civil society activities as crimes," he said.

One of the allegations is the claim that a map on Kavala's phone showing bee species actually depicted his plans to redraw Turkey's borders.

China eyes front against protectionism at G20

BEIJING
AGENCIES

China said Monday it would seek backing for free trade and multilateralism at the G20 summit this week as it denounced protectionism while it fights a tariff war with the United States.

A meeting between Xi Jinping and his Donald Trump on the sidelines of the gathering in Osaka, Japan has fuelled hopes for a truce in the increasingly damaging standoff between the world's top two economies.

"Unilateralism and protectionism has damaged global growth... undermined global value chains and dampened market sentiment," Zhang Jun, the Chinese assistant minister of foreign affairs, said at a briefing to preview Xi's attendance at the summit.

"China will work with others at the G20 to firmly uphold multilateralism and an open, rule-based global trading order," Zhang said.

But Japan, the European Union and other trading partners have in the past echoed US complaints about the alleged theft of intellectual property and lack of a level playing field for foreign investors in China.

China will be tempered by these concerns.

Negotiations to resolve the trade war stalled last



month resulting in both sides exchanging steep tariffs on hundreds of billions in exports.

Chinese vice minister for commerce Wang Shouwen said teams from both sides are now "discussing the next step for communication" ahead of the Xi-Trump meeting.

The two should make compromises and any talks between China and the US have to be based on "mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit and comply with WTO rules", Wang said.

The two leaders are also expected to discuss the fate of Chinese tech giant Huawei, which has suffered a heavy blow after the Trump administration banned US firms from working with it, citing espionage fears.

Hong Kong activists renew protest against extradition bill

HONG KONG
AGENCIES

More than 100 people blocked a Hong Kong government building on Monday in protest against proposed legislation allowing extraditions to mainland China that they want scrapped.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam, saying she had heard the protesters "loud and clear", this month postponed the bill that would allow criminal suspects to be sent to the mainland for trial in courts controlled by the Communist Party.

The activists, mostly students, are demanding the bill be withdrawn, the government drop all charges against those arrested in recent protests and stop referring to the demonstrations as a riot, which could potentially lead to heavier jail terms. "It's inconvenient but I support it," a South African businessman who de-

clined to be identified said of the protest at the skyscraper inland revenue building near the heart of the financial center.

The former British colony of Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997, since when it has been governed under a "one country, two systems" formula that allows it freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland, including freedom to protest and a much-cherished independent judiciary.

The bill has seen millions of people, fearing a continual, drip-drip erosion of those freedoms, clog the streets in protest and plunge the city into political crisis, with many questioning the ability of Lam to govern.

The protesters plan another demonstration on Wednesday to raise awareness among world leaders attending the Group of 20 nations summit in the Japanese city of Osaka this week.



Chinese Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Zhang Jun said on Monday that China would not allow the G20 nations to

discuss Hong Kong at the summit.

"What I can tell you for sure is that G20 will not discuss the Hong Kong

issue. We will not allow G20 to discuss the Hong Kong issue," Zhang said.

The Civil Human Rights Front, organizer of the mass protests, is gearing up for an annual pro-democracy march on July 1, the 22nd anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to Beijing.

The group has called on people to turn out in force. Beijing has said it supports Lam's decision to suspend the extradition bill, but has been angered by criticism from Western capitals, including Washington, about the legislation.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet urged Hong Kong authorities on Monday to "consult broadly before passing or amending" the extradition bill or any other legislation.

The extradition bill triggered the most violent protests in decades when police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the crowds earlier this month.

CORPORATE CORNER

PACRA maintains long-term rating of 'AA-' for Soneri Bank

Soneri Bank has maintained its market position in the industry while strengthening its overall risk profile with stable outlook. Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited "PACRA" has accredited Soneri Bank with "AA-" (double A minus) for its long-term rating and "A1+" (single A one plus) for the bank's short-term rating. Soneri Bank has also maintained the rating of Unsecured, Sub-ordinated and Listed Term Finance Certificates (2nd issue) of Rs3,000 million at A+ (single A Plus) along with the rating of recently issued Unsecured, Sub-ordinated, Listed, Perpetual and Non-cumulative Term Finance Certificates as Additional Tier 1 (ADTI) Capital of Rs4,000 million at A (Single A), all accredited by PACRA. Soneri Bank with its network of over 290 branches and 300 plus ATMs continues to work towards the financial betterment of its customers and will continue to value the patronage given by them. **PR**



ISLAMABAD: Eighteen CEO Tarek Mehdy and DMZ Holdings Chairman Tariq Masud, along with the representatives from both organisations, pose for a photo after the signing of a memorandum of understanding. **PRESS RELEASE**



GILGIT: USAID Pakistan's Agricultural Technology Transfer Activity (PATA) recently showcased innovative agricultural technology products and services, suited to the Gilgit-Baltistan landscape, in districts Gilgit, Nager, Hunza, and Ghizer. **PRESS RELEASE**

Automated system for sales tax registration to take effect from July 1st

BUSINESS DESK

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has announced that the automated system for sales tax registration will be effective from July 1st, 2019. In a statement issued on Monday, the revenue authority explained the procedures regarding the use of said the automated system. According to the statement, the applicant having NTN/income tax registration shall, using his login credentials, upload the following information/documents:

- Bank account certificate issued by the bank in the name of the business.
- Registration/consumer number with the gas and electricity supplier.
- Particulars of all branches in case of multiple branches at various locations.
- GPS-tagged photographs of the business premises.
- In the case of a manufacturer, also the GPS-tagged photographs of machinery and industrial electricity or gas meter installed.

On furnishing the above documents, the system shall register the applicant for sales tax. After registration, the applicant or his authorised person shall visit e-Sahulat Centre of NADRA within a month for biometric verification. In case of failure to visit or failure of verification, the registered person's name shall be taken off the sales tax active taxpayer list. In the case of a manufacturer, the board may require post verification through field offices or a third party authorized by the board. In case, the field office, during scrutiny after the registration, finds that any document provided is non-genuine/fake/wrong, it may request through the system, to provide the missing document, in 15 days, failing which the registered person shall be taken off from the active taxpayer list.

SENATE APPROVES 65 RECOMMENDATIONS ON FINANCE BILL 2019-20

ISLAMABAD
APP

THE Senate of Pakistan has unanimously approved 65 recommendations on the Finance Bill 2019-20 as well as 68 recommendations on the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2019-20, the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs reported on Monday.

Committee chairman Senator Farooq H Naik moved the recommendations, which were adopted by the house unanimously.

The Upper House approved the recommendation by Senator Shibli Faraz to abolish Ribah from the country's economy at the earliest.

Meanwhile, proposals by Senator Kalsoom Parveen to give 10pc of basic salary as ad-hoc relief to all federal government employees of grade 17 and above, and 20pc to the employees of up to grade 16 were also approved.

The Senate approved the committee's recommendation that ad-hoc relief allowances of 10pc for year 2016, 2017, and 2018 should be merged in the basic pay of civil servants and armed forces.

The Senate recommended that the tax rate on dividend income was 15pc for individuals, which was very high and it should be reduced to 10pc as provided earlier. It also approved the recommendation to give tax exemption to those salaried people that earn up to Rs90,000 per month.

The Upper House approved the finance committee's recommendations to allocate Rs750 million for Naltar-Gilgit Power Plant, Rs300 million for Naltar Expressway, Rs302 million for Harpo Power Plant, Rs200 million for a 50-bed cardiac hospital in Gilgit, Rs100 million for a polytechnic institute in Skardu, Rs3.85 billion for the sewerage and sanitary system for Gilgit, Rs2.1 billion for widening of 65-kilometre Botohah Road in Chillas, Rs750 million for Karagah energy corridor roads, Rs2.7 billion for a medical college in Gilgit, and Rs500 million for a

women's university in Gilgit.

The Senate also approved the recommendation of lowering the fiscal deficit target by 1pc from 7.1pc to 6.2pc of the GDP and also of reducing the fiscal deficit gradually to 5pc in the year 2020-21, and then 4pc in FY2021-22.

The house approved the recommendations of freezing the exchange rate to Rs150 per USD, besides fixing the policy rate at 9pc and making efforts to increase GDP growth rate up to 4pc.

The committee's recommendation to place all important debt agreements that make Pakistan liable, such as IMF, should be placed before parliament immediately, was also approved.

The Senate cleared the recommendation that PSDP allocation for the Ministry of Climate Change should be enhanced minimum by 15pc.

It recommended the National Assembly that an exemption of sales tax for three years should be granted to the brick kilns who were upgrading their production to ensure environment-friendly standards.

FPCCI vows to support govt in drive against tax evaders

ISLAMABAD
APP

The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Monday vowed to fully support the government in its crackdown on tax evaders, as doing that was imperative to broaden the tax base and document the economy.

In a statement issued by the chamber, FPCCI President Eng Daroo Khan Achakzai urged the business community to avail the government's tax amnesty scheme by declaring their undisclosed assets by June 30, 2019, so that they could avoid any scrutiny in the future.

He said that the amnesty scheme would help put the economy on sound footings, besides

lessening the burden on the existing taxpayers.

Achakzai noted that Pakistan was the 6th largest country in the world but hardly one per cent of the population was paying taxes.

"One per cent Pakistanis are bearing the burden of 220 million people. This is impossible," he said. "No country can serve its people if tax evaders are not brought under the tax net."

He said that the amnesty scheme launched in 1958 helped recover Rs1.12 billion from undeclared assets, followed by Rs920 million in 1968, Rs1.5 billion in 1976, Rs10 billion in 2000, Rs3.16 billion in 2008 and around Rs120 billion in 2018.

In comparison, he added, the amnesty scheme launched by In-

donesia in 2016 had brought around 745,000 persons into the tax net and recovered over \$330 billion from undeclared assets.

Meanwhile, United Business Group Chairman Ifkhar Malik reiterated that the government should follow the Indonesian model of amnesty scheme so as to extract maximum benefits for the economy, adding that the validity of the scheme up to 30th June 2019 was a very short period for its success.

He said increasing the tax base was imperative for provision of better economic and social services to people.

"Taxation and growth should go hand in hand, and it can only be done through a fair and transparent system, he remarked. "If the growth of business and economy will be

choked, there will be no increase in tax collection."

He said that the ratio of taxpayers in Pakistan was even less than Afghanistan, adding the broadening of tax net was the need of the hour as it was the only option for the country's sustainability.

Malik said Pakistan needed an amnesty scheme because people had transferred their money abroad due to terrorism and poor law and order situation in the past.

"The law and order situation is now fully restored in the country and people can bring their money back by taking full advantage of the new scheme," he added.

He urged the government to rectify all anomalies in the budget on top priority in order to promote ease of doing business in the country.

Huawei's US research arm builds separate identity

The US-based research arm of China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd - Futurewei Technologies Inc - has moved to separate its operations from its corporate parent since the US government in May put Huawei on a trade blacklist, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Futurewei has banned Huawei employees from its offices, moved Futurewei employees to a new IT system and forbidden them from using the Huawei name or logo in communications, a Futurewei employee told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Huawei will continue to own Futurewei, the employee said.

Milton Frazier, Futurewei's general counsel, declined to comment on the separation or the strategy behind it, referring questions to Huawei spokesman Chase Skinner. Skinner did not answer questions about the effort.

The division of operations, which has not been previously reported, comes as many US universities have halted research partnerships with Huawei in reaction to U.S. government allegations that the company poses a national security threat. Many universities are also rethinking their partnerships with other Chinese firms.

Huawei is among the world's largest telecommunications equipment manufacturers. The Commerce Department in May placed the firm on its "entity list" of organizations that pose security risks. The Justice Department earlier filed charges against the firm alleging theft of trade secrets and other crimes.

Futurewei is Huawei's US-based research and development arm. The firm employs hundreds of people at offices in Silicon Valley and the greater Seattle, Chicago and Dallas areas, according to its workers' LinkedIn pages. Futurewei has filed more than 2,100 patents in such areas as telecommunications, 5G cellular networks, and video and camera technologies, according to data from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Until now, Futurewei's operations have been largely indistinguishable from Huawei, the Futurewei employee said. Futurewei had no separate brand or even a website, the employee said, and its staff often identified themselves as Huawei employees.

Both companies have conducted a wide range of research partnerships and grant programs with U.S. universities.

Last year, 26 members of Congress sent a letter to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, warning that Huawei's partnerships with at least 50 US universities "may pose a significant threat to national security."

The fear is that Huawei is using university partnerships to scoop up research in areas such as artificial intelligence, telecommunications and robotics, which could be used in hacking or spying operations or to give Chinese companies an edge over US competitors.

Some universities are struggling with whether they can continue partnerships with Fu-

turewei - which is not on the government's entity list - even as they suspend funding and research arrangements with Huawei.

The University of California-Berkeley, for instance, is allowing researchers to keep working with Futurewei after suspending all funding and information exchanges with Huawei in May, according to chief faculty from Berkeley research chief Randy Katz.

Berkeley also suspended funding from Futurewei but continues to allow Futurewei employees to participate in research reviews under certain restrictions, Katz wrote to faculty. Berkeley staff and students now can work only with Futurewei employees who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who agree in writing not to share certain sensitive information with Huawei.

Companies on the entity list are banned from buying parts and components from American firms without U.S. government approval. Most universities have also consulted the list when making decisions on grants or partnerships, said Tobin Smith, of the Association of American Universities.

Katz said he issued his guidance on Futurewei out of an "abundance of caution" to ensure researchers don't break laws that prevent sharing sensitive U.S. technology with entity-listed companies. After consulting with the Commerce Department, Berkeley determined that Futurewei was not covered by the same restrictions as Huawei, Katz wrote to faculty. **AGENCIES**

MARKET DAILY



PSX plunges 653 points amid low turnover

KARACHI
STAFF REPORT

Stocks bled on the first trading session of the week, as the KSE-100 index benchmark nosedived over 700 points intraday amid low market turnover. Foreign investors closed the previous week (from June 17 to June 20) as net sellers with a net outflow of \$5.89 million. On the economic front, Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh tweeted on Monday that Pakistan has secured another bailout package of \$3 billion from Qatar. Following the package, Pakistan's total loans from friendly countries have reached \$16 billion within one year's time. Moreover, as per news reports, the government has surpassed its annual target of foreign loans in 11 months, acquiring \$9.5 billion from international creditors for repayment of previous loans and for failure in achieving the \$27 billion export target. Gross foreign loan disbursements from July to May of the outgoing fiscal year were higher than the annual budgetary target of \$9.3 billion. Declining by 756.79 points, the KSE-100 Index benchmark touched its intraday low of 34,368.46. It settled lower by 653.30 points at 34,471.95. The KMI-30 Index sank by 1,561.87 points to close at 55,144.34, while the KSE All Share Index plunged 346.89 points, closing at 25,275.81. Out of the 324 traded scripts, 47 advanced, 257 declined while the value of 20 remained unchanged. The overall trading volumes remained thin and were recorded at 78.12 million (-28pc). K-Electric Limited (KEL 0.00pc), TRG Pakistan Limited (TRG -5.52pc) and Fauji Cement Company Limited (FCCCL -6.14pc) remained the volume leaders of the day. The scripts had traded 6.40 million shares, 5.40 million shares and 4.18 million shares respectively. The oil and gas marketing sector chipped off -3.41pc from its total market capitalization. Hascol Petroleum Limited (HASCOL -4.96pc), Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC -4.42pc), Sui Northern Gas Pipe Line Limited (SNGP -3.11pc) and Pakistan State Oil Company Limited (PSO -3.42pc) closed in red. On the market front, the management of Engro Foods Limited (EFOODS +0.18pc), through a notification sent to the exchange, announced that the company has changed its name to FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited.

Gold reaches record high at Rs79,200 per tola

BUSINESS DESK

The value of gold in Pakistan has hit a record high, as the per tola price of the yellow metal reached 79,200 on Monday after an increase of Rs600. The price of 10-gram gold also witnessed an increase of Rs1,069 and was traded at Rs68,029. The price of 10-gram gold was recorded at Rs66,958 on Saturday. In the international market, gold climbed towards the near six-year high reached in the previous session, driven by dovish signals from global central banks and increased tensions between the United States and Iran. Spot gold was up 0.3pc at \$1,405 an ounce by 1240 GMT, headed for a fifth straight session of gains. Gold prices hit \$1,410.78 on Friday, their highest since Sept 4, 2013. US gold futures rose 0.7pc to \$1,410 an ounce. "The weakness of the US dollar, gold's technical picture and interest from investors themselves have become self-sustaining factors, especially after the massive inflows into gold exchange-traded funds," Commerzbank analyst Eugen Weinberg said.

STEEL INDUSTRY CRIES FOUL OVER 'UNFRIENDLY BUDGET'

ISLAMABAD
GHULAM ABBAS

AS the local steel industry was struggling to keep up with the regional competitors, the budget presented by the incumbent government would further hamper the already dwindling industry, it was learnt on Monday.

Sharing how the budget proposals were "unfriendly" for the steel industry, officials at the Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) claimed that some of the measures introduced in the next budget would add to the woes of the steel industry.

"Instead of facilitating/compensating the industry through remedial measures, the government has introduced certain measures that would not only cause revenue losses but would also result in the closure of steel units in the settled areas of the country," they added.

According to the PALSP officials, during the last six months or so, the local steel industry has witnessed a severe crisis with many units being

closed down.

"Some of the leading players, who, a year ago, were showing record performance and profits, are cutting their productions, and are going in big losses," they informed. "A year ago, all those players who were planning to make huge investments for further expansions have put their projects on the hold."

They said unless the government takes concrete measures to rescue the local industry, this situation would result in rapid de-industrialization and closure of the local industry.

The officials said that the steel industry, through budgetary proposals, had requested the government to remove customs as well as regulatory duty on the raw material.

"However, the paltry relief provided by the government with the removal of 3pc customs duty is too small and it is not going to provide any meaningful relief to the local steel industry."

As per the official's, the most pressing issue for the industry was the government's decision to allow duty-free raw material/scrap for the industrial units located in FATA and PATA. "This

is going to result in the closure of steel units in the settled areas, besides severely damaging the national exchequer," they added.

The PALSP members recalled that in the recent past, a large amount of re-rollable scrap made its way into the Pakistan market due to faulty duty structure of the government.

"In order to discourage such activities, the local industry had appealed to the government to increase customs/additional customs duty and regulatory duty on the re-rollable scrap. However, contrary to the recommendations of the local industry, the government has further reduced the duties on this intermediary good which is a substitute of the billets."

They further recalled that in the recent meeting of Senate's Standing Committee on Finance, members of the steel industry from all segments—ship breakers, melters as well as re-rollers, had pleaded the government to impose more duties on the re-rollable scrap in order to save the local industry from closure. However, they added, the government failed to take the much-needed measures.



ATTOCK: A vendor sells melons at his roadside set up in the outskirts of the city. ONLINE

Textile exports increase 2pc to \$11.4bn

ISLAMABAD
APP

The exports of textile and its articles from the country witnessed an increase of 2.17 per cent during the first ten months of the current fiscal year as compared to the exports of the corresponding period last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported on Monday.

The textile exports from the country during July-April 2018-19 were recorded at \$11.419 billion against the export of \$11.176 billion during July-April 2017-18. The textile commodities that contributed positively in the external trade included apparel articles and clothing accessories (knitted), the export of which grew from \$2.24 billion last year to \$2.50 billion during the current fiscal year, an increase of 11.87pc.

The exports of apparel articles or clothing accessories (not knitted) increased by 2.22pc, from \$2.06 billion to \$2.11 billion, whereas the exports of other made-up textile articles increased by 0.39pc, from \$3.38 billion to \$3.39 billion.

Similarly, the export of knitted or crocheted fabrics grew by 25.56pc, from \$23.33 million to \$29.29 million, while the exports of man-made filaments increased by 29.58pc, from \$17.94 million last year to \$23.25 million.

Meanwhile, the textile commodities that witnessed negativity in external trade included cotton, exports of which dipped by 1.57pc, from \$2.97 billion last year to \$2.92 billion.

The export of carpets and other textile floor coverings decreased from \$69.815 million to \$65.929 million, a decline of 5.56pc, whereas the export of man-made staple fibres decreased by

3.14pc, from \$252.82 million to \$244.86 million.

It is pertinent to mention that the country's merchandise trade deficit plunged by 13.62 per cent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

The trade deficit contracted by 13.62pc to \$29.20 billion during July-May 2018-19, as against the deficit of \$33.81 billion recorded during July-May 2017-18.

Exports during the period under review witnessed a nominal decrease of 0.3pc, as it fell from \$21.33 billion last year to \$21.26 billion during the ongoing fiscal year.

On the other hand, the imports declined by 8.47pc to \$50.474 billion during the period under review from \$55.142 billion last year.

PM's aide urges UK companies to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD
STAFF REPORT

The United Kingdom can promote trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan by investing in competitive sectors, said adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood on Monday.

Talking to UK Trade Commissioner to Pakistan, Afghanistan and Middle East Simon Penney, the adviser said that continuation of preferential market access

under GSP Plus in the post-Brexit scenario would ensure sustainability to the Pakistani exporters in the UK market.

Simon Penney on the occasion underlined the importance of post-Brexit bilateral trade between the two countries and resolved to maintain the same market access to Pakistan as it enjoys with EU countries since the grant of GSP Plus status in 2014.

In this regard, he informed that the UK companies were committed to con-

tinuing their imports from Pakistan.

Appreciating the bilateral investment relations through an improved business environment in Pakistan, he urged the adviser to remove all the bottlenecks being faced by the UK investment companies in Pakistan.

The trade commissioner informed the adviser about the UK Export Finance Scheme which covers the sale of goods to the tune of \$1 billion in the UK market through the provision of risk in-

surance facility.

"Pakistani exporters can get the benefit of this finance scheme by supplying goods to UK companies that are availing this facility," he stated. "UK companies intend to work jointly with Pakistani companies to enhance bilateral investment relations by exploring the untapped potential in various promising investment sectors."

The adviser stated that Pakistan has launched a programme titled "Regulatory Guillotine" to relax the business

regulations, adding that the country has taken various effective steps to improve trade procedures.

Dawood said that the UK investment companies have a substantial presence in Pakistan, as they have made exponential investments in various sectors of the economy. The adviser also invited the UK trade commissioner for a follow-up visit in September so that further deliberations on bilateral trade and investment issues could be held.

HUAWEI P30 LITE REVIEW

I spent one week using the P30 Lite and decided it was worth writing a review about considering the impressive specs set in this price bracket.



Let me begin by saying the appearance is slim and elegant - Huawei's P30 Lite marries accessible size with fashionable styling. With its 6.15 inch dewdrop display, the phone is much better suited for smaller hands in comparison to the iPhone Plus or Huawei P30 Pro. With a resolution of 1080 x 2312, its screen is exactly what we'd expect at the price, retaining the Full HD+ resolution found in the flagship P30 Pro. To ensure an uncompromised display the proximity/ambient light sensor (Which is not available in most phones now) is hidden at the top of the mid-frame. Covered with a black coating, the sensor is tucked away to ensure a perfect symmetric look at the front.

The P30 Lite's frame is plastic, but it looks and feels solid, emulating the metal of the rest of the P30 family nicely. The front glass is flat with minimum bezels, and the back has a slight elegant curve and features a rear fingerprint scanner and triple camera module. Audiophiles rejoice! What I really loved about this phone was the fact that it had a

headphone jack on board next to the speaker.

On the top left you'll find the sim tray - lo and behold, it's dual sim and supports a MicroSD card! I've been using the Peacock Blue with a glass finish and the fingerprint scanner is in a natural position for an index finger to fumble over. From a design point of view, everything works well.

The Huawei P30 Lite's battery is 3340mAh making it adequate to last you for the majority chunk of your day. It also offers a lot of optimization tools buried into the settings that limit the process of apps running in the background. It turns off unused connectivity features and alerts you when apps to rogue and begin eating your battery.

Let's talk about the impressive camera now. Personally that is what I look at while getting a phone, the features available and whether the selfie cam is up to mark. Its triple camera setup includes a wide 48 Mega Pixel camera, one ultra wide 8 Mega Pixel and a Monochrome depth sensing 2 Mega Pixel Camera. The Camera quality was definitely impressive and what really caught my

eye was the wide angle camera and the portrait mode. It also features a built in mode for you to make videos using various emoji filters - How cool is that? Besides that it also features a Pro Camera mode and the night mode. The dynamic range is impressive when snapping in the dedicated HDR Mode.

The P30 Lite runs on Kirin 710 combined with a 4GB of RAM and 128GB of storage. Compared to the Samsung C7 at 32GB and Oppo F7 at 64GB, the storage capacity is beyond impressive. The phone performs well while taking pictures and operating heavy applications. If you're a big fan of playing 3D games like PUBG then you are in for a treat. The P30 Lite supports GPU Turbo 2.0 which leverages it to optimize GPU performance in games allowing you a stress free experience without a lag.

Overall the P30 Lite is a great buy at the price it comes for (Rs 44,000) and offers more than phones in its bracket allow. It has ample memory, a great front and back camera and most importantly, it doesn't lag. For me that is a win win situation.



SCAFA EXPRESS OPENS ITS DOORS IN LAHORE

SCAFA, a culinary brand name with an international footprint, launches its new Scafa Express brand with its first outlet at 20L MM Alam Extension, Lahore.

Renowned for its Chef's Table and innovative dining at the established Scafa Bistro, SCAFA's management are setting out to widen the exciting food experience with Scafa Express that is associated with its fine brands in a way that is more casual and informal to engage with Lahore's younger audience that is looking for a cafe's comfort while offering excellent dining.

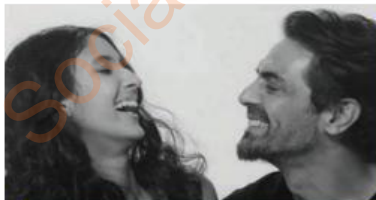
Offering an authentic international experience ranging from fresh, hand-cut sandwiches to order, including their unmatched London Salt Beef sandwiches, a choice of classic pizzas to a full repertoire of bakes and Viennoiseries. There's even a choice of local favorites for the home souls.

Driven by the talents of its cast of international chefs including Rob Burns, Micaela Pacheco, Shah Nawaz Khan and Shine Mateo, Scafa Express strives to continuously refresh and its menu and express the seasons. Using the highest quality ingredients and internationally recognized cooking techniques, including bakery and patisserie delicacies which are planned and prepared fresh every day, Scafa Express plans to delight the increasingly sophisticated Lahore palate.

"People are increasingly looking for gourmet food experiences that were previously only available at fine dining establishments. With Scafa Express we want to offer quality dining but accessible in a much friendlier environment - that the Lahore craves and is more than ready for," said Zaigham Haque on the introduction of Scafa Express.



HOLLYWOOD
BOLLYWOOD



Arjun Rampal shares a heartwarming picture to wish daughter Myra on her birthday

Handsome hunk Arjun Rampal is a doting father to his two daughters Mahika and Myra Rampal. In his social media posts, the actor is often seen expressing how blessed he feels to be the father of two daughters. The actor is expecting a new bundle of joy with South African model and actress Gabriella Demetriadis. And his daughters have his undivided attention. Today happens to be Myra's birthday. Arjun's younger daughter turns 14 today and on the happy occasion, the actor shared an adorable picture of them both with the sweetest caption. Arjun shared a monochrome picture of him with Myra and both of them could be seen sharing a laugh. Arjun's caption for the post read, "Happy birthday my darling @myra_rampal my baby girl. My smile. My joy. Thank you for being you. #happybirthdaymyra" Have a look at Arjun's post here: Such a heartwarming picture, isn't it? On Father's day recently, Arjun shared pictures of the father-daughters trio and wrote, "The luckiest Dad in town."



Mehwish Hayat surprised everyone with her appearance in upcoming Pakistani movie 'Baaji' and shuts down her critics

Actress Mehwish Hayat has once again come under harsh critique for doing an item number. Mehwish surprised everyone with her appearance in the upcoming movie 'Baaji'.

Her appearance includes an item number - 'Gangster Guriya'.

After she shared the song on social media, she received heavy backlash and criticism for doing an item number.

Shutting down all trolls, Mehwish responded, "To do these dance numbers has been my choice."

"As an actress and performer it is my job. As a woman I find my work empowering. Dance to me is aesthetically the purest form of art," she wrote.



Sara Ali Khan And Kartik Aaryan Know How To Have Fun Between Work, And Their Pictures From Shimla Are Proof!

Ever since Sara Ali Khan and Kartik Aaryan have been paired opposite each other in a film, the excitement for the audiences have known no bounds. Sara and Kartik are not just two extremely good-looking youngsters, but the fact that Sara already has a crush on Kartik and that there is a good chance for a love story to kindle during the shoot has made us keep closer watch at every step the two takes. That might explain why their leaked kissing scene from the film created such a stir amongst fans. The two have indeed bonded very well on the sets and have often been spotted roaming around together with their faces covered. Sara and Kartik, who are in Shimla right now for a part of the shoot, are also having a lot of fun during their free time. In fact, they seem to be bonding really well. Honestly, their pictures make us wonder how great it would have been to see the two date.

MURRAY MULLS OVER US OPEN SINGLES RETURN AFTER QUEEN'S DOUBLES TRIUMPH

GLASGOW
AGENCIES

FORMER world number one Andy Murray says he could resurrect his singles career at this year's US Open following a remarkable return to tennis with victory in the men's doubles at the Queen's Club tournament on Sunday.

The 32-year-old Scotsman teamed up with Spanish partner Feliciano Lopez to take a 7-6 (8/6), 5-7, 10-5 win over Britain's Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram of the United States.

The three-time Grand Slam champion's triumph comes after what he described as "life-changing" hip surgery earlier this year.

Murray said that while he had not made up his mind about a return to singles, the US Open would be the tournament where it could happen.

If so, it would be a remarkable turnaround for a man who was tearfully pondering retirement in January and has seen his singles ranking tumble to 215 in the world.

"I mean, potentially, yeah," he said

when pressed as to whether the US Open — where he won his first Grand Slam title in 2012 — could be the place to resume his singles career.

"But I don't care, really, either way. Like, it would be nice to play at the US Open, but if I don't — look, I got so much enjoyment and happiness after winning a first round doubles match here that, you know, that's enough.

"I don't have to be getting to the US Open this year and be really competitive and have to win the tournament for me to enjoy it."

Murray, also a two-time Olympic singles champion, said he had to be mindful about his hip, although he came through the week at Queen's pain free.

"It's not just to get back on the court playing singles," he said.

"It's to protect my hip for the longer term to make sure that my muscles are in the correct balance so that I'm not impacting the hip in the same spot all of the time.

"I need to improve the range of motion in my hip as well so that when I'm changing direction that there is a bit more freedom for it to move around.



Murray — watched by his wife Kim and mother Judy on Sunday — may be regretting deciding not to play with the 37-year-old Lopez at Wimbledon.

The Spaniard produced a Herculean effort, winning the singles title in three sets earlier in the day against Gilles Simon of France before playing sub-

limely in the doubles.

IT'S MENTAL REALLY: Murray praised Lopez for his extraordinary feat of endurance which saw him out on court for over 15 hours during the week — and added the title meant more than some of the singles titles he has won.

"This is very different for me, and it's

more special than a lot of the singles tournaments that I have won for a lot of different reasons," he said.

"I just won the doubles here with Feli (Lopez), you know, with a metal hip. It's mental, really.

"That's a cool thing to be able to have done, and yeah, just because of probably where I was a few months ago.

"At times, even as far as just two months ago, I just wasn't thinking about this."

Murray will now move on to Eastbourne before playing at Wimbledon where he will be partnered by Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert.

Lopez paid a handsome tribute to Murray and said if he continued on this trajectory he should be back playing singles.

"This happens only once in a lifetime to win here at singles and doubles," said Lopez reflecting on his own extraordinary week.

"I hope that he's (Murray) gonna be playing singles soon. But I'm sure that if he keeps progressing the way he's doing right now, we're gonna see him playing singles again."

Ex-IAAF chief Lamine Diack to stand trial in France: sources

SWEDEN
AGENCIES

Lamine Diack, the disgraced former head of world athletics' ruling body the IAAF, and his son Papa Massata Diack are to stand trial in France on charges of corruption and money laundering, sources told AFP. Diack was IAAF president between 1999-2015 but his reign ended in chaos amid charges he and his son obstructed sanctions against Russia for doping in return for payments.

Papa Massata Diack, who has never been questioned by French officials, is one of five others who will face trial on the same charges.

The French investigation into Diack began in 2015 when Britain's Sebastian Coe took over from the 86-year-old Senegalese as IAAF president.

French prosecutors took up the case because they suspect money was laundered in France.

The backdrop to the investigation is the system of state-sponsored doping uncovered in Russia by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Prosecutors allege that Lamine Diack was prepared to accept funding for political campaigns in Senegal in return for IAAF anti-doping officials turning a blind eye to Russian athletes caught doping.

All hail the 'new queen': Australia piles praise on top-ranked Barty

CANBERRA
AGENCIES

Australia hailed "humble and inspirational" Ashleigh Barty as the new queen of tennis Monday after she joined Evonne Goolagong Cawley as the country's second woman to reach world number one.

The French Open champion claimed the top spot by beating Julia Goerges to win the Birmingham WTA title on Sunday, questioning a remarkable rise by the 23-year-old who once quit tennis to play cricket.

Along with Goolagong Cawley, who briefly held the top rank in 1976, she emulated John Newcombe, Pat Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt in the pantheon of Australians to reach world number one.

Tennis Australia chief Craig Tyley commended a "remarkable historical accomplishment". "It's a really hard thing to do and to achieve, that is just fantastic," he told the Channel Nine TV network. "I know her, she's humble about it. She just wants to get back on the tennis court and have a good hit."

Goolagong Cawley, who like Barty has an indigenous heritage, said her rise had been "almost unstoppable".

"Ash is a very worthy number one

and winning at the French will have given her even more confidence," she told reporters.

"I am so proud that another Aboriginal player sits on top of the rankings in women's tennis, particularly a young lady who conveys such happiness in all she does."

PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER: Sydney's Daily Telegraph crowned her the "new queen" of tennis, with her down-to-earth approach a refreshing change for Australian tennis fans more used to the histrionics of Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic.

"Watching her win a match is like watching those old-fashioned black and white news reels where an Evonne Goolagong or a Rod Laver graciously accepted their win without huge fuss or fanfare," it wrote.

"She makes Australians feel proud she is one of us. Long may she reign."

National broadcaster ABC said her rise was "nothing but deserved" after being unranked in 2016 when she returned to the game from a stint playing cricket with Brisbane Heat, while Fox Sports Australia tweeted: "Put your hands together for your new queen."

Billie Jean King was among the tennis



greats offering congratulations to Barty, who displaced Japan's Naomi Osaka to reach number one. "With incredible versatility, perseverance, and focus, Ash Barty is an inspiration to the next generation of young players in Australia. Well done!" she tweeted.

Barty, who began playing tennis as a child in the Queensland state capital Brisbane, has her eyes firmly on Wimbledon and told reporters her close-knit team would not be getting carried away with what had been achieved.

"We'll just be very boring, to be honest," she said when asked how they would celebrate. "We've got a big couple of weeks coming up, make sure we're ready to go, but we'll certainly be having a beer or two." Tennis Queensland chief Mark Bloomfield said children "have a role model now".

"They have seen one of their own start as a five-year-old, learn here in Brisbane, go right through the ranks and come out as world number one proving that they can do it," he told reporters.

Copa America starts anew in quarters, says Argentina's Messi

RIO
AGENCIES

ARGENTINA will start from afresh in the Copa America after averting disaster with Sunday's 2-0 victory over Qatar that sent them into the knock-out stages, star Lionel Messi said.

Goals from the Barcelona icon's forward partners Lautaro Martinez and Sergio Aguero were enough to propel Argentina from bottom of Group B to second and into a quarter-final meeting with Venezuela on Friday at Rio's Maracana stadium.

"The important thing was to win to keep going in the Copa, to get through the group stage," said Messi, who will turn 32 on Monday. "This will be an important boost for what's to come ... another Copa begins now."

"This victory must give us strength and make us grow as a team."

Argentina's performance was far from pitch-perfect, but they were good enough

to beat a limited Qatar side, who gifted them the opening goal after four minutes when Bassam Hicham played a suicidal ball across his own box straight to Martinez. Messi admitted, though, that there were nerves in the Argentina camp.

"It's tough playing this kind of game due to the necessity, the obligation (to win), the fear of missing out.

"But beyond that we played well and went through, which is what matters."

Aguero, who was recalled after he was dropped for the 1-1 draw with Paraguay, had a mixed game alongside Messi and Martinez.

He worked hard to create chances for himself but lacked sharpness and precision in his finishing, until his brilliant goal where he burst past two defenders before shooting high into the far corner.

"Luckily I was picked to start and luckily at times the three of us worked well together and we won," he said.

Argentina will now play a side who beat them 3-1 in a friendly in Madrid in



March. "They're quite tough opponents who counter-attack really well and we'll try to be wise to that," said Aguero.

Coach Lionel Scaloni gave a sober assessment of Argentina's form after a third

straight match in which they struggled for long periods and failed to entirely convince. "We're satisfied because we're in the next round ... but we have to improve in every aspect," he said.

"Today at times the team played well and rid itself of fear."

And Scaloni hit out at claims back home that the squad was divided. "As long as we're playing in the Copa, everyone's pulling for the same side. There must be total unanimity," he said. "Many players aren't even 25 yet and it's a positive thing for them to have played in this match."

However, he was scathing about the state of the Arena do Gremio pitch in Porto Alegre, which will host both a quarter-final and a semi-final.

"You can't play on this pitch. Even so we tried to play, to press high, we played very well in the second half."

He had kind words for Qatar, who head home after a draw and two defeats from their three group games.

"They're a very worthy team with a great future, with young players," he said. The Asian champions, who will host the 2022 World Cup, have been invited back to next year's Copa America, which will be played in Argentina and Colombia.



SUPER SHAKIB KNOCKS AFGHANISTAN OVER WITH BAT AND BALL

SOUTHAMPTON
AGENCIES

SHAKIB AL HASAN came, spun, and conquered, carrying Bangladesh to a comfortable 62-run win over Afghanistan that kept their semi-final aspirations alive at the 2019 World Cup.

Shakib made it to the record books on the way, most significantly becoming only the third player - after Kapil Dev and Yuvraj Singh - to have a century and a five-wicket haul in the same edition of the World Cup, and the second, after Yuvraj, to score a 50-plus score and return a five-for in the same World Cup game.

He first extended his good batting form to hit a fifth 50-plus score in six innings in the tournament, and then broke the back of Afghanistan's chase with 5 for 29 in ten overs - Bangladesh's best World Cup figures.

Bangladesh now have seven points with two games in hand. Those two games are against India and Pakistan, but the manner in which Bangladesh have been playing, they will have the belief that they can continue to upset



BANGLADESH
262 FOR 7 (MUSHFIQUR
83, SHAKIB 51, MUJEEB 3-
39) BEAT AFGHANISTAN 200
ALL OUT (SHINWARI 49*,
NAIB 47, SHAKIB 5-29)
BY 62 RUNS

pre-tournament predictions. Against Afghanistan, form-wise, Bangladesh were heavily favoured to win. But they have had a prickly history with Afghanistan and the head-to-head record is a lot closer than they would want. They did look tentative in the initial exchanges, but on pitch that gripped, and a ground with long boundaries, that wasn't catastrophic.

Gulbadin Naib made the surprising decision to bowl first on winning the toss, a move that made Mashrafe Mor-

taza happy because he wanted to bat first in any case.

Afghanistan's game plan while bowling revolved around their spinners - making the decision to bat first seem more inexplicable - and Bangladesh prepared their tactics accordingly. They broke up the successful opening combine of Tamim Iqbal and Soumya Sarkar, sending Liton Das at the top instead of Soumya to counter Mujeeb Ur Rahman. The move didn't work, with Mujeeb accounting for Liton with a carrom ball. He would later get Soumya, who came in at No. 5, too.

In the middle, he struck another crucial blow by trapping Shakib lbw, which allowed Afghanistan some measure of control in the middle overs. Mujeeb's 3 for 39 was just rewards for his excellent show. He had bowled the tough overs and kept Bangladesh's batsmen quiet. Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan too had good outings, with Nabi taking out Tamim.

But Mushfiqur Rahim stayed put, moving the score along. Bangladesh had a phase of more than 12 overs - from 24.1 to 36.1 inclusive - without a boundary, but Mushfiqur didn't lose patience in that phase and opened out after that. He had a shot at emulating countrymen Shakib and Mahmudullah in hitting back-to-back World Cup tons, but fell for an 87-ball 83 in the penultimate over.

However, Bangladesh did get the finishing kick courtesy Mossadek Hossain's 35 off 24, and once they had put on in excess of 250, it was always going to be an uphill battle for Afghanistan, who didn't help themselves with a sloppy display in the field - ESPNcricinfo's data had them saving three runs and conceding 19.

The chase needed one top-order batsman to play a big innings, batting throughout, but Gulbadin's 47 was the only substantial score in the top five.

Pakistan 'alive and kicking' as team eyes unlikely World Cup survival

LONDON
AGENCIES

Pakistan find themselves "alive and kicking" in the World Cup despite a disastrous start as coach Mickey Arthur warned his unpredictable team were still gunning for the semi-finals.

The 1992 champions were on the brink of elimination after losing three of their first five games, including a bruising defeat to arch-rivals India.

But Sunday's 49-run win over South Africa has kept alive Pakistan's chances of qualifying for the last four. They now need to win their remaining three matches against New Zealand, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, and hope other results go their way.

New Zealand are top of the 10-team table ahead of Australia, India and England, followed by Sri Lanka, Bangladesh with Pakistan in seventh place.

However, England, smarting from their upset against Sri Lanka, will be out of the running for the last four if they lose their remaining three games against Australia, India and New Zealand.

Even table-toppers New Zealand can lose their last three and not qualify - a scenario that is giving Pakistan hope. "We are alive and kicking, without a doubt," said Arthur. "Yes, we are banking on other

teams doing us a favour. It probably is - but we've got to win three games." Arthur said Pakistan, who stunned England earlier in the tournament, can beat any team if they play to their potential.

"When we play our best game, we can beat anybody. Whether that's New Zealand, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, our remaining games, or England, we showed. "We put our three disciplines together, we are as good as any team in this competition. We are very firmly in the World Cup. We win our next three games, we'll qualify." Arthur said his players came out fighting after their defeat to India in Manchester last week.

"Our boys hurt, all of us hurt, incredibly. Guys didn't sleep much, but they came to the training every day and put in (hard work) in order to try and turn it around, and we got some just reward against South Africa." Pakistan still need to hugely improve their sloppy fielding, dropping as many as five catches against South Africa - three of them by Mohammad Amir.

"Our problem is we haven't put three disciplines together yet in any game," said Arthur whose team scored 308-7 against South Africa before restricting them to 259-9. "We bowled well; we batted well; we didn't field well (against South Africa). So when we



put three disciplines together, we'll be exceptional.

"The closest we've got was when we beat England." Underlining Pakistan's mercurial nature, the 14-run win over top-ranked England followed their seven-wicket defeat against the West Indies, when they were shot out for 105 in their opening game.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's head coach Mickey Arthur believes that Pakistan's performance against South Africa on Sunday at Lord's will silence the critics for a bit. "I just think the guys were burnt out last week. The guys were incredibly hurt by media, public, social media... And hopefully, we got a proper reaction from them today that can just shut some people up for a little while," he said.

"Our guys need to be built up all the time. The minute they are bashed, like they have been the last week, our guys don't respond to that in a very kind way and hopefully, we got a performance out today that vindicates the talent the boys have on the team," he added.

Langer backs Australia's under-fire batting gameplans

LONDON
AGENCIES

Justin Langer has hit back at criticism of the Australian side's approach during the World Cup and backed his players' form and game plans as they prepare to face England at Lord's on Tuesday. Australia have lost one game - against India - in their campaign, compared to England's two defeats at the hands of Pakistan and Sri Lanka, but despite this Langer believes the hosts are still favourites. "Just look at their team," Langer said at Australia's training session at Merchant Taylors School. "Nothing has changed in a week." "We have seen how they played for four years. They are the best team in the world. I'm not really worried [about] what England are doing. It sounds like a coach's cliché but it is the dead truth. We are concentrating on what we are doing. We are doing okay but we can get better."

A win for Australia at Lord's would heap added pressure on England, who are yet to face the two undefeated sides of the tournament, India and New Zealand, and Langer expects the match to be decided by which team can best deal with their nerves. "You can look at it two ways," Langer said. "We all have a bit to do. They have three games. They will be tough games but it will be like that in the semi-final. They should be welcoming that. If you are nice and battle hardened, then you might be weary, but you will be ready for the contest. For both teams, it is a good thing. We have England, New Zealand and South Africa, teams we have had good contests with. It is a positive for whoever makes the semis, if they are playing tough cricket going into it. "This tournament is going to be about who can hold their nerve in the big moments. We have got to concentrate on how we hold our nerve in the big moments. There are going to be plenty of them in the next three games and hopefully the semi-final. "I have said for 6-8 months, when it comes to a World Cup there is a lot of talk about statistics, but it comes down to match play and we have to play England on Tuesday better than they play us."

England's World Cup nerve faces Australia test

LONDON
AGENCIES

Are England just a bunch of "flat-track bullies"? That's the uncomfortable question facing Eoin Morgan's side as they look to get their World Cup campaign back on track against arch-rivals Australia.

Tuesday's match at Lord's was always going to be a showpiece occasion, but it has been given added spice by England's 20-run loss to Sri Lanka.

Faced with a relatively modest target of 233 on a tricky Headingley pitch, England slumped to 212 all out.

Despite their second defeat of the pool phase following an earlier loss to Pakistan, the tournament hosts remained in the top four and on course for a semi-final spot.

But England, bidding to win the World Cup for the first time, cannot afford many more slip-ups in their remaining pool fixtures against fellow title contenders Australia, India and New Zealand - teams they have not defeated at a World Cup since 1992. England's rise to the top of the one-day international rankings since their woe-

ful first-round exit at the 2015 World Cup has been based on aggressive batting.

They have twice posted a world record score at this level in the intervening four years, including the current mark of 481-6 against Australia at Trent Bridge just over 12 months ago.

DUMB CRICKET: Doubts, however, persist about England's ability to bat in less than ideal conditions for shot-making.

Their problems were summed up against Sri Lanka when Moeen Ali marked his 100th ODI by hitting a six, only to try to repeat the shot next ball and hole out to leave England 170-6. Former England captain Michael Vaughan was unimpressed, writing in Britain's Daily Telegraph: "He (Moeen) was there to win the game but it was dumb cricket taking on the man at long off having just hit the ball for six."

According to research by cricket statisticians CricViz, on the 11 toughest one-day pitches for batting England have played on since losing to Pakistan in the 2017 semi-finals of the Champions Trophy on a slow Cardiff surface, they have lost five. By contrast, on the 11 best pitches for

batting they have played on since then, Morgan's men have won nine.

England's problems have been compounded by the absence of Jason Roy from their past two matches, with a torn hamstring threatening to sideline the in-form opener from the Australia clash as well.

Yet while former players such as Vaughan bemoaned England's lack of nous against Sri Lanka, Jos Buttler said the problem was they were not aggressive enough.

"I think we were a little bit passive as a group," said the usually big-hitting Buttler, who made just 10 before becoming the last of four wickets for veteran paceman Lasith Malinga. "That doesn't just mean hitting fours and sixes, that means showing intensity and trying to put pressure back on the bowlers," he said.

By contrast, Australia have been buoyed by the productive opening partnership between captain Aaron Finch and David Warner and are second in the table after five wins from six matches.

Mitchell Starc is the joint-leading wicket-taker at the World Cup - his tally of 15 putting him level with fellow pace-



men Jofra Archer (England) and Mohammad Amir (Pakistan) - but Australia's bowling in support of the left-armed has looked vulnerable.

Allan Border, Australia's captain when they beat England in the 1987 World Cup final in Kolkata, believes it will be the bowlers who are decisive.

OPP PROTESTS SELECTIVE CENSORSHIP IN NA

PPP CHIEF BILAWAL SAYS 'PM IMRAN'S EGO HURT BY WORD 'SELECTED', SAYS CENSORSHIP WOULD ONLY UNDERMINE PARLIAMENT, DEMOCRACY

ISLAMABAD
STAFF REPORT

A day after the usage of the word "selected" was barred in the House by National Assembly (NA) Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Monday claimed that the ban had been imposed because "the word hurts Prime Minister Imran Khan's ego".

He said this while speaking on the floor of the House during the budget session. The PPP chief questioned why only one particular word had been banned in the House. "None of the government's words are censored in this House and by imposing this ban, the deputy speaker is only adding fuel to fire," he added.

He said that it is a disgrace that the premier could not handle "even the slightest bit of criticism", adding that the same premier who had appreciated his maiden NA speech a year ago, is now objecting to the usage of a word.

Bilawal expressed disappointment at the increasing trend of censorship in the country, saying that the space for democratic rights and human rights is receding. "We respect this House, but it is being held hostage at the moment," he said, adding that the problems do not simply disappear by barring people

from speaking about them rather "they return to haunt you later". He said that there was no freedom in "Naya Pakistan" of the incumbent government as journalists and lawmakers alike were facing censorship. "We will not accept such censorship," Bilawal maintained.

"This House is the custodian of the rights of the people and if it is not given its due respect, the circumstances would change to the situation depicted in George Orwell's 1984," he said.

Talking about the budget, Bilawal lashed out at the government for imposing "economic censorship" in the country as three provinces suffered budget cuts this year. He said that the government was quick to take charge of Sindh's hospitals but did not increase any allocation for the same. "This budget is usurping provincial rights," he said. He said that the budget shows that the government has bowed down in front of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "The premier made too many promises and the average citizens are paying the price for his incompetence," he said.

Bilawal also rejected the debt commission formed by the government, terming it unconstitutional. "How can the collective wisdom of the parliament be questioned by institutions such as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Military Intelligence

MARRIYUM SUGGESTS USING WORD 'HANDPICKED' INSTEAD OF 'SELECTED'

(MI)?" he asked, adding that these very institutions were answerable to the parliament and not the other way round.

He said that the whole nation respects the armed forces of the country and in order to sustain their credibility, they should be kept away from politics. He also asked the government to reverse the decision of including Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa in the National Development Council as it harms the credibility of state institutions, adding that there should be some "insaf" in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) tenure.

He also criticised the government for not issuing the production orders of lawmakers from North and South Waziristan and once again reiterated the same demand. "If they are not allowed to participate in the session then it would not be short of rigging the budget and it would go down in history," he said.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: PPP MNA Nafisa Shah said that there must be freedom of expression in the House. "You must bar the usage of words 'thieves' and 'robbers' if you are really impartial," she said while addressing the deputy speaker. She also sought an explanation from him over the ban imposed on Sunday. Responding to Nafisa's criticism, the deputy speaker said that he had requested the members of the House to "let this beautiful democracy remain as it is because




they had all been elected because of democracy".

'THIRD-CLASS PERFORMANCE': Addressing the House, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Marriyum Aurangzeb lashed out at the government, saying that the budget presented earlier this month was an outcome of its "third-class performance" and "incompetence".


She said that the government wants to crush the salaried class of the country and snatch every morsel out of the common man's mouth. She alleged that the government had come into power after being "selected". On this, the deputy speaker objected, saying that all members of the House were elected representatives. Marriyum said that she did not use the word for the premier and referred to the government as "handpicked".

She said that the achievements PM Imran boasts about were the collective achievements of Pakistanis. "The 1992 World Cup was won through collective efforts and Shaikat Khanum too was built through the national spirit of the country," she said.



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Register now, pay taxes later, PM Imran tells nation

NEWS DESK

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday made yet another appeal to the nation to avail the tax amnesty scheme and declare their undeclared assets, pleading them to at least register for the scheme if they could not make the payments by the deadline.

"Installments will also be given [but] no extension after June 30," Imran said while speaking in a TV programme on a private channel. He added that no extension will be given but Sunday will be open to facilitate people. "We pay the least tax. In the past 10 years, we took many loans" and a lot of the expenditure "goes in the interest on those taxes," said the premier.

"We need to get out of this quicksand. We have to change ourselves," the premier said. "In the 60s, Pakistan was on the rise," he said, but "we don't pay taxes. There's too much corruption here." Commenting further on the hesitance of Pakistanis regarding paying taxes and how their taxes would be used, Imran said: "People think their tax won't be spent on them. They believe it'll be stolen or won't be spent on them."

"However, I promise it would definitely be spent on them." The PM gave two assurances during his comments: That "nobody will be allowed to harass the tax-payers" and that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) "will be reformed".

Further, he clarified that non-custom-

paid vehicles were not included in the scheme but those vehicles that were custom-paid but not declared can be declared.

Speaking of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership and its accomplishments, Khan said: "The information the government has today, no government had it previously. Benami [unnamed] property will be confiscated in addition to other punishment," he stressed.

At present, there is "money-laundering of \$10 billion each year". The prime minister also took questions from the chambers of commerce from around Pakistan, with that of Lahore requesting Khan to ease the conditions for businesses by bringing down the interest rate. "Our aim is simple. We are connecting citizens with their governors and representatives who will answer the citizen's connections. We are the facilitators and the middlemen whose job is to conduct people," the premier said.

"Here questions will be asked by the people. We can only encourage them to ask questions and avail the opportunity to clear their understandings and also encourage the representatives and the governors of the country to take the chance and clarify the solutions you have created for the problem in the hope of saving the country."

"One this is for sure: our tax collection rate is the lowest in the world and Pakistan can't continue as a state with this current state of affairs!"

Donald Trump imposes new economic sanctions on Iran

WASHINGTON
AGENCIES

United States President Trump announced on Monday that he is imposing new sanctions on Iran, after saying for days that he preferred tightening the pressure on a crippled Iranian economy to launching an immediate military strike in retaliation for what American officials have said are recent aggressive acts by Tehran.

"We will continue to increase pressure on Tehran," Mr. Trump said as he sat at his desk in the Oval Office preparing to sign an executive order. "Never can Iran have a nuclear weapon." He added that the order will bar Iranian leaders from access to financial instruments. The administration did not immediately elaborate.

The Trump administration already moved this spring to cut off all revenues from Iranian oil exports, the lifeblood of the nation's economy, and the new sanctions are expected to be aimed at shutting down additional sources of income with the goal of forcing political change in Tehran.

Mr. Trump and his top foreign policy aides are gambling that continuing the squeeze on Iran will compel its leaders to buckle to demands to limit their nuclear program in ways that go beyond the landmark agreement that major world powers forged with Iran in 2015 — and that Mr. Trump withdrew from last year.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who met with the rulers of Saudi Arabia on a last-minute trip on Monday, also insists Iran must curb its regional military activity and end support for partner Arab militias. The imposition of more sanctions could provoke further actions by Iran to add to the crisis that has unfolded since early May in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, analysts say.

American officials have blamed Iran for two separate sets of explosions on six oil tankers around the Strait of Hormuz, saying Iran is trying to show its capabilities and increase global oil prices in retaliation for the administration's "maximum pressure" campaign. Iranian officials have denied responsibility.