

Pakistan, India fight for control of Rs7b in UK high court

Murtaza Ali Shah
LONDON: The UK High Court is set to decide whether \$35 million (approx Rs7 billion) - belonging to Nizam of Hyderabad at the time of partition in 1947 and given to Pakistan for safe-keeping in a London bank account - belongs to Pakistan or the Nizam's descendants who have joined hands with India against Pakistan for the court case to get funds. The Nizam's descendants, Prince Mukarram Jah, the eighth Nizam of Hyderabad and his younger brother

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A convicted person can hold party office, Maryam tells ECP

Submits written reply to commission; says parliament had abolished clause of dictatorial era in Election Act 2017
ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif submitted a written reply to the Election Commission (ECP) on Tuesday stating that there was no restriction in the Constitution and the Election Act barring a convicted individual from holding a party office. The reply further stated that such laws were made during the military dictatorships to bar the nomination of public representatives. "There's a clause in the Political Parties Order 2002 according to which a sentenced man

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No timeline set for Afghan withdrawal: US

Pompeo makes unannounced visit to Kabul
News desk
KABUL: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani during an unannounced visit to Kabul on Tuesday to discuss ongoing peace talks with the Taliban and the security situation ahead of Afghan presidential polls in September. Mike Pompeo meets with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Afghan Chief Executive Officer Abdullah

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Australia first to reach WC semis
LONDON: Australia became the first team to confirm their place in the semi-finals of the Cricket World Cup on Tuesday with a comprehensive 64-run victory against England. Aaron Finch's team lost the toss but managed to score 285 for seven in their 50 overs, with Finch top-scoring with 100. —P17

Punjab Cabinet approves withdrawal of proposed tax on AC buses

LAHORE: A meeting of Punjab Cabinet held in Punjab Assembly cafeteria on Tuesday decided to withdraw proposed sales tax on inter-city AC buses and the Cabinet gave unanimous approval to it. —P13

Council of Europe assembly allows Russia's return—P10

Health warnings and speed limits as Europe bakes in heatwave —P10

Trump threatens attacks on Iran in retaliation for strikes—P11

Kushner pitches Palestinians 'Opportunity of Century' for peace—P11

Pre-monsoon rains expose LWMC 'efficiency'—P13

Lawyers torture traffic warden —P13

None asked for NRO for Nawaz nor one be given: PM

Claims Nawaz Sharif's son contacted an Arab ruler for his father's rescue; thinks Turkish premier may intervene; Opposition's protest to be countered by performance

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday claimed that a scion of Sharif family had approached an Arab head of state for rescue but he refused to intervene, turning it an internal matter of Pakistan. He said this while addressing a parliamentary party meeting at the Parliament House. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan might interfere but he too didn't talk about Sharif during the whole interaction with him. Imran made it clear that neither anyone had approached him for the so-called National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) nor he would grant it come hell or high water.

"The opposition is at liberty to take out any number of processions, protests or sit-ins. We will compete with them through our performance."

The meeting devised a strategy to secure smooth passage of the federal budget 2019-2020

given to the National Assembly. No one was briefing us about the meeting but sources told The News that the prime minister was confident about the passage of budget and discarded the opposition leaders' contention about the budget proposals.

The prime minister appreciated his economic team for preparing and presenting the budget.

The sources said the prime minister reiterated that the opposition could stage protests but the government would respond to them through performance. "No one has approached me for an NRO directly, as everyone knows that I will not make any compromise on corruption cases," sources quoted him as saying. The meeting, attended by the PTI allies except the Balochistan National Party (BNP-Mengal), discussed the overall political situation and the budget strategy.

The PTI is hopeful that it will ultimately settle things

with the BNP-Mengal besides mustering its support for the budget.

Commenting on the prevailing economic situation in the country, Imran was quoted by the sources as saying, "The government has determined the economic direction and Pakistan is coming out of the financial crisis."

He urged the parliamentarians to run an awareness campaign and urge people to come forward and pay their taxes. "Parliamentarians must inform the nation about the people who have pushed Pakistan to the verge of economic crisis," he added.

"Budget approval is a legal requirement, all the parliamentarians should ensure their presence in the assembly for this," the premier added.

Ever since the PTI came to power and stepped up the accountability drive against the opposition parties, the prime minister has time and again stated that he will not give any one relief in graft and embezzlement cases.

Opposition's APC chalks out anti-govt strategy today

PPP parliamentary party to decide on Bilawal's participation today; important decisions expected

Asim Yasin

ISLAMABAD: The opposition's All Parties Conference (APC) is set to be held on Wednesday (today) to chalk out a strategy against the government and make other important decisions.

All eyes are focused on whether or not the opposition will reach a consensus for launching an anti-government movement, as JUI-F chief Fazlur Rehman wants to launch a movement and lock down Islamabad to remove the government but the PPP and PML-N differ with him and want to focus on parliamentary struggle. Hosted by Fazlur Rehman, the APC will be participated by the PPP, PML-N, ANP, National Party and PKMAP, while Jamat-e-Islami has refused to attend.

Government ally — BNP (Mengal) — was also invited to attend the APC but its leadership was undecided and conveyed to Fazl that they will make a decision on Wednesday morning. Though the agenda of the APC has not

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APC to decide on removing Senate chairman or not: Bilawal

Says AC verdict on Babar & Pervez Ashraf says 'either join PTI or go to jail'; seeks Centre's help to handle locusts attack, compensate farmers

Asim Yasin

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhatto Zardari Tuesday said the all parties conference (APC) would decide whether the Senate chairman should be removed or not.

While replying to a question after a press conference at the media centre outside the Parliament House here, he said if the APC would decide that the Senate chairman should go, then all opposition parties would follow the decision.

The PPP leader also raised a question about the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decision to deploy the security forces inside the polling stations in the tribal districts elections, saying the Commission should avoid making elections controversial.

"Even if no rigging takes place in the tribal districts elections, allegations will be levelled which, I think, will cause a loss to the reputation of the institution. "Why were we making them controversial after 70 years? Even General Zia and General Pervez Musharraf did not feel

Debt Reduction Committee report 2001 resounds 2019 economic situation

Analyst
ISLAMABAD: It was year 2001. A high-level body of financial experts, called "The Debt Reduction and Management Committee", had warned, "There is little doubt that Pakistan is in the firm grip of a debt trap."

It added, "The country is caught in the vicious circle of high debt payments leading to stagnation in investment and growth, with low growth, in turn, limiting the capacity to service debt and reduce debt burden."

The Debt Reduction Committee headed by Dr Pervez Hassan, a Pakistani economic expert who retired from the World Bank as Vice President was appointed by the Musharraf government to examine in detail the critical issue of massive foreign, and domestic debts and suggest measures to overcome the financial crisis which had practically crippled the national economy.

The 2001 report is the reflection of 2019 situation and proves that no improvement has been made and Pakistan continues to face the same economic challenges, which it was facing 18 years back. Political instability, frequent change of economic policies and governance issues continue to threaten Pakistan and its economy in a situation. The reading of the 2001 report and

the acquittal of Babar Awan and rejection of a plea of former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf by an accountability court, Bilawal said against an institution of the country.

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LONDON: COAS Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa shakes hands with British National Security Adviser Sir Mark Sedwill during a meeting at the Cabinet Office. —PPI

Gen Bajwa meets UK NSA, defence secretary

Regional situation, including Afghan peace process, discussed; UK hails Pak contributions towards regional peace

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa Tuesday discussed regional developments, including the Afghan peace process, with the British officials, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

General Bajwa met the British National Security Adviser Mark Sedwill at the Cabinet Office and Permanent Secretary Stephen Lovegrove at the Ministry of Defence in London.

Both dignitaries acknowledged Pakistan's contributions towards regional peace.

Earlier on Monday, the two countries held a delegation level strategic dialogue to discuss geo-strategic environment and bilateral military cooperation. A day earlier, General Bajwa met his counterpart Chief of Defence Staff Sir Nick Carter. A session of delegation level strategic dialogue was held between the two sides.

The army chief is in the United Kingdom on an official visit for meetings with senior

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'Pakistan in the firm grip of a debt trap'

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Nandipur corruption case Babar Awan acquitted, Pervez's plea rejected

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court Tuesday acquitted former law minister Babar Awan in the Nandipur power plant corruption case against him. After his acquittal, President Arif Alvi called him up and congratulated him. Nandipur Power Project was approved by the Economic Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in December 2007 at a cost of \$329 million.

After approval, the contract was signed in January 2008 between Northern Power Generation Company Limited (NPGCL) and Dong Fang Electric Corporation (DEC) of China. Two consortiums — CO-FACE for 68.967 million euros and SINO-SURE for 150.151 mil-

lion dollars — were established to finance the project. In 2008, the Ministry of Water and Power approached the Ministry of Law to get legal opinion but the accused in connivance with each other and with mala fide intentions, repeatedly refused to do so on flimsy grounds. Babar Awan was minister at that time.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Water and Power also failed to take any concrete measures to resolve the issue and the matter remained pending.

The legal opinion was issued in November 2011 causing a loss of Rs27 billion to the state kitty on account of delay. —Agencies

CNIC restriction withdrawn on shopping less than Rs50,000

Hammad says Customs Duty on 1,650 inputs of industry brought to zero, FED on imported cars imposed; interest rate would also be brought down gradually; work on housing project to create millions of jobs; winds up budget debate in NA

Muhammad Anis

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Revenue Hammad Azhar on Tuesday dispelled an impression that new taxes have been imposed on essential commodities including edible oil, ghee, meat and flour except sugar.

Winding up debate on the federal budget, Hammad Azhar also announced budget on June 11, said the country's economy would be taken from the phase of stabilisation to growth in coming year through measures of attracting investment, productivity, increase in exports and increase in foreign reserves instead fake measures. He further said following details also mand from different circles, it

was also decided to withdraw restriction on production of Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) for customers on shopping of less than Rs50,000.

The minister, while admitting Rs3.5 per kilogram has been imposed on sugar said the measures had no impact in increase in price of sugar. He said the price of sugar in the last few months increased due to raise in support price of sugarcane per 40 kilograms for farmers from Rs150 to Rs180. He informed the House that new tax had been imposed on flour or meat rather processed food and corn flour have been brought in the tax regime.

The minister of State also announced to withdraw powers

of income tax officers to raid houses for recovery of dollars and gold to take care of Chad-dar and Char Diwari," he said.

The minister also announced to reduce per kilogram tax on tobacco from Rs300 to Rs10 in order to maintain relief for the farmers. "The revenue collected from tax on tobacco will be spent on health sector," he said.

Not agreeing with criticism of the opposition that the revenue collection target of Rs5500 was not realistic, the minister said the country's economic volume was meagre to revenue collection of Rs8000 but for this

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JS Bank, MJSF provided Iftar meals to needy

Our correspondent KARACHI: JS Bank in collaboration with its charitable partner Mahvas & Jahangir Siddiqui Foundation (MJSF) organised Iftars for underprivileged people across Pakistan during the month of Ramadan. JS Bank strives to serve the community in which it operates through continual social responsibility initiatives and activities. The auspicious month of Ramadan demonstrates the true spirit of Islam. Muslims around the world spend the month in prayer and reflection, fasting each day and joining together in family and community. JS Bank & MJSF shared the sense of Ramadan with the underprivileged across the country. Iftars have been arranged for the disadvantaged individuals on an annual basis since 2013 till date. Since inception, over half a million Iftar meals have been served. Every year, 'Feed the Driving Iftar Programme' is held in the month of Ramadan where Iftar meals are distributed across Pakistan by JS Bank in collaboration with MJSF works towards providing a better and brighter tomorrow for the people of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of parliamentarians from Balochistan Awami Party calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. —APP

Three terrorists held with explosives in Gujranwala

Our correspondent GUJRANWALA: The CTD Lahore and Gujranwala teams in a joint operation on Tuesday arrested three alleged terrorists and recovered explosives from them. The CTD teams conducted a raid at Gujrat and arrested alleged terrorists Shams, Muhammad Ashraf and Naeem. The teams also recovered detonators and other explosive material from them. All the three accused were ordered the CPO to appear before the court with written reply. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS: RPO Tariq Abbas Qureshi has said that the police department is doing its best to resolve the complaints of the citizens launched on

the PM's Pakistan Citizen Portal. The RPO said that a cell had been set up under the supervision of ADIG Waaseem Dar. He said that 5,649 complaints were lodged at the Citizen Portal about police department from which 5,155 had been solved. VALUABLES GUTTED: Valuables were millions of rupees were gutted when a fire broke out in a crockery factory situated on Sheikhupura Road. The fire erupted in the factory due to short circuit and reduced the valuables into ashes within no time. Later, Rescue 1122 fire fighters extinguished the fire.

Jailers transferred

Our correspondent LAHORE: According to a notification Sajid Baig, Superintendent District Jail Sialkot, has been transferred and posted as Superintendent Central Jail Bahawalpur vice Shahram Tahir Khan, already transferred and posted as Superintendent High Security Prison Sialkot replacing Naveed Ashraf who has been directed to report to Inspectorate of Prisons Punjab. Mansoor Akbar, AIG Inspectorate of Prisons Punjab, has been transferred and posted as Superintendent Central Jail Mianwali, and Ahmed Naveed Gondal, AIG Inspectorate of Prisons Punjab, as Superintendent Central Jail Gujranwala vice Khalid Bashir who has been directed to report to Inspectorate of Prisons Punjab.

Woman, two sons recovered from illegal confinement

Our correspondent FAISALABAD: On the order of Additional Sessions Judge Nadeem Arif, a bailiff conducted a raid and recovered a woman and her two minor sons from the illegal detention of Millat Town police station. The court bailiff raided and recovered Shazia Bashir and her sons Aayan and Shauroz who were kept in illegal confinement allegedly by the Millat Town police SHO. Earlier, Amir Bashir had filed a petition in the court for the recovery of the woman and her sons. The court ordered the CPO to conduct an inquiry into the illegal confinement of the woman and her sons by the Millat Town police SHO. FOUR HUMAN SMUGGLERS HELD: The FIA on Tuesday arrested four human smugglers from Faisalabad, Bhowana and Chinioi. The FIA raided and arrested Muhammad Shahid, Mohsin, Zahoor Ahmad and Ghulam Muhammad. The accused were involved in taking millions of rupees from different people for sending them abroad. MAN BURNS HOUSE: A man allegedly set ablaze his house over a property issue at Mansoorabad on Tuesday. Small wheel fire extinguisher put his house on fire when his mother Beza Bibi refused to transfer a 2-Marla plot at Manawala in his name. APCA RALLY: All Pakistan Clerks Association members on Tuesday took a rally against the federal budget. The rally started from Chinioi Bazaar and terminated at Zila Council Chowk. The participants of the rally chanted slogans against the budget and in support of their demands. INJURED WOMAN DIES: A woman, who was injured critically wounded in the Gulistan Colony gas blast three days ago, died at the Allied Hospital on Tuesday. Razia Bibi was injured in the blast and rushed to the hospital where she died. ASI HELD: The ACE on Tuesday arrested Samanabad police ASI Man Muhammad Arshad for taking bribe from a citizen. The action was taken on the complaint of Muhammad Waris of Muzaffar Colony.

29 overseas committees' heads appointed

Our correspondent LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has approved the appointment of chairmen in 29 District Overseas Pakistanis Committees (DOPCs) to facilitate Pakistani expatriates. In this regard a notification has been issued by the Commissioner Overseas Pakistanis Commission, Syed Javed Iqbal Bokhari. It also pertinent to mention that Deputy Commissioner of the relevant district will be the Vice Chairman of the District Overseas Pakistanis Committee while Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), District Police Officer and other senior officers of District administration will be active members of the above mentioned committee. Overseas Pakistanis Commission refers all the complaints to the relevant District Committees which then try to address the issues by the departments concerned. As per the notification Basit Shakoor Hashmi has been appointed as Chairman DOPC Rawalpindi, Adil Ali Khan in Attock, Nasir Jamil Hashmi in Chakwal, Rao Mudasar Ahmad Khan in Sarogodha, Malik Zia ur Rehman in Khushab, Dr. Qaiser Usaid Khan in Mianwali, Muhammad Asghar in Faisalabad, Prajiz Hussain in Jhang, Muhammad Naveed Alam in Toba Tek Singh, Atif Iftikhar

Cheema in Gujranwala, Anwar Ali Goraya in Hafizabad, Arif Gondal in Mandi Bahaudin, Adeel Irshad Chaudhry in Gujrat, Waqas Iftikhar in Sialkot, Muhammad Irfan Abid Chaudhry in Narowal, Malik Jahangir Hussain in Lahore, Chaudhry Mukhtar Ahmad in Kasur, Waleed Hussain in Sheikhupura, Tariq Ahmad Shah in Nankana Saab, Zahid Iqbal in Sahiwal, Mian Muhammad Anwar Pasha in Okara, Muhammad Amir in Pakpattan, Safdar Ali in Vehari, Shoaib Akmal Qureshi Hashmi in Multan, Arshad Ali Sukhera in Lodhran, Mehar Azhar Javed in Bahawalpur, Malik Rahim Khan in Muzaffargarh, Syed Mubasher Zaman Shah in Bahawalnagar and Makhdoom Afkarul Hassan in Rahim Yar Khan. MINISTER INAUGURATES MOBILE HEALTH UNIT: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid inaugurated free mobile health unit (MHU) at Gulshan Ravi, Band Road. Approximately two lakh people can avail the free medical facility from this free mobile unit. This will be the gift for the residents of this locality. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Yasmin said non-availability of resources in this locality was the failure of previous government. "We are trying to solve the public issues on their doorstep. Punjab government has distributed Sehat Insaaf Cards in seven districts," said Yasmin, adding that special persons and registered workers in social security will also be facilitated with Sehat Insaaf Cards. She said local residents could avail the facility of X-ray, ultrasound, all blood tests, ECG, oxygen and medicines from this free mobile health unit. "Increase in health budget was very painful for opposition. We will fulfill all commitments with public under command of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Rulers of Model Town cannot digest the success of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf". Taxes collected from public would be utilised a hundred percent on public, the minister contended. TRANSFERS, POSTINGS: The Punjab government has issued a notification of transfer and posting of seven officers on Tuesday. According to the notification Faisal Sultan has been posted as Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sumandri, Mohsin Alam as AC Athara Hazzari vice Irfan Anwar who has been made Officer on Special Duty (OSD). Adnan Rashid Sultan posted as AC Bhuwana vice Liaqat Ali already transferred and was made OSD, Ehsan-ul-Haq Zia as AC Lalian and Naeem Sadiq as AC Ahmadpur East.

Couple tortures maid for demanding food

News desk RAHIM YAR KHAN: A couple beat and tortured a seven-year-old maid asking for food; police were told Tuesday, Geo News reported. The minor girl, fearing further abuse and torture, fled the house and went to a police station, where she explained that she could not live without her parents. She said she wished to return home and had therefore asked a rickshaw driver to drop her at a bus stand. However, the rickshaw driver took her to the police station. Police said they have registered an FIR in this connection. The girl's parents, residents of Alipar, had left her far from home, in the city, for work, they added. Police further said there were visible marks of torture on the girl's body. On the other hand, the couple who tortured the girl has fled.

'Public-private partnership vital for education'

Our correspondent LAHORE: Punjab Minister for School Education Dr Maqbool Raas said government could not run the school education system alone. He termed the public-private partnership as the quickest way to achieve the goal of providing education to all. Speaking at a national conference on 'Public Private Partnerships in Education 2019' at a local hotel he, however, said other than providing funds to private sector to help government promote education there were other ways to engage private sector in this cause. Institute of Social and Policy Studies (IASPS) organised the conference which was attended by managing directors of education foundations of all the four provinces and parliamentarians from across the country. Dr Maqbool also said the government was working on curriculum framework through which it would be possible to introduce a uniform curriculum across the province. He added the dividends would not be immediate but would certainly improve the quality of education. He said online transfer facility the government was working to introduce other reforms to facilitate school teachers so that they could focus on their job and work with dedication. The minister said private schools supported by Punjab Education Endowment Foundation (PEEF) had been directed to submit B-Form of students till September. He said the Insaaf Afternoon Schools programme, currently being run in 22 districts, would be extended to all districts of Punjab. Ayesha Nawaz, Chairperson of Punjab Assembly Standing Committee on School Education, said province of education was the responsibility of the government and it could not shift this responsibility on private sector. Ayesha said public-private partnership was not the solution. She said the government needed to make education an incentive and add no other incentive would work to attract parents to send their children to public schools. She said there was also a dire need to look into the issue whether or not the PEEF schools were following the minimum wage criteria introduced by the government. Ahmad Ali, director I-SAPS, managing directors of education foundation of Punjab, KPK, Sindh and Balochistan and parliamentarians also spoke on the occasion.

Dies in accident

Our correspondent SIALKOT: An old man was killed in an accident on Kashmir Road on Tuesday. Noor Hussain was on his way when a wagon hit him by the accident, he died instantly. FIVE HELD WITH NARCOTICS: Police on Tuesday arrested five drug peddlers. The police arrested Naveed with 1.86kg hashish, Pervez Mash with 10 litres liquor, Tahir Abbas with 1.24kg hashish, Rafi with 2.30kg hashish and Zahid Mehmood with 10 litres liquor.

Two Chinese bailed in fake marriages case

Our correspondent LAHORE: A sessions court on Tuesday granted bail to two Chinese nationals, allegedly involved in trafficking of Pakistani girls to China after contracting marriages, in the light of statements made by their Pakistani wives. The court directed both the accused to submit surety bonds of Rs 200,000 each for availing the relief of the bail. Additional District and Sessions Judge Syed Anjad Ali Shah heard the bail applications of Chinese nationals - Lu Tian and Lu Chanjin. At the outset of the proceedings, the defence counsel, Hassan Latif, submitted that his clients married Pakistani women in accordance with the law whereas their Pakistani wives, Sumaira and Fouzia, had recorded statements before a judicial magistrate in their favour.

Three held

Our correspondent LAHORE: Counter-terrorism department teams arrested two terrorists from Khushab and one from Bahawalnagar Tuesday. The team arrested two terrorists belonging to a banned organisation JEM, from Khushab. The arrested terrorists were identified as Muhammad Kabeer and Muhammad Latif, hand grenade, explosives, five detonators and safety fuse were recovered from their possession. A terrorist was arrested from Basti Khalilabad, Haroonabad Road, Bahawalnagar. He was identified as Umar Khurshid Khan belonging to the TTP. Explosives for IED were recovered from his possession. He was planning to attack personnel of a sensitive agency in Bahawalnagar. Cases against three terrorists were registered in CTD police stations concerned.

Advertisement for 'CricFun' featuring a cricket player and the text 'IN OR OUT? Predict & WIN! Download CricFun & You can Win too! Predict what will happen in the World Cup matches and get a chance to win an iPhone X and many other exciting prizes. All you have to do is Play and Win!'

Advertisement for a TV show featuring Abdullah Kadwani & Asad Qureshi's 'Dastan-e-Hayat'. Text includes 'TOMORROW AT 8:00 PM' and 'TONIGHT AT 8:00 PM' along with production credits.

Shabbar worries over IRS officers exclusion for posting abroad

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Chairman FBR Shabbar Zaidi has raised his concern over Ministry of Commerce decision to exclude Inland Revenue Service (IRS) officers for posting abroad as Trade and Investment officers.

According to official communication sent out from Chairman FBR Shabbar Zaidi to Secretary Commerce stating that as per past practice, the Inland Revenue Service had always been considered eligible for these posts. That in view, majority of the Officers of Inland Revenue Service under the FBR had made preparation and had legitimate of posting as Trade & Investment Officers in Pakistan missions abroad.

However, in the latest advertisement, the Chairman FBR stated that the eligibility criteria for Public Sector candidates has been reframed, barring the Inland Revenue Service Specially from being considered for these posts as under.

"Officers who have served for at least three (03) of the last eight (08) years on relevant posts in Federal Government in Commerce Division, Trade Development Authority (TDAP), Economic Affairs Division, Federal Board of Revenue (Customs), Board of Investment, Privatization Commission, Textile Division, Ministry of Production; Provincial Department of Revenue & Finance, Commerce, Investment and Industries (length of experience not required for BS-18)".

It is pertinent to mention here that Inland Revenue Service has direct understanding of trade and investment, associated taxation and facilities in Pakistan. Officers are well-versed in matters relating to interaction with BOL, EAD, MOPA & foreign business entities. International Taxation, Transfer pricing avoidance, double taxation, import and export taxes etc. are specifically dealt with in the laws administered by the Inland Revenue Service. As such, officers of the Inland Revenue Service are the pristine source for advice relating to trade and investment in and from Pakistan.

Foregoing in view, it is strongly recommended that in the interest of facilities of trade and investment, the Inland Revenue Service should be made eligible as per past practice for the current positions and in future, enabling the best most suited candidates to represent the nation, the chairman FBR stated.

However, the sources said that Ministry of Commerce has invited applications for posting of trade and investment officers in Pakistan missions abroad. The written test would be conducted by IBA Karachi. Interestingly two service groups Inland Revenue Service (IRS) and Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service (PAAS) have been excluded from eligibility criteria. The move has created unrest among two financial services as historically both these services were allowed to compete for these positions.

This eligibility criterion for public sector candidates given in this year's advertisement is different from previous criteria on two visible grounds; firstly experience in federal revenue department was eligible in previous criterion and provincial revenue department was not eligible.

However, this time federal revenue department has been made ineligible while provincial revenue department has been added as eligible. Secondly federal and provincial finance divisions were eligible in previous criterion however the new criterion has excluded federal finance division and retained provincial finance department as eligible.

The outcome of these changes has resulted in exclusion of two financial services IRS and PAAS from competitive process while PAS has gained as all PAS officers working as ACs and DCs in provinces have now been made eligible through new criterion.

In addition, previous government has introduced a selection process where written exam carried 80% weightage and 20% weightage was given to interview. So that those candidates who have performed better in exam should not be outmaneuvered by those who can manage interview through their political connections.

However, this time the weightage for written exam is reduced to 60% and interview has been given 40% weightage, which is again a move aimed to allow liked one officers to get more marks in interview just to deny the right to deserving candidates.

When contacted to one top official of the Commerce Ministry, he defended the change for giving more weightage to interview arguing that the past experience showed that the trade officers posted abroad with good speaking skills had performed much better than those officers who obtained good marks in written exams.

Pak expats in UAE declared Rs345b during last amnesty

FBR urges Pakistanis to take benefit from ongoing amnesty scheme

Sibte Arif

DUBAI: Pakistani expatriates residing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had written Rs345 billion in the last tax amnesty scheme introduced by the previous PML-N government while Rs1 trillion were total amount of whitened money through last year's amnesty scheme, revealed by the senior official of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in Dubai.

Briefing about the latest amnesty scheme, the Director General International Taxes of top federal government body of Pakistan (FBR) Dr Ashfaq Ahmed clearly stated that the tax amnesty scheme is ongoing and will be concluded within a week on June 30, 2019. He urged the Pakistani community to get the advantage of the amnesty scheme and declare their assets before the conclusion of the latest scheme. Otherwise, he warned they should get ready for legal action even if one is an expatriate. Dr Ashfaq Ahmed was briefing the expatriates on "Amnesty structure and its advantages" at the Pakistan Consulate Dubai in association of Pakistan Business Council Dubai (PBC) and Pakistan Association of Dubai (PAD).

Replying a question by the The News, Dr Ashfaq said that the UAE authorities have been sharing the details about the properties of Pakistanis on the request of government of Pakistan while the information related to bank accounts of Pakistanis and their parked money in the UAE banks have been shared automatically. Talking to the media, Dr Ashfaq explicated his visit to Dubai that most of the foreign money by the Pakistanis is parked here and that's why the FBR that investigates crimes related to taxation and money-laundering chases Dubai to request expatriate Pakistanis to avail the tax amnesty scheme if they don't have money trail of the assets. Dr Ashfaq Ahmed claimed that it is impossible to hide their money in even tax havens nowadays. He said that 28 countries have shared specific data and information about assets of Pakistanis in the current year while 71 countries will share the data with the government of Pakistan next year. He hoped that more than 100 countries will share the data of Pakistanis in the next two years.

He said that Pakistanis' favourite place to hide their money is the UAE, Singapore, England and Canada. Speaking about the target of the current amnesty scheme, Dr Ashfaq added that there are definitely targets for the current Amnesty Scheme but it is not possible to share a target with the media because it would create so much confusion. Consul General of Pakistan to Dubai, Anjad Ahmed Ali also raised questions faced by Pakistani expatriate community regarding remittances, tax amnesty and biometric system to bank account-holding for expatriates. On this occasion, the Pakistani community also demanded the deployment of Pakistan's tax-related people in consulate so that Pakistani immigrants could resolve their tax issues.

Bilawal, Fawad share lighthearted moment

Desk report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry shared a lighthearted moment during their accidental meeting in the parliament's corridor on Tuesday. Seeing Chaudhry, Bilawal quipped, "Meray Bhai Khan Bhag Rahay Hai" (Where are you running, my brother). Chaudhry responded, "Aap Kay Live Raasta Saaf Ker Raha Hoon" (I am clearing the way for you). Both the parliamentarians warmly met and exchanged formal pleasantries. Chaudhry, earlier, was part of the PPP before joining the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Transport owners fleece passengers

Our correspondent

LALAMUSA: Transport owners are charging exorbitant fare from people who travel from Khwar Mandi to Sarai Alamgir. Reportedly, travelers are forced to pay double fare and they are exposed to uncomfortable journey in vans.

Gillani, 6 others

Continued from page 12

The former prime minister and other persons were accused of misusing their authority in granting campaign contract illegally to an advertising agency. The reference stated that there was no competition held in granting of contract, which was totally against the PPRA rules.—APP

ICAP organises Golden Jubilee members recognition ceremony

KARACHI: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) organized the Golden Jubilee Members Recognition Ceremony to honor and appreciate the services of those senior members who have been a part of the Institute for 50 years or more.

The ceremony paid homage to and commemorated members who have been an integral part of ICAP and have shown unwavering loyalty to the institution for 50 years or more.

The Golden Jubilee members shared their wisdom, experience and suggestions with the audience, which comprised of a mix of past presidents, other seasoned members and families of the honorable senior members.

The event was attended by over 32 senior members along with their families. The members expressed their gratification towards the Institute and how they felt that Chartered Accountancy and ICAP had brought a change in their lives.

They shared memories of their CA studies and said that the Institute is an integral part of who they are and that they will always have a strong connection with it.

Mr. Jafar Hussain, President ICAP said in his speech that he had been to many events, but none like this one. He recognized the contributions made by the senior members and said that it is because of their legacy that ICAP has transformed into a premier body.

Flagship Investment reference IHC asks NAB to submit details within one week

Justice Kayani asks NAB to prove Nawaz as shareholder

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Tuesday directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to submit details in a chart form about the Flagship Investment reference against former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

A division bench of the court, comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani, heard a NAB appeal challenging the trial court's decision of acquitting Nawaz in the reference.

NAB Prosecutor Jahanzeb Bharwan read out the trial court verdict before the bench.

He argued that Nawaz Sharif had been holding various public offices including the chief minister Punjab, finance minister and prime minister in the past.

"Nawaz was accused of concealing his assets," he said.

He further said the accused had provided funds for Flagship Investment, adding that there was no evidence that Hassan and Hussain Nawaz had been sending money to their father.

Justice Kayani remarked that there were 13 companies in the Flagship Investment and asked where was the name of Nawaz Sharif as shareholder.

The prosecutor replied that the accused was the chairman board of members.

Justice Kayani remarked that the prosecution had to prove that the accused had been a beneficiary of this investment.

NAB's Deputy Prosecutor Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi pleaded that Nawaz Sharif had been receiving AED 10,000 from the Flagship Company.

The bench asked whether it was a crime to receive salary.

The prosecutor argued that all points had been discussed before the trial court.

The prosecution's actual case was that the accused assets didn't match with their sources of income, he further said.

The court, however, asked the NAB officials to submit income tax and wealth tax details of former prime minister in a chart form within one week and adjourned the hearing.—APP

People stage protest against police in Kasur

Our correspondent

KASUR: Scores of people Tuesday protested against police demanding arrest of persons involved in theft, dacoity, land-grabbing and other crimes.

Locals of Basti Santok Sir, including M Rafique, Malik Rasheed Ahmed, Rizq Faeem, told the reporters that they had informed the A-Division police about the presence of ring leader of Shakli gang. Before the police reached the spot the accused had fled the scene.

They said Shakli was involved in various crimes and had established a gambling den and sell charas and liquor in the area.

They said Shakli was also involved in land grabbing incidents.

Some woman protesters told reporters that girls were reluctant to go to school and college because of the fear of Shakli gang.

They urged the DPO Kasur to dismantle the gang and provide a peaceful environment in the area.

MAN KILLS MOTHER-IN-LAW: A man axed to death his mother-in-law here at village Baqar Kay on Tuesday.

Accused Ashiq Ali had a dispute with his mother-in-law (K) on the day of the incident, they exchanged harsh words and he killed her. Police have registered case.

TRAIN KILLS MAN: A man died when a train hit him here at near Habibabad on Tuesday.

Ramazan, 40, was crossing the railway track when a train hit him and left him dead instantly.

Two shot dead in Bahawalpur

Our correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Two people were shot dead in two separate incidents on Tuesday.

Kamal and Bilal shot dead Zafar Iqbal over an old enmity in Basti Sheikh Allah Javed when she tried to evade a clash of between men of Riaz Masih and Sonnoo Monoo Masih. Her body was shifted to THQ hospital, Haroonabad.

Kamal and Bilal shot dead Zafar Iqbal over an old enmity in Basti Sheikh Allah Javed when she tried to evade a clash of between men of Riaz Masih and Sonnoo Monoo Masih. Her body was shifted to THQ hospital, Haroonabad.

Boy sexually assaulted by three dies in hospital

Our correspondent

LAHORE: Three men allegedly sexually assaulted and killed a labourer boy in Manawan area of the city on Tuesday, police said, adding that two of them had been arrested. According to the first information report (FIR), registered on behalf of the deceased's maternal uncle, Latif Rafiq, Police said the body of 15-year-old Ahmed Rehman, a resident of Sheikhpura, used to work in a shoe factory, and lived in a small hotel nearby. The accused persons, including the owner of the hotel, Rizwan alias Jagga Mohsin, and Rafiq, as well as another unnamed person - drugged and intoxicated the boy before sexually assaulting him. Afterwards, when the boy's condition deteriorated, they dropped him at a local hospital and fled. But the victim could not survive. Later, the police arrested Rizwan and Rafiq. Police said the boy had been sent for post-mortem. Bereaved family of the ill-fated boy has appealed to the government for provision of justice. A third suspect is yet to be arrested.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MY DEAR DEPARTED WIFE

NASIRAH

IT'S BEEN 4 YEARS SINCE YOU LEFT ME THIS DAY

I LOVE YOU AND I MISS YOU YOURS NOW AND FOREVER

TARIQ

Please say A Prayer for Her

پاکستان کی سب سے زیادہ دیکھا جانے والا نیوز شو

پیر سے جمعہ رات 8:05

9:05 AM

پیر سے جمعہ رات 8:05

سوال چوتھے بجے کے بعد پیر سے جمعہ رات 8:05

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Taliban warn Afghan media of attacks

Continued from page 12
The 18-year-old war in Afghanistan. The next round of talks is scheduled to begin on June 29 in Doha, John Bass, the US ambassador to Afghanistan, said the Taliban should stop threatening Afghan journalists.

More violence against journalists or civilians, will not bring security and opportunity to Afghanistan, nor will it help the Taliban reach their political objectives," Bass said on Twitter.

In 2016, a Taliban suicide bomber rammed his car into a bus carrying employees of Tolo TV, the country's largest private broadcaster, killing seven journalists. The Taliban said it killed the employees because Tolo was producing propaganda that supported the occupation of Afghanistan by the United States and its allies in their war against the insurgents.—Agencies

Continued from page 12

Sharjeel

source of income till June 27 (Thursday). The former information minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and others were booked by NAB in corruption reference for award of advertisements of provincial government's awareness campaigns in electronic media. Memon's prosecutor Khalid Javed sought his bail on medical grounds and delay in pendency of the trial. He submitted his client was incarcerated since October 2017 after dismissal of his pre-arrest bail and only three witnesses were examined by the trial court after he submitted that rates of advertisement were not exorbitant and were lower than those paid by the federal government to advertisement agencies at the time of filing of the reference. He requested the court to grant the petitioner bail.

The defence counsel also sought suspension of Memon's arrest warrants in a new case pertaining to accumulation of wealth beyond known sources of income. He submitted that NAB had attempted to arrest the petitioner in assets case while he was in prison. He also submitted that accountability court had issued an NOC for the petitioner's arrest therefore the order be set aside and NAB be restrained

period, the rates being paid by the federal government to the petitioner as authorized by the petitioner to the advertising agencies were much lower than those paid by the federal government to the ministry of information. The court observed that this raises the point whether the rates charged in the reference period were in accordance with the market rates especially since the federal government was paying much more as the ministry of information had admitted that there was no regularization or standardization of the rates at the time when the reference was filed or even today.

The court granted bail to Sharjeel Memon at a surety sum of Rs.5 million and directed the petitioner's interior to place his name on the Exit Control List. The court observed that findings in the order are only a tentative assessment of the material on record and will have no bearing on the outcome of the trial which shall be decided on merit by the trial court based on the evidence on record. Regarding plea against arrest warrants in the assets case, the court observed that the warrant of arrest is yet to be executed upon the petitioner. The court observed that inquiry in the case of assets was authorized on December 22, 2018 and continued investigation on January 17, 2019 and the warrant of arrest was issued on June 11 but it was only executed after order on Sharjeel Memon's bail petition was reserved. The court observed that prima facie case attempts may have been made by the NAB to circumvent the court's order on the bail petition to keep him the petitioner in custody. The court observed that the accountability court's order does not seem to have applied judicial mind before giving NOC to the execution of arrest warrants. The court suspended the arrest warrants and the NOC of the accountability court till June 27 and ordered NAB not to arrest him in the assets case.

The court observed that it appears that during the reference

But first CoD be extended to all political parties: Saad

Continued from page 12

selected Prime Minister and an elected prime minister would not give NRO or talk about this.

Speaking on the budget, the PML-N leader said the federal budget had made the salaries class to cry while it would also play with the real estate business. He said the powers being given to the income tax officers to raid houses would have highly horrible effects across.

"You are giving powers to income tax officers to enter houses of people," he said. He said bringing down the tax net to Rs6000 per year was also a brutal act, saying that no tax could be collected while taking the tax slab 0.53%." How a government will collect

Rs5500 billion when it failed to achieve target of Rs4000 billion," he said, adding that the government also impose cuts on the health and education budgets.

He said it was painful to see members sitting in this House defending wrong doings and false claims of their leaders.

The PML-N parliamentarian said the incumbent government would not be able to complete two what to talk about five years if it continued with its politics of revenge and grilling opponents. "We should make an end to politics of revenge and grilling opponents if we want to take forward the country," he said.

He prayed to Almighty Allah that the PTI leaders do face the mal-treatment which

the PPP and PML-N leaders had faced and were facing "I know that I am being grilled because of my speeches," he said.

Speaking on a point of personal speech of the Fawad Chaudhry, said that the PTI government had done with his minister was not done by his opposition.

On issue of Charter of Economy, he said it was a good initiative but it should be signed not between the government and opposition but reached between the political parties as done in Bangladesh.

However, he said first a consensus should be reached on budget and to some extent convergence and confidence is seen on budgetary then it would be good being written the Charter of Economy.

He said the government should have agreed on the Charter of Economy before announcing the federal budget, saying the opposition parties were also not agreed with the tax regime and financial discipline which the government wanted to bring about.

As I first reach a meeting on first on budgetary measures and other economic issue then we can talk about this Charter of Economy," he said, adding the PML-N was still in favour of Charter of Economy as Nawaz Sharif in the past had talked about the issue.

As some members from the treasury benches made some remarks during his speech, Khawaja Asif said they are just justifying their presence in the House.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at Large is hereby informed through notice that MCB Bank Ltd. Intended to PURCHASE AN OPEN LOT MEASURING 8M & 20 SQUARE FEET COMPRISING IN KHEWAT NO. 36, SALAM KHATA, KHASRA NO. 2963, BEING SHARH 2196&21440 SITUATED AT MOUZA LALLIAN, TENSIL, KOT MOMIN DISTRICT, SARGODHA. OWNED BY MR. ZULQARNAIN SON OF MR. MUHAMMAD KHAN.

All concern persons, company, bank, organization or govt. organization/ Entity, Department, authority, Institution (Public or private) as the case may be having any objection, claim, interest, encumbrance, lien, charge, dispute, litigation, or objection of any kind pertaining to transfer of the said property in favour of MCB Bank Ltd by above said owner... Must inform us in writing by endorsing a copy of His/her CNIC along with solid/justifiable evidence raised to his/her claim/objection etc. within 03 (Three) days of publication of this notice at given address below. After the above given time no claim/objection of any kind will be entertained and the said property will be transfer in favour of MCB Bank Ltd.

Umer Farooq Saleem Branch Manager MCB Bank Ltd. Lallian Branch, Tehsil Kot Momin, Distt Sargodha. Phone: 048-6892102, Mobile:03216622226

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

It is brought to the knowledge of general public that the late Mr. Sheikh Muhammad Rafique Sethi has passed away. His last will and testament is being executed in accordance with the provisions of the Succession Act, 1925. The executor of the will is Mr. Sheikh Muhammad Rafique Sethi. Any person who has any claim or objection against the will or the executor should file a caveat in the court of the District Judge, Sargodha, within 15 days of the date of this notice. The executor's office is located at the address mentioned below.

NA inundated with private members bills

Continued from page 12

declaration scheme, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Elections Act, validation rules of the Federal Public Service Commission and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority.

It may be inconsequential whether the National Assembly approves the assets declaration scheme ordinance because the government has announced that it has no plan to extend its application beyond the deadline, June 30. It is stated that the government has agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) not to extend it.

The government bills laid before the National Assembly pertain to establishment of University of Islamabad, Muslim family laws, letters of administration and succession certificates, enforcement of women's property rights, setting up of whistle-blower

protection and vigilance commission, Code of Civil Procedure, legal aid and justice, Zainab alert, response and recovery, foreign exchange regulation, anti-money laundering, control of narcotic substances, Heavy Industries Taxila Board and rights of persons with disability.

Apart from the proposed constitutional amendments, the private members have also sought legislation for the federal newborn screening, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) local governments, workers' transplantation of human organs and

enforcement, criminal justice, child labour, protection of persons against forced religious conversion, child marriage, employment and rehabilitation of disabled persons, Pakistan citizenship, family courts, prevention of corruption, protection against harassment of women at work-

place, prohibition of forced religious conversion, chamber of agriculture, eradication of "riba" (interest), microfinance institutions, National Database and Registration Authority, Pakistan Psychological Council, legal practitioners and bar councils, National Commission on the Status of Women and management and disposal of Evacuee Trust Properties.

The government has repeatedly announced that it has an ambitious legislative agenda to bring reforms in different areas, which are possible only after making the relevant constitutional amendments. It is in sight to have even a working relationship with the opposition so that the National Assembly executes its actual duty - legislation - and the opposition cooperates in the Senate. Any legislation stands blocked if any of the two parliamentary chambers creates hurdles.

Police arrest newspaper publisher in IHK

Continued from page 12

Monday, the newspaper, "his brother, Mohammad Morfar Qadri, said. "Why is a 1983 arrest warrant being issued today? And why against him only?" Qadri was released on bail after a court appearance on Tuesday.

The case dates from 1990, when Qadri was one of nine journalists to publish a statement by a militant group fighting against Indian rule in held Kashmir. An arrest warrant for Qadri was issued in 1988, but it was never served.

Qadri had visited the police station involved in the arrest multiple times since the warrant was issued, most recently in 2017 to apply for a passport, his brother added, reported British wire service on Tuesday.

Asked why Qadri was arrested at night, Srinagar police chief Haseeb Mughal said, "Police were busy during the day."

The Kashmir Union of Working Journalists condemned the arrest, saying it seemed to be aimed at muzzling the press. "Qadri was attending the office on a daily basis and there was absolutely no need for carrying out a midnight raid at his residence," it said in a statement.

Journalists in Kashmir find themselves caught in the crossfire between the Indian government and militant groups battling for independence.

Both sides are stepping up efforts to control the flow of information, with the situation at its worst in decades, dozens of journalists said.

India is one of the world's worst places to be a journalist, ranked 183th among 180 countries in the press freedom index of international monitor Reporters Without Borders, with conditions in Kashmir cited as a key reason.

FIH allows Pakistan to compete for 2020 Olympics

Continued from page 12

will have to pay around Rs4.5 million. The FIH has given Pakistan the option to pay the fine in installments. The Dutch and Argentina hockey federations have completely withdrawn their competition claims.

Brig (R) Khokhar also declared that Pakistan has been allowed to compete against one of the teams ranked around ten to move into the qualification round for 2020 directly. "Most probably we would be asked to play against Spain in an effort to make it to the main qualifying round. This is good news for Pakistan hockey."

At one time we were almost certain to miss the Olympics. But now after successful nego-

tations with FIH Commission we have been allowed to compete for a place in the 2020 Olympics."

The PHF president thanked FIH Chief Executive Thierry Weil for giving opportunity to PHF to give its side of story and narrate the reason that resulted in Pakistan failure to compete in the Pro League. "I am really thankful to FIH and its CE for waving off the fine as well as giving opportunity to the grassroots to compete for a place in the 2020 Olympics which otherwise would not have been possible."

The FIH officials were kind enough to considered Pakistan request on the basis of FIH Pakistan services for the game of hockey spanning over five decades."

Opp fails to block Punjab budget passage

Continued from page 12

ordered to expunge his objectionable remarks from the proceedings. Murza, while grilling the PTI government, stated that it hadn't provided any relief to farmers in the budget and demanded immediate subsidy for people associated to agriculture. He demanded setting up of a Parliamentary Committee to probe the incidents related to registration of cases against farmers.

Malik Nauman Langrial, minister for Agriculture, while speaking on the floor of the PA

stated that the agriculture sector was on the right track now. He said to overcome water shortage in the province, the government had planned to set up water reservoirs whereas through an Act, farmers would be further facilitated in Punjab. He said agriculture was the backbone of the country's economy and the government would take sincere steps to address the issues of growers as per the vision of Prime Minister Inran Khan and Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. The speaker adjourned the session till Wednesday.

مستوفی شہکیہ بنیادی نوٹوں کا پی مشین کو گورنمنٹ سرے کا بجائے گھیرے۔ نوٹوں کا پی مشین سال 2019-20 کو مورخہ 30 جولائی 2019 بروز بدھ کو 12 بجے نیشنل پی مشین کارخانہ میں بند کر دیا جائے گا۔

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION CORPORATION TENDER NOTICE. Sealed bids are invited from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) / Authorized Dealers of OEMs having relevant experience & registered with taxation department of Pakistan as active taxpayer, for following works:

ISLAMABAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY. ISCO TENDER NOTICE. ISCO seeks to invite sealed tenders from the firms / manufacturers who are pre-qualified / registered with the Chief Engineer (Power Supply) / Design & Standard, NTDC Lahore or with WAPDA/PEPCO any DISCO for the year 2019-20 for supply of following material on free delivery basis to ISCO Regional Stores Rawalpindi/ Islamabad/ Rajar/ Wah:

Table with 5 columns: Tender No., Description of Work, Unit, Qty, WAPDA Specification. Includes items like 15KV Cable 500 MCM 1/C, 20KV Cable 500 MCM 1/C, etc.

Tender will be received on 11.07.2019 upto 10:30am and will be opened at 11:00am on the same date. The tender will be opened in the presence of participants or their authorized representatives (bearing authority letters) who are registered with the Chief Engineer (Material Management) ISCO Head Office (G-74 Street No. 40, Islamabad. Material shall conform to relevant WAPDA/NTDC Specifications (as amended to date).

TERMS & CONDITIONS. 1. The prices should be firm and final on FCS basis without involving any foreign exchange. 2. Tender must be accompanied with Bank Guarantee @ 2% in favour of CEO ISCO Islamabad of the tender quantity valid for 150 days (one hundred and fifty days) in the form of Bank Guarantee/ Cash Deposit issued by any schedule bank of Pakistan (having rating A+ or above).

3. Tender forms including terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of Material Management ISCO Islamabad against non-refundable amount of Rs. 2000/- per tender on any working day during office hours till 2 days earlier from the date of opening of tenders. 4. The bid should be for full quantity of tender / Lot and bid less than quantity of tender will not be accepted.

5. No tender will be issued on the date of opening of tender. 6. ISCO reserves its rights to cancel/ reject the conditional bid.

C.E (MM)/Technical Director ISCO Islamabad. We light your life... Save Energy - Save Money

Advertisement for PUNJAB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND. Includes logos for PSSF, UKaid, and various skill development programs. Text: 'تعمیراتی اور ترقیاتی کاموں کے لیے فنڈنگ کی تلاش' (Search for funding for construction and development work).

Murad surprised over Sindh being dubbed as most corrupt

Our correspondent

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said the amount recovered by the National Accountability Bureau in plea bargains and volunteer return (of the corrupt money) from other provinces is much higher than that recovered from Sindh but even then Sindh is being branded as the most corrupt province, and termed the phenomenon deplorable. Murad was delivering a speech in the Sindh Assembly on Tuesday to wind up the general discussion on the budget for fiscal 2019-20. Shah started his speech with a verse of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai which says "May Allah make Sindh prosper first and then make the entire world prosperous". The CM said he won't mind if he is criticized but would never allow criticism over the motherland i.e. Sindh. Sindh is the land of love, fraternal relations and peace, he reiterated. Responding to questions by the leader of the opposition, he said the federal government

had informed them that Sindh would be given Rs665 billion but then in June we were told that Sindh would get Rs632 billion. By the end of this month, the federal government communicated that we would be given only Rs492 billion. "This creates a shortfall of Rs173 billion if the actual figure of Rs665 billion is taken into account," he said and added the federal govt still owes Rs126 billion to Sindh from the previous fiscal. He said the federal government during 2016-17 had collected Rs3.27 trillion and this year it has collected Rs3.51 trillion. This shows only 1.2 per cent increase. Sindh has shown an increase of over six per cent in its revenue collection. Murad Ali Shah said Punjab spent Rs120 billion of its Rs258 billion ADP (Annual Development Programme) while Sindh utilized Rs110 billion against the release of Rs130 billion. The size of provincial ADP was Rs252 billion in 2018-19 and the new ADP of 2019-20 is earmarked at Rs223 billion. He said he wanted to give a

25 per cent raise in the salaries of government employees but due to the financial crunch could only offer a Rs15 per cent raise, which would have an impact of Rs26 billion on the provincial exchequer. He added he has enhanced the operative expenditures budget from Rs102 billion in 2018-19 to Rs106 billion in 2019-20. Talking about NICVD, NICH and JPMC (the three govt hospitals of Karachi), the chief minister said the Supreme Court in its decision had said the federal government would have to repay the provincial government all the expenditures it had incurred on these hospitals from 2011 which according to Murad stands at over Rs30 billion. "This year the federal government has not allocated a single penny for these hospitals," he said and added his government has allocated Rs15 billion for NICVD, JPMC and NICH, besides the provincial and the new ADP of 2019-20. Rs2.5 billion for Green Line bus project, construction of Jam Chakro Road, construction of a

flyover on Shershah Suri Road, construction of flyover on Jinnah Avenue, construction of Dum Loti road and others. But the federal government ignored the KIV bulk water supply project, he said. He asked Islamabad to financially support the Sindh government to complete the K-IV project and also initiate an inquiry against its mounting cost. He said the provincial government allocated Rs11 billion for different development schemes of Karachi while the federal government has allocated only Rs12 billion, this shows the provincial government while the objections of Auditor General against KPK government spending were recorded at 58 per cent of their total development expenditures of last year and 68 per cent spending this

year. "We established Red Line (bus project) with the Assistance of Asian Development Bank at the cost of \$561 million," Shah said. Talking about the Auditor General's report, Murad said it has raised objections against 38 per cent spending of the

provincial government while the objections of Auditor General against KPK government spending were recorded at 58 per cent of their total development expenditures of last year and 68 per cent spending this

year. "We established Red Line (bus project) with the Assistance of Asian Development Bank at the cost of \$561 million," Shah said. Talking about the Auditor General's report, Murad said it has raised objections against 38 per cent spending of the

provincial government while the objections of Auditor General against KPK government spending were recorded at 58 per cent of their total development expenditures of last year and 68 per cent spending this

Continued on page 8



Government of Pakistan
Planning Commission
Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform
(Institutional Strengthening & Efficiency Enhancement)

EXCITING PROJECT JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for appointment against following purely temporary post under project titled "Institutional Strengthening & Efficiency Enhancement of Planning Commission/Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform Phase-III" on contract basis in the Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform, initially for a period of one year which may be extended on need basis.

Title of Post	Consultant/Advisor on Development Budget
Number of Post	01
Minimum Qualification	2 nd Class M.A Economics from any HEC recognized Foreign University/Pakistani University
Pay	Project Pay Scale-10
Domicile	Merit
Experience	Minimum 30 years experience in BPS-17 and above in Economic Research, Development Economics, International Economics, fields of Planning & Development and other operational work in the government in case of Government servants and similar experience in a managerial position for private sector candidates. Preference will be given to the candidates having hands on experience in development plan formulation of short and long term in government departments.

- Interested candidates may apply online within **fifteen (15) days** of the publication of this advertisement on the website link <https://www.pc.gov.pk/web/career>.
- Application received after due date will not be considered.
- Only shortlisted candidates would be called for test/interview.
- No TA/DA will be paid for appearing in test/interview.

Riaz Hussain
Project Director
Room No. 338, "P" Block, Pak Secretariat
Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform, Islamabad, Ph: 051-9208546

LETTER OF INTENT

A reputed public limited (the "Company") invites Interested Parties to show an intent for the purchase of items, described as follows:

S.No.	Category	Sale Frequency	Location
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.6 Tonnes/Hr Edwin Danks UK fire tube boiler. 3 Pass, design pressure 250 PSI Twin Flue with Dual fuel burners (Diesel/Gas) Chimney and boiler platform included Hamworthy burners with PLC control and standardized control panel 	Once off	Near Nowshera
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HRT (Horizontal Return Tubular) design based on hot water boilers (7 in total). 49.7 PSI working pressure. Heating Surface Area = 450 Sq. Ft. Output = Hot water 	Once off	Near Nowshera

Terms & Conditions:

- Interested Parties should submit a Letter of Intent along with the Interested Party's profile mentioning financial status, nature of business, scope of business, NTN number and clientele in sealed envelopes clearly bearing number **Y19/AK/BDA/028**.
- The last date and time to submit the Letter of Intent shall be **03/07/2019, 17:00 Hours**. Letters of Intent received after **17:00 Hours on 03/07/2019** will not be considered.
- Company has the right to accept or reject any Letter of Intent without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- Interested Parties should mention the category of item for which they would like to bid.
- Interested Parties can call at the below number for further clarity
 - o **Procurement Executive 051-2083527**
- Please submit rates after careful evaluation of above-mentioned items.
- This letter of intent shall not create any legal binding.

Pre-Requisites:
Only those Parties will be considered as successful bidders who:

- Have experience of working with multinational firms/companies, especially in the fast-moving consumer goods sector.
- Have vehicles or any other reliable transportation system deemed necessary by the Company management to ensure the pick-up of scrap items.
- Ensure that all their drivers and other staff do not, in any way, have a criminal record and are reliable and trustworthy.
- Abide by all environmental, health and safety standards of the Company.
- Comply with all applicable laws of Pakistan including labor & tax laws.

All Interested Parties should send their Letter of Intent along with the requisite details at the following address:

Operations Finance Controller
PO BOX 2549
Islamabad

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

NOTICE FOR INVITATIONS OF TENDERS

Punjab South Region (Central Zone)

- NHA invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the Bidding Documents for the following work. The estimated cost and other brief of project is mentioned below.

Contract No.	Work Description / Route / Chainage	Engineer's Estimate (Rs.)	Minimum PEC Requirement	Financial Requirement (Million)
SM-PS-2017-18-23	Special Maintenance Work to address the potholes/ patches from KM 608 - 660 NBC/SBC on N-5	3,971,549/-	C5	Cash Flow =2 Turn Over =4
SM-PS-2017-18-24	Special Maintenance Work to address the potholes/ patches from KM 710 - 720 & KM 740 - 750 NBC/SBC on N-5	2,826,265/-	C5	Cash Flow =1.5 Turn Over =3
SM-PS-2017-18-25	Special Maintenance Work to address the potholes/ patches from KM 720 - 730 NBC/SBC on N-5	2,105,844/-	C5	Cash Flow =1 Turn Over =2
SM-PS-2017-18-26	Special Maintenance Work to address the potholes/ patches from KM 700 - 710 NBC/SBC on N-5	999,633/-	C5	Cash Flow =0.5 Turn Over =1
SM-PS-2017-18-27	Special Maintenance Work - Repair Maintenance of Road from KM 943 - 945 SBC & KM 946 - 947 NBC on N-5	1,261,955/-	C5	Cash Flow =0.5 Turn Over =1

- Bidding will be carried out by adopting "Single Stage Two Envelopes" procedure. Bidders are required to be registered with Pakistan Engineering Council with a valid registration Certificate in Category mentioned against each with specialization in **CE-01 & CE-10** for the year 2019. Joint Venture (JV) of maximum Two (02) firms is also admissible; however, both of the firms forming JV must be licensed in a minimum Category as mentioned above.
- Bidders can download bidding documents from NHA website. The bidders are advised to visit the site before submission of bids. Bids shall be received in NHA Complex Nag Shah Chowk Multan on **12th July, 2019 until 1200 hours**. Bidders' representatives would be required to present the "Authority to Submit the Bid" while submitting the bids. The Envelope containing "Technical Bid" will be opened on the same day at **1230 hours** in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend. Second Envelope containing "Financial Bid" of technically qualified bidder(s) will be opened later, the date of which will be communicated after evaluation of the Technical Bids.
- Bid security of an amount i.e. 2% of Engineer's Estimated Cost, in the form and validity as mentioned in the bidding documents, must be accompanied with "Technical Bid". All prospective bidders are required to provide the Audit Reports as per format uploaded on NHA website. All the bidders must fulfill the criteria mentioned in Tender Document Instruction to the Bidder's "Bidding Data Sheet".
- The Bidders will provide the **No Litigation Certificate** or information about any litigation along with Technical Bid.
- The firms providing unsubstantiated and / or incorrect information are liable to disqualification and / or legal action. NHA reserves the right to reject all bids as per the PPRA Rule no. 33(1).

General Manager (Maintenance) Punjab South
NHA Complex Nag Shah Chowk Multan, Tel: 061-4263311, Fax: 061-4263309
Websites: www.nha.gov.pk, www.ppra.org.pk
DONATE FOR DIAMBER-BASHA AND MOHAMMAD QAM

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

NOTICE FOR QUALIFICATION & SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

National Highway Authority (NHA) intends to execute the following Emergency Maintenance Works FY 2017-18 on **Motorway M-1**:

Sr. No	Contract No.	Location	Engineer's Estimate Cost (Rs)	Earnest Money (Rs)	Financial Requirement
1	EM-M-1-2017-18/03	KM 350-386 (NBC/SBC)	7,990,636.00	2% of Bid Cost	Cash Flow: 6 Million Avg. Annual Turnover: 16 Million (last three years)
2	EM-M-1-2017-18/04	KM 386-420 (NBC/SBC)	9,992,524.00	2% of Bid Cost	Cash Flow: 7 Million Avg. Annual Turnover: 20 Million (last three years)
3	EM-M-1-2017-18/05	KM 420-460 (NBC/SBC)	11,597,006.00	2% of Bid Cost	Cash Flow: 8 Million Avg. Annual Turnover: 23 Million (last three years)
4	EM-M-1-2017-18/06	KM 460-505 (NBC/SBC)	12,517,549.00	2% of Bid Cost	Cash Flow: 9 Million Avg. Annual Turnover: 25 Million (last three years)

- NHA invites Qualification of Firm(s) along with sealed financial bids (Single Stage Two Envelopes Basis) for above mentioned works. All interested parties are requested to submit following documents for Qualification of the above mentioned works:
 - Must have valid Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in Category C-5 or above for the year 2018-19 having Specialization Code **CE-01 & CE-10**. Joint Venture of C-5 firms is also admissible.
 - No Litigation Certificate on Judicial Stamp Paper.
 - Financial Competence documentation which must include as mentioned in Bidding Data Sheet.
 - a) Balance Sheet and Bank Statement for Last Three (03) years.
 - b) NTN Certificate including Audit Report Last three (03) years.
 - c) Cash flow, Annual Turnover and Networking Capital detailed as mentioned against each work.
 - The Contractor must mention the name of work for which Qualification documents are submitted, otherwise, single document will be considered for one work only. Bidders shall submit complete set of tender documents along with financial bid duly signed & stamped on each page.
 - Contractor to provide **List of Equipment** over and above his PEC required equipment on Judicial Stamp Paper which must include following:
 - a) Tractor with Trolley (01) b) Pickup (01)
 - List of **Technical Staff** with CVs & undertaking (on Judicial Stamp Paper duly attested from Notary Public) that following staff will be available for execution of the works.
 - a) **Quantity Surveyor** DAE Civil with at least 07 years' experience
 - b) **Surveyor** DAE Civil with at least 05 years' experience
 - c) **Supervisor** DAE Civil with at least 05 years' experience
 - Documentation of at least one (01) work executed during the last five years of same nature.
 - The successful bidder will be responsible for the security of fence less throughout the contract length on both sides of Motorway. In case there is any theft of fence in contract length the successful bidder will install the fence/plug the gaps at his own cost throughout the year. Payment for patrolling will be made on monthly basis subject to report by National Highway & Motorway Police regarding zero gaps in fence.
- Qualification documents along with sealed financial bid (with Bid Security of 2% of Bid cost) submission is to be made on the basis of information uploaded on NHA website (www.nha.gov.pk). Interested parties can download this document and the bid be submitted along with Qualification documents on time and venue as mentioned below. Bid Security must be attached with the Technical Qualification document.
 - On or before **11th July, 2019 at 1100 Hours**, and Technical bids will be opened on the same day at **1130 Hours** in the office of General Manager (M-1), NHA Brahma Bahtar.
- Financial Bids of the firms will be sealed immediately by the Committee in the presence of the participating bidders/authorized representatives. After conducting qualification evaluation, the qualified firms shall be informed in writing for opening of their bids while bids of unqualified firms shall be returned unopened.
- In case any bidder stands lowest in any two (02) bids, his subsequent tender for other EM Works shall not be opened.
- The Firms providing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect information are liable to legal action and disqualification.
- Original Registration Certificate F.Y 2018-19 shall be shown by all interested bidders at the time of submission of Technical Bids.** In case of Power of Attorney, the firm must delegate the powers to their representative on Rs. 100/- stamp paper. Attorney to Sign the Bid Document must also be provided with Technical bid by the authorized person of the firm. The General Power of Attorney will not be accepted.
- NHA reserves the right to accept or reject all applications as per PPRA Rules 2004 (as amended in 2008).

General Manager (M-1)
National Highway Authority, Brahma Bahtar
Websites: www.nha.gov.pk, www.ppra.org.pk
DONATE FOR DIAMBER-BASHA AND MOHAMMAD QAM

Imtiaz Alam



With the on-going 'accountability', the Imran Khan government has also unleashed the tyranny of the IMF's tougher conditions, breaking the back of the people who were once life was left in an unsustainable economy.

Budget 2019-20 was a very bitter doze for an already-growth economy. Exhausting all the ridiculous notions of filling the financial gaps through the recovery of plundered wealth (indeed, all wealth is accumulated through the plunder of others' labour or rent), the finance bill has loaded taxpayers and common citizens with a massive burden of Rs5,555 billion taxes. With an estimated GDP growth rate of less than 3 percent, and in the absence of meaningful taxation reforms, the ambitious target is hard to achieve; some would say it could jeopardize the IMF's return.

As the government failed to achieve its revenue target of Rs4,435 billion with a big margin in the outgoing fiscal year, it is not expected to raise Rs1400 billion in additional taxes. Even if it succeeds, the fiscal deficit will increase to Rs3.6 trillion or 8.2 percent of

GDP. If the provinces will not cough up a surplus of Rs432 billion, the IMF has focused on the reduction of primary deficit to allow debt payments.

Against many tall promises of austerity, the government has ended up overspending Rs2000 billion or 48 percent on current expenditure as compared to the previous year. Both debt and defence are going to consume 67.4 percent of the federal expenditure next year. Unless these expenditures substantially come down and the federal government is cut down to its size in accordance with the imperatives of the 18th Amendment, Pakistan cannot come out of its fiscal and financial crisis.

It is not just corruption which has brought us to our current near-insolvency; one can also blame the over-burdening superstructure of the state. Over a dozen IMF packages had failed in the past to help achieve sustainability. The same will happen to this new agreement if it does not address the principal conflict between the unsustainable economic base and parasitic heavy superstructure of the development of the real economy.

Given the rent-seeking nature of our urban and rural elite, the tax base remains shallow and most of its burden is shifted to the masses through indirect taxes, as is shown by the finance bill. With the inflation rate expected to go higher than 13 percent and the interest rates going up to 15 percent, you cannot expect to revive the economy, nor generate jobs for an increasing bulge of unemployed youth.

The taxation measures taken by abolishing the zero-rated regime for five export-based industries are going to dampen the prospects of exports. Similarly, a 7 percent additional customs duty on 2400 tariff lines with the highest slab going up to 27 percent will add to the costs of living and doing business. The best way

would have been to bring all the taxable urban and rural incomes to the tax net and altogether stop the import of most non-essential goods. But this was beyond the character of the regime and the continuation of the social forces it represents.

Much dust has been raised by Prime Minister Imran Khan about

If debt is borrowed to meet current or unproductive expenditures and invested in useless projects, it becomes a trap; and if invested in productive projects, it helps break the begging bowl. In our case, most debt was accumulated due to the state's habit of living beyond its means, resulting in a vicious cycle of borrowing

in five years (Rs10,660 billion). How would Prime Minister Khan respond if he is asked about the Rs5 trillion debt that he has accumulated by the debt inquiry commission that he has announced? Living on borrowed money has become a permanent feature and will not change unless we stop spending on any pre-text beyond our means.

After scaring away potential investors, the PTI government's somersault over the whitening of ill-gotten or undeclared money has not helped it either. This is largely because people have distrusted such schemes because of the PM's past rhetoric. So far, only 250 Pakistanis have declared their assets worth Rs450 million and the government's expectation of raising Rs200 billion in penalties/revenue seem a bit too ambitious.

Quite ridiculously, the government also ended up resorting to rather unorthodox tactics to avoid any serious discourse over the finance bill in parliament. It has diverted public attention from its failure to handle the economy and come up with a viable plan for economic revival. As opposed to its egalitarian claims,

the government has come up with a budget that will further decrease per capita income and employment, increase cost of living and further reduce economic growth.

The reduction in allocations for education and health shows the lack of concern in the government as far as the needs of the people are concerned. There are hard days ahead for fixed income groups and working people with little increase in salaries/wages, reduction of taxable income limit to Rs600,000 per annum for salaried people and Rs300,000 per annum for non-salaried groups.

The real question is to change the character of the state to an economically and socially sustainable state at peace with its own people and beyond.

The writer is a senior journalist. Email: imtiaz@imn.com.pk Twitter: @ImtiazAlamSAFMA

An unviable finance policy

If debt is borrowed to meet current or unproductive expenditures and invested in useless projects, it becomes a trap; and if invested in productive projects, it helps break the begging bowl. In our case, most debt was accumulated due to the state's habit of living beyond its means, resulting in a vicious cycle of borrowing debt to pay debt

Politics and drugs

Dr Ikramul Haq



Today, June 26, 2019 marks the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Each year the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) selects a theme for the day and this year the theme is 'Health for Justice, Justice for Health'.

If politics makes strange bedfellows, politics and drugs produce even stranger ones. The partnership between drug trafficking and national politics has taken a truly bizarre turn in the fight against the presumed threat to the capitalist system. The history of control of drugs is seldom taught to our people because it could unveil the forces that actually helped the pharmaceutical industry earn huge profits and helped spawn a whole generation of pill-takers hooked on drug-related habits.

Great Britain waged two wars in the mid-nineteenth century to force the entry of opium into China which had banned it. It may seem strange that a mighty nation should have sided with a weaker one and sided with the smugglers of a forbidden drug, but that is all about the politics of drug trade is all about. A larger issue was, of course, the opening up of China for commercial purposes, but the immediate cause of war was opium.

It was not out of character for a colonial power of those days to rely on drug behaviour as a major source of revenue for its Treasury, as the British colonial government did in India. Practically all colonial governments in the East did it, and the practice continued until the dissolution of the colonies in the mid-twentieth century. The effect of such fiscal policies on the production and consumption of the drug concerned should be fairly obvious.

The US early in this century took the lead in the attempt to stop the international traffic in opium, partly as a gesture to win over opium-plagued China for economic purposes. When heroin, an opium derivative made several times more potent by technology, was declared illegal in the US in 1914, it went

underground and attained apothosis as the most forbidden fruit. This opened the doors for elements of organised crime to get involved and start feeding the growing habit in the US and Europe.

Then, after World War II the US found itself having to defend an empire against rising challenges to its politico-economic system on the periphery. In Afghanistan in October 2001, the US more than once turned for help towards organised criminals and unpopular dictators who enriched them through illicit means, including drug trafficking. Pakistan is one such example.

Since the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001, the Golden Crescent opium trade has soared. According to the US media, this lucrative contraband is protected by the

The individuals and cartels running the drug trade are influential and ruthless, and have managed to counter all efforts aimed at curtailing their activities

Taliban and the regional warlords, in defiance of the 'international community'. The heroin business is said to be 'filling the coffers of the Taliban'. In the words of the US State Department:

"Opium is a source of literally billions of dollars to extremist and criminal groups... [Cutting down the opium supply is central to establishing a security and stability, as well as winning the global war on terrorism," (Statement of Assistant Secretary of State Robert Charles, Congressional Hearing, April 1, 2004).

The reality is otherwise. In fact, US foreign policy supports the workings of a thriving criminal economy in which the demarcation between organized capital and organized crime has become increasingly blurred. The heroin business is not 'filling the coffers of the Taliban' as claimed by the US government and the international community. In fact, it is quite the opposite. The proceeds of this

illegal trade are the source of wealth formation, largely reaped by powerful business/criminal interests within the Western countries. These interests are sustained by US foreign policy. Decision-making in the US State Department, the CIA and the Pentagon is instrumental in supporting this highly profitable multibillion dollar trade, third in commodity value after oil and gas.

The heroin trade was part of the war agenda. What this war has achieved is to restore a compliant narco-state, headed by a US-appointed puppet. The powerful financial interests behind narcotics are supported by the militarization of the world's major drug triangles (and trans-shipment routes), including the Golden Crescent and the Andean region of South America (under the so-called Andean Initiative).

The accumulation of vast assets by the drug barons in Pakistan has enabled them to continue large-scale operations even after the arrest of some of their leaders (although they have also managed to defy proper investigation and have had themselves released). Over the past decade, the drug barons in Pakistan have established themselves as patrons of politicians and government functionaries.

Drug production and trafficking are big business. The product is lucrative, needs no advertisement and keeps the customers coming back for more. The individuals and cartels running this deadly trade in Pakistan are influential and ruthless; they have successfully managed to counter all efforts aimed at curtailing their activities.

The situation is serious, but not hopeless. In recent years, the government has come to realise that illegal drug trafficking and drug abuse are a global problem and require a national response with international coordination. However, the government has not yet been able to launch an effective drug control programme primarily due to a lack of funds as well as the lack of a real understanding of the problem by the law-enforcement apparatus.

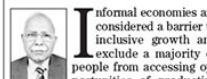
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TAX NET

all the in-hand cash in Pakistani banks and declare all assets held within and outside the country. The previous scheme was mostly availed by filers and it attracted only 25 percent declarations in immovable properties abroad, mainly in UAE, UK and Canada and most people preferred to keep the money outside Pakistan. The scheme was mostly used for whitening money as it did not lead to higher tax returns. Undisclosed properties and bank accounts mostly remained undisclosed as its major focus was on attracting a higher number of declarations.

A documented economy

Malik Muhammad Ashraf



Informal economies are considered a barrier to inclusive growth and exclude a majority of people from accessing opportunities of productive growth in the economic realm, depriving them of entitlement at work because of their informal status.

In comparison, workers engaged in formal, registered, tax-compliant businesses and units are legally covered for social protection. The undocumented economy or the informal economy also hinders proper economic planning for socio-economic development.

The growing influence of the informal economy, especially in developing countries is a big challenge for political and economic managers. However, compelling domestic realities and enabling international discourse are encouraging countries to take up the challenge of either eliminating the informal sector or reducing its size to the minimum. Several Latin American and Caribbean countries (ie Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Uruguay) have succeeded in reducing informality through a mix of policy measures in four key areas: improving economic capacity or productivity, legislation, provision of incentives and oversight. Countries in our region such as India and Bangladesh are also vigorously pursuing policies aimed at eliminating informal economies.

According to different surveys and reports, the informal economy in Pakistan accounts for 35-50 percent of the total economy. The informal sector in money terms is well in the range of \$85 billion. For a country like Pakistan, which is confronted with serious economic challenges, it is absolutely essential to focus on documenting the economy. The amnesty scheme announced by the PTI government has twin purposes - documenting the economy, and welcoming the business and trading community to participate in the legal economy. It offers yet another opportunity to them to legalize their hidden assets and businesses to avail the benefits that come by associating with the informal economy.

The major and significant difference between the present scheme and the one announced by the PML-N government is that the current one aims to eliminate the difference between a filer and a non-filer. It requires the declarer to deposit

all the in-hand cash in Pakistani banks and declare all assets held within and outside the country. The previous scheme was mostly availed by filers and it attracted only 25 percent declarations in immovable properties abroad, mainly in UAE, UK and Canada and most people preferred to keep the money outside Pakistan. The scheme was mostly used for whitening money as it did not lead to higher tax returns. Undisclosed properties and bank accounts mostly remained undisclosed as its major focus was on attracting a higher number of declarations.

The amnesty or the assets declaration scheme announced by the PTI government proposes to tax all assets other than immovable property at the rate of four percent, domestic immovable properties at 1.5 percent, foreign liquid assets at six percent, unexplained expenditure at four percent and undisclosed sales at

For a country like Pakistan, which is confronted with serious economic challenges, it is absolutely essential to focus on documenting the economy

two percent. The default surcharge, which may be called the wait and watch payment, goes up to 40 percent of the total tax amount. So your six percent becomes 8.4 percent. As is evident, it is a comprehensive scheme that covers all aspects of the informal economy.

In a bid to accelerate the process of documenting the economy, the Federal Board of Revenue has enforced Benami Rules to start the process of attaching benami immovable and movable properties and intercept transactions of such properties carried on in fictitious names. It has also been empowered to take action against the benamidar or the fictitious person on whose name the benami property has been transferred or held.

The government has also taken decision to make the Benami Act operational. By making this law operational, all those bank accounts and properties which are kept on the name of others will be seized and then the relevant tribunal will decide the process of sale of confiscated bank accounts and prop-

ties under the Benami Act. As part of the government's efforts to document the economy, the law will allow the government to take strict action against those who got their movable and immovable assets registered with fictitious persons in order to evade taxes.

The government has also obtained information from 26 countries in respect of 150,000 people who have properties and assets abroad; and in case they fail to declare by the given deadlines they could be awarded seven years imprisonment as well as fine confiscation of their properties. People who hold undeclared properties and business with the country will also be treated similarly in case they fail to come forward voluntarily.

Doing business in a legal way, paying taxes and holding movable and immovable properties in a legitimate way is not only a legal responsibility of every citizen but also a moral duty towards the state and fellow citizens. At the same time, the government is under the obligation to ensure that the benefits of development and other steps aimed at public welfare are judiciously and equitably accessible to all its citizens. This is only possible when the economy is properly documented and the government is able to generate enough indigenous resources. A country cannot run on loans unproductively spent. The current economic situation makes it imperative for the government to take credible and concrete steps to rectify the maladies afflicting the economy. The best way to do that is to increase the size of the formal economy.

The government on its part has already taken some harsh decisions which have to some extent hurt certain vulnerable sections of society, but these decisions were necessary to stem the rot. They have led to a decrease in the current account and budgetary deficits whose impact will start showing in due course. While the government is working hard to lift the economy out of the quagmire it is stuck in, it is also incumbent upon the citizens and the business community to appreciate these measures in their true perspective and also contribute their bit to make this effort successful.

The country belongs to all of us and its future development and prosperity depends on our sense of patriotism and realization of our obligations towards the state as its citizens. The writer is a freelance contributor. Email: ashraf10@gmail.com



Clinton in Kosovo

Binoy Kampmark

The Balkans has often been prone to seizures of mysticism, gulln prediction and predation. But one character felt at home as he addressed his audience in Kosovo, himself having been afflicted by a certain evangelical urge.

His month, former US President Bill Jefferson Clinton, former company with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, were rubbing shoulders with officials and stage hands in Pristina to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Kosovo intervention by Nato in March 1999.

It was a chance Kosovo's president Hashim Thaci was not going to let pass. In being awarded the Order of Freedom, Clinton was all praise. "I think the whole world today with all this turmoil, can look to Kosovo as a model of a democracy and a commitment to peace, grow, and live in peace with one's neighbours." Being Clinton, his words have a profound lightweight quality, albeit dressed up as grave and morally hefty.

Nonetheless, they struck the appropriate, ceremonial note. Thaci glowed with appreciation. "We thank you for the just decision to stop the Serbian genocide during 1999. We are very grateful for the support of the US to Kosovo. The story of Kosovo is a story of joint success. You are our heroes."

Clinton duly responded, expressing pride at having been the 'president of the United States when you needed someone to stand up and say no more ethnic cleansing, no more killing innocent civilians, there's got to be another way."

Misnamed humanitarian interventions are nasty, untidy things. They ride on the wave of emotional simplification, embellishment and propaganda, and end in eye-moistened grief. As UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd would note as the crisis in Yugoslavia deepened in blood in 1992, taking a swipe at the seductions of the idiot box in a just quoted speech at the 'Travellers' Club in London, "the selection of these tragedies is now visible within hours to people around the world. People reject and resent what is going on because they know it more visibly than before."

As news reporter Martin Bell would reflect, a variant of this point had been made by the essayist and novelist G K Chesterton: "It's not the world that has got so much worse, but the news coverage that has got so much better."

Yet such coverage can be suspect not because it inaccurately portrays horror, but that it does so from one, captured within the political and ideological roles of innocent victims and stained perpetrators. The Nato intervention, given its Clinton white wash, removes references to attacks on Serbian civilian targets and infrastructure and the acceleration of the cleansing efforts by Serb forces in Kosovo proper after the bombings began, suggesting a less than rosy account of Operation Allied Force.

The neatness of such commemorative occasions as took place in Pristina unduly purifies. It ignores such assessments as those from Robert Gelbard, Clinton's special envoy to the Balkans, who deemed the Kosovo Liberation Army "a terrorist group" in comments made on February 23, 1999. In March that same year, Gelbard appeared before the House International Relations Committee to modify his response, claiming that the

KLA had "not been classified legally by the US government as a terrorist organization." That said, he did explain to law makers that "terrorist" acts perpetrated by the KLA had "provided an excuse for [Serbian President Slobodan] Milosevic."

Even with the embers still bright, Jeremy Harding remarked in an August issue of the London Review of Books how "in the former Yugoslavia, a loss of any kind often instigates itself into the annals of gain, while short-term winners - Kosovo Albanians, for instance - can barely distinguish what they are meant to have won from all the have lost."

Serbia's Foreign Minister, Ivica Dacic, if predictably, had a rather different reading of the anniversary. When the 78-day aerial bombing initiated by a US-led NATO force commenced on the rump of what was left of Yugoslavia, it did so without UN Security Council authorisation, a rebuff to the UN Charter.

Excerpts from: 'Bill Clinton in Kosovo'. Courtesy: Counterpunch.org

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Hear, believe, think?



In a poll in 2015, 42 per cent Americans emotionally believed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. If you recall, President George Bush went to war against Iraq for the purported reason that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

In the war, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis died and countless millions lost homes and livelihoods and suffered untold miseries only because the war-mongering American government falsely convinced its people that Iraq had these weapons. And years after destroying Iraq and finding no weapons, nearly four to ten Americans still hold on to that false belief.

Why do people hold on to false beliefs? Why don't people change their beliefs even in the face of new information that's contrary to their original beliefs?

Work by two UC Berkeley researchers, written in August 2018 in the journal 'Open Minds', suggests that "once a belief takes hold, it can be hard to make it budger, even with reams of data and evidence... When a person gets the jobs of passive belief, they feel very certain for their belief, they feel very certain they're right. This certainty persists even if the overall body of evidence suggests the person is wrong."

But how do we come to believe what we believe? According to an article in the online journal 'Fast Company' in November 2018, "we form beliefs in a haphazard way, believing all sorts of things based just on what we hear out in the world but haven't researched for ourselves."

"This is how we think we form abstract beliefs: 1) We hear something; 2) We think about it and vet it, determining whether it is true or false; only after that 3) We form our belief."

"It turns out, though, that we actually form abstract beliefs this way: 1) We hear something; 2) We believe it to be true; 3) Only sometimes, later, if we have the time or the inclination, we think about it and vet it, determining whether it is, in fact, true or false."

According to Harvard psychologist Daniel Gilbert, "people are credulous creatures who find it very easy to believe and very difficult to doubt. In fact, believing is so easy, and perhaps so inevitable, that it may be more like involuntary comprehension than it is like rational assessment."

Quoting again from the same article, "how we form beliefs was shaped by the evolutionary push toward efficiency rather than accuracy. Abstract belief formation (that is, beliefs outside our direct experience, conveyed through language) is likely among the few things that are uniquely human, making it relatively new in the species' evolutionary time."

"Before language, our ancestors could form new beliefs only through

what they directly experienced of the perceptible world around them. For perceptual beliefs from direct sensory experience, it's reasonable to presume our senses aren't lying. Seeing is, after all, believing. In fact, questioning what you see or hear can get you eaten. For our evolutionary ancestors, it was better to be safe than sorry, especially when considering whether to believe that rustling in the grass is a lion."

"As a result, we didn't develop a high degree of skepticism when our beliefs were about things we directly experienced, especially when our lives were at stake. As complex language evolved, we gained the ability to form beliefs about things we hadn't actually

I have tried to read about and understand why people who know very little about us feel knowledgeable enough or comfortable enough to call me or my colleagues corrupt or liars

experienced for ourselves - and tended to believe them just as strongly."

But how do our minds act so that our beliefs can't be changed even in the face of contrary evidence? From a March, 2016 article in the magazine 'Psychology Today' we learn that "our beliefs become impervious to the facts in a process psychologists call cognitive immunization."

"Cognitive immunization helps to explain why some beliefs become even stronger when challenged. They also help to explain how we cannot let go of some beliefs in the face of overwhelming contradictory evidence."

I often tweet my columns and other stuff critical of the PTI. In response I get four types of responses. First, those who agree with me and like or retweet my tweet. Second, those who agree or disagree but engage with facts and figures. Third, those who, while respectful, are adamant about their beliefs and try to argue for their point of view no matter what the reality is by emphasising or twisting one or two bits of information and finally, those who bring forth vitriol and ad hominem attacks. I find this name-calling depressive. So I have tried to read about and

understand why people who know very little about us feel knowledgeable enough or comfortable enough to call me or my colleagues corrupt or liars. What allows them to form such beliefs on mere allegations and then hold on to such beliefs even when evidence to the contrary is plentiful?

Our prime minister has for years repeated his corruption allegations ad nauseam against Mian Nawaz Sharif and PML-N leaders. And yet there are three major facts that exonerate Nawaz Sharif and the PML-N. First, in the NAB court trials against Nawaz Sharif the court wrote in one of the judgements that no evidence of corruption was brought against Nawaz Sharif by the prosecution. Note that the judgement didn't say that there wasn't evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. It said no evidence was brought forth.

To be sure Nawaz Sharif was convicted by NAB courts in two cases of assets beyond means, but one judgement has already been suspended and the other is pending deliberation in higher courts. Many lawyers have written to ask the NAB court judgements were, especially given that the courts weren't willing to believe that Nawaz Sharif's father was a rich man who had legitimate money overseas like most rich Pakistanis. The current amnesty scheme is in fact partially aimed at such rich Pakistanis.

A second piece of information that I believe exonerates the PML-N and Nawaz Sharif is that fact that after one year of PTI rule when supposedly all corruption has ended - corruption that was the root of all evil in Pakistan and that has caused a debt-ridden economy - Pakistan's economy is deteriorating every day. Rather than seeing a surplus of cash from the corruption averted under the PTI, why are we sinking in a sea of debt and deficit? This has to mean that either the PTI is - heavens forbid - also corrupt or that the PML-N wasn't.

And finally, after almost one year of this government, why are we not seeing a government white paper detailing the PML-N's corruption? Why don't they tell us which CPEC and LNG and other programmes were based on corruption and what were the amounts and who were the people involved? I am not asking for conviction or even proper evidence, but surely the government of a prime minister who's made anti-corruption his life's calling by now should at least make credible and consistent allegations.

And yet the youthful supporters of the PTI still hold onto their beliefs that the PML-N is corrupt. But then as discussed above, cognitive immunisation explains the holding of these beliefs in the face of evidence to the contrary.

Twitter: @MiftahIsmail

THE HOLY QURAN

But the messenger and those who believe with him strive with their wealth and their lives. Such are they for whom are the good things. Such are they who are the successful.

Surah At-Taubah - 9, Verse - 88

Drug wars

Edward Hunt

A Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador believes transitioning his country away from its decades-long drug war, which has killed more than 100,000 Mexican citizens since 2006, officials in the Trump administration have remained largely silent about his moves. Washington is continuing its public relations strategy of saying very little about the war while helping Mexican security forces continue to fight it.

The Trump administration's silence, which has been enabled by a lack of coverage in the US mass media, has gone entirely unnoticed. Some members of Congress have begun to question the Trump administration's strategy, arguing that the administration does not have an effective plan for winning the war.

"We are whistling by the graveyard if we don't address and talk about an effective strategy for crushing the drug cartels," Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) said during a congressional hearing in April. To say that the Trump administration has simply been "whistling by the graveyard" as violence increases is not entirely accurate, however. Although the administration has kept mostly quiet about the growing violence, it has been working closely with Mexican military forces to crush the country's drug cartels, exactly as Senator Johnson's demand was based on.

As one of his very first moves in the White House, President Trump urged then-Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto to "knock the hell" out of the cartels, even proposing a US military intervention. "Our military will knock them out like you never thought of," Trump said.

The drug war began in December 2006, when then-Mexican President Felipe Calderón began deploying tens of thousands of Mexican military forces across Mexico.

Everyone has looked as favorably on the growing ties between US and Mexican military forces. Last month, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) called for a complete end to the Mérida Initiative, saying that the program should be reoriented to provide Mexico with funding for economic development rather than military assistance.

"It wasn't working," AMLO said, referring to the Mérida Initiative. "We don't want cooperation in the use of force, we want cooperation for development."

Excerpted from 'Is Merio Winding Down or Winding Up the Drug War?'. Courtesy: Counterpunch.org

Help from Qatar

Pakistan has found another friend in Qatar. The visit of Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani brought good tidings after Qatar agreed to provide Pakistan another \$3 billion bailout package. There is little doubt that Pakistan has done well to secure loans from friendly countries, including UAE, Saudi Arabia and China. The Qatari aid is good news for Pakistan's fiscal managers in the short term; we will receive the amount in deposits and direct investments from the oil-rich kingdom. The exact division is not clear yet as the finance ministry has not yet provided a break-up of the investment. However, this will mean that the SBP will have a deeper cushion available to avert a balance of payments crisis. What is unclear is what the long-term cost for Pakistan will be of securing loans from friendly countries. Moreover, we need to see if there is any cost of turning to Qatar; there had been suggestions that the UAE had withheld around \$1 billion after PM Imran Khan visited Qatar this year.

A powerful country would be able to play international rivals off each other; one would then ask: is Pakistan in a strong position to dictate the terms of receiving aid and investment? Qatar is important to Pakistan as a source of gas, but also increasingly as a source of cash and investment. There has also been some news regarding Qatar being ready to provide employment to around 100,000 Pakistanis.

Pakistan's ability to meander through the tense waters of the Gulf will be put to the test by its latest agreement with Qatar. Officially, Pakistan has done little to improve its foreign exchange reserves despite major inflows of cash and devaluation. Instead of improving Pakistan's fiscal position, this is likely to become a record year for foreign borrowings. Special Assistant on Information Firdous Ashiq Awan praised the government for prioritising national ties, over personal interests, in a dig at former PM Nawaz Sharif, but what is more important is that the government explain how it plans to juggle the fault lines in the Gulf. Pakistan's own domestic vulnerabilities might mean it will need to choose sides. The UAE and Saudi Arabia might have been available without Qatar in the picture, but the real question is will they be alright with our new friends? And, if not, how will the government deal with that situation? There is no doubt that Pakistan is served best from a position of neutrality, which makes the Qatar deal a positive. But we will need to see if neutrality will come at a cost.

The Sudan crisis

Hope for Sudan has quickly dissipated after the transitional military council rejected an Ethiopian plan for a civilian-majority transition government. The Sudanese opposition had accepted the plan in principle. After the failures of the Egyptian and Libyan revolutions and the terrible fate of Syria, there are fears that Sudan could become another Egypt - or worse: another Syria. But the resolve of the Sudanese public has not been shaken by the brutal crackdown led by the Sudanese military on June 3 in Khartoum. Six months of protests in Sudan had toppled dictator Omar al-Bashir. Three weeks ago, it appeared that the Sudanese military had quashed those dreams of democratic change after a spate of rapes and killings. Over 40 bodies were dumped in the Nile. Around 100 people were killed in the spate of military killings. The military announced its own transitional military council, which would rule for two years. This led to protesters camping outside the military headquarters in bold defiance.

There has, however, been increased acceptance that the military will not go out of the picture easily. The Sudanese military had appealed to Ethiopia and the African Union to step in and propose a transition plan. Ethiopia obliged by proposing an interim leadership council with eight civilian appointees and seven military ones. The military could chair the council for the first 18 months, civilians for the next 18 months. The Sudanese opposition accepted, but the military has not. This is by no means an ideal situation. Convincing the Sudanese military to give up its imagined right to rule Sudan will be more difficult that getting rid of Omar al-Bashir.

Egypt, to no surprise, has backed the existing military council. Similarly, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have promised around \$3 billion in aid to shore up the Sudanese economy. To the Sudanese protesters, these moves appear like attempts to shore up military rule, despite the fact that keeping authoritarian governments in place is behind much of the civil war that continue to rage across the Middle East. This explains why the military council feels strong enough to reject the Ethiopian intervention.

Protest will continue next week to mark 30 years since the coup that brought Omar al-Bashir into power. Mediation is necessary, but it will need to be with the objective of opening the path to democratic rule in Sudan. The Sudanese people want control of their country, and it seems they will keep fighting until the military junta steps back.

NewsPost
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NOTE TO READERS: Please send your letters to one of the following addresses: Email: news.post@thenews.com.pk, Fax to 0423-6360866-6367631; or by post to NewsPost, The News, Al-Rehman Building, Davis Road, Lahore. Readers are welcome to write for this column. Please include your full name and address; letter-writers may be contacted to verify their identity. Letters should be brief and to the point, and may be edited for brevity and clarity. Views reflected on these pages do not necessarily reflect the newspaper's policy

Brave cricket

This refers to the letter, 'Critical to catch' (June 25, 2019) by Muqadd Khan. Pakistan's win against South Africa last Sunday has reignited hope of winning the trophy this year. Qualification is still up in the air and victory against New Zealand is essential.

The team needs to be strong in all three formats (bowling, batting and fielding) and must not miss any opportunities as the team dropped some catches against South Africa. It is time for the team to play fearless cricket, putting the opposition under pressure.

Muhammad Bakhtiyar
 Keoh

Fans of the Pakistan cricket team were disappointed given the way our team performed in the first five matches of the World Cup. Pakistan's defeat against arch-rival India last weekend gave rise to incessant criticism. But the victory over South Africa by 49 runs at the Lord's Cricket Ground on Sunday reignited the hope of winning the trophy this year. As a fan of cricket, I praise all the players in green for their comeback in the game. They gave an extraordinary performance, which reflected their improvement.

Our faith in the team has been restored and we sincerely hope they are able to bring the trophy home this year.

Kashif Hussain
 Karachi

Tax on savings

The government has introduced a savings scheme with higher profits for the welfare of widows, shuhada families, senior citizens and pensioners with ten per cent tax on the profit. Tax on profits of other savings schemes are deducted at source but the aforesaid tax is to be paid by the recipients of the profit through some lengthy procedure not known to most.

The question is: why burden the profit recipients to go through the hassle of tax payment when the government can authorize only the amount profit which does not require tax deduction? Also, the logic of paying profit from the government treasury and then deducting ten per cent through a valuable time

and material-consuming process, without net increase in government revenue, needs examination. It is hoped that ten per cent tax on the profits of the savings schemes designed for the welfare of widows, shuhada families, senior citizens and pensioners will be abolished in Naya Pakistan to save the recipients from the hassle of tax payment and possible questioning by tax officials.

M Akram Nizami
 Rawalpindi

Rising prices

The government has increased the prices of everything like medicines, cosmetics, groceries, electricity and gas bills, etc but among all these things, medicines are more essential than others.

When I took all the medicines available at my home and I scanned their QR codes I found out that almost 85-90 percent medicines were copies. Patients spend a huge part of their wealth on health care, and medication but still get low quality pills, tablets, syrups, injections and other medicines. Why isn't there any check and balance? This is a matter of people's health so I appeal to our government to please look onto this issue before it gets even more severe.

Hassan Ali Bhutto
 Ghotki

Economic justice

Injustice and inequality have become synonymous with our society. In the past there was no one to hear or raise the voice on behalf of the oppressed. And that situation existed in Naya Pakistan remains the same. I personally know several talented boys and girls going from pillar to post in search of a suitable job. I know that in many parts of the country poor labourers are not paid immediately and growers are not paid the adequate rate for their crop products.

Looking at the protocol, pomp and show of many in power positions, it becomes obvious that they are not used to living in material modesty. We all believe that the maintenance of social justice within a society depends largely on the fairness and strength of its legal system. Corruption is one of the chief causes of poverty and social injustice in our society as it violates the legal and moral frame-

work of a society, but who cares in this country where even in the days of the Threke-e-Insaf, nothing practical is being done for economic justice.

Hassan Aro
 Islamabad

Problem of politics

This refers to the article, 'Cut the fat' (June 23) by Dr Farrukh Saleem. I differ with the writer about the final recommendation. There is nothing inherently wrong with PIA, PSM and the Railways. If anything, the problem lies with the oligarchic rulers and lowly educated leaders of our country. Both PIA and PSM were profitable during the Musharraf era. The PSM was so flushed with cash that it decided to prepay its loans. The Railways has always been treated as an employment exchange. Besides, it has been starved of essential investments in renewal of track and rolling stock under the influence of road transport mafia.

The deterioration and decay started from 2008. It is unwise to think that PIA/PSM can be an apostle of good governance in a sea of misrule, corruption and maladministration. If the institutions are over-stuffed, it is because of political expediency. Public-sector entities become a great asset and a revenue contributor when there is: 1) Upright state leadership of impeccable integrity; 2) Professional management with top expertise in the field; 3) Appointments purely on merit instead of applying the notorious quota system; and 4) Immunity from political and bureaucratic interference. If the government is really serious in revamping the loss-making entities, it must do away with the fat itself as a first step. Why leave it to the private sector to do it? Meritocracy must be the guiding principle in all decision-making. If privatization is considered an easy solution, then let's privatise and outsource the governance and leadership of the state itself.

Arif Majeed
 Karachi

Get back the money

According to the government, Pakistan had been looted by previous governments and is therefore facing a financial crisis. A number of people have been arrested in connection with looting public funds.

Archaic attestation

Whenever someone is applying for a job or for admission to an institution, they are always asked for documents that have been attested by at least a Grade 17 officer. I don't know what the purpose of that is. In today's world, when technology has provided so much access to people, why are we still required to obey such 19th century rules? Moreover, many government officers even ask for money for attesting documents. People are being convinced by these people just because of such outdated laws followed by job recruiting departments and universities.

I humbly advise the government to put an end to such rules and make the system easy and cheaper for the people.

Shahzeb Mahesar
 Sukkur

The PM says he will punish all the looters. However, I think the focus of the current government should be on the recovery of looted wealth and less on punishment.

If the two big families pay 10 to 15 billion dollars each, then their recovery can help pay back most of the loans of our country. Similarly, the smaller families involved in corruption could also pay 5 to 9 billion dollars each to secure their release. As punishment the families would have to forfeit their Pakistani citizenship and all their assets in Pakistan. They and their entire families would be never allowed to contest elections or hold government jobs. Such a deal would be very helpful in allowing Pakistan to pay all its foreign debts while also reduce the cost of securing high-profile prisoners. The people of Pakistan will have to pay less tax and inflation will go down, while corrupt politicians and government employees would be removed from the country.

Engr Shahyur Khan Baeer
 Peshawar

Inflation

With the arrival of the current government, inflation has reached its highest peak, especially in the form of taxes. Even if we buy a phone card, the government taxes Rs-25 per-card. According to an estimation, Pakistan's population was 197 million in 2017. If each person buy one phone card, the government gets rupees four billion ninety two millions and fifty thousands (Rs49,250,000).

Furthermore, I think this 'Naya Pakistan' is just a catch-line, and will remain a catch line, since no serious action will be taken by the government. If the government

Khan Faraz Peshawar

Council of Europe assembly allows Russia's return

STRASBOURG, France: The Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly agreed early Tuesday to allow Russian representatives to return to the body, five years after it was stripped of its voting rights over the annexation of Crimea.

It had threatened to quit the body altogether if it was not allowed to take part in Wednesday's election, a move that would have prevented Russian citizens from being able to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

Khoshoggi fiancee says US 'ethically' responsible to seek justice

GENEVA: The Turkish fiancee of murdered Saudi journalist and dissident Jamal Khoshoggi insisted in an emotional interview Tuesday that Washington has the ethical responsibility to initiate an international investigation into his killing.



Turkish writer and fiancee of the murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khoshoggi, attends a side event at UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.—AFP

Khoshoggi, a Washington Post contributor and US resident, was killed last October 2 by Saudi agents while at Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul to obtain paperwork ahead of his wedding to Hatice Cengiz.

But, she said, she had come to accept the truth: "He was violently murdered and massacred."—AFP

Advertisement for Punjab Skills Development Fund (PSDF) featuring an image of a person working at a computer and the UKAID logo.

Table with 4 columns: Job Title, Skills, Location, and Contact Info. Lists various technical and service jobs such as Fabric Cutting Expert, Fitter General, and Grooming & Makeup Artist.

IS head in Yemen captured by special forces: coalition

RIYADH: Saudi and Yemeni special forces have captured the head of the Islamic State group's branch in Yemen, the Saudi-led military coalition backing the country's government announced Tuesday.

Iran's Rouhani says US 'lying' about talks offer

Tehran: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said Tuesday that new US sanctions against senior Iranian officials including top diplomat Mohammad Javad Zarif showed Washington is "lying" about an offer to negotiate.

French restaurant run by Argentine chef crowned world's best

SINGAPORE: French restaurant Mirazur run by Argentine chef Mauro Colagreco was Tuesday crowned the world's best restaurant at an awards ceremony put on by British trade magazine Restaurant.



The fire brigade staff use a helicopter to collect water during a forest fire in Lieberose, eastern Germany as temperatures topped 36 degrees Celsius.—AFP

Health warnings and speed limits as Europe bakes in heatwave

PARIS: As Europe sizzled Tuesday at the start of a heatwave tipped to break records, drivers on Germany's famously speedy motorways were ordered to slow down and fans at the women's World Cup were showered in health warnings.

Sri Lanka police overturn local council ban on Muslims

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's police Tuesday stepped in to prevent a local council from banning Muslim traders from a weekly fair in another backlash from the island's Easter attacks blamed on Islamic extremists.

Pompeo faces thorny issues on India visit from trade to Russia arms deals

NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will tackle a host of delicate issues when he gets into New Delhi on Tuesday for talks with Indian leaders.

FIH allows Pakistan to compete for 2020 Olympics

Pro League nonparticipation fine reduced to almost 75 percent
Abdul Mohi Shah
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan hockey finally receives encouraging news as it has been allowed to compete in the qualifying matches for 2020 Tokyo Olympics and at the same time the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has reduced the fine for not playing the Pro League to almost 75 percent. Brig (R) Khalid Sajjad Khokhar, president PHF who along with Federation legal counsel Barrister Majid Bashir appeared before the FIH Disciplinary Commission in Zurich (Switzerland) on Tuesday and pleaded Pakistan case with full force. Later talking to The News from Zurich, PHF President Brig (R) Khalid Sajjad Khokhar declared that the commission after almost four hours of proceeding decided to waive off almost 75 percent of fine imposed on Pakistan for not participating in FIH Pro League. "The commission has decided that Pakistan will have to pay only 25 percent of the fine of the total amount of Rs18 million. Now Pakistan hockey



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (left) meets Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Afghan Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, and former Afghan President Hamid Karzai, right, at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan. —AFP

Opp fails to block Punjab budget passage

Faizan Bangash

LAHORE: The opposition in the Punjab Assembly failed to create any hindrance in treasury's way to approve demands for grant worth over Rs 1,824 trillion for the fiscal year 2019-20 which were approved within one hour on Tuesday.

The Punjab government claims that technically, it has passed the budget and the process will be completed on Wednesday (today) after the passage of Finance Bill. Minister for Law, Local Government and Parliamentary Affairs Basharat Raja talking to the media claimed that for the first time in the history of the Punjab Assembly, 43 demands for grant were approved by the House within one hour. He said when the budget session commenced, the opposition had challenged that it wouldn't let the government pass the

budget. He said at that time, the government had claimed that it had the majority in the House and the budget would be passed easily by the government. The law minister said the budget was as per the aspirations of people, adding that it had also happened for the first time that the opposition could hold debate on only three cut motions and despite claims couldn't block the passage of budget. He said the opposition wanted recess of its own issues. In the past, the opposition leaders had even spoken over budget for two days but this time the opposition had not tried to say over it. The law minister said it was the first budget of the PTI government that was prepared in crucial circumstances just because of the incompetence of the previous government. He said that due to the sagacity of Chief

Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar and an effective strategy by the Punjab cabinet, the opposition suffered a humiliating defeat. He claimed that the coming days would bring prosperity and financial strength in Punjab. Earlier, in the PA session, the cut motions proposed by the opposition were rejected. Buzdar also attended the session, though he wasn't seen much in the assembly after June 14 when the Punjab government had presented the budget. Throughout the session, Law Minister Raja Basharat remained the key figure of the government, who actively responded to the queries and criticism of the opposition. During the speech of PPPP Parliamentary Leader Syed Hassan Murtaza, the House witnessed uproar and the chair

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NA inundated with private members bills

Legislative work at a standstill due to strain govt-Opp relations; no efforts in sight to break logjam

Tariq Butt

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly is overburdened with a large number of private members' bills, which are much more than the government's proposed legislation lay before it. The official record shows that all these bills are lying unattended because of the prevailing government-opposition relations, which are not seeing any improvement, hampering the legislative business. Only two supplementary budgets that the government had laid before the National Assembly have so far been passed due to the majority of the ruling coalition. The Senate has no role in matters related to the federal budget.

At present, there are a total of forty-two private members' bills, which are pending disposal have in the Lower House of Parliament. Included among them are fifteen constitutional amendment bills. All this proposed legislative business has been sponsored by the opposition members. Such bills can only be passed if the treasury benches agree to them as per parliamentary traditions. By now, the government has tabled nineteen bills while it has laid six presidential ordinances during all the ten sessions of the current National Assembly, starting from August last.

The record discloses that all the private and government

both the parliamentary chambers have so far passed two laws — minor amendments in the Elections Act. The opposition-dominated Senate is in no mood to extend a helping hand to the government due to the prevailing confrontation between the two sides. The National Assembly had approved an amendment in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Act raising the number of judges, but it was rejected by the Senate, leaving the legislative piece in limbo. The government had prepared the bill in the light of a direction of the outgoing chief justice Mian Saqib Nisar.

The Lower House of the bills, which are pending disposal have in the Lower House of Parliament. Included among them are fifteen constitutional amendment bills. All this proposed legislative business has been sponsored by the opposition members. Such bills can only be passed if the treasury benches agree to them as per parliamentary traditions. By now, the government has tabled nineteen bills while it has laid six presidential ordinances during all the ten sessions of the current National Assembly, starting from August last.

The record discloses that all the private and government

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Two cops martyred, 4 injured in Nowshera attack

Mushtaq Paracha
NOWSHERA: Two cops were martyred and four others, including a station officer, sustained injuries when they were attacked by a group of terrorists near the mountainous Qamar Maila area in Nizampur on Tuesday, officials said.

They said that a police party was on a routine patrol in Qamar Maila when the terrorists ambushed it. Two cops were martyred and four others, including Station House Officer (SHO) Nizampur Police Station Masood Khan sustained injuries in the attack. According to District Police Officer (DPO) Mansoor Anan, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Akora Khattak Ehsan Shah and SHO of Nizampur Police Station Masood Khan were patrolling the area along with other cops in two vehicles when they came under attack from the terrorists. The official said the terrorists, who staged the attack, included Gul Muhammad Shah alias Gul Mati, Wabeel Shah, Zar Ali, Daud, Masood, Mazhar Shah, Khurshed and Momin Shah. The gunman of the injured SHO, Assad, and another cop, Asfandiyar, were martyred in the attack.

The injured SHO was taken to the District Headquarters Hospital in Nowshera while the three cops Zainullah, Roidad Khan and Akif were shifted to the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar.

DSP Ehsan Shah, who escaped unhurt in the ambush, said the attackers had taken up positions atop the mountains, therefore, the cops suffered the casualties. He said the attack took place in a mountainous area during routine patrol. The official said the cops also returned the fire,

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NAB case Gillani, 6 others, summoned for indictment on July 2

ISLAMABAD: An accountability court on Tuesday summoned six accused, including former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gillani, on July 2, for indictment in a reference pertaining to illegally awarding a publicity campaign. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had nominated a total of seven accused including Yousaf Raza Gillani and others in the reference. The trial court had ordered the NAB to share copies of the reference with the accused and summoned all of them on next hearing for indictment.

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PBC, SCBA to observe countrywide strike on July 2

Sohail Khan
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) and Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) have decided to observe countrywide strikes and stage sit-ins on July 2 against the hearing of presidential references by the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against two superior court judges. The two judges facing the references are Justice Qazi Faez Isa of Supreme Court and Justice KK Agha of Sindh High Court. Talking to this correspondent, Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) Syed Anjad Shah made it clear that lawyers would observe countrywide strikes and stage sit-ins on July 2. He said a joint action committee of lawyers would also chalk out their future strategy in

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Sharjeel Memon gets bail in Rs5.78 billion corruption case

SHC puts Memon on ECL; suspends arrest warrants in assets case
Jamal Khurshid
KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Tuesday granted bail to former information minister Sharjeel Memon in Rs5.78 billion advertisement corruption reference observing the case has now become an inquiry into the rates paid by the government of Sindh to the advertising agencies in term of their "exorbitancy". The court also suspended the arrest warrants of the PPP leader in another NAB case pertaining to assets beyond his known

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Police arrest newspaper publisher in IHK

News Desk
SRINAGAR: Police arrested the publisher of one of the most widely read newspapers in Indian Held Kashmir (IHK) in a midnight raid over a decades-old case, the police and his lawyer said on Tuesday, highlighting the difficulties facing media in the region. Tension has run high in the Himalayan region since more than 40 Indian police were killed in a February suicide car bomb attack by a militant group. Ghulam Jeelani Qadri, 62, a journalist and the publisher of the Urdu-language newspaper Daily Afaaq, was arrested at his home in the region's main city of Srinagar, half

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Sindh minister, Karachi mayor refuse to own Karachi

Say lifting of garbage not their responsibility; 600 million gallon water per day (MGD) sewage dumped into sea untreated; social activist Shehzad Roy, architect Shahid Abdullah, Vice-Admiral Arifullah Hussaini present solutions to problems of city; Geo anchorperson of 'Capital Talk' Hamid Mir visits city areas

Our correspondent
KARACHI: Apart from land mafia and tanker mafia, Karachi has been held hostage by the garbage mafia. With the removal of garbage from the city, several factories will be shutdown. The city's marine life is being rapidly vanishing as 600 Million Gallon water per Day (MGD) is dumped in the sea untreated, which is also causing trouble for the Pakistan Navy. There's a solution to every problem of this city. However, due to lack of coordination and support between the

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Taliban warn Afghan media of attacks

Say 'anti-Taliban advertisements' must stop in one week

KABUL: The United States and Afghanistan on Tuesday denounced a Taliban warning that Afghan media will be targeted unless they stop broadcasting what the group called "anti-Taliban statements." Radio stations, TV channels and other media organisations had one week to stop transmitting "anti-Taliban advertisements", the group's military commission said in a statement on Monday. "Those who continue doing so will be recognised by the group as military targets who are helping the Western-backed government of Afghanistan," it said,

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Charter of Economy, okay!

But first CoD be extended to all political parties: Saad Urges govt to quit policy of revenge; says federal budget made salaried class to cry

Our correspondent
ISLAMABAD: The fire-brand PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique said the Charter of Economy should be signed but first the Charter of Democracy be extended to all the political parties. "But it is not possible at a time we follow undemocratic behaviour and politics of revenge and then talk of Charter of Economy," he said, adding there was need to bring down the political temperature in the country in order to run the country. He pointed out that it is said that Imran Khan should not be called as the

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Judicial remand of two PTM MNAs extended

Our correspondent
BANNU: The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) here on Tuesday extended the judicial remand of Members of National Assembly (MNAs) Ali Wazir and Molsin Dawar till July 9.

The sources said that the MNAs were produced in the court in Bannu amid tight security. The court directed the concerned quarters to produce the lawmakers in the court on July 9. During the previous hearing, the court had ordered the police to produce Ali Wazir, the MNA from South Waziristan, on June 27 and Molsin Dawar, the MNA from North Waziristan, on July 3. After their production in the court on Tuesday, they were shifted to Peshawar and lodged again in the Central Prison under tight security. Though elected as independent candidates in the July 2018 general election, Ali Wazir and Molsin Dawar belong to the

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Revenue Division Federal Board of Revenue Government of Pakistan

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華商報 HUASHANG WEEKLY



INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS 26th June 2019

习近平访问朝鲜开创这些第一次 Xi Jinping's visit to North Korea marks a new beginning for both countries



习近平此次访问朝鲜，是党和国家最高领导人时隔14年再次访问朝鲜。2008年6月，中国国家副主席习近平到中央工作后，首次出访的第一站就是朝鲜。金正恩的首次出访也是选择了朝鲜。从2018年3月到今年1月，他在不到一年时间里四次访华。欢迎仪式彰显东道主热情和敬意。

当地时间6月20日中午12时，习近平乘坐专机抵达平壤顺安机场，开始了这次历史性访问。机场欢迎仪式结束后，在21辆礼宾摩托车的护卫下，习近平乘车前往此次访问的目的地——锦绣山迎宾馆。沿途有数十万群众夹道欢迎。

在平壤，习近平首先到平壤劳动党中央大楼，在这里，他接受朝鲜劳动党中央全体政治局委员和候补委员致意。随后，习近平在平壤迎宾馆会见了金正恩。金正恩在平壤迎宾馆会见了习近平，双方就当前国际形势、半岛问题、中朝关系等深入交换了意见，就共同开启中朝友好新篇章、在新时代中朝关系发展上取得更多成果、为两国人民带来更多福祉、为地区和平稳定作出更大贡献、为人类命运共同体建设作出更大贡献等深入交换了意见。

发展负责任的人工智能 中国发布八大治理原则 China has released eight governance principles for developing responsible AI



中国国家新一代人工智能治理专业委员会近日在北京发布《新一代人工智能治理原则——发展负责任的人工智能》，明确提出了开放协作、公平公正、包容共享、尊重隐私、安全可靠、共担责任、开放协作、敏捷治理等八大原则。

中国新一代人工智能治理原则，是面向全球人工智能领域相关立法工作重要基础。原则明确了人工智能治理的总目标、总原则、总要求，为人工智能治理提供了基本遵循。原则强调，人工智能治理要坚持开放协作、敏捷治理，推动全球人工智能治理合作，共同构建人类命运共同体。

原则还明确了人工智能治理的总目标、总原则、总要求。原则强调，人工智能治理要坚持开放协作、敏捷治理，推动全球人工智能治理合作，共同构建人类命运共同体。原则还明确了人工智能治理的总目标、总原则、总要求。

“钢铁丝路”联通青岛与中亚市场 The "steel and silk road" connects Qingdao with the central Asian market

近日，随着青岛胶州火车站长邯方中欧班列发车，青岛与中亚、欧洲之间的贸易往来更加便捷。青岛与中亚、欧洲之间的贸易往来更加便捷。青岛与中亚、欧洲之间的贸易往来更加便捷。

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国内一周事件摘要 Weekly Briefs in China

农业农村部：持续推进农药减量增效和使用量负增长。为深入推进农业绿色发展，农业农村部持续推进农药减量增效和使用量负增长。

央行：5月份债券市场发行各类债券3.6万亿元。5月份债券市场发行各类债券3.6万亿元，同比增长2.5%。

70城最新房价：二手房涨幅全面放缓。70城最新房价：二手房涨幅全面放缓。

十七家中国研究机构跻身全球百强。十七家中国研究机构跻身全球百强。

Advertisement for Nature magazine featuring a cover image and text about its global ranking.

智能物流让生活更便利 Smart use of vehicles makes life more convenient



美团点评副总裁陈昊颖介绍，美团配送系统通过智能调度算法，提高了配送效率。美团配送系统通过智能调度算法，提高了配送效率。

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甘肃力争未来数年儿童青少年近视率每年下降1%以上 Gansu strives to reduce the myopia rate of children and adolescents by more than 1% every year

甘肃省教育厅表示，将采取综合防控措施，力争实现儿童青少年近视率每年下降1%以上。甘肃省教育厅表示，将采取综合防控措施，力争实现儿童青少年近视率每年下降1%以上。

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小编教你学汉语和乌尔都语 Editor teaches you Chinese and Urdu

Table with columns for Chinese, Urdu, and English translations. Includes phrases like '你好', '你好吗', '早上好'.

“两桶油”掀价格战多地油价下降 Oil prices have gone down in many cities of China



受国际原油价格走低影响，国内成品油价格下调。受国际原油价格走低影响，国内成品油价格下调。

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WORLD REFRIGERATION DAY 2019

#Refrigerants4Life | June 26, 2019



WHAT ARE REFRIGERANTS?

Refrigerants are substances used in refrigeration, freezing, cryogenics, and air-conditioning. They absorb heat from one area (i.e. an air-conditioned space) and expel it into another (i.e. outdoors), usually through a phase change process.

Refrigerants should have specific thermodynamic properties to offer the required cooling effect, be easy to manufacture, affordable and compatible with systems' components.

5.6 BILLION air-conditioning units in use by 2050

WHERE ARE REFRIGERANTS USED?

Refrigerants are used in types of refrigeration, freezing, and air-conditioning applications, for example:

- They are found in domestic appliances, such as air-conditioning units, refrigerators, freezers, and dehumidifiers.
- In the food cold chain, they are used in flash freezers, cold storage facilities, and refrigerated vehicles and containers.
- In medical applications, refrigerators and refrigerated vehicles transport and maintain the potency and integrity of vaccines, blood, samples, and other medical supplies.
- Refrigeration and air-conditioning are vital to research laboratories and for keeping data centres cool enough to function.
- Air-conditioning contributes to thermal comfort on transport in public and private spaces.

WHY ARE REFRIGERANTS SO CRITICAL?

Refrigeration and air-conditioning are crucial to maintaining our modern way of life. Without them:

- Food would not be able to be stored for long periods or transported for long distances, causing food insecurity in some urban and remote areas.
- Blood banks, hospitals, and medical facilities would be unable to perform sufficiently and safely to save lives.
- Modern telephone and internet services would be unable to function.
- The lack of thermal comfort would make some places uninhabitable or uncomfortable.

3 BILLION refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump systems are in operation worldwide

RESPONSIBLE USE OF REFRIGERANTS

Correct management of refrigerants is the responsibility of all including governments, system designers, suppliers, sellers, installers, technicians and owners. Managing refrigerants responsibly means:

- Selecting lower global warming potential refrigerants for new systems and promoting relevant research.
- Using certified companies and individuals who ensure proper training, good practice, and safe use of flammable substances.
- Promoting recovery, reuse, and reclamation of refrigerants, and prohibiting release into the atmosphere.
- Careful refrigerant selection, system design, and management of operation can reduce refrigerant emissions and save energy costs.

700 MILLION air-conditioned cars in use globally today

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Most commercially available refrigerants are safe for humans and working spaces. However, they have an impact on the environment by contributing to global warming and/or ozone depletion. Alternative refrigerants are available but some have flammability, high-pressure, or toxicity that require proper management.

Newer energy efficient equipment can save owners money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

4m refrigerated trucks and 600m³ of refrigerated warehouse preserves 400m tonnes of food per year

WHAT IS AN 'R' NUMBER?

Refrigerants are numbered with and assigned an R-XXX number in accordance to ASHRAE Standards-34.

The numbers following the letter "R" represent the number of fluorine, hydrogen, and carbon atoms counted through specific formula.

In some cases, the numbers are followed by a small letter like R-134a which represents the molecules' arrangement in a refrigerant. In other cases it is followed by a capital letter which corresponds to the composition and percentage of different refrigerants that make up a blend refrigerant like R-410A.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF REFRIGERANTS?

Family name	Examples	Comments
Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)	CFC-11 CFC-12	Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) that have been phased out under the Montreal Protocol since 2010
Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)	HCFC-22 HCFC-123	Another group of ODSs group that are in the process of being phased out under the Montreal Protocol by 2030
Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC)	HFC-134a HFC-32	HFCs were introduced in the 1990s as alternatives to CFCs and HCFCs. Most HFCs have higher global warming potential (GWP) values and are now controlled by Montreal Protocol to be phased down to different levels by middle of the century
Hydrocarbon (HC)	HC-290 (propane) HC-600a (iso-butane)	HCs are being used as alternatives in various applications. They have very low GWP values
Hydrofluoroolefin (HFO)	HFO-1234yf, HFO-1234ze	HFOs are recently developed chemicals being used as alternatives in various applications. HFOs are also referred to as unsaturated HFCs. They have short atmospheric lifetime and very low GWP values
Blends (HFCs or HFCs/HFOs or others)	R-404A R-410A R-454A R-448B	Blends are widely used nowadays, some are with high/higher GWP values while most recent ones have lower GWP values
Non-organic fluids	R-744 (Carbon Dioxide, CO2) R-717 (Ammonia)	Alternatives that can be used in several applications. They are very low GWP values

WHAT ACTION IS NEEDED

- Careful refrigerant selection, system design, and management of operation can reduce refrigerant emissions and save energy costs.
- Selecting lower global warming potential refrigerants for new systems, where feasible, and promote relevant research.
- Promoting recovery, reuse, reclamation of refrigerants and prohibiting release into the atmosphere.
- Using certified companies and individuals to ensure good practice and servicing, and safe use of flammable refrigerants.

Social Media Pakistan 03456738217

WORLD REFRIGERATION DAY JUNE 26, 2019

#Refrigerants4Life



World Refrigeration Day Secretariat
www.worldrefrigerationday.com/
info@worldrefrigerationday.org

Refrigerants for Life Campaign
www.worldrefrigerationday.org/refrigerantsforlife

UN Environment OzonAction
www.unenvironment.org/ozonaction/
ayman.etalouny@un.org/ anne.fenner@un.org

ASHRAE
www.ashrae.org/refrigeration
ashrae@ashrae.org

National Ozone Unit, Ministry of Climate Change
Government of Pakistan

www.mocc.gov.pk
info@nou.gov.pk



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Crunch meeting

Photo shows containers on a ship at the Qingdao Port Foreign Trade Container Terminal, in Qingdao, in China's eastern Shandong province. Top Chinese and US trade negotiators have held telephone talks ahead of a crunch meeting between presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump at the G20 summit this week, Chinese state media said on Tuesday—AFP



STRUGGLING ECONOMY

LSM shrinks 7.76pc in April, 3.51pc in first 10 months

Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: The large-scale manufacturing (LSM) sector shrank 7.76 percent in April – a fifth straight month fall – from year ago and 9.40 percent from the previous month, offering further evidence of a sharp slowdown in economic growth in the last quarter of outgoing fiscal year.

The LSM in first ten months of the current fiscal year of 2018/19 posted a 3.51 percent decline over the same period of the last fiscal year, data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) showed.

The downbeat data showed more troubles ahead for the shrinking manufacturing sector, already struggling with decline in cheap loans and high cost of business on spike in policy rate and devaluation of rupee.

"Besides other issues, comparatively expensive borrowing and rupee devaluation are hitting the industries hard and increasing the cost of production while squeezing the value of assets and capital," an industrialist said. "Investors are standing at bay and waiting for stability in rupee and interest rates to take future business decisions."

Rupee has lost over a quarter of its value over the past year. Economy expanded 3.3 percent in fiscal 2018/19 and growth is set to slow further next fiscal year as the government's efforts to reduce debt risks curb credit flows to the private sector, while a stringent fiscal measures dents industrial activity.

PBS data showed that top performers were electronics that grew 0.56 percent and fertilizers grew 0.26 percent during the first ten months. However, leather products, engineering products, rubber products and wood products showed almost zero growth.

Food beverages and tobacco production declined 1.51 percent, followed by automobile sector with decline 0.71 percent.

Pharmaceuticals production declined by 0.60 percent, iron & steel 0.48 percent, non-metallic mineral products 0.44 percent, coke & petroleum products 0.39 percent, paper & board 0.19 percent and textiles production reduced by 0.89 percent during July-April 2018/19 over same period of last year.

In July-April, all the data collection authorities, including Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC), ministry of industries and provincial bureau of statistics registered decrease in production over the corresponding period a year earlier.

Ministry of industries, measuring output trend of 36 items, recorded a 3.01 percent fall in output during the first ten months. OCAC, logging outputs of 11 oil and petroleum products, measured a 0.89 pc decrease, while provincial bureau of statistics, counting output of 65 products, logged a negative growth of 0.11 percent during the period under review over corresponding of last year.

Sugar production fell 18.30 percent to 5.275 million tons in the July-April 2018/19, while in April 2019, its production decreased by 53.52 percent over same month of last year. Cotton yarn production increased by 0.02 percent to 2.850 million tons in these ten months, and in April it increased by 0.3 percent.

Cement output was down 4.38 percent to 33.48 million tons, while it increased 4.23 percent year-on-year in April 2019. Cars and jeeps production declined 2.83 percent to 100,913 in ten-month period, while 27.19 percent dip was seen in April.

PEST INVASION

Growers send out SOS as locusts swarm six districts in Sindh

Shahid Shah

KARACHI: Aerial spray has been started in areas affected by locust swarms in Khairpur, but growers demand the Sindh government to declare an emergency and army action, as the pests have spread to six districts of the province.

A high level meeting was held at the Sindh government level on Tuesday, where Sindh Agriculture Minister Muhammad Ismail Rahoo said his department would bear all costs of the pesticide application.

Seral Nisar Hussain Khaskheli, president, Sindh Chamber of Agriculture Khairpur district, told The News that aerial sprays conducted in Khairpur had not been effective so far, as locusts had moved to 50 points in the district from 30 points one week ago. "Starting from Nara and Mirwah talukas, it has entered into Kot Diji taluka desert as well," he said.

He said only two vehicles were participating in the spray, while the locust population had reached an alarming number.

To find an effective strategy to cope with the locusts, a meeting headed by Sindh Agriculture Minister Muhammad Ismail Rahoo and Sindh

Chief Secretary Syed Muntaz Ali Shah was held on Tuesday at the Sindh Secretariat.

Member Board of Revenue, all divisional commissioners of Sindh, officials of Federal Plant Protection Department and FAO of United Nations attended the meeting. It analysed the damage to crops. Officers briefed the meeting that locusts had attacked crops in different areas of Khairpur, Shaheed Benazirabad (Nawabshah), Jamshoro, Matiari and Sangar districts. Locusts entered Sindh via Balochistan from Iran, the meeting was told, while aerial spray was started from Khairpur.

Rahoo said currently locusts were not in the position to harm the crops on a wider level, and the pests would be stopped before doing so. He said Sindh government would bear the cost of spray and there would be no burden on growers.

The minister also informed that a media campaign would be run for awareness among growers. Sindh government was taking emergency steps to stop the locusts attack, cotton and other crops would be saved, he added.

A control room has been created in the office of chief secretary Sindh to monitor the situation in all the districts, while committees of govern-

ment officials have been formed at the district level. These committees would include district management, officers of the agriculture department and federal plant protection department.

The meeting said agriculture officers in Sukkur would be trained with UN assistance. However, growers, who are the major stakeholders, have not been included in the committees.

Chief Secretary Syed Muntaz Ali Shah said SUDPARCO would also be contacted to survey the locust attacks. "All multinational companies will be asked to make pesticides available for timely spray," he added.

Nisar Khaskheli, however, said the locust attacks were beyond Sindh government domain, as it was a federal subject, while Plant Protection Department also had a locust control unit in it. "It cannot be controlled without army support," he added. Pointing to the distance, he said planes were coming from Sukkur airport, while two nearby airports including a gas field airport could be utilised as there was need to increase the operation manifolds. He said that the current operation was not useful enough against the increasing locusts.

"Deputy Commissioner of Khairpur, avoiding the heat in the day time, visited the deserted area at 9:00pm in the evening, when locusts are not visible," Khaskheli said. "What report will he generate when locusts do not show at this time?"

He said growers were the affected people, but they were not invited in any of the meetings and visits of the areas, as they demanded transparent operations. Cotton was the most endangered crop, as growers had already put 80 percent investment on it. Rice seed was ready, which would be planted in fields by next week, hence, that could also be vulnerable, Khaskheli added.

Locusts had also appeared in Manjhand, Dadu district near the Indus River. It needed moisture to increase population. Currently, 20 percent locusts have entered the irrigated areas, while 80 percent were still roaming in the deserted and non-irrigated areas.

"It can be controlled through aerial spray in the deserted areas, but once it has fully entered irrigated lands, it will be difficult, as spray is dangerous for livestock," he said.

Last locust attack was recorded in 1963 in Khairpur deserted areas, which had entered from Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Iran," he said.

Comment

Amidst the recent displays of chest-thumping by both governments (US and Iran), markets are defaulting to a flight-to-safety mode, as they wait to find out what will actually transpire (in the near-term)



Han Tan
Market Analyst, FTI Global

Rupee remains flat

Our correspondent

The rupee closed almost flat against the dollar in the interbank market on Tuesday, dealers said. It ended at 156.99 against the greenback, little changed from its Monday's closing of 156.69.

The currency was range-bound because of normal dollar demand from importers.

Sentiment stayed positive as Qatar pledged \$3 billion bailout package for Pakistan in the form of currency deposit and direct investment, dealers said.

In the open market, the rupee also maintained its overnight level of 156.90 against the dollar.

The Qatar bailout package will take the combined bilateral loans during the current fiscal year to \$12.7 billion.

The reports of signing letter of intent and memorandum of economic and financial policies by Pakistan's Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance Dr Hafeez Shaikh and State Bank of Pakistan Governor Reza Baqir for securing approval of \$6 billion loan from the IMF's Executive Board also improved sentiment.

Dealers expect the rupee to maintain stable trend against the greenback this week due to the lack of big import and debt payments.

"The currency is likely to trade at the current levels in the coming sessions in the absence of payment pressure," a forex dealer at a large commercial bank said.

CORPORATE PROFITABILITY

MNCs repatriate \$1.673b in July-May

Our correspondent

KARACHI: Repatriation of profits and dividends by foreign companies operating in Pakistan stood at \$1.673 billion in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year, down 25.21 percent from a year earlier, figures published by the State Bank of Pakistan showed on Tuesday.

However, earnings repatriated by multinational companies rose to \$436.1 million in May from \$188.4 million in the previous month.

Analysts said economic slowdown, falling profitability of corporates, and currency depreciation have made it harder for many MNCs to repatriate more cash from Pakistan.

"Repatriation of profit on foreign investment continue to decline, as the corporate sector's margins remained under pressure with the local currency seeing a sharp devaluation," an analyst said.

"This shows returns on existing investments are going down, which is not a healthy sign for the future prospect of foreign investment."

The profits and dividend are paid in rupee and then converted into dollar to be sent by foreign companies.

The rupee has fallen by 38 percent in 2018. The payments on foreign direct investment (FDI) fell to \$1.445 billion in July-May FY19 from \$1.946 billion a year ago. The payments on foreign portfolio investment stood at

\$228.0 million, compared with \$200.7 million in the same period of last year.

The decline in Chinese investments, rising cost of doing business and economic slowdown drag on FDI. FDI flows shrank 49.2 percent to \$1,006 billion in July-May FY19.

The central bank's data showed that some key sectors, such as food, power, communications, financial business, and oil and gas exploration remitted lower profits to their headquarters abroad.

The power sector repatriated \$129.7 million worth of profits, whereas it had repatriated a much higher profit of \$231.6 million last year.

Profit outflows from the financial businesses stood at \$251.1 million, compared with \$289.3 million in the 11 months of FY18.

Outflow of profits from telecommunications amounted to \$256.5 million during July-May. The outflows were \$27.8 million in the corresponding period last year.

Energy firms repatriated \$215.9 million, compared with \$245 million in the same period last year.

The squeeze in profit repatriation on foreign investment helped ease some of the pressures on the current account.

Pakistan posted a current account deficit of \$12.678 billion in July-May FY19, narrowing from a deficit of \$17.926 billion a year earlier.

TRADE BOOST

UK envoy says enhanced export financing to help SMEs in Pakistan

Shahnawaz Akhter

KARACHI: Britain's move to increase export financing for Pakistani export firms by 150 percent bears witness to UK government's confidence on its trustworthiness trade partner, a trade commissioner said on Tuesday.

"Usually this sort financing was used to facilitate British companies; however, this financing will be used for promoting export of Pakistan to the UK through various projects and infrastructure development loan programs," Simon Penny, Regional Trade Commissioner for MEAP (Middle East, Africa, and Pakistan), said at a media briefing.

Penny, who was on his first visit to Pakistan, met with many key policymakers and business community leaders in a bid to boost trade between the two countries.

Referring to the increase of the UK's export financing to Pakistan to one billion pounds from 400 million pounds, he said this showed the level of British government's commitment to Pakistan.

The UK trade commissioner said this financing would be available for long-term and small companies in Pakistan could benefit from this program.

He added that any Pakistani company that intended to purchase from the UK would be able to avail this financing through UK Export Credit

Agency. Penny said the purpose of his visit was to identify the way how both the trade partners work together so that trade volume could be enhanced.

The trade volume between the two countries was 3.1 billion pounds during 2017/2018 and trade balance was in favor of Pakistan.

Pakistan exports 1.9 billion pounds worth of goods to the UK, while its imports from the Britain stand at \$1.2 billion pounds.

Talking about Brexit, Penny said that EU had granted GSP+ status to Pakistan allowing imports at concessional duty rates. "Pakistan will have same benefits post Brexit as the UK in-

tends to replicate the GSP+ program for Pakistan," he added.

He said around 25 British companies were operational in Pakistan and making good returns.

"The companies are making around 0-10 percent profit, which is very good profit margin for offshore companies," Penny added.

He further said Pakistan had the potential to grow its trade and the UK was engaged to project the true picture before the world. "There are immense opportunities in Pakistan, especially after improvement in ease of doing business," the trade commissioner said.

He said 5000 UK firms were operational in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) but those companies had not realised the potential of Pakistan. "We need to project Pakistan as a better place for investment as working environment has improved," he added.

The trade commissioner said the British Airways had resumed its Pakistan operation and more entrants from the UK would enter Pakistani market in the coming days.

Elin Burns, Deputy High Commissioner and Trade Director for Pakistan, was also present at the briefing. Burns said the resumption of British Airways operations to Pakistan would encourage more companies to invest in the South Asian country.

Net change	281.33	Closing	34,190.62	Total turnover	1.448bbn
Percentage change	0.82%	Opening	34,471.95	Market capitalisation	Rs6,906trln

Energy	Change %	Rate		
Crude oil	+0.07	\$57.97/barrel		
Brent crude	+0.40	\$65.26/barrel		
NYMEX gas	+0.02	\$1.87/mmbtu		
Metals				
Gold	+8.61	\$1,427.76/ounce		
Silver	-0.00	\$15.43/ounce		
Copper	+0.04	\$2.74/ounce		
Commodities				
Corn	-3.00	\$49.75USC/bushel		
Wheat	-0.50	\$37.50USC/bushel		
Sugar	+0.12	\$23.90USC/lb		
Cotton	+0.25	\$62.55USC/lb		
World Stocks				
Dow Jones	26,692.93	-34.61	-0.13%	(11:30am EDT)
Nasdaq	7,954.814	-50.88	-0.64%	(11:30am EDT)
NYSE 100	7,425.28	+8.59	+0.12%	(11:30am EDT)
Nikkei	21,193.81	-92.18	-0.43%	(01:30pm EDT)
Hang Seng	28,185.98	-327.02	-1.15%	(04:00pm EDT)

Intraday high	34,471.95	Intraday low	33,994.60
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MAJOR GAINERS	118	KSE-30 Index	16,160.24	% Change	0.78
MAJOR LOSERS	193	KSE-All Share Index	25,056.88	% Change	0.87

Stocks lose as gas tariff hike fears weigh amid lack of triggers

Our correspondent

Stocks on Tuesday remained on the rocks for the second session in a row as a proposed hike in gas tariff seen bearing down on corporate earnings outlook and speculations of Pakistan's possible downgrade in MSC's review scared investors into selling or staying on the sidelines, dealers said.

Topline Securities in a report said equities extended losses as a likely increase in gas price weighed on investors' sentiments to take fresh positions, because most of the sectors would not be able to pass on higher cost of production to consumers amidst lower aggregate demand.

Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX)

benchmark KSE-100 shares index lost 0.82 percent or 281.33 points to close at 34,190.62 points, while KSE-30 went down by 0.78 percent or 127.21 points to end at 16,160.24 points. Of 343 active scrips, 118 moved up, 193 retreated, and 32 remained unchanged. The ready market volumes stood at 144,840 million shares, compared to 78,764 million in the previous session.

Muhammad Faizan Mursheeq, head of foreign institutions at Next Capital, said the market continued to fall, taking inspiration from Monday's close amid bleak economic outlook and the absence of any positive triggers. "Negative sentiments were also fueled by the statement of the outgoing FATF (Financial Action Task Force) president Marshall Billingslea that

Pakistan has failed to implement the action plan and there is a possibility of it being placed in their blacklist in October 2019," Mursheeq said.

Ahsan Mehanati, analyst at Arif Habib Corporation, said stocks closed lower on higher trades amid global equity sell-off. "Post budget uncertainty, dismal economic data on CPI inflation, exports, expected hike in gas tariff and uncertainty over fate of rupee-dollar parity dragged the index down," Mehanati added.

The share market was once again on the selling side and received a heavy jolt during the session with the index hitting the session low of 33,994 points. However, with eleven-hour recovery helped the market close above 34,000 points' level.

According to a leading research analyst the market was down on the back of reports that MSC might downgrade Pakistan's credit rating as a result of a continuous decline in share values, the market capitalisation has been unable to meet the criteria. Nevertheless, there is a possibility that buffer rule might save the day, and downward review might delay for the quarter.

Another factor which eroded sentiment was the gas price increase, which, according to the same analyst if approved by the federal cabinet, might drag a backlash from the political parties and prove negative for the economy in general. Inflation, which is feared to escalate down the line, will increase the cost of doing

business, making products uncompetitive at the global markets. The highest gainers were Philip Morris Pakistan, up Rs148.13 to close at Rs696.65/share, and Bata Pakistan, up Rs64 to finish at Rs1400/share.

Companies that booked highest losses were Nestle Pakistan, down Rs232.18 to close at Rs6685.32/share, and Unilever Foods, down Rs165 to close at Rs5500/share.

Electric Limited recorded the highest volumes with a turnover of 21.355 shares. The scrip lost Rs0.04 to close at Rs4.21/share. The lowest volumes were witnessed in Chemat Cement recording a turnover of 4.127 million shares, whereas the scrip gained Rs0.07 to end at Rs1.47/share.

■ TASHKENT MEETING

Business, trade bodies of J&K urge to resume LoC-trade

By our correspondent

LAHORE: Regional trade bodies, including the chambers of commerce working cross-LoC in Jammu and Kashmir have called for resuming intra-Kashmir trade without any delay. The demand was raised at a meeting of traders and some independent entrepreneurs, who met for a 'Jammu and Kashmir Cross-Line of Control Business Track II' in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from June 23 to 25. The meeting was facilitated by Conciliation Resources as part of its support to the Cross-LoC Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) since 2009. The participants took a comprehensive view of the CBMs initiated by the governments of India and Pakistan since 2005. They acknowledged the fact that various CBMs like trade and travel across LoC, in their limited scope, have contributed in trust building and enhancing shared understanding between

regions and communities. Participants were of the unanimous view that agreement on opening of the LoC for travel of divided families and further allowing it for trade was a demonstration of statemanship of the leadership of India and Pakistan. The participants, particularly, the cross-LoC traders said that responding to the CBMs agreed by the governments of India and Pakistan, they sustained the cross-LoC trade with emotional investment despite severe financial risks and procedural and operational difficulties usually associated with barter trade. They also noted with concern and regret that after launch of trade on an ad-hoc and ad hoc model in 2008, the respective governments did not do enough to put the mechanisms on modern lines which left it vulnerable to possible misuse. They regretted that the trade had to be suspended by the government on the Indian side,

with effect from April 18, 2019, for no fault of genuine traders. The abrupt suspension of trade has resulted in avoidable opportunity loss. They also noted with deep regret that the peace building and economic potential of cross-LoC trade could not be realised to its optimum strength due to a variety of reasons. The participants acknowledged the political sensitivities and difficulties in actualising the spirit behind softening of LoC, but they vehemently asserted that businesses could be viewed separately from politics as in the case of India-Pakistan International Trade, which has continued uninterrupted despite many bilateral setbacks. The participants called upon the governments of India and Pakistan to take a comprehensive review of the modalities and technical mechanism to restore trade as early as possible. The participating business chambers from

both sides of the divide assured their respective governments of their full support and assistance in putting the trade on modern and transparent lines to the benefit of economic development and peace in J&K. Participants also called upon the J&K Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JKJCCI), a consortium of regional chambers in Srinagar, Jammu and Mirpur, to closely work with the authorities and traders for early resumption of trade. JKJCCI President Rakesh Gupta, Joint Presidents Sheikh Ashiq (President Kashmir Chamber) and Sohail Shujah (Mirpur) reiterated their commitment to liaise between government authorities, traders and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that real intention behind this unique CBM was not lost. Participation of women entrepreneurs from both sides of the LoC was one of the key highlights of the Tashkent meeting.

Weekly SPI edges lower by 0.09 percent

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The Sensitive price indicator (SPI) for the week ended June 20 decreased slightly by 0.09 percent over the previous week and rose a whopping 11.87 percent as compared to weekly inflation in the corresponding period last year, official data showed on Tuesday. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data showed that weekly inflation for the combined income group declined to 257.41 points, from 257.63 points last week. SPI for income group up to Rs8,000 declined 0.08 percent during the week under review as compared to the preceding week, while registering an increase of 0.42 percent, compared to weekly inflation in the corresponding period last year. Weekly inflation for the group earning Rs8,001 to Rs12,000 decreased by 0.13 percent. The SPI for the people earning between Rs12,001 and Rs18,000 declined 0.13 percent, and for those making Rs18,001 and Rs25,000 it went down 0.11 percent. The income group earning above Rs25,000 recorded the lowest decrease of 0.04 percent; however, the weekly SPI increased a whopping 16.03 percent for this quintile compared to the corresponding period last year. PBS computed the weekly price trend of 53 essential items from 17 urban centres. Average prices of seven goods decreased during the week ended on June 20 over the previous week. The items which recorded the highest decrease in average prices were onions, down 12.35 percent to Rs49.73/kg, broiler and farm chicken, down 6.73 percent to Rs159.65/kg, tomatoes, down 4.33 percent to Rs41.14/kg, and bananas, down 3.79 percent to Rs111.26/dozen. Nominal decrease in prices was registered by LPG cylinder, refined sugar, and rice 4m-6. Prices of 21 items registered an increase, including cigarettes, unpacked and tinned vegetable ghee, wheat flour, garlic, white lentil, pulse moong, plain bread, average quality gaur, beef, eggs, orange lentil, broken basmati rice, tinned cooking oil, gram, fresh milk, and yogurt. Average prices of 25 items remained unchanged.



ESTEL: A worker carries boxes with tobacco leaves at a farm in Nicaragua. The Latin American country is consolidating as the largest exporter of cigars to the US. —AFP

15 PERCENT DECLINE

'CNG sales to hit rock bottom if prices jacked again'

By Javed Mirza

KARACHI: Sales of compressed natural gas (CNG) have slumped over 15 percent since January 2019 when the government had jacked the prices of smokeless fuel by 40 percent and are likely to hit rock bottom if a hike proposed in finance bill 2019/20 is approved, industry officials said on Tuesday. "The CNG sales have dropped to around 180 mmmcf (million cubic feet per day) from 215 mmmcf earlier," Ghayas Paracha, chairman All Pakistan CNG Association (APCNGA) said in a statement. "The government has proposed another increase of 31 percent, which we reject as this would result in a total collapse of the industry." Paracha said further surge in gas prices would not only push the CNG station out of business, but also dent the national exchequer on account of a bloated oil import bill. "According to our estimates, the country will have to import an additional \$3 billion worth of

petroleum products in the absence of this environmentally-friendly fuel," the APCNGA leader said. Moreover, closure of CNG industry will also increase circular debt as the sector pays for the gas three-months in advance, he said. "The CNG sector cannot bear the burden of increased taxes on LNG proposed in the budget," Paracha said. Shabbir Sulemanji, president CNG Association Sindh, said the industry sales had declined by around 30 percent since the start of this year. The CNG sales in Sindh that once used to be 85mmcf had declined to 60mmcf. "Continuous load-shedding of gas for the CNG stations and ever-increasing prices hit the sales, while a significant number of station owners have suspended their operations as the business is not profitable anymore," Sulemanji added. He said another round of price increase was on the cards, if approved it would be the last nail in the coffin of the CNG sector. "CNG is an alternate and eco-friendly fuel. It is also known as the common man's fuel. Since the

gap between petrol and CNG is shrinking, consumers are preferring petrol. If petrol consumption increases it will also lead to more flight of the dollar, as more petrol will be imported into the country," Sindh CNG association leader said. Moreover, the statement said that APCNGA had urged the government not to give a go-ahead to the proposal to increase customs duty on the import of LNG as it was against the interests of millions of consumers. "The hike in taxes and duties will increase the price of LNG by Rs6/litre, which would reduce its consumption, increase transportation cost, hit environment and balloon oil import bill," the association said in the statement. It may be mentioned here that the government has proposed 5.0 percent customs duty and 10 percent federal excise duty (FED) on import of LNG in the Finance Bill. The proposed taxes, if implemented, will damage the CNG sector, leave hundreds of thousands unemployed and lay waste to the investment of Rs4.5 trillion, he warned.

BRIEFS

Gold prices climb to Rs80,500/ola

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Gold continued its upwards momentum on Tuesday, and increased by Rs1,300/ola to Rs80,500/ola from Rs79,200 on the previous day. According to rates announced by All Sindh Saraf and Jewellers Association, price of 10 gram gold moved up by Rs1,115 to Rs69,016 from Rs67,901/10 gram a day ago. In the international market gold traded at \$1,429/ounce, up \$21 from \$1,408/ounce. Traders said that despite an increase of Rs1,300/ola in the local market in a day, local market was going under cost by Rs2,500/ola. A continuous surge in gold prices in the international market and unstable rupee were the two major reasons behind the surge in prices, they said.

SECP facilitates mutual funds

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has revamped the regulatory framework for the mutual funds industry to meet the changing industry dynamics, implementing international best practices, safeguarding investors' and adding to the ease of doing business, a statement said on Tuesday. The corporate regulator said after a lengthy consultative process with the Mutual Fund Association of Pakistan (MUFAP), a number of measures had been introduced recently, which include replacing seed capital requirements of Rs200 million with minimum fund size of Rs100 million to offer flexibility in launching new mutual funds. The SECP said it has also allowed charging selling and marketing expense to fund, charging of back office accounting expenses and granting permission for charging sales load on direct investment and on-online investment which was earlier restricted. In order to promote ease of doing business the Commission on June 20, 2019 also approved further amendments in the NBFC Regulations 2008 to provide for operational flexibility to asset management companies (AMCs), the statement said.

FPCCI hails Qatar Emir's visit

By our correspondent

KARACHI: The recent visit of Emir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani will go a long way in promotion of bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Qatar. This was stated by Daroo Khan Achakzai, president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in a statement. The visit would open new opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation, he said, adding that the economic partnership between Pakistan and Qatar was expanding with the passage of time and had reached \$9 billion, including \$3 billion cash deposited in the State Bank of Pakistan, \$3 billion as foreign direct investment (FDI) and \$3 billion for other projects, which will help Pakistan bring out of the economic crisis. Commenting on trade relations, Achakzai said, at present, the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries stood at \$2.4 billion, which is in favour of Qatar due to LNG import in large volumes during the last two years. Pakistan has considered Qatar as one of its major export destinations and lucrative market where the volume of traditional exports such as textiles, fruits, carpets, footwear, sports goods, leather, furniture, especially surgical instruments can be increased by aggressive marketing and close interaction of the business community and the private sector, the FPCCI president said.

PCJCCI conducts B2B meetings

By our correspondent

LAHORE: Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) conducted various business-to-business (B2B) meetings in automobile sector at the Punjab Agri Expo 2019, a statement said on Tuesday. The PCJCCI initiated the meeting with, Shifeng and Duihuda, a leading Chinese agricultural machinery and automobile manufacturing company. Various companies such as Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers, Guard Group, Master Motor Corporation, Jaffer Brothers, Rimtal Industries and Sazgar Engineering Works Limited were the part of this meeting.

Meezan Bank, IBM collaborate

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Meezan Bank has recently announced its partnership with IBM (International Business Machines Corporation) to accelerate its digital transformation, a statement said on Tuesday. The new solution will enable real-time analysis of data and help the bank uncover customer behavioral insights, it added. With a network of over 670 branches in more than 180 cities in Pakistan, the bank will utilise IBM's data analytics to improve and personalise customer experience, provide new efficiencies to the bank's operations and mitigate financial risks. Currently, Meezan Bank serves more than two million customers. The new partnership will enable the bank to develop insights to improve customer acquisition, servicing, as well as overall productivity. "We continue to invest heavily in technology and I am confident that this Data Analytics project will be a game changer," said Arifal Ismail, deputy CEO of Meezan Bank. "IBM's technologies are disrupting our lives at an accelerated pace, and it is our endeavor to deliver as per the expectations of our customers using the tools that new technologies will give us. The future of banking depends on the speed with which we can adapt these new realities."

■ FEATURE

Contaminated weed fodder increasing infertility, malnourishment in cattle

By Jan Khaskhail

HYDERABAD: Wajid Ali, a livestock farmer in a small village of Matriari district, did not understand the odour in grass fodder he collected daily from different cotton fields in this cattle. He observed that his animals were either reluctant to eat the weeds and grass, or just pecked at it very lazily, despite the fondness they had for the greens, which were nutrient-rich and easily digestible. Traditionally, poor livestock farmers collect weeds from different cotton fields to feed their animals. It helps them avoid the unbearable cost of fodders like wheat straw, maize, and sorghum, all of which are available at high rates in the local markets. It is a daily routine of a large number of livestock farmers from the village to leave their abodes early in the morning for collecting a variety of wild weeds from nearby crops. But now the herders have been experiencing this disturbing phenomenon, where animals do not eat the weeds due to the bad odour emanating probably because of the pesticides that cotton farmers use to get rid of unwanted plants. Wajid Ali said the issue was not just that the cattle were not eating weeds. "The issue is that the

animals are losing fertility and productivity due to increasing nutritional deficiencies," he added. Weeds were the main source for herders to nourish their animals and maintain their fertility. It was a cheap and easily accessible fodder for them. But now the nutrient-rich fodder has become useless due to obvious reasons. Information gathered from herders in different areas shows that normally healthy animals take a period of 18 months to two years for breeding. But now small-scale farmers have observed that increasing nutritional deficiencies were delaying reproductive maturity till three to four years, and sometimes five to six years in some animals, leaving farmers in helpless situation. Under a traditional crop management pact, growers allow herders to clean weeds from their crops. It is a give and take arrangement. Farmers get rid of weeds this way, and herders get cheap fodder for their animals. Enayat Unar, a farmer in Matriari district, said it was an understanding among farmers that weeds constantly invade crops and they preferred to control it naturally. They used to clean grasses for animals to manage crop plants to grow. Earlier, farmers used pesticides to get rid of insects, but now they were also using pesticides to kill

weeds. This had not only created problems for herders, but also for rural families, who collect wild vegetables from fields for domestic consumption. Unar said many farmers unknowingly use more pesticides on all crops, thus contaminating grass fodder, water sources, and the overall environment. "That is why many traditional livestock farmers in rural areas keep their animals at makeshift farms," he added. Dr Pershoham Khatri, chairman, Department of Animal Reproduction at Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, said in the past, animals grazed openly, which also allowed them freedom to mate and breed. "But now the situation has changed and mostly animals are fed at cattle pens instead of being allowed to graze in open pastures," he added. This lack of freedom coupled with the failure of poor and small herders to arrange for sufficient nutrients for their animals were the main reasons behind the emerging infertility, he added. "Animals wandering in open grazing fields prefer to eat a variety of plants, reducing the risks and chances of poisoning from any single plant species," Dr Khatri said. In this natural environment, animals rarely died from over ingestion of toxic plants, provided they have a variety of forages to eat. Also, grazing fields were not contaminated by pesticides.

John Ashley, nutrition-sensitive specialist and coordinator European Union (EU)-funded Programme for improved nutrition in Sindh (PINS-1) said that much of the locally-grown foods in Sindh were unsafe, and contaminated by synthetic pesticides, despite the fact that the provincial government has rules and regulations on governing pesticide practices. Ashley was quoted in a recent workshop on integrated pest management (IPM) in Hyderabad, where he said the current situation was very nasty, poisonous and synthetic pesticides were being used to kill insects to save fruits and cash crops. "It was fine but it was also killing people, as synthetic pesticides were toxic for both insects and people, he said. "Food safety is a component of food and nutrition security that needs urgent attention. It is a silent crisis, less visible than crises caused by drought, flood or earthquake, though impacting millions of people. Pesticides have indirect negative consequences on our health. These include poisoning of air we breathe, there is a surge in visit to rural clinics during cotton spraying times," he shared observations. In fact there were a variety of weeds in fields and grazing pastures. Some weeds were toxic or poi-

sonous to livestock, while certain weeds were indigestible, causing a reduction in total intake. Similarly, some weed species have thorns or spines that could injure the grazing animal's mouth and irritate its eyes. Other weeds could taste the milk and meat of livestock to have a negative taste or odour. "By using synthetic pesticides, we are reducing the nutrient-rich weeds, which were beneficial for the growth of animals. Thus they preferred to collect these grasses from crops. The earlier trend of open grazing has largely been vanished due to increased crop cultivation, leaving no space for animal rearing. Livestock is the second largest sector after agriculture, which provides livelihood and food sources to the major portion of population. Since 2006, there has been no livestock census to determine accurate on-field data in different areas. In recent debates by experts, livestock department officials, researchers and academia in the province have realised the impacts of nutrition deficiency in livestock, which causes infertility and unproductivity in animals. They suggested growers to adapt alternatives pesticides, which could be made of plants like neem and others to kill insects only, instead of using synthetic pesticides that kill nutrient-rich weeds.

■ **INSTEPINTERVIEW**

“I think I have a dream cast.” – Saqib Malik

The director speaks to *Instep* about his first feature film *Baaji*, casting Meera in the principal role and his love for cinema.

By **Buraq Shabbir**

After directing over a 1000 TVCs and a range of music videos including the critically acclaimed *Khannay* (Fuzon) and *Nu Re Nu*, (Ali Azmat) in a career that spans over three decades, director Saqib Malik is finally making his film directorial debut with a feature film, titled *Baaji*.

Scheduled to release across Pakistan and internationally on June 28, the film revolves around the world of cinema and marks Meera's return to the big screen in the post-revival age of modern cinema.

“The journey of this film goes back many years; almost 45 years, the day when I first stepped into the cinema and was transfixed by the big screen,” captain of the ship, Saqib Malik, told *Instep* at a meet and greet session in Karachi. “Everybody who knew me as a kid knew that I wanted to make a movie. Today, all my friends say ‘you have finally done it; it has taken you this long.’”

“My film would have been the first film of the revival had I made a film at the right time,

he continued. “I had announced a film called *Ajabi Sheher Main*, written by Sar-mad Khoosat, around 2005-2006 with Shaan [Shahid], Meera, Ali Zafar and Tooba. Unfortunately, it couldn't be made. There were many projects that I started on, scripts that I worked on and was about to shoot a couple of them as well but that didn't happen either. It took a long time getting here because I took the route through advertising; I have made over a 1000 television commercials, I did music videos. Finally, I decided that I have an idea in mind and I thought this is the right time and the right story so I just went for it.”

Baaji operates in the world of cinema. It has glitz, glamour and a dark side that seems to devour. If we go by the trailer, it looks promising and expectations are very high.

When asked where the inspiration for the film came from, Saqib replied, “I wanted to make a film that had story; I was always inspired by the world of cinema and I thought there was a great story to tell because right now we are at a

crossroads as far as our film industry is concerned. The story is about a hero who is from a certain world of cinema that is no longer relevant and a certain new cinema order [has taken over]. And it is a story of that hero. It is the perfect timing and it won't come again. It is the end of Lollywood as we know it and the emergence of a new order of the cinema. The heroine, who is a star of the former cinema, is stuck in the middle and wants to make a comeback. Meera is the perfect person to play the role. She is familiar with that age of cinema, she has remained a super star of that cinema and she is still relevant today.”

Saqib also informed that when he started thinking of this topic he really thought that the only person who could do this character is Meera. He was fascinated by Meera's persona and what she would represent in the minds of people today and the character that she'd come to represent. “I was kind of inspired by her,” he admitted.

The cast including Meera, Osman Khalid Butt, Anna Ilyas and Molsin Abbas Haider and



the director are presently busy with the film's promotions. After concluding their promotional spell in Pakistan earlier this week, they are now heading to Dubai where the film will be releasing at the same time.

“I think I have a dream cast. I think it was tailor made,” the director said. “The cast is what I feel to have them on-board.” Both Anna and Meera are leads in it; Anna has done an amazing job, Osman, Molsin and Ali Kazim are amazing actors in their own right. All of them were hassle free; they have put their heart and soul into the film.”

Baaji is a 2 hours and 10 minutes long social drama-thriller, which is a tribute to the classical age of Pakistani cinema when Pakistan had women oriented films and social dramas that were character driven. It is also a tribute to the classical films of Hollywood, according to the director, who admits, “Our story is very relevant to our times and context; it is a very authentic story but it is inspired by the world of cinema that came before us.”

“The whole approach to the film is very unique. *Baaji* is not a rom-com, it is not *shadi* oriented, it's not an action film neither it is a patriotic film. The film is like an *éclair*; it has got a delicious, dark center and you don't know what lies in the center of it. It is very glamorous and chocolaty on the outside but is oozing with something delicious inside. It has music, dance, drama and is a very commercial film with some unique elements,” concluded Saqib.



Saqib Malik with the cast of *Baaji* during the film's promotions.

■ **CULTURECULTURE**

Geena Davis and Mayim Bialik talk about the ‘Scully Effect’

Both the actresses were part of a panel titled, *The Scully Effect Is Real*, at the 4th Annual AT&T Shape Conference that was held recently in the Los Angeles.

Instep Desk

At the recently held 4th Annual AT&T Shape Conference, Academy Award-winning actor Geena Davis joined *Big Bang Theory* actor Mayim Bialik on stage as part of the panel titled, *The Scully Effect Is Real*.

The panel not only discussed how gender parity in media can create social change, but also talked about the need for onscreen diversity in order to break stereotypes.

During the panel discussion, Geena Davis said that achieving gender parity on screen is simple, and it could happen overnight. “Just go through (the script) and cross out a bunch of male first names and put female first names. That's all you have to do,” shared Davis.

The conversation was the result of a research conducted by the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media. The research found that women felt encouraged to pursue scientific, medical and

engineering (STEM) careers because of *X-Files*' character Dana Scully (essayed by Gillian Anderson) – a doctor and an FBI agent. Of the women surveyed in the study, 63 per cent of those working in a STEM field said Scully served as a role model for them while they were growing up.

“Bialik, who has a PhD in neuroscience, said that it was important on *The Big Bang Theory* to break stereotypes when portraying scientists and show that they can be happy socially as well as accomplished professionally,” reported *The Hollywood Reporter*.

“It turned out to be a lovely coincidence that we were showing the world of work of nerds and geeks, men and women who had successful social lives and interesting career lives and they weren't afraid to be interested in the things they were interested in,” said Mayim Bialik. “Our show wasn't big on diagnosis and medication, it was a



show about a group of people just kind of being themselves in the science world, and that's what my life and many of our lives are like.”

According to Bialik, seeing characters like Scully onscreen and having real-life mentors is crucial for young women to pursue careers in science, medicine and engineering. “I was raised in a climate where if you didn't learn things as fast as the boys, it meant that it wasn't for you. It's important to have a mentor, to have someone that you can see is living the life of a scientist and also has a social life – all the things that the lone scientist in the laboratory stereotype doesn't give us,” she added.

The panelists further said that all forms of diversity onscreen are necessary, pointing to films like *Hidden Figures*, which is about the key role a group of African-American women played in the U.S. space program, as leading the way for more complex stories on people of any gender or race.

At the event, Geena Davis shared that she thinks all forms of diversity need to be shown onscreen and also stressed on the fact that Hollywood isn't as progressive thinking as it is perceived.

“As much as people think Hollywood is liberal and open-minded and progressive thinking, they're doing a worse job of reflecting society than the abysmal numbers in real life,” Geena Davis said. “If we show it, it will happen in real life.”



Geena Davis and Mayim Bialik speak at AT&T's Shape conference: *The Scully Effect Is Real* panel.

■ **NEWSBYTES**

Mughal-e-Funk move on to second (vocal) album

Mughal-e-Funk, the instrumental quartet featuring Kami Paul, Rakae Jami, Rufus Shehzad and Farhan Ali is a super-group of sorts, making music inspired by the Mughal era in a contemporary fusion-meets-funk style.

As Kami Paul told *Instep* earlier, the response to their instrumental EP *Sultanar* has been good so far and is coming from across the border as well as internationally. But, the band is making more music after releasing their EP just last year. As Paul reiterated, the EP is for the music industry that has, in turn, responded well to the effort.

Having made their debut at Heritage Now Festival, and played some killer Salt Arts shows, the band appeared on Coke Studio 11 with the song ‘*Aurangzeb*’ and released their six-track debut EP in 2018.

Mughal-e-Funk is moving at the speed of light and has now moved on to its next album, but this one will be vocal and like its predecessors will draw from raags like it did at the Raft Peer Sufi Mystic Festival. The album will feature the big four as well as vocalist Mohammad Azzaz – at minimum. At least some of the album will be recorded at Red Brick Music Studios in Lahore that is run by Rakae Jami who is well-versed in both eastern and western music.

While the second album is the band, with vocal tracks is in the pipeline releases inevitably, they are also a part of *Paach-The Mixtape*, which is spearheaded by Babar Sheikh, Ahsan Bari and Wajaha Athar Naqvi.

As Ahsan Bari told *Instep* recently, the mixtape which also includes Sounds of Kolachi, Chand Tara Orchestra, Jimmy Khan and Natasha Baig – in addition to Mughal-e-Funk – is coming along nicely.

Said Bari, “All the songs are complete. We want to launch it on August 17 and we are collaborating with some people, in terms of live curation. The level of excitement is rising.”



–Maheen Sabeeh

Janoobi Khargosh release new artwork

Waleed Ahmed's musical directions have been impressive. Going from a death metal band called Dionysus to another called Lohikarma, he reinvented his solo musical identity and (moniker) Janoobi Khargosh journey with *Waterfort* and *Billi Khamba Aur Uran-tashani* respectively, both in 2014.

Since then, he has released a lot of new music with upcoming *Survivors* being the latest EP scheduled to release. This one will feature not only Waleed Ahmed's younger brother Umer Ahmed on synth and stuff like that but Zain Ahmed, the legendary Poor Rich Boy guitarist and producer, who has also played guitars on some songs; FRB singer-songwriter Umer Khan is also featured on vocals on several songs.

“*Got Space* EP is done and we're not making more videos from it,” confirmed Waleed Ahmed.

Janoobi Khargosh has moved on to the next album, titled *Survivors*. “The single ‘*One*’ is from *Survivors*. Our next is the single, ‘*Survivors*,’” said Waleed.

Promotional artwork has been released, designed by Haris Hidayat Ullah, and it is as brilliant as the album cover art – showcased in the recent *Instep* centerspread.

As for the feel and influence of the album, said Waleed, “There are a lot of things that come in,” defining the album, “particularly ‘90s Pakistani pop.”

He further said, “Our photo-shoot for *Survivors* is also like the nineties musicians and it is us pretending that we are in the nineties. But it was done to make an aesthetic.”



–Maheen Sabeeh

“Pakistanis aren't to be taken lightly,” says Ahad Raza Mir

We reported earlier this month that Ahad Raza Mir has bagged a nomination for ‘Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Drama’ category at the Betty Mitchell Awards 2019 for delivering an impressive performance as Hamlet in *Hamlet: A Ghost Story* in Canada.

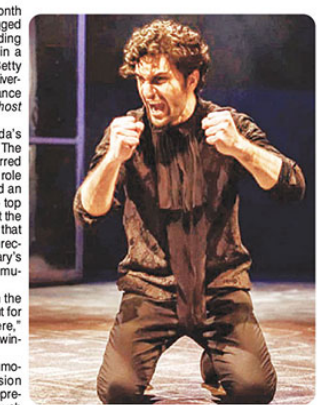
Performed at the Canada's Vertigo Theatre, the play by The Shakespeare Company starred Ahad Raza Mir in the titular role for which the actor received an overwhelming response. To top it off, Ahad won the trophy at the Betty Mitchell Awards 2019 that took place on June 24 and recognized excellence in Calgary's Professional Theatre Community.

“I am very happy to win the award, not just for myself but for all the Pakistanis out there,” Ahad shared with *Instep* on winning the award.

He added that it is a big moment for Pakistan's television and film industry to have representation from Pakistan at such prestigious awards. It gives other Pakistanis hope that they can do it too. “Pakistanis are not to be taken lightly,” Ahad added.

Earlier this month, *Instep* got in touch with Artistic Producer of *Hamlet: A Ghost Story* Hayasam Kadri to find out about Ahad's performance and the response to it.

He shared, “Ahad's performance of the Danish prince garnered a lot of attention locally, nationally and internationally. His portrayal of one of Shakespeare's most iconic roles was inspiring. Ahad flexed his rhetorical muscles and showed his true skills as an actor. He proved that not only is he a force in film and television, he also has an affinity for the stage.”



–Buraq Shabbir

اگر آپ سوشل میڈیا پاکستان گروپ میں ایڈ ہونا

اور مندرجہ ذیل مواد حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں

- ۱۔ تمام پاکستانی اخبارات
- ۲۔ نوکریوں کی اشتہارات
- ۳۔ ہر گھنٹے کی خبریں
- ۴۔ تعلیمی اور معلوماتی کتابیں
- ۵۔ انگلش اور سنڈے میگزین
- ۶۔ کرکٹ ایڈٹس
- ۷۔ پاکستانی ٹی وی شوز،
- ۸۔ پاکستانی ٹی وی ڈرامے
- ۹۔ پاکستانی نیوز چینلز ماک شوز
- ۱۰۔ پاکستانی گیم شوز،
- ۱۱۔ انڈین ٹی وی ڈرامے
- ۱۲۔ تعلیمی نوٹس اور گیس پیپرز
- ۱۳۔ پاکستانی فلمیں
- ۱۴۔ انڈین فلمیں
- ۱۵۔ انگلش فلمیں

۱۶۔ ترکی کے تمام سیریز ڈراموں کی روزانہ 05 اقساط اپلوڈ کی جائیں گی۔

ابھی گروپ میں ایڈ ہونے کی ماہانہ فیس صرف 50 روپے جمع کروا کر ایڈ ہو سکتے ہیں۔

جو ہر مہینے جمع کرنا لازماً ہوگا۔

فیس جمع کروانے کا طریقہ

کسی بھی جاز مو بی کیش یا ایزی پیسہ شاپ پر جا کر مندرجہ ذیل نمبرز پر فیس ادا کریں
جاز کیش کے ذریعے فیس اس نمبر پر ادا کریں 0300-5373305
ایزی پیسہ کے ذریعے فیس اس نمبر پر ادا کریں 0345-6738217

نوٹ: جاز کیش اور ایزی پیسہ کے علاوہ ایزی لوڈ بھیجنے والا میمبر گروپ میں ایڈ نہیں کیا جائے گا

نوٹ

- ۱۔ نقالوں سے ہوشیار رہیں اور پردیے گئے نمبرز کے علاوہ کسی دوسرے نمبر پر فیس ادا نہ کریں
- ۲۔ اگر کوئی میمبر سوشل میڈیا پاکستان کے نام پر گروپ بنا کر فیس لے رہا ہے ایسے کسی فرد سے سوشل میڈیا پاکستان کا کوئی تعلق نہیں۔
- ۳۔ ایسا میمبر گروپ سے بنا کسی وارننگ کے ریوو کر دیا جائے گا
- ۴۔ آئیے واٹس ایپ کے سب سے بڑے گروپ کا حصہ بنیں

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