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No favourite in Afghan polls: Imran

Assures Afghan leaders of Pakistan's complete support

SHAFQAT ALI
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday said that Pakistan has "no favourite" in the upcoming presidential elections in Afghanistan.

The prime minister, who met a delegation of senior Afghan leaders leading different groups here, said Pakistan respected the Afghan people's right to elect their leadership. "It's not Pakistan but the Afghan people who have to decide the outcome of the elections (in Afghanistan). Pakistan has no favourite. We are neutral," the premier was quoted as saying by an official who attended the meeting.

The official told The Nation that the prime minister assured the Afghan leaders of Pakistan's complete support.

The Afghan leaders earlier took part in the Lahore Peace Process organised by the Lahore Centre for Peace and Research in Murree.

Fifty-seven Afghan politicians, including Hizb-e-Islami leader Gulbudin Hekmatyar, former Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor, second deputy chief executive Mohammad Mohaqeq, and presidential candidate Abdul Latif Pedram attended the peace conference in Bhurban.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the meeting is a "complementary" of peace efforts in Doha, Moscow and other countries.

Afghan presidential candidate Mohammad Haneef Atmar said he welcomed the meeting in Pakistan and that it was a good platform for the exchange of views between Afghan politicians and Pakistani officials.

Atmar said the two sides discussed Afghanistan-Pakistan relations

and the Afghan peace process. "We stressed that there should be progress in both fronts: in the peace efforts and the bilateral relations," he said.

Atmar mentioned that the "blame-game" between Afghanistan and Pakistan had not helped the two countries and that the Pakistan should come up with practical steps on their promises.

This month, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said he will visit Pakistan on June 27 to open a new chapter in his country's uneasy relationship with its neighbour and mend ties that are often characterised by mistrust and tit-for-tat accusations.

Ghani said he agreed to visit Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan after the two leaders met this month on the sidelines of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation meeting in Saudi Arabia. "I hope the visit will be positive," he added.

The presidential election scheduled for 28 September will be a key moment to reaffirm the legitimacy of Afghanistan's democratic political structure. There are significant operational and technical challenges to be overcome.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said that peace in Afghanistan is "around the corner," referring to the efforts by the United States for a political settlement to the conflict in the country. "Negotiations have been initiated with the Taliban. God willing, our brothers in Afghanistan would live together in peace in coming days," the PM said.

He asserted the peace process would result in stability, trade and

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COAS sees Pakistan crush SA

Green Caps throw Proteas out of World Cup in sink-or-swim contest at Lord's

NEWS DESK
LAHORE

Besides thousands of other cricket fans, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa yesterday watched the Green Caps crushed the Proteas out of the World Cup, in London.

Sunday's contest with South Africa at the Lord's Cricket Ground was crucial for Pakistan too to stay alive in the tournament and had a chance of making it to the semi-finals stage.

The Army Chief, who is currently in the United Kingdom on an official visit for meetings with senior British civil-military leadership,

witnessed his team winning this do-or-die game by 49 runs.

Earlier, General Bajwa reached at the Lord's accompanied by British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Director General Inter-Services Public Relations Major General Asif Ghafoor.

Pakistan had made a couple of changes for this match, resting

Hasan Ali and Shoaib Malik, while bringing in Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Sohail in the playing XI.

Captain Sarfraz Ahmed won the toss and elected to bat first. "Looks like a good batting pitch and some

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Minister for signing 'no-IMF-loan' charter

Bakhtiar says economic crunch created by wrong policies of past govts
Opp rebuts allegations, asks govt to show performance instead

OUR STAFF REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Vowing to create 10 million jobs and pushing the GDP to 6.5 percent, Minister for Planning and Development Khusro Bakhtiar on Sunday urged government and opposition lawmakers to sign a charter for not approaching the IMF for bailout in future.

Addressing a small gathering of the house assembled Sunday evening to debate the finance bill, he

said his government inherited the current account deficit of \$20 billion, while the budgeted and non-budgeted fiscal deficit was Rs4,300 billion.

Holding the previous governments responsible for the present bad shape of economy, the minister said Pakistan's total debt and liabilities stood at Rs22.4 trillion when PML-N government came into power which swelled to Rs34 trillion by the time of completion of its tenure. He said that during initial years,

the previous government tried to stabilise the national economy but later all its focus shifted to winning the next general elections.

Giving India's example, Bakhtiar said they faced a major balance of payment crisis in 1992 but revived only by focusing on development.

The previous governments kept on building motorways instead of building human resources and

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PAGE 05

Minister claims of creating 10m jobs and taking GDP growth rate to 6.5pc by end of PTI govt tenure

Saudi Arabia 'not against' Pak-Qatar ties



RAWALPINDI: Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani being briefed by the PAF officials about JF-17 Thunder aircraft at Nur Khan Airbase. -APP

SHAFQAT ALI
ISLAMABAD

Saudi Arabia is not against the growing ties between Pakistan and Qatar amid hints of reconciliation between the two Arab countries, officials said on Sunday.

Senior officials at the foreign ministry told The Nation that Islamabad and Riyadh had been in contact and Saudi Arabia had not objected to the Pak-Qatar friendship.

"They believe as sovereign states, we have a right to have relations with other countries," said one official who remains in contact with the Saudis.

Another official said ties between Saudi Arabia and Qatar were already improving so Riyadh was not alarmed by the growing contacts between Islamabad and Doha.

Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed Bin Abdel-Rahman Al-Thani earlier said that his country was "ready to talk" with Saudi Arabia

on the basis of reciprocal respect.

This came in response to a tweet by the Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubier who said Qatar had to change its behaviour if it wanted to talk with Saudi Arabia.

President confers highest civil award on Emir Sheikh Thani

Al-Thani replied on Twitter: "We welcome talks based on respect, but if the issue is based on dictations, we should remain far from each other."

The Saudi-Qatari relations have been strained since the imposition of a blockade on Qatar by Saudi Arabia and its key allies

the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain in 2017.

Over the weekend, Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani had arrived in Pakistan to a warm reception by Prime Minister Imran Khan. Sheikh Al Thani was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising key ministers and senior officials. During his stay, he held talks with PM Khan and President Dr Arif Alvi. The Qatari leader met PM Khan on the first day of his visit besides a number of other engagements.

The President also conferred highest civil award Nishan-e-Pakistan on Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in a special investiture ceremony.

During his visit, the two sides discussed ways and means of building a robust and mutually beneficial economic partnership.

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SPORTS | PAGE 11

BD look to overcome Afghanistan



Afghanistan, who fell agonisingly short of India's target on Saturday, 22 June, are still in search of their first win at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.

WORLD | PAGE 17

US launched cyberattacks on Iran



US launched cyberattacks against Iranian missile systems and a spy network after Tehran downed its spy drone.

SHOWBIZ | PAGE 20

Elisabeth tells how she copes with fame

Actress Elisabeth Moss revealed she copes with her fame by surrounding herself with friends and family she can "trust". The 36-year-old actress recently starred in the second season of hit HBO series 'The Handmaid's Tale'.



SNIPPETS | PAGE 19

Climate protesters storm coalmine



Protesters here, police there — one group wants to stop coal mining, the other is trying to stop them.

NATIONAL

Quick Read

Haji flights to begin from July 4

ISLAMABAD (APP): The month-long pre Hajj flight operation will commence from July 4 as the ministry has already issued flight schedule of Government Hajj Scheme last day.

An official of the ministry said that the details of flight schedule have already been uploaded on ministry's website. The pilgrims were also being informed about relevant details through SMS and intimation letters. Government pilgrims would go to Saudi Arabia through three airlines including PIA, Saudi Airline and Air Blue. The intending pilgrims should report to their respective Madinatul Hujjaj two days prior to their flights for getting tickets and seal packed medicine.

Each Haji is allowed to bring 30 kilogram luggage with him or her. He urged intending pilgrims to benefit from ministry's ongoing extensive training programmes as such were the most important for performing Hajj in accordance with the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Passengers to pay tax in rupees: CAA

KARACHI (APP): The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has decided to take airport charges in Pak rupees instead of US dollars at the airports across the country from international passengers.

A CAA notification issued here said, "in order to avoid any inconvenience to the passengers, the Airport Charges (INFR+SEC) payable by the passengers earlier at the rate of US\$ 20, have been rationalized for payment at a fixed amount of Pak Rupees (Rs 2800) per departing international passenger.

"All airlines operators are required to ensure compliance in true letter and spirit". Earlier, international passengers were required to pay \$20 as airport charges and the rate has now been rationalized to Rs 2,800 per passenger on international departures with immediate effect.

Ex-FM Abdul Sattar passes away

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former foreign minister of Pakistan and a renowned diplomat Abdul Sattar passed away Sunday. He was 88. "We are deeply saddened to announce that former Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar has passed away. He was an illustrious diplomat and an accomplished author," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement. Besides serving as foreign minister for two non-consecutive terms - in 1993 (as caretaker) and later in 1999-2002, late Abdul Sattar had also served as Pakistan's foreign secretary from 1986 to 1988.

Moreover, his diplomatic career also included his stints as Pakistan's ambassador to Austria, India, and the Soviet Union.

Indian troops martyr 4 more youth in IOK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indian troops in their fresh acts of state terrorism, in Indian occupied Kashmir, martyred four Kashmiri youth in Shopian district, on Sunday.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the troops martyred the youth during a violent cordon and search operation at Daramdora in Keegam area of the district. The operation continued till last reports came in. A senior police officer talking to media men claimed that the youth were militants and were killed in an encounter with the troops.



PARIS: A large number of people witnessing the static display of JF-17 Thunder on the last day of Paris Air Show.—NNI

Demanding charter of economy from state, not rulers: Fazl

ABDULLAH ZAFAR
KARACHI

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam chief of his own faction Maulana Fazlur Rehman said yesterday that they were demanding charter of economy from the state not from the incumbent PTI-led federal government.

"Likewise National Action Plan (NAP), there is dire need of national economic plan for the country in order to control the downfall of the economic conditions as it could lead country towards a disaster," he said.

Addressing an event in Karachi to mark death anniversary of Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan leader Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, the JUI-F chief rejected that he was demanding charter of economy from the government, saying it was not possible as it was

a fake government.

He said opposition parties would jointly sit together at an all parties conference planned for June 26 and would devise a new narrative and strategy over ongoing political situation in the country.

He said massive taxes in the budget will overburden masses in August this year and they would be unable to pay their bills.

Applauding the struggle of Maulana Noorani, who also headed Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) in 2002, Fazlur Rehman said he represented an ideology and a movement and was part of a political and religious struggle in the country.

"It was a planned conspiracy to stop religious parties from coming into power and those who criticize religious leader-

ship should know facts that rulers in the country for past 70 years had not come from religious background," he said.

Fazl said religious scholars had always worked for the harmony in the society and whenever a small segment tried to divide the country on lines of religious hatred they came forward to address it.

He claimed that ideological identity of the country was at stake and those brought into the power were aiming at targeting it for their vested interests. "No one can expect them to implement the principles of state of Medina," he said.

The JUI-F chief said the incumbent leadership was mulling over recognising Israel and if it happened it would mean accepting the occupation of the Palestinian land by Israel.

Claims ideological identity of country at stake. Incumbent leadership considering recognising Israel

"It will also hurt struggle of the Kashmiris," he said adding that incumbent rulers were adopting such policies to woo Western powers.

Former Senate chairman Raza Rabbani, addressing on the occasion, said financial autonomy of the country was mortgaged to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

The government kneeled down before them and was even hiding conditions from masses and Parliament on which IMF and international donors had agreed to give away loans, he said.

Rabbani said they could not accept the budget as masses were already over-burdened. "This is an anti-poor budget," he said.

He also criticised Prime Minister Imran Khan for not filling vacant seats in the Election Commission, raising doubts over

the decisions of the body. "The incomplete body of the ECP decided to postpone the polls in the erstwhile FATA constituency," he said, adding that it was the ego of the prime minister that was hindering him to consult opposition leader over filling vacant seats.

He opposed the ECP decision to empower army officials regarding affairs within the premises of the polling station and said it should be polling officer's responsibility not the security officer.

He said that they had learnt a lot from Ahmed Shah Noorani and the struggle that he began against the dictator Ayub Khan, which was still ongoing in the country.

Other speakers including JI leader Asadullah Bhutto, journalist Hamid Mir also addressed the ceremony.

Arrests can't lower our courage: Zardari

NNI
ISLAMABAD

Former president Asif Ali Zardari has said that arrest of PPP candidate in South Waziristan is tantamount to rigging in elections.

Talking to journalists at the Parliament House where he was brought by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to attend the National Assembly's budget session here yesterday, Asif Zardari said Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) should ensure release of Imran Wazir to save its credibility.

The PPP leader said arrest of candidate during election campaign was condemnable and put a question mark on the credibility of polls. He, however, of the view that these arrests could not lower courage of PPP workers.

Zardari said, "Maryam Nawaz is like our daughter but our view point is that final decision will be made by APC instead of a single party."

Answering a question, he said how one could imagine that reconciliation process had started. Responding to another question Zardari said PPP



“Only joint opposition can take a decision on charter of economy with govt

stood with decisions of APC instead of Nawaz or Shehbaz.

The former president said it was the joint opposition that will make a decision about charter of economy with the government.

When asked to comment on PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz's statement terming the charter a mockery of economy, he said: "Maryam Bibi is our daughter. Our ideology is that it is for the joint opposition to take any decision. There won't be any single party's decision."

To a question of whether he sided with the narrative of Nawaz Sharif or Shehbaz Sharif, he said he would abide by the united opposition's narrative.

Addressing a press conference a day earlier, Maryam had said she considered "Meesaq-e-Maeshat" (charter of economy) as "Mazaq-e-Maeshat."

She maintained offering charter of economy to Imran Khan was like giving him an NRO as he, due to his incompetence, caused irreparable damage to the economy and now wanted opposition to become a part of his failure on economic front.

Opp trying to get NRO through APC, says minister

APP
ISLAMABAD

Minister of State for Revenue Hammad Azhar on Sunday claimed that the purpose of Opposition parties to convene All Parties Conference (APC) was to put pressure on the government to get National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO).

Talking to media persons outside the Parliament House, the Minister said that the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was not on one page as Maryam Nawaz and Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had many differences.

Hammad Azhar said that the past of chief Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who called APC, was in front of the whole nation.

In the past, he said that Nawabzada Nasarullah used to convene APC because the Opposition had complete trust in him as he was a seasoned politician.

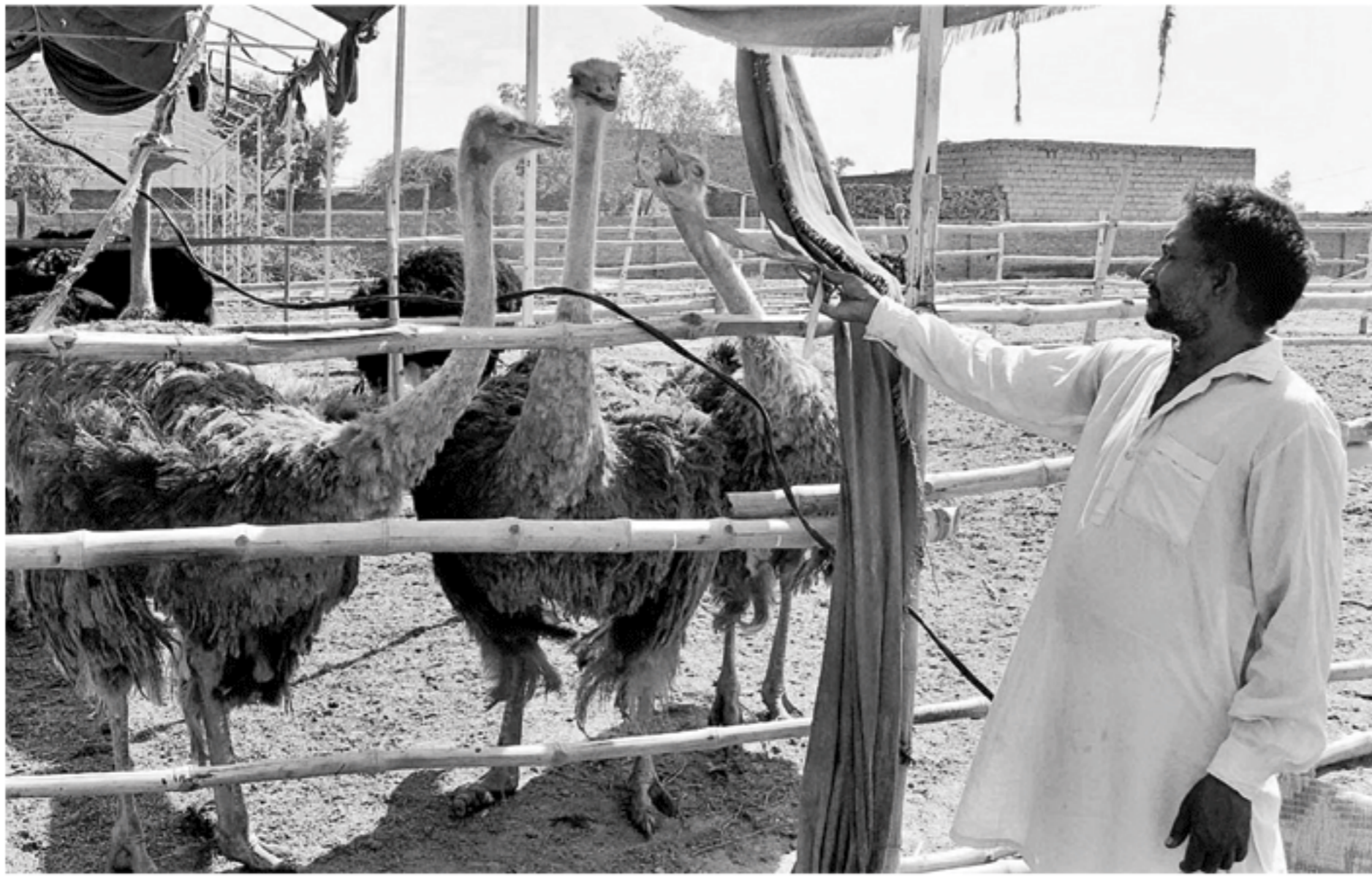
Hammad Azhar said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had made Muhammad Sadiq Sanjraani Chairman Senate and now it was rethinking its decision.

To a question, the Minister said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was talking for last 30 years that peace could come in Afghanistan through dialogue now Secretary of State of United States was talking about negotiations which was positive.

Pakistan wanted durable peace in the region and was ready to play its positive role for peace in Afghanistan, he added.



“PPP having second thoughts about Senate chairman



CHINIOT:
A visitor feeding ostriches at a farm.—APP

Purpose of APC not to destabilise govt: PPP

APP
ISLAMABAD

Senior leader of PPP Dr Nafisa Shah on Sunday said that purpose of All Parties Conference (APC) by the Opposition was not to destabilise the government but to resolve the basic issues of the people and review the economic situation.

Talking to media persons outside the Parliament House, Dr Nafisa said that united Opposition would successfully convince Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) leadership to participate in APC.

She said that the Opposition parties had no personal issue to discuss in APC but only wanted to resolve the challenges being faced by the country. They would also discuss how to improve the Federal budget 2019-20, she added.

Dr Nafisa said that the Opposition parties would urge the government to curtail the taxes on masses and provide relief to agriculture sector for the betterment of the farmers.

To a question, she said that Pakistan wanted cordial relations with neighbouring countries including Afghanistan, adding, peace in Afghanistan was interlinked to stability in the region.

Dr Nafisa said that Pakistan had sacrificed a lot for peace in Afghanistan.

She said that Foreign Minister should inform the House about the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Russia.

Enormously helped US, Nato on Afghan peace: FM

SHAFQAT ALI
ISLAMABAD

Qureshi says Islamabad committed to curbing terrorism

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi yesterday said that Pakistan had enormously helped the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on the issue of peace in Afghanistan. Speaking to journalists here, before leaving for Brussels, Qureshi said Pakistan was committed to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. "We have enormously helped the US and NATO on Afghan (peace). We are determined to ensure regional peace," he said. The minister said that during the visit, he will meet NATO General Secretary at its headquarters in Brussels. He said Pakistan had played a key role in war against terrorism and NATO had acknowledged that fact. "We believe that our relationship with NATO in defence and security matters should continue," he added.

Qureshi said that a strategic plan had been agreed with the European Union after marathon talks. The FM said he will sign this agreement with EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini. "It will begin long-term cooperation with the European Union, which is a positive development," he maintained. Separately yesterday, Pakistan said Afghanistan is a sovereign state and its leadership may take all decisions without any external intervention to achieve lasting peace under Afghan peace process.

Addressing the concluding session of the day-long conference on Afghan Peace Process in Bhuban Murree, Minister for States and Frontier Regions Shehryar Afridi said Pakistan's civil and military leadership was united for Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace dialogue as peaceful Afghanistan is interlinked to peace in the region and beyond. The minister said though Pakistan suffered heavily due to terrorism, weapon-

ization, drugs mafia and other ills it never turned its back on Afghan Refugees. Speaking at the conference, various political and politico-religious stalwarts from Afghanistan pledged to give peace a chance in their war-torn country. Chief of Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, brother of late leader of Northern Alliance Ahmed Shah Massoud Ahmed Wali, Hizbe Islami leader Wahid Ullah Sabhun, Hanif Atmar and leader of Hizbe Wahdat Mardam Afghanistan Ustad Muhammad Muhaqiq were of the view that reconciliation is the only option to come over the feuds. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said his group wanted peace at all costs in Afghanistan.

Wahidullah Sabhun acknowledged the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan and lauded its efforts to support lasting peace in the region. Hanif Atmar appreciated Pakistan for accepting the sovereignty and integrity of Afghanistan as an independent state. Last day, in his speech at the inaugural session of the Afghan peace conference, Foreign Minister Qureshi had reiterated Pakistan's unshakable resolve to support lasting peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan, besides lending support to the reconstruction and development efforts in the war-torn country. He maintained that Pakistan stood for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and remained fully committed to a peaceful, stable, united, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan.

About decades long conflict in Afghanistan, the minister said it had brought great sufferings to the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan. He said no one has suffered more

than the people of Pakistan due to this persistent instability and conflict. Linking Pakistan's security with the instability in Afghanistan, FM Qureshi said it continued to be deeply influenced by the security situation in Afghanistan. "Advancing the cause of peace and stability in Afghanistan is, therefore, in Pakistan's own national interest," he reiterated, adding mutual ties between the two countries were based upon principles of non-interference, mutual respect and common interests. On the previous mistrust between the two neighbours, he said for too long, the vicious circle of mistrust, often fed into by their common enemies, had affected their relationship. "It is indispensable to move away from this negative paradigm," he emphasized.

HEKMATYAR DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS

Afghanistan's former prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has praised Pakistan's role in the ongoing peace process for his war-ravaged country. "Pakistan is a very important country and Islamabad could play a key role in bringing peace in Afghanistan and now they are doing it," Hekmatyar told Anadolu Agency in Bhuban. "I praised Pakistan's sincere efforts and I am sure they will continue to help bring peace in our country," the two-time prime minister said. The Americans are also praising Pakistan's role in bringing Taliban on the negotiating table, he said. "We welcome every country and individual who is taking any step for peace in Afghanistan. War always ends with peace and now war in our country will also end with peace," Hekmatyar said. He demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and reiterated the need to allow the Afghan people decide their future. Hekmatyar asked the Afghan political and religious leaders to brainstorm for a system to ensure free, fair and transparent elections in the country.

“ Strategic plan agreed with European Union”

Fresh US-Taliban talks on 29th

AGENCIES
KABUL

Khalilzad says he believes all sides want "rapid progress" in the peace process

The next round of bilateral peace talks between US and Taliban representatives will kick off from 29th of June. The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation said Sunday that the 7th phase of negotiations will begin on 29th of June.

Khalilzad said in a tweet that as per his visits to Afghanistan and Qatar, all sides - the Afghan government, the Taliban, Afghan politicians and members of the public - want "rapid progress".

The American and Taliban representatives have held six rounds of talks regarding peace process in Qatari capital of Doha. The sixth round of talks between US and Taliban representatives concluded earlier last month.

Khalilzad said the sixth round of talks made steady but slow progress on the

aspects of the framework for ending the war in Afghanistan.

However, he said "The current pace of talks isn't sufficient when so much conflict rages and innocent people die. We need more and faster progress. Our proposal for all sides to reduce violence also remains on the table." The State Department, announcing Khalilzad's travel before the date of the latest talks was set, said the negotiations with the Taliban would take place as usual in Qatar.

Quick Read

Pakistan Navy ship visits Oman port

ISLAMABAD (STAFF REPORTER): Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) ASLAT visited Port Salalah of Oman as part of the overseas deployment for Regional Maritime Security Patrols (West) in North Arabian Sea.

According to the Pakistan navy, the deployment of PNS ASLAT, with embarked AL-43 helicopter, is primarily focused on ensuring safety and security of international shipping in these waters. The PNS ASLAT is the frontline warship of Pakistan Navy Fleet and fourth ship of Sword Class Frigate project built at Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works. The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, capable of undertaking wide range of maritime operations in multi threat environment. Upon its arrival at the port, the ship was given a warm welcome by the officials of Royal Navy of Oman (RNO). Defence Attaché of Pakistan at Muscat was also present at the occasion.

During the stay at Salalah port, the Commanding Officer PNS ASLAT, Captain Shafiq Ur Rehman separately called on Commanding Officer Salalah Naval Unit and Commander 11 Infantry Brigade. During meetings, the Commanding Officer, conveyed sincere regards from Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, Chief of the Naval Staff to the Royal Navy of Oman & Omani people and highlighted that visit of PNS ASLAT is a manifestation of the multifaceted long term collaboration that exists between the two navies, the press release issued by Pak Navy said.

A reception was also held onboard the PNS ASLAT. Athar Salman, Deputy Head of Mission of Pakistan at Muscat, was the chief guest on the occasion. The reception was attended by officers of the Sultan's Armed Forces, DA (China) and Commanding Officer of PLA (Navy) Ship XIAN and prominent Pakistani expatriates. Later, the ship was opened to the visitors during which officers & men from Sultan's Armed Forces and a large number of members of Pakistani expatriate community visited the ship. In the last part of its visit, the PNS ASLAT conducted joint exercises with RNO ship and upon culmination of the same, the ship resumed its role in Regional Maritime Security Patrols (West) in the North Arabian Sea.

Pakistan and Oman are tied in eternal bonds of religion and brotherhood. The visit by PNS ASLAT will further enhance Pakistan Navy's bilateral relations with Royal Navy of Oman in diverse avenues.

Five dead in bus-rickshaw collision

MUZAFFARGARH (STAFF REPORTER): Five persons including a woman died and two others sustained critical injuries when a Karachi-bound passenger bus hit a motorcycle rickshaw and overturned here on Sunday. Rescue 1122 and police sources, informed that the accident occurred when the speeding Karachi-bound bus, coming from Mianwali crushed the motorcycle rickshaw while overtaking.

The accident occurred on Mianwali Road at Chowk Sarwar Shaheed in tehsil Kot Addu and the bus overturned after hitting the motorcycle rickshaw.

Rescuers confirmed that five persons including a woman identified as: Naseem, wife of Iqbal, 30; Shaukat, son of Bashir, 45; 46-year-old Shaukat, son of Sadiq; 36-year-old Akhtar, son of Mukhtiar and 18-year-old Adil, son of Arif, died on the spot. Whereas two others, including, Danyal and Manzoor sustained critical injuries and were shifted to hospital by rescuers of Rescue 1122. The bodies were shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities.

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NATIONAL

Quick Read

10 die in Kohistan jeep plunge

PESHAWAR (Our Staff Reporter): As many as ten people died and two got injured when a passenger jeep plunged into Indus River at Palas Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday morning.

Confirming the accident, police said that the jeep carrying 21 passengers including 16 men, three children and two women, was on its way to Gadar, a hilly area, from Sherighazi Abad. The driver of the jeep lost control while giving way to another vehicle coming from the opposite side, and the jeep fell into River Indus near old bridge Shalkhan Abad.

Locals and rescue teams rushed to the site and started rescue operation. The dead bodies of six men, two women and one child, who lost their lives in the incident, were recovered after hectic efforts.

Those who died in the accident were identified as Shams-ur-Rehman s/o Member Khan, resident of Gadar, Amal Qadeer s/o Nameemullah resident of Masai, Gul Rang s/o Fiyaz, Shad Muhammad s/o Talih resident of Dir, Gul Bahar s/o Muhammad Nabi resident of Dir and Idrees s/o Shahroom resident of Palas.

Police said that the dead bodies of Muhammad Idrees and a woman who is stated to be the resident of Masai village were not found till filing of this report. The dead bodies and injured were later shifted to Pattan District Hospital.

Locals said that some of the passengers jumped out of the jeep before it fell in the deep Indus River and that is why they received multiple wounds.



MULTAN: A chaff-laden truck stuck under Nagh Shah Underpass on Old Shujabad Road.—APP

NAB tightens noose around PPP's Jakhrani

NOKHAIZ SAHI
ISLAMABAD

The National Accountability Bureau has tightened the noose around former federal minister and senior PPP leader Ijaz Jhakhani in a corruption case as it has requested the Interior Division to place the accused on the Exit Control List, The Nation has learnt.

Earlier, the Bureau's regional office had requested the NAB headquarters to initiate the process of placing Jakhani on the ECL.

On September 26, NAB Chairman Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal, while chairing the Executive Board Meeting, had authorized the inquiry against Jhakhani in the case.

The sources said the NAB is investigating the assets of former federal minister Jhakhani in

different cities of Sindh. They said that a com-

Writes to Interior Division to place the accused on ECL

plaint levelled serious allegations against Ijaz Jhakhani, saying the former minister is owner of one flour mill and one rice mill in Jacobabad and three rice mills in Dera Allahyar. The complaint claimed Jakhani owns 276 acres land in different cities of Sindh and three

houses in posh areas of Karachi. Furthermore, the complainant alleged that Jhakhani has constructed a hotel on the government property illegally in Jaccobabad. The PPP leader also allegedly involved in corruption during his tenure as health minister and has properties abroad, the complaint said.

The sources also claimed that the NAB investigation team had summoned the complainant thrice at the NAB Sukkhar office and recorded his statement in this case. They mentioned that the regional bureau had also summoned Jhakhani for recording his statement by the end of this month.

A senior officer said the NAB Sukkhar Bureau has requested the NAB headquarters to write the Interior Division to place Jakhani's on the ECL along with his four front men including

Nimal Das, Bhool Chand, Kamlesh Kumar and Razak Bahrani. On the direction of NAB, the State Bank of Pakistan had already blocked the accounts of few people involved in the corruption scandal including those of Saroop Kumar Gehani, Nimal Das, Chandur Lal, Bhool Chand and Permet Kumar due to Jakhani's connection with them.

He said, following the regional bureau's request, the NAB headquarters has written to the Interior Division with the request to place the name of Jakhani on ECL. He said Jakhani's name to be placed on ECL next week.

Former chief justice Saqib Nisar had ordered an inquiry against Jakhani on serious allegations of corruption including 300 benami properties and Rs 44 billion took in the name of development projects in the Jacobabad district.

Forest fires affect billion tree tsunami project

APP
ISLAMABAD

Billion Tree Tsunami Project Director Muhammad Tehmasip said that the forest fire flared up in the forests of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was due to extreme hot weather.

"Most of the fire mainly 50 percent of the total affected area has occurred in Chir Pine forests which is a natural phenomenon, however, the rest occurred in different parts of the forest area. The trees burnt as per initial reports are over 100,000 which is 0.001 percent of the total 1.2 billion planted trees. It will be retrieved in the coming Monsoon season's extensive plantation," he said in an exclusive talk with APP. He said that "Pine forests are biologically pyrogenic in nature (caused or produced by combustion or the application of heat) as fire is necessary for its growth where combustion helps removing thorns and shrubs grown at the bottom level that hinders Chir trees growth.

JI will not tolerate govt anymore, says Siraj

OUR STAFF REPORTER
FAISALABAD

Ameer, Jamaat e Islami, Pakistan, Senator Sirajul Haq, has said that the PTI govt's performance was worst in country's history.

Addressing a huge Awami March at Faisalabad on Sunday, he said that the government had increased the prices of sugar and cement overnight only to benefit the sugar and cement mafias.

He said that JI would announce its future line of action at its Million March in Karachi on June 30. He further said the JI would not be a part of the PPP and PML-N campaign and added that the masses had no option except the JI.

Sirajul Haq said that the party talking of the Madina State had announced building 1100 cinema houses. He said that the farmers and labourers of the country were crying. He said that India was providing electricity and farm

inputs to farmers on subsidised rates while the Pakistan government had increased the prices of these items.

The JI chief said that the businessmen of Faisalabad had set up cottage and small indus-

try to fill its Treasury.

He said that if the government wanted progress and prosperity, it would have to abolish interest. Sirajul Haq said that the government had chalked out a policy to give a way out to thieves.

He said that the feudal lords and capitalists who had been getting PPP and PML-N tickets were now in the PTI and half of the Imran Khan's Cabinet comprised these turncoats.

JI Deputy Chief Liaquat Baloch, Javed Kasuri, Zubair Gondal and Azeem Randhawa also addressed on the occasion. JI Information Secretary Qaisar Sharif was present. Sirajul Haq said that the masses had been without basic facilities in the past but their plight had worsened during the last 10 months. He said the JI could not tolerate the government anymore. He said that PTI government had deceived the youth. It had promised 10 million jobs for youth but during its 10 months rule, thousands of people had become jobless, he added.

Flays at PTI's pathetic performance

try and provided jobs to lakhs of people but the government had levied tax of these industries causing problems for the workers. He said that the government and the NAB would have to proceed in the mega corruption cases in order

Zardari's bail plea

NAB files reply in IHC

SHAHID RAO
ISLAMABAD

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has submitted its response before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) praying it to exempt former president from personal appearance in his petition seeking bail in the Park Lane case.

NAB Deputy Prosecutor General Sardar Muzaffar Abbasi submitted the NAB's written reply saying that it was not binding on the accused to be present in the court during the hearing of his application for bail, rather

it was the court's prerogative to summon the accused in person or not. The statement said the court had the authority and power to exempt Zardari from personal appearance.

PPP co-chairperson Zardari, who is now in NAB custody in connection with the investigation into a fake accounts case, has filed an application before the IHC through his counsel Farooq H. Naek, seeking his production before the IHC during the hearing of the Park Lane case.

In the written reply, the NAB stated that production of the

petitioner before this court may require arrangement of high security and cause inconvenience for other litigants, and in this view, the court has power to exempt the personal appearance of the petitioner.

The reply stated that the NAB chairman had issued warrants for Zardari's arrest in the case titled The State vs Hussain Lawai [fake account case] and that he was arrested after dismissal of his pre-arrest bail petition and he was on physical remand till July 2.

It added, "The investigation is under way and the petitioner is

being interrogated. Medical facilities are duly being provided to the petitioner."

However, the Bureau maintained in the reply that the court may pass any order deemed appropriate which shall be complied in letter and spirit.

In his application, Zardari adopted before the court that he is required to be produced before the court to ensure the decision of instant petition on merit. He added that well-being of the petitioner is a matter of concern during the investigation and this can be resolved by producing the petitioner in the court.

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

NOTICE OF TENDER

01. The office of DW&CE (PAF) Chaklala invites sealed tenders for the following Emergency Work in light of PPR Rule 42-c (v) of 2004:-

02.	(i) Provision of Certain Facilities at PAF Base	(S)	Rs. 7.037 Million
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03. The contractors are required to submit their applications for issuance of tender documents along with their complete credentials as shown at (Serial 9). The applications shall be scrutinized and the tender documents will only be issued to the firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field and satisfy other special conditions required for the job and area. Tenders will only be issued to the scrutinized contractors. The tender must be received in the office of Accepting Officer by 1130 Hrs on 09 July, 2019 and will be opened at 1200 Hrs on the same date.

NOTE:- Contractors shall provide certificate that they are not involved in any type of litigation with Government Department in the Court of Law and that no special report of Directorate of Inspection and Evaluation (E-in-C's Branch GHQ) is outstanding against them.

04. All contractors will certify in writing that they are registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), and will submit a copy of their registration. Contractors not registered with PEC are ineligible to apply.

05. Contractor born on approved List of MES in categories 'A' and 'B' and also having experience of this type should only apply.

06. Contractors who desire may be present at the time of opening of tenders.

07. The Accepting Officer reserves the right to accept or reject the tender. Rejected tenders will be dealt with as per Para 33(1) of PPR Rules.

08. The interested parties can contact CMES (PAF) Sargodha / authorized representative for further details from 0715 to 1335 hours on all working days.

Sl No	Name of Work Executed during the Last 2 Years and in Hand	Agency	Amount of Work	Time Allowed (Months)	Date of Commencement	Date of Completion	Percentage Progress of Work in Hand	Departmental Performance Report on each Work by the Engineer in Charge
"SAY NO TO DRUGS"								

PHD (N) 4763

Quick Read

Woman stabbed to death in rape attempt

ATTOCK (STAFF REPORTER): An old woman was stabbed to death by a person when he allegedly attempted to sexually assault her married daughter and the mother of two children in Jalalia village of Hazro Sunday morning.

The deceased was attempting to foil the rape attempt, however, her daughter received multiple knife injuries, Hazro police said.

According to the SHO Hazro, Mohammad Azam, the accused identified as Waqar Khan entered the house of the victim after scaling the wall early hours of Sunday in Jalalia village and attempted to sexually assault a married woman who is living in her mother's house after developing some differences with her in-laws.

The injured woman told the police that when the accused attempted to rape her, she cried; her mother came to rescue her daughter. However, the accused attacked her with knife. As a result, she said that her mother received critical wounds in chest and neck. The complainant said that she also received different cut marks on her hands and other parts of the body.

The SHO said that the accused managed to flee from the scene after injuring both the women.

He added that on listening hue and cry of the victims, the neighbours came to rescue them and shifted them to the THQ hospital.

Due to lack of facilities and absence of a surgeon at the hospital, the woman was taken to Rawalpindi while she lost her life due to excessive bleeding. Later, when the dead body was taken to the Hazro hospital for autopsy, persons from both sides entered a clash leaving several injured from both sides.

The local police have registered a case against the accused, who was later arrested.

COAS sees Pakistan crush SA

From page 1
grass cover on it," he said before the start of the game. "We are not thinking about the pressure, just focusing on the game, which is very important for us," Sarfraz said.

The batting side of Green Caps played well and secured 308 runs against seven wickets in the 50 overs.

Haris Sohail boosted Pakistan's hopes of reaching the semi-finals with a blistering 89. Hitting nine fours and three sixes in his 59-ball blitz, he gave Pakistan a shot of adrenaline after Babar Azam's more sedate 69 laid the foundations. Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq lifted morale with a stand of 81 for the first wicket.

On the other hand, the Proteas had a panicky start as they reached 92 for two after 20 overs in pursuit of 309 target. But with three wickets from Shadab Khan and Wahab, the team, in the end, was restricted to 259.

For just the second time in their history South Africa failed to reach the World Cup knockout stages after losing to fellow strugglers Pakistan.

Beaten by bitter rivals India in their last match, Pakistan's players spent the past week involved in a series of spats with frustrated fans both in person and on social media.

With yesterday's win, Pakistan still has a slender chance of reaching the last four, but the victory has re-infused spirit in the Pakistani cricket fans.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi conferring Nishan-i-Pakistan upon Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani at Aiwan-e-Sadr.-APP

Minister for signing 'no-IMF-loan' charter

From page 1
boosting technology and industry, he added.

Talking of the low revenue collection, he said, "Only 380 companies are paying 80 percent of the tax of the country. This country cannot function [this way]."

The minister said the government has set an ambitious revenue collection target of over Rs 5,500 billion, which will enable them to provide 35 percent more funds to provinces. Sindh alone will get 200 billion rupees more if the revenue target is achieved, he held.

The PTI government's focus will be on economic stabilisation in the first year, and by the end of its tenure the GDP growth rate will be taken to 6.5 percent, with an annual average of 5 plus percent, he claimed.

Bakhtiar said private investment will be taken to 18 percent from the existing 15 percent. He also claimed that 10 million jobs will be created in the five-year terms of the PTI government.

The minister said that Rs80 billion have been allocated to improve power transmission system, Rs43 billion for higher education and knowledge based economy, and Rs13 billion for agriculture sector.

OPPOSITION'S TAKE
In his brief speech, former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf said the sitting minister's assertion that PTI government was not performing well due to the bad economic policies of the previous governments was invalid.

Presenting an example, he said when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto came into power, the

country was going through a severe crisis, but through his wisdom and leadership he not only pulled the country out of the economic crisis and brought back all prisoners of war but also held Islamic leaders' conference and initiated the atomic weapons plan. Raja said that democracy was the only way to put the country on the path of development, progress and prosperity.

To maintain harmony in the parliament, political opponents should not be humiliated for securing political points, he advised.

Earlier, PML-N's former minister for planning and development Ahsan Iqbal said that the government was trying to get the budget passed with the only purpose of getting the \$6 billion IMF package, even at the cost of increased poverty and unemployment.

He said that PTI government's honeymoon period was over, and now it should be answerable for its performance. He held the ruling party responsible for the present shortfall of Rs550 billion, and increase in the current expenditures.

During the session, when some parliamentarians from opposition benches chanted "selected prime minister", repeatedly, Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan protested and said that the premier was continuously getting referred to as 'selected', which is a breach of the privilege of the house as he is an elected representative.

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri barred the word 'selected' for the Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Saudi Arabia 'not against' Pak-Qatar ties

From page 1

Pakistan and Qatar also signed Memorandums of Understanding and agreements for enhanced bilateral cooperation in different areas. The Qatari leader left yesterday after completing the two-day trip. It was the second visit of Qatari Emir to Pakistan after assuming power in 2013.

Prior to his departure, he held a meeting with President Dr Arif Alvi yesterday. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani evinced keen interest in enhanced collaboration in energy sector and import of food items from Pakistan.

The Emir also offered assistance in building Pakistan's tourism potential through more Qatari investments and technical support in the hospitality industry.

Expressing satisfaction at the pace of recruitment of manpower from Pakistan, the Emir underlined Qatar's desire to import additional workers and trained security personnel from Pakistan.

Taking note of the progress the achieved in Afghan peace talks, the two

leaders agreed to continue working closely for regional peace and stability.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani thanked leadership of Pakistan for the gracious invitation and hospitality extended to him and his entourage. He also acknowledged the sacrifices made by Pakistan in fight against terrorism.

The President complimented the Emir for his astute leadership, which enabled Qatar to make major strides in energy, tourism, aviation and construction sectors. He admired Qatar's efforts to promote world sports.

Taking note of the 70 percent increase in Pakistan's exports to Qatar following direct linkage between Karachi and Hamad Ports, the President underlined the importance of increased volume of bilateral trade and enhancing and diversifying Pakistan's exports to Qatar. He also focused on potential for enhanced Qatari investments in diverse fields and the prospects of further employment of Pakistani workers in Qatar.

In the regional context, the President lauded Qatar's role in promoting efforts

for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, which is a notable contribution to regional peace.

After his meeting with the Qatari counterpart, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Qatar was playing an important role in overcoming the energy crisis in Pakistan.

The FM said more than 125,000 Pakistanis living in Qatar were playing an important role in development of Qatar. He said that these expatriates are playing the role of a bridge between the two countries.

The trade volume between the two countries has crossed 2.5 billion dollar mark. Qureshi expressed the hope that visit of Qatari Emir will open new vistas of trade between the two countries and investment will increase.

Qatar Foreign Minister expressed interest on behalf of his country to invest in various sectors in Pakistan.

He said his country was interested in importing more than one hundred thousand people from Pakistan for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Attacks against Muslims, minorities continue in India: US report

APP ISLAMABAD

An official US report has said that the mob attacks by violent extremist Hindu groups against the minority communities, particularly Muslims, continued in India in 2018.

According to Kashmir Media Service (KMS), the US State Department, in its annual 2018 International Religious Freedom Report, said, "Mob attacks by violent extremist Hindu groups against minority communities, especially Muslims, continued throughout the year amid rumours that victims had traded or killed cows for beef."

The report said that some senior officials of the ruling Bahartiya Janata Party (BJP) made inflammatory speeches against the minority communities.

According to some NGOs, the authorities often protected perpetrators from prosecution, it said.

It said that as of November, there were 18 such attacks, and eight persons were killed during the year. On June 22, two Uttar Pradesh police officers were charged after a Muslim cattle trader died of injuries sustained while being questioned in police custody, the report said.

The US State Department said that

there were reports by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that the government sometimes failed to act on mob attacks on religious minorities, marginalised communities and critics of the government.

It said that the central and State governments, and members of political parties took steps that affected Muslim practices and institutions.

"Proposals to rename Indian cities with Muslim provenance continued, most notably the renaming of Allahabad to Prayagraj. Activists said that these proposals were designed to erase Muslim contributions to Indian history and had led to increased communal tensions."

There were reports of religiously-motivated killings, assaults, riots, discrimination, vandalism and actions restricting the right of individuals to practice their religious beliefs and proselytize, the annual report said.

The report also mentioned that the brutal gang-rape and murder of eight-year-old Aasifa Bano of Kathua area of Jammu region of Occupied Kashmir.

"On January 10, Jammu and Kashmir police arrested eight men, including four police personnel, in connection with the kidnapping, gang rape, and

killings of an 8-year-old girl (Aasifa). The men allegedly kidnapped the victim, took her to a nearby temple and raped and killed her in an effort to drive her nomadic Muslim community out of the area," it said.

Terrorist shot dead in DI Khan

INP DERA ISMAIL KHAN

The security forces killed a terrorist and arrested another in injured condition after attack on Cantt police station on Sunday.

Sources said that two terrorists attacked Cantt police station Dera Ismail Khan with hand grenades. In retaliatory action of the security forces, one wanted terrorist identified as Zia was killed while his cohort was injured and arrested. The body of killed terrorist and his injured accomplice were shifted to a hospital.

No favourite in Afghan polls: Imran

From page 1

economic prosperity for the region, and particularly for Afghanistan to enable the war-shattered country stand on its own feet.

"A good government will be established in Afghanistan, a government where all Afghans will be represented. The war will end and peace will be established there," Khan was quoted as saying.

OPINION

A simultaneous publication from
LAHORE, ISLAMABAD & KARACHI
Legacy of our Founding Chairman
MAJID NIZAMI

Chairperson/Publishing Editor
RAMEEZA MAJID NIZAMI
Editor
SALIM BOKHARI

Derailed Plans

Lahore's incomplete Orange Line Metro Train looks set to see another delay – if not a permanent end – after the Punjab government cancelled the Operation and Management contract handed out by the previous provincial government. Citing legal and technical concerns, it is hoped that Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's provincial government has not decided to scrap the project altogether; as billions have already been spent on infrastructure and procurement. Cancelling the Orange Line now would be a huge waste.

The previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) bulldozed this project through approval mechanisms amid campaigns by civil society activists, court orders against specific facets of the construction and displacement of various families around the construction sites around the city. The project has caused pain to residents of the city and concerned citizens have pointed out damages to heritage sites in the city; an increased loss of tree cover and other issues as reasons for not going through on the plan in the shape it was when the government gave it the green light. However, the PML-N government all but made sure that this project could not be rolled back when it hastily completed construction around contentious sites; cancelling the project now does more damage because the previous government ensured that there would be no going back.

Given the previous government's ill-thought-out strategy of rushing an important and expensive project, it is hoped that this government displays a little more wisdom in this matter and looks to find new bidders quickly instead of cancelling the contract without an alternative. Whether the public transport system of Lahore needs an overhaul is a moot point; with the amount of money already invested, the government cannot possibly let the Orange Line stay unfinished.

The Orange Line plan had many flaws from the beginning and the previous government takes the blame for all of them. The current government, however, will be the only one at fault if it chooses to cancel the project now using legal and technical grounds as an excuse. The ruling party needs to ensure that this project gets completed one way or another; if it wants to improve upon things such as providing a contract to a different company for operation and management, doing so at the earliest possible opportunity is imperative. With parts of overhead bridges, underground stations and other partially completed infrastructure waiting for completion in the provincial capital, it is hoped that the government does not derail this project just to spite the previous government. Both the city and the country cannot afford this costly and vindictive power play.

The Emir Visit

The visit of the Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani can be seen as a reciprocation of Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan's earlier visit to Qatar in January this year. The visit of the Emir is the success of PM Khan's efforts to enhance Pakistan's standing in the comity of the nations.

Pakistan, under the leadership of Imran Khan, believes that improving Islamabad's foreign relations with other nations is crucial for economic stability. Therefore, it is not surprising to see that two of the three memoranda of understandings (MoUs) signed between the two sides were on the enhancement of trade, tourism and business.

Nevertheless, it is not that Islamabad is showing a tilt towards Doha. The geo-strategic and political and the regional situation have made both sides important to each other. Considering the altercations between Qatar and other Gulf countries led by Saudi Arabia, Doha does not want Pakistan to drift towards Riyadh and her allies. Thus it becomes easy to contextualise the multi-billion dollar investment that Imran Khan says Qatar is keen to invest in Pakistan.

So far it seems, that Islamabad wants to treat both Qatar and Saudi Arabia equally as the Qatari Emir also received Pakistan's highest civilian award – Nishan-e-Pakistan – that the Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman was conferred with during his visit to Pakistan in February 2019.

Recently, Pakistan has witnessed the signing of multi-billion dollar investment deals with Saudi Arabia and now MoUs on trade and investment and cooperation on financial intelligence and tourism with Qatar. One can see these positive developments as natural outcomes of Pakistan becoming a global trade hub once China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) becomes fully operational.

Also, it is a golden opportunity for the incumbent government to materialise all these deals with wealthy Gulf sheikhdoms in a manner that can take Pakistan out of the economic crisis. And while doing so, the state needs to remain neutral in any possible conflict between countries having friendly relations with Islamabad.

Maryam Nawaz's Resistance

Maryam Nawaz's press conference on Saturday made it clear who will fulfil the role of the confrontationalist resistance leader in the opposition today. For the past ten months, several prominent leaders have wrestled for the position—Maulana Fazlur Rehman has tried quite often to unite the opposition to provide the most resistance to the government, and Shehbaz and Hamza Sharif have given lengthy droning speeches in the parliament and provincial assembly, explaining why the government is in the utter wrong of everything. Yet when it comes to who has the most impact, and who uses the words which go for the jugular, it cannot be denied that Maryam Nawaz's press conferences and interviews draw the most attention.

Her recent press conference was certainly no exception when it comes to raising eyebrows. During her speech, Maryam took plenty a jab at the government, saying that the prime minister, who she called "nalaq-e-azam" has ruined the economy by his incompetence and had not provided any relief to the masses, despite borrowing a lot of money. Her criticism of the government ministers was so severe that it prompted statements from the information minister, berating Maryam for using "personal attacks" against Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) parliamentarians.

Perhaps the most interesting part of Maryam's press conference was that she did not spare her own party from criticism. She rebuked the opposition's "charter of economy", a proposal of the opposition to work with the government to pass the budget. According to Maryam, there can be no agreement with the government, which according to her, "stole the people's mandate".

These comments are extremely revealing. They can be perceived as a jab at her own uncle and leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Shehbaz Sharif, who has voiced support for the charter of economy. This is perhaps the first time that a Sharif family member has publicly criticised the proposal of another Sharif leader.

For the past year, it has been clear that the Nawaz and Shehbaz style of resistance are two different brands. Nawaz Sharif has always been more confrontational and Shehbaz's style has been cooperative and traditional. In the last year, where several PML-N leaders have been jailed, the differences between the two camps have gotten more divisive and heated as ever. No matter how much Maryam denies a feud with her uncle, her words reflect a parting of the ways of the resistance effort that PML-N has been following for these past months.

The Nation

OPPOSITION OFFERED GOVT CHARTER OF ECONOMY



NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

On freedom

I recently forayed into the world of Twitter, and find it hilarious, infuriating and very, very clever on occasion. People crack jokes, commiserate with each other, support others, insult strangers and pick fights. People are rude, vapid, witty, sad. But the best part is that on the internet, one is completely free. Even in this state of ours, where...people...keep an eye on one, the internet is a strangely liberating place. Of course, most desire use it to be borderline psychotic but at least they're free to do it.

Having a voice is not a power to take lightly. We tend to use social media flippantly, because we take its availability for granted. When dissent begins to happen, the internet is where it begins, and is usually the first thing to go when tyrants try and crush the voice of the people. It's the reason why we aren't hearing as much from Sudan as we should, where a people's revolt is currently underway, in a struggle to remove a military dictator from government. It's why Whatsapp isn't allowed in China, the government of which is not kindly disposed towards criticism. It might also be why activist Ali Haider, who has been protesting the absence of his father since he was a child, has returned home safely after a disappearance of his own. A voice, and the use of it, is certainly why Malala Yousafzai was shot, in an attempted murder. It would do us some good to consider the freedoms we enjoy so casually, and one does not necessarily mean this in an army recruitment video way either. One means it in the way that people with privilege don't use it to look closely at the struggles of others.

Having a voice—being able to write, tweet, broadcast, publish—without fear of being threatened is an enormous privilege now. The dark side to technology in our lives is that it has also provided states and non-state actors like corporations to use these devices to monitor our movement, record conversations and generally contribute to a stealthy system of surveillance on the average person, accessible by anyone with the right kind of influence. Marketing departments might buy this information in order to sell you more things, in a benign way—it's not a coincidence that you might be chatting to a friend on Whatsapp about feeling hungry, and your Facebook sidebar showing you food-ordering app advertisement. Our freedom is tenuous and probably more illusory than we think, but as long as we have it, as long as we are writing columns and our phone remains untapped and nobody is reading our e-mails then what are we doing to help? Because ultimately, what good is a voice that goes unheard?

It needn't be something enormous. We often shy away from change because we think it needs to be a "Grand Gesture", an earth-shattering, transformative act of courage or rebellion, but not all of us can recite poetry on the top of a car and become the face of a revolution. Not everyone can pull a chiffon dupatta around their carefully pieced-back-together head and advocate for girls' education. But we can help where we can. We can intervene when someone's getting shouty in a line at the bank. We can tell the people around us to stop using racist language, or sharing sexist jokes in the family Whatsapp group. We can read, and then educate others about what we learn. The point is really about power, and who holds it. When you have power, what will you do with it? Use it as a weapon, or as an asset? When you have influence, money, clout, whatever kind of it, any amount of it—will you be mindful?

We have so many opportunities for growth, but we use them for destruction instead. It is an endless cycle of temptation and learning. One is often sidetracked by people who scoff that these ideas, dismissing them as hippie hand-wringing, being 'too sensitive'. But the world is an increasingly unsafe, unknown and dark place—HIV is quietly worming its way into our bodies, the environment is at its worst, there is no water. Now more than ever is it urgent for us to form a collective for the greater good. There was no time more urgent than now to think of the future of humanity, instead of just ourselves. There's a saying, it's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. But if we can't light a candle, at least we can curse the dark. Sometimes that's all a voice can do, and it might spark something bigger. But one has to try, and keep trying.

On that note, friends and kind readers, after more than five years it is time to put down the weekly pen for a longer gap, and while I hope to find my byline on these pages for many more years to come, for now it is time for a break. Fare you all well, and thank you for the e-mails and feedback over the years. It has been an honour, and may we all try and speak truth to power each day of our lives.



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The future of banking?

Continued...

Trust has evolved over centuries. For a long time, until the mid-1800s, trust was built around tight-knit relationships. So say you lived in a village with 5 people, and you all knew one another, and say someone wanted to borrow money. One of the 5 people might lend the money to that someone, and if they didn't pay back, you'd all know that person was dodgy. That person would get a bad reputation, and you would refuse to do business with them in the future. Trust was mostly local and accountability-based.

In the mid-19th century, society went through a tremendous amount of change. People moved to fast-growing cities such as London and San Francisco, and a local banker here was replaced by large corporations that didn't know us as individuals. We started to place our trust into black box systems of authority, things like legal contracts and regulation and insurance, and less trust directly in other people. Trust became institutional and commission-based.

It's widely talked about how trust in institutions and corporate brands has been steadily declining and continues to do so. With major breaches of trust: the News Corp phone hacking, the Volkswagen emissions scandal, the widespread abuse in the Catholic Church, the fact that only one measly banker went to jail after the great financial crisis, or more recently the Panama Papers that revealed how the rich can exploit offshore tax regimes.

It would be easy to conclude that institutional trust isn't working because we are fed up with the sheer audacity of dishonest elites, but what's happening now runs deeper than the rampant questioning of the size and structure of institutions. We're starting to realize that institutional trust wasn't designed for the digital age. Conventions of how trust is built, managed, lost and repaired – in brands, leaders and entire systems – is being turned upside down.

Now, this is exciting, but it's frightening because it forces many of us to have to rethink how trust is built and destroyed with our customers, with our employees, even our loved ones.

You would be very careful sipping your coffee in an Uber or hanging your towel and keeping your bathroom clean when staying at an Airbnb venue. It is because guests know they will be rated by their hosts and that those ratings are likely to impact their ability to transact in the future. It's a simple illustration of how online trust will change our behaviours in the real world and make us more accountable in ways we cannot yet even imagine.

Trust is no longer top-down. It's being unbundled and inverted. It's no longer opaque and linear. A new recipe for trust is emerging that once again is distributed amongst people

and is accountability-based.

And this shift is only going to accelerate with the emergence of the blockchain, the innovative ledger technology underpinning Bitcoin. The real implication of the blockchain is that it removes the need for any kind of third party, such as a lawyer, or a trusted intermediary, or maybe not a government intermediary to facilitate the exchange. We still have to trust the idea, the platform, but we don't have to trust the other person in the traditional sense.

Today, many of us are comfortable getting into cars driven by strangers. We meet up with someone we swiped right to be matched with. We share our homes with people we do not know.

This is just the beginning, because the real disruption happening isn't technological. It's the trust shift it creates, it's the consumer behaviour which has changed, and for my part, I believe, the future of banking revolves around helping people understand this new era of trust so that banks can get it right and we can embrace the opportunities to redesign systems that are more transparent, inclusive and accountable.

Digital Vs. Bricks and Mortar
The ongoing battle in the industry, which is better? Clicks or bricks?

Why not look at the scenario from a different perspective? What if the digital world and bricks and mortar were not in competition at all, or enemies, or opposing subjects? What if they weren't competing ideas, but rather individually, enablers and facilitators of an enriched banking experience for the customer – a world where digital and bricks and mortar fuse?

The debate of 'Digital versus Brick-and-Mortar' is perhaps over. They are not competing ideas. Digital won't lead to the death of the brick-and-mortar bank.

In actual fact, digital presents retail bankers with the opportunity to enhance the banking experience, making it more attractive for customers by offering them further options on products, pricing, convenience and personalization. The landscape in Pakistan has changed. 40 million people can access the internet, 72% have mobile phones, 16.6% have smartphones and is expected to rise to 51% by 2020. 8% of the population is connected to social media of which 75% are millennial. There are 139 million subscribers of cellular service in Pakistan. We are a young, tech-savvy nation.

Despite customers adopting mobile and digital banking at a pace we've never seen before, the importance of having a branch in a convenient location is as important ever for consumers. Every day, millions of customers walk in to branches, be it for advice, or to transact, banks must give their customers that option, as a need to establish a certain footprint of financial institutions.

There are customer segments who value the experience associated with familiar faces and inter-

acting with people they know. While certain banking products lend themselves to automation, other products such as those pertaining to commercial banking and wealth management perform best with the deeper level of interaction found in branch banking relationships.

Consumers continue to see the value of branches for the "human factor." Although 24 per cent of consumers say they would consider a branchless bank, nearly 90% of customers believe that they will continue to use their branches, and an increasing number of consumers believe that the branch is the single most important channel.

There are many reasons for the continued necessity of branches, including concerns over internet security, simplicity of use and a lack of knowledge surrounding the capabilities of online and mobile banking. However, the most powerful force that will keep physical branches alive and well for many years to come is the instinctual human desire to meet the people they are entrusting with their money. There is no technological substitute for the trust building that occurs when you can meet with someone face to face and shake his or her hand.

There is no denying that the way people bank has changed over the years both digitally and traditionally. Digital banking has exploded in recent years as consumers are able to bank regarding virtually anything, at the click of a button. However, traditional branches have also embraced the new technological era and branches today act as showrooms integrating the in-branch experience with online banking as consumers view and explore their options before returning home to apply online. The branch plays a part in generating the sale; it's almost a fundamental catalyst for the transaction which completes online.

We have seen recently a number of prominent bricks and mortar branches struggling to compete with their digital counterparts. Maybe it's time for a U-turn and for retail to return back to bricks and mortar. Retail bankers should perhaps remove the "versus" in the equation between digital and bricks and mortar and replace it with a "+" to create an omniscient customer experience as the way forward.

Instead of moving away from physical branch locations, the bank of the future must continue to work on enhancing the branch locations' digital capabilities and on staffing each branch with digital specialists that receive additional training in newer technologies. These digital specialists will help bank branches introduce new capabilities to their customers.

The key to success will be to create a new mission for branches—moving away from simply serving customers—to adding tangible value for customers by educating them through digital tools, assisting them through problem-solving and enabling them to make their own financial decisions with thoughtful and well-timed advice.

PART-II



Qasim Ali
The writer is a Solutions Architect at Bank Alfalah.

Trust is no longer top-down. It's being unbundled and inverted.

There's a saying, it's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. But if we can't light a candle, at least we can curse the dark.

AIDs/HIV- Serious national death trap

It is a known fact how damaging three lethal diseases, namely, AIDs, Hepatitis and drug addiction are for the lives of people and for the new generations.



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All of these act as a slow poison in the human body eating up the immune system and finally engulfs the life of the victim/patient. The most detrimental of all is AIDs but unfortunately, like the other two diseases, it is also not being taken seriously in Pakistan. Our federation, instead of working ways and means to control it, is in a frenzy to seek explanations for the genesis of the disease. Moreover, blame games between provinces are underway as to which province has got the highest number of AIDs victims. No matter if Punjab secures highest ranking or Sindh, the problem needs to be countered immediately. The federation, as well as the provinces together, are required to scramble to coordinate an effective response to the epidemic.

This disease is increasing at an alarming pace and we need to stop this growing monster as soon as possible.

AIDs is the most advanced stage of HIV infection and it kills its victims. An HIV-infected person takes 10-15 years to develop AIDs. After developing AIDs it is usually observed that the victim dies in six months. There is no effective vaccine or treatment for AIDs; however, antiretroviral drugs (ART) can slow down the progress.

According to estimates, Pakistan is registering approximately 20,000 new HIV infections annually. It is the highest rate of increase among all countries in the region. There are 0.165 million estimated number of HIV patients in Pakistan (the actual undeclared number is much more). This statistical data does not include the real figures as the Patients of AIDs avoid reporting it due to social problems/compulsions.

According to my information, the province wise distribution of patients reported till 2018 is that there are 75000 patients of AIDs in Punjab, 60,000 in Sindh, 5000 were reported in Balochistan and 15000 so far in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is unfortunate to state that Punjab has the highest number of patients which is equally alarming both in Punjab and Sindh and other parts of the country.

The most alarming thing is that the list of new cases includes children as young as 16 months which is due to their AIDs infected mothers. The reasons for the rising number of HIV/AIDs in our country include unlicensed medical quackery, and large-scale medical malpractice via the re-use of syringes and unsterilized medical tools, unsafe blood transfusions and use of contaminated blades by the community. Above every other thing, it is sad to note that neither health nor health-related issues are given priority by our government. The seriousness of the present government towards the preven-

tion of this fatal disease can be seen in that no serious funds have been allocated for AIDs control and treatment in Budget 2019-20.

In 1987, a National AIDS Prevention and Control Program (NACP) was initiated by the Federal Health Ministry. Initially, the program was only focused on blood screening and some health promotion and HIV education activities for the general public. Since then, the programme is suffering from a weak strategy as it does not address treatment services properly due to lack of funding and dull response to the health sector.

In other parts of the world, the number of HIV patients is declining by the use of advanced technology followed by their prime focus towards health but Pakistan till now remains the one with no focus upon health sector. Recently, Dr Bashir Ahmed Achakzai MD NACP National Programme Manager made an honest confession regarding the organisation that they do not have enough funds or resources at federal and provincial level to curb the disease.

Although 27 HIV/AIDs treatment centres and 22 community home-based testing centres had been established in all four provinces, no resources have ever been allocated for other activities of HIV prevention as the only drug ARV that prevents AIDs is not available in Pakistan. The country is totally relying on HIV test kits which cost over Rupees one lac and the hospitals do not have any suffice budget to buy or import these kits.

In 2017, the government had announced free HIV testing system that was only available in three cities of Pakistan. In order to fill this gap, the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) took this step to avail the Aga Khan University Hospital's (AKUH) 200 plus a nationwide network of collection units to collect blood samples from areas that are far. NACP had decided to pay Rs. 1500 to Agha Khan Hospital per patient from the funds allocated to it by Global Funds against Aids, Malaria and TB while the private laboratories charge Rs. 15000-17000 for the same test.

As per my personal enquiry, the above-mentioned plan remains only on paper as no such facility is now being provided to common people. According to a reliable Senior Official source, the real position reported to the State is that the total estimated HIV positives in Pakistan in 2018 were over 170,000 among which 24,331 cases have been registered in 35 centres only. Moreover, out of all these registered patients, only 17,149 are actually getting treatment.

The diagnosis of this ever-spreading disease requires community-based testing and the government should encourage the testing of this disease free of cost. According to the Health Ministry, there is an immediate requirement of funds as the estimated amount in the national strategic plan for 5 Years is \$266 million. The global aid fund is providing \$35 whereas the government has provided \$35 through do-

mestic resources. There is a gap of \$201 million which are urgently required only to treat the reported patients.

According to a report, some organised criminals are running their business from big cities and the young sex workers are taken to the Middle East on visit visas. They contract aid form these countries and so are responsible for spreading the disease. The country is going through another social issue as the Transgender community is jobless and they are also being used as sex workers.

While making this matter as a case study, I decide not only to write but also probe into misappropriation of funds release at the federal level for this very programme. While continuing this probe, I am presenting the following suggestions to be paid attention to:

1. Legislation should be done in order to discipline the use of medical instruments to ensure hygiene among the patients.
2. There must be a complete ban over the reuse of syringes.
3. Use of auto-disable syringes must be introduced.
4. All hospitals need to reserve at least 50 beds and an isolation ward for AIDs patients along with the provision of extra budget.
5. An effective media campaign both at public and private media should be started with immediate effect.
6. The government should strengthen NACP not only through enough funding but it should also be made responsible enough to ensure the provision of an increased number of beds in the treatment centres and should also become the regulator of all matters related to AIDs treatment and control programme.
7. All drug addicts must be passed through AID tests and all the addicts diagnosed with AIDs must be sent to AIDs treatment centres.
8. There should be a compulsory drug addiction test for students studying at High School, Colleges and Universities as it will not only help in curbing addictions but also help in detection of AIDs too among the frog addicts.
9. All the provincial governments and the Federal government should launch an SOS programme to curb all the factors contributing to this widespread disease.

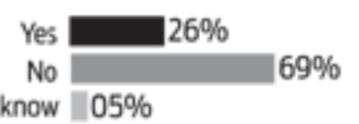
Although I am very glad to have penned down such a vital national issue to increase awareness among the people but I'm equally disappointed to see how only the Sindh Government was blamed for the increase in the number of patients whereas the above figures clearly show that Punjab has the highest number of AID patients in the province. One should avoid playing politics on HIV issue as it is a purely human issue and we have to curb it with collective efforts and wisdom. It is not a matter of blame game but facts remain that the federation is consistently failing to assist the provincial governments in controlling the fatal disease.

#Whatstrending The top opinions on Twitter

- Tweets are reproduced verbatim and are unedited to retain the author's views and mannerisms.
- Tehreek-e-Insaf @einsafPK**
#PTI MPA @ArsalanGhumman digs out undeclared properties of Faryal Talpur. This serves as enough ground to file a case for Faryal Talpur's disqualification in ECP.
- Petroleum Division, MOE @Offici...**
Signing of Petroleum Concessions Agreement (PCA) and Exploration Licences (ELs) at the Ministry today. The details of these PCAs and ELs are Block No.2768-1 (Sorah) that has been executed with PPL, Block No 3069-10 (Musakhel) is a Joint Venture between OGDCL and PPL/OGDCL 1/1
- Govt of Pakistan @pid_gov**
President Dr. Arif Alvi Confers Pakistan Highest Civil Award Nishan-e-Pakistan on Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. #PakistanWelcomesQatariEmir #PakQatar
- Iftikhar Firdous @iftikharFirdous**
A terrorist linked with the group that attacked the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore and wanted for more than 12 cases of sectarian target killing has been shot dead in an intelligence based operation in Dera Ismail Khan, South KP.
- Ahsan Butt @ahsanib**
Haris Sohail has scored more runs in five balls than Shoaib Malik did in 3 innings.
- Humayun Saeed @iamhumayu...**
Big game today but let's just all sit back, relax and enjoy it instead of constantly criticising the players. Win or lose, this is our team and if we won't support it, no one else will! #PakistanZindabad #PakVSA #CWC19

VIEWPOINT

Are there any alternatives to conditioned loans of IMF for improving Pakistan's economy?



Do you think Pakistan can still qualify for Semi Finals? To participate in today's poll, log on to www.nation.com.pk

Past in Perspective

*He dwells not only in temples and mosques -
The whole creation is his abode.
The whole world is bewitched by his tale,
but wise are those who are lost in his love.*

-Sarmad Kashani

Sarmad Kashani was born to an Armenian Jewish family in Kashan, Persia. His date of birth is estimated to be around 1590. In 1631, he migrated to Thatta, Sindh where he is reported to have fallen in love with a Hindu boy, Abhai Chand. By this time, he was known for his mystical powers and would also roam around the streets naked. When Sarmad migrated to Delhi, the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh became his disciple. When Aurangzeb usurped the throne, he felt threatened by Sarmad's disobedient, unorthodox ways of being and planned on punishing him. Since the charges of nakedness and homosexuality were not enough, Aurangzeb planned on executing Sarmad on the charges of heresy. A trial of Sarmad was held in the presence of a religious council. When asked to recite the entire Kalima, Sarmad only recited its first half: "there is no God." On inquiry, he explained how he was still immersed in negation and was yet to reach the stage of affirmation. This infuriated the religious council which was already skeptical of his religious syncretism. Consequently, he was capitulated by Aurangzeb on the charges of Blasphemy.



Sarmad was executed because of his critique of multiple religious, social and political institutions of his time. Even today, the religion is used to eliminate those who pose any kind of threat to the power structures as the case of Mashaal Khan and missing bloggers indicates.

Letters to the Editor

Views expressed in articles and letters on these pages are not necessarily shared by the newspaper. E-mail alert! Writers for Opinion and Analysis pages are requested to send their contributions to editorial@nation.com.pk E-mails for notes to the editor should be addressed to: readerscolumn@nation.com.pk - Editor

Let poor people live in new Pakistan

The poor people are kicking the bucket because of the storm of unfriendly budget. The government showed the dreams of prosperity, rise, and shine and promised to remove the painful and ghastly days of the poor. Unfortunately, these promises of prosperity proved to be mere daydreams. The poor are completely shocked since they had lots of expectations from the new government. Three main challenges are faced by the poor.

First, they are deprived of their houses in the name of encroachment. Second, after the destruction of their homes, their businesses have been destroyed. The third is the latest gift of the unfriendly budget, which has broken the spinal cord of poor people. In Karachi only, more than 90 thousand houses and business shops have been destroyed.

Moreover, because of the rise in the value of the dollar, a huge reduction of 40% has been reported in the income of poor, common people. Additionally, the IMF has conditioned the government to remove its subsidizations. If the subsidy on agriculture is removed, the poor people will be deprived of vegetables, rice, wheat, fruits, and many other things used in our daily life. The poverty, unemployment and inflation has snatched the rights of living. What to talk of education, the poor people do not have enough money to fulfill their basic necessities.

The futile and bogus promises have caused sheer amount of unrest amongst the nation. Where are the one crore jobs, 50 lac houses and promises to get back the looted amount of 200 billion dollars of the poor nation within a week? We are in a miserable condition. Therefore,

authorities are requested to give some relief to common people. Let the poor breath in new Pakistan.

ZAHoor ABBAS,
Larkano.

What about Dera Bugti?

District Dera Bugti is the place where the natural gas was discovered in 1952 in the area of Sui. It has been providing natural gas to more than 70 pc of the total population of Pakistan. Unfortunately, there is no gas in the area itself, and people are compelled to use wood for cooking.

Besides, the residents are also facing the serious woes of load-shedding and low electrical voltage in these hot Summers. The locals are only getting electricity for 6 hours. Owing to load-shedding, the scarcity of water has also become a serious threat for them, since their crops are not getting sufficient water.

I hope the current government will soon provide for these basic facilities to the villages of Balochistan.

WAHEED WAHID,
Balnigwar.

Economy, us and the govt

A prominent government retired economist once told me that inflation in developing countries is an essential part of progress and prosperity. However, I believe it would be true only if inflation is riding at the back of investments and growth in the right sectors.

Unfortunately, the previous government spent huge funds on construction of motorways, flyovers, underpasses, and metro bus service, which are important but only if coupled with investment in

education, health, industrial and human capital development sectors. The past government missed the later, that is, it ignored education, health, human development, construction of dams.

They kept focussing on the projects which could earn them personal glory and popularity whereas the masses sigh under the heavy weight of inflation. The amount spent on these subsidized schemes is a precursor of bringing Pakistan into a debt trap. The new government won the elections on the promise that it would set things straight by investing in the right sectors. Sadly, it's policies and actions reflect to the contrary. The budget layover is also quite disappointing in terms of allocation for health, education, and industry.

The government must realize this sooner than later and change its course of action to take right steps for the revival of crippling economy and reduction of high inflation. At the moment, it seems we are going in the wrong direction and hoping to reach glory.

RAJA SHAFATULLAH,
Islamabad.

Where are they ?

PPrime Minister Imran Khan has about half a dozen media representatives around him. Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan from Sialkot has been the latest addition to information and Broadcasting Ministry.

The pertinent question is where they are and what they are doing to project a positive image of the federal government. One fails to find any convincing strong-worded rebuttals from them to the hostile anti-government propaganda spread by the PPP and PML(N) leaders in the newspapers. Unnecessary preference is given to the electronic media over the print media,

which is least productive and desirable.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has addressed the nation couple of days back around midnight. The broadcast was interrupted and caused a lot of confusion and doubts in the minds of the people at large. This gave the opposition another opportunity to hurl criticism on the Prime Minister. The situation should have been clarified quite emphatically by someone on behalf of the Prime Minister and the federal government. Those responsible for causing this interruption should also have been punished accordingly.

But no such clarification was given, and the people have been unwarrantedly kept in the dark. This was another failure on the part of Prime Minister's media team. Who is going to check them?
MUHAMMAD MURTAZA,
Lahore.

Honour killing in Pakistan

Honour killing is known as murder to restore the honor of the family in a society. It is a major phenomenon in Pakistan and the reason for many to commit suicide. Recently 14 women committed suicide in Balochistan to escape their murder in the name of honor.

According to Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, more than 1000 people are killed in the name of honour in Pakistan annually. The main cause of its existence is the law which has no punishment for the criminals in the real sense. So, I want to request the government to take strict actions against this issue and promote laws against those who kill others in the name of honor. There is no honour in honour killing.

HAZARI KB,
Turbat.

Quick Read

PANAHA lauds taxes on tobacco

RAWALPINDI (APP): Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAHA), President Major General @ Masood ur Rehman Kiayani has hailed the government's decision to impose tax on tobacco, saying this will go a long way to curtail tobacco use and positively impact public health.

Addressing a press conference, he said a strict legislation was also needed in this regard as despite a ban on smoking in public health facilities, colleges, parks and hospital, the rule was not being implemented.

He said the association was working from last 35 years to create awareness among the citizen about the effects of smoking on human health. Tobacco was the leading cause of health diseases and stricter measures must be adopted to eliminate its consumption in the country, he added. Taxes on tobacco products was one of the most effective ways of cutting down consumption; however, Pakistan had witnessed an unfortunate series of events in the form of resistance from the powerful tobacco industry which has always vehemently lobbied against the tobacco law introduction and implementation in the country. Among others, PANAHA Technical Advisor, Dr. Wajid Ali, Dr. Abdul Qayyum Awan Vice President and General Secretary Sana Ullah Guman were also present on the occasion.

Exxon Mobil seeks bids for Norwegian offshore assets

OSLO (REUTERS): Exxon Mobil is considering selling all of the stakes it holds in oil and gas fields off the Norwegian coast, a spokeswoman said.

Two years ago the U.S. major - the world's largest oil company - sold its operated assets in the area. But it has retained stakes in more than 20 other fields, including Equinor-operated Snorre and Shell-operated Ormen Lange. "Following interest expressed by several parties, Exxon Mobil has decided to open a data room to test the market interest for the upstream portfolio in Norway," Anne Fougner said, adding that no decision to sell had yet been made.

A number of private-equity backed firms, including Okea, and independent oil firms Aker BP and DNO, have this year said they were looking to buy more assets on the Norwegian continental shelf.

Fougner's remarks confirmed a report in local newspaper Dagens Naeringsliv. She declined to comment on the value of the assets, which the business daily quoted an unnamed industry expert as saying could be worth \$3-4 billion. In 2017, Exxon Mobil's net production from fields off Norway was around 170,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, according to its website.

Erik Haugane, Okea's chief executive, told Reuters this week he expected all oil majors except Norway's Equinor to exit the Norwegian continental shelf in a decade.

Another Norwegian oil firm, Det norske - controlled by billionaire Kjell Inge Roelkke - bought BP's Norwegian assets in 2016, with BP getting a 30% stake in the new company, Aker BP. U.S. major Chevron transferred its last stake in a Norwegian offshore license last year, while ConocoPhillips still operates Ekofisk, the first major oil discovery off Norway.

Govt ignores economists for 43 Pakistani missions abroad

FAWAD YOUSAFZAI
ISLAMABAD

The government has totally excluded the economics group from the race of appointment of Trade and Investment officers to 43 Pakistani missions abroad and inducted the provision for the dual nationals.

In a letter to the ministries/divisions the commerce division has invited applications from all the occupational groups of Civil Service of Pakistan (BPS-18-21) and candidates from Pakistani Diaspora fulfilling the requisite eligibility criteria as a trade and investment officer in Pakistan's mission abroad.

As per the new eligibility criteria all the other groups including the people with dual nationality holders are eligible but interestingly Economist group has been excluded from the process, official sources told The Nation here Sunday.

As per the eligibility criteria officers

There are 130 officers of economics group working in different ministries and divisions

who have served for at least three of the last eight years on relevant positions in Federal government in commerce division, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Economic Affairs Division, Federal Board of Revenue (Customs), Board of Investment, Privatization Commission, Textile Division, Ministry of Industries and Production, provincial Department of Revenue and Finance, Commerce, Investment and Industries.

The candidates from Pakistani Di-

aspora should have a master degree in Business Administration (Marketing), Master in international law and Economics, International Trade, WTO law, Commercial Law, Investment Promotion Management, and commerce (at least 16 years of education) from Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized institutes or reputed foreign universities with at least 75 percent marks or equivalent in Grade Point Average (GPA).

Five years relevant experience (for post in BS-18), 10 years (in BS-19), 15 years (in BS-20) in fields of marketing, sales, business, international marketing and international trade.

The candidate should be within age limit of up to 40 years from posts in BS-18, up to 50 years in BS-19, and up to 56 years for posts in BS-20.

The candidate must be either a Pakistani national or a Pakistan national with dual nationality. Candidate must furnish documentary evidence to be classified as diaspora.

There are around 130 officers of economics group working in different ministries and division but there is no provision for the pure economic group, said the source. The economist group officials are working in Planning commission, finance division, commerce etc, the source added.

On the other hand railway division has been included in the eligibility criteria. Some provisions are included in the process to accommodate some of the blue eyed, alleged the source.

The government is trying to accommodate Pakistan diaspora but ignoring the most relevant economist group, the source maintained.

Out of 43 officers 42 will be posted as Trade and Investment officers in foreign missions while one post is for director ECO Tehran, said the source.

Out of 42 Trade and Investment Officers nine post are for BS 18, 26 post are BS 19, seven posts are BS 20 and one is for grade 21.

“Commerce division has invited applications from all the occupational groups except economics group



RAWALPINDI: Provincial Minister for Law Raja Muhammad Basharat addressing a meeting at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce.—ONLINE

Qatar's direct investment to help expedite trade activities: Experts

APP
ISLAMABAD

Qatar's direct investment in Pakistan would help expedite business, trade and tourism activities besides strengthening economy of the country.

This was stated by an expert and Head of School of Economy, Dr Talat Anwar while talking to a news channel.

Pakistan was confronted with multiple challenges due to massive borrowing of loans in the past but after Qatar's healthy investment, the situation would improve, Dr Talat Anwar stated. Pakistan had an agreement of LNG with Qatar, which was a cheap source of generating electricity, he said.

The country was going through energy crisis due to rising demand, he said, adding import of LNG from Qatari companies had helped address the issue.

He said Pakistani businessmen could grab the food and surgical markets of Qatar. Dr Anwar said our country could fulfill the requirement of Qatari market by exporting food items and surgical goods.

Dr Riffat Hussain, another economic expert suggested that Qatari companies should come forward for lifting skilled and semi skilled workers from Pakistan.

Lt Gen (Retd), Talat Masood said Pakistan's foreign policy was moving in right direction due to the enlighten vision of the present government.

He said the incumbent government's initiatives for cementing relations with all the countries would largely benefit this region.

General (Retd) Talat further stated the government's foreign policy would improve the image of the country around the world.

He also appreciated the leadership of Qatar for adopting the policy of expanding and strengthening relations with all countries including Gulf and Arab.

Majority recommendations entailed the communications network in Pakistan. Chairman National Highway Authority, Jawad Rafique Malik informed the Committee that 40 percent of new schemes have been announced for Balochistan. The Committee stressed the need to maintain existing roads as well.

EV policy to be aligned with current auto policy: Razak

APP
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister's Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood Sunday said the electric vehicle (EV) policy would be formulated in consultation with the stakeholders and it would be aligned with the current auto policy.

The policy would incorporate global and regional best practices, growth of the EVs and the environmental concerns would be addressed properly, he said in a press statement.

Meanwhile, according to a Ministry of Commerce press release, Secretary Industries and Production Aamir Khawaja chaired an inter-ministerial on the formulation of a

National Electric Vehicles Policy. Representatives of the Ministry of Climate Change and EDB were also present in the meeting.

Aamir Khawaja on the occasion highlighted the importance of global auto trends where EVs market was growing fast.

He said Pakistan must pursue an EVs policy that addresses environmental concerns, allows economic adjustments and leads to efficient and competitive EVs market in the country.

The representative of Ministry of Climate Change highlighted the importance of controlling emissions for better environment.

As Ministry of Industries & Production has already formulated and implemented the Auto Development Policy (ADP), 2016-21, the E-vehicle Policy will also be scruti-

nized and implemented in the broader prospect of auto sector and under the auspices of the already implemented ADP, 2016-21.

\$2M PERFUME PLANT: A Chinese company, Guangzhou Rongshih Trading Company, is ready to set up a perfume and cosmetic unit in Allama Iqbal Industrial City.

In this regard, Company Chairman Evan Jhang inked an agreement with Mian Kashif Ashfaq, chairman Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC).

Giving details on Sunday, Mian Kashif said that the Chinese company was among top companies of China, which is manufacturing high-quality perfume. He said that FIEDMC would provide world-class facilities to its customers in Allama Iqbal Industrial City.

Airlines avoid parts of Iran-controlled airspace after US order

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Some global airlines are re-routing flights to avoid Iran-controlled airspace over the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman, they said on Friday, after the U.S. aviation regulator barred its carriers from the area until further notice.

Thursday's emergency order from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) came after Iran shot down a high-altitude U.S. drone with a surface-to-air missile, sparking concerns about a threat to the safety of commercial airlines.

The downing of the unarmed

Global Hawk drone, which can fly up to 60,000 ft (18,300 m), was the latest in a series of incidents in the Gulf region, a critical artery for global oil supplies, that included explosive strikes on six oil tankers.

According to flight tracking applications, the FAA said, the nearest civil aircraft was operating within about 45 nautical miles of the unmanned aircraft when it was shot down. "There were numerous civil aviation aircraft operating in the area at the time of the intercept," the FAA said, adding that its prohibition would stay in place until further notice.

Hours earlier, United Airlines

suspended flights between New Jersey's Newark airport and India's financial capital of Mumbai following a safety review. Cathay Pacific, Malaysia Airlines, Australia's Qantas Airways Ltd, Singapore Airlines Ltd, Germany's Lufthansa, British Airways and KLM of the Netherlands said they were re-routing flights to avoid the area.

Emirates Airlines and Etihad Airways, which were flying over the area earlier on Friday, according to flight tracking website FlightRadar24, said later they were also re-routing their flights.

The FAA said it remained concerned about the escalation of ten-

sion and military activity in close proximity to high-volume civil aircraft routes as well as Iran's willingness to use long-range missiles in international airspace with little or no warning.

In July 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down by a missile over Ukraine, killing all 298 on board, prompting carriers to take more steps to uncover threats to their planes.

But concerns persist over inadequate government intelligence sharing and a reluctance by countries involved in conflicts to divulge information or sacrifice overflight fees by closing their skies, according

to safety experts.

The U.S. ban does not apply to airlines from other countries, but OPS-GROUP, which provides guidance to operators, said carriers globally would take it into consideration. "Since MH17, all countries rely on advice from the U.S., the U.K., France and Germany to highlight airspace risk," it said. "The threat of a civil aircraft shootdown in southern Iran is real," it added.

Restricting airspace complicates airline efforts to keep routes running in a region where airspace is already congested, in part due to ongoing conflicts which have made it unsafe to fly over some countries.

BUSINESS

Govt decides to relocate SNGPL head office

FAWAD YOUSAFZAI
ISLAMABAD

“ KP govt is demanding for last six years office's shifting from Lahore to Islamabad

The government has decided to shift the head office of the Sui Northern Gas Pipeline (SNGPL) from Lahore to Islamabad, it is learnt reliably here. The government has decided regarding shifting of the gas utility head office from Lahore to Islamabad and has asked SNGPL to look for the suitable location for its office in the Federal capital, official source told The Nation. For the last around six years the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is demanding for the shifting of the SNGPL headquarter from Lahore to Islamabad, the source said.”

In early 2014, during the then minister for petroleum Khaqan Abbasi visit the Peshawar, the provincial government of KP had raised the issue of shifting of the headquarter,” the source elaborated. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is producing around 11 percent of the gas to national gas production. It doesn't make any sense that a utility that is providing service to two different regions and its head office is located at the edge of one region. KP has no control over the SNGPL as it is entirely controlled by Punjab, the source maintained. Islamabad is almost convenient from both the regions and it will make the interaction easy with the compa-

Province adds around 11pc of gas to national production

ny, the source argued. It's too hard for the officials in Peshawar to travel all the way down to Lahore, the source said. Besides, the Managing Director, General Managers, CFO and other high officials of the SNGPL posted at Lahore office require frequent travelling to Islamabad, the source said. The shifting of the SNGPL headquarter

will save time and reduce the cost of travelling, the source maintained. The source said that the number of KP domiciled people are far less than its share in the head office. It is pertinent to mention here that NGPL provide gas to Punjab, Islamabad and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Its transmission system extends from Sui in Baluchistan to Peshawar in KP comprising over 8,900 KM of Transmission System (Main lines & Loop lines). The distribution activities covering 4,458 main towns along with adjoining villages in Punjab & KK are organized through 16 regional offices. Distribution system consists of 122,325 KM of pipeline.

Quick Read

PAD promoting modern farming practices: DG

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Punjab Agriculture Department (PAD) was promoting modern farming practices to enhance per acre crop yield and income of the farmers said Director General (DG), Field, Punjab Malik Ghulam Akbar. Talking to APP he said, solid steps were taken for development of agriculture in the province. Ghulam Akbar said that the major problems of Potohar and other rainfed areas of the region were soil erosion and water runoff as most of the rain water was being wasted which was not only a big loss but also causes soil erosion at large scale. The PAD had taken revolutionary steps for promoting Agriculture in Potohar region which had a different environment and soil from other areas of the province, he said. Due to the water reservoirs and soil erosion controlling structures over 45,000 acres land was made cultivable in Potohar and other arid areas of Rawalpindi region. The Directorate of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC), Punjab, Rawalpindi Region, under water resources development program constructed total 410 Gully Plugging Spillways during last five financial years. As many as 162 Mini Dams with 605 Water Outlets, 347 Retaining Walls, 322 Water Ponds, 79 Water Storage tanks, 70 Dugwells, 167 Gabbion Spurs and 28 Earthen Bunds were also constructed while afforestation was completed at 1894 acres land.

Another feather in cap: PU ranked first in natural sciences research

PR
LAHORE

The Nature Publishing Group, a world-class publisher of high impact scientific and medical information in print and online founded in 1869, has ranked Punjab University No 1 in terms of research publications in the field of natural sciences amongst all Pakistani universities. It merits a mention here that PU falls in general category of the universities while it has left many science universities behind in the ranking and the overall research output of PU scientists in the subjects of Chemistry, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences and Earth and Environmental Sciences from January to December 2018 is far higher than other Pakistani science universities. According to ranking, PU has secured 7.21 score while COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, which is on 2nd number, has secured 3.25 score. According to ranking, Islamia University of Bahawalpur, COMSATS University Islamabad, Quaid-e-Azam University, University of Education, University of Management and Technology, National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, University of Peshawar and National University of Sciences and Technology secured from 3rd to 10th positions respectively. Punjab University Academic Staff Association has congratulated PU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad and his team including Chairman PU Ranking Committee Prof Dr Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Department of Mathematics Dr Muhammad Sharif and others on this landmark achievement.



LAHORE: Visitors taking keen interest in a fruit stall during Punjab Agri Expo 2019 at Expo Center.—APP

PMYA to launch cash grant programme for youth

APP
ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Youth Affairs Program (PMYA) in collaboration with 'Ehsas' team will launch a program for extending cash grant to rural and marginalized youth for their uplift. According to an official, in order to start their own business ventures and financial inclusion they will be granted cash amount. He said that their focus will on five point agenda included their employment, economic empowerment, civic engagement, social protection health and well being for specially marginalized youth. He said that there was dire need of effective strategy in this regard to empower them economically and socially. He said that the program was meant for uplifting youth and maintain sustainable national economic growth which was only possible if we could manage our young labour on modern trends in line with latest developments. Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has agreed to extend its as-

“ It focuses on employment, economic empowerment, civic engagement, social protection of youth

sistance to Prime Minister Youth Affairs Program (PMYA) for economic uplift of the youth and promote entrepreneurship culture in the country. According to a SECP official, the Commission would take all possible and requisite measures for generating employment opportunities for the potential young generation ready for employment. He said under Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme, the registration of new startup companies would be made through online process to ensure transparency and ease for the applicants. "SECP will ensure ease of doing business for the nascent companies to be registered in communication, tourism and postal sectors under Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme," he added. The incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, he said, was committed to strengthen the youth financially and socially in order to make them independent for playing their due role for the development of the country, the official said.



PRAGUE: Former ICCI president Zafar Bakhtawari presenting the ICCI shield to Dr. Israr Hussain, ambassador of Pakistan to Prague. Former VP president ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, former SVP Khalid Cahudhry, Zahid Rafique, Secretary General of Islamabad Estate Agent Association, Musharaf Janjua, ICCI member Abbas Hashmi, Commercial Counsellor Dr. Daud and President of Czech-Pakistan Community Ahsan Aslam are also present there.

Daimler to recall 60,000 Mercedes diesels in Germany

FRANKFURT (REUTERS): Daimler must recall 60,000 Mercedes diesel cars in Germany after regulators found that they were fitted with software aimed at distorting emissions tests, the Transportation Ministry said. The model affected is the Mercedes-Benz GLK 220 produced between 2012 and 2015. Daimler confirmed that the recall was ordered on Friday but said that it would appeal against the decision while continuing to cooperate with regulators. The ministry said that it was expanding its investigation into further models. Since rival Volkswagen admitted in 2015 to cheating U.S. emissions tests, the scandal has spread to other carmakers. Daimler has ordered the recall of 3 million vehicles to fix excess emissions coming from their diesel engines.

FedEx misses delivery of Huawei package to US

REUTERS
BEIJING

FedEx Corp said on Sunday an operational error prevented a Huawei Technologies package from being delivered to the United States, just weeks after the U.S. delivery company said an error led to the Chinese firm's packages being misdirected. "The package in question was mistakenly returned to the shipper, and we apologize for this operational error," FedEx told Reuters in an emailed statement. A company spokeswoman confirmed that the package was U.S. bound but declined to say what it contained. China's Global Times newspaper said in a tweet bit.ly/2ZB6isY later

that FedEx is likely to be added to China's 'unreliable entities list' due to the incident. Amid a bruising trade dispute between Washington and Beijing, China threatened late in May to unveil an unprecedented hit-list of "unreliable" foreign firms, groups and individuals that harm the interests of Chinese companies. Huawei, the world's biggest telecoms gear maker, is at the center of the U.S.-China trade dispute. China's commerce ministry and FedEx did not respond immediately to a request for comment on the likelihood of the company being added to the 'unreliable' list. Global Times is published by the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily.

Package in question was mistakenly returned to the shipper

China launched an investigation into FedEx earlier this month over Huawei parcels delivered to the wrong address, without giving details about the deliveries in question. China's state news agency Xinhua had said back then that the investigation into FedEx over misdirected mail should not be regarded as retaliation against the U.S. company, amid the trade spat.

The United States and China have been engaged in a trade dispute for months on issues such as tariffs, subsidies, technology, regulations and cyber security, among others, with Washington putting Huawei on a blacklist last month citing national security. "FedEx can accept and transport all Huawei products except for any shipments to listed Huawei entities on the U.S. Entity List," the company said on Sunday. On Friday, the U.S. Commerce Department said it was adding several Chinese companies and a government-owned institute involved in supercomputing with military applications to its national security "entity list" that bars them from buying U.S. parts and components without gov-

ernment approval. Huawei, which said it was reviewing its relationship with FedEx after the mishandling of its packages earlier, did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on Sunday. The San Jose, California-based company is working with Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Citigroup Inc, Royal Bank of Canada, and William Blair for a potential IPO, the report said. Velodyne is looking to surpass its private valuation of \$1.8 billion and go public before the end of 2019, Business insider added, citing a source. Nikon Corp invested \$25 million in the self-driving car technology company in December 2018.

“ Company is likely to be added to China's 'unreliable entities list'

SPORTS

Quick Read

JTI Tennis Camp in full swing at PLTA courts

LAHORE (Staff Reporter): Over 80 young girls and boys from various schools are taking part in the JTI Tennis Camp 2019, which is in full swing here at Punjab Tennis Academy, Bagh-e-Jinnah to teach them the basics of tennis under qualified coaches.

In particular, a large number of girls' students from Sacred Heart and Convent School are part of the activity under the watchful eye of their sports teacher Miss Zil-e-Huma. The Summer Tennis Camp at Punjab Tennis Academy will continue for two months and potential students will be identified for follow-up programs, said PLTA Secretary Rashid Malik. He also thanked the McDonalds, who sponsored shirts and caps to the campers. Similarly, the PLTA is also thankful to the Mitchell's for sponsoring the activity.

JTI National Coordinator Hamid Niaz said that the main JTI camp is in progress at Bagh-e-Jinnah, however, other JTI camps are also in progress at different places. Besides Lahore, other cities including Gujranwala, Sargodha, Jehlum, Sadiqabad and Faisalabad are also conducting JTI camps. Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) is keen to promote the game at grassroots level through JTI programme, which provides excellent opportunity to the kids engaging them in tennis in a systematic manner.

"Free tennis equipment is being provided, which is especially designed by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and plays significant role to attract the young children and learn the skills through gradual progression. PTF is quite satisfied that hundreds of children are being introduced to tennis through JTI program in various cities," he added.

Dar HA to play 4-match series against Army

LAHORE (Staff Reporter): Dar Hockey Academy is presently Pakistan's finest hockey nursery, which is founded in 2006. The Lahore-based academy picks raw talent from across the country and its players have been gaining selection in Pakistan's national teams.

At times, as many as four academy players have been part of Pakistan team. Dar Hockey Academy has made five training tours of leading European hockey nations, Holland, Belgium and Germany apart from visiting big names of Asian hockey, India and Malaysia.

Pakistan army has always been a great patron of sports including hockey. A number of officers and soldiers have represented Pakistan's national hockey teams. Acknowledging the potential of the Dar Hockey Academy, Army Sports Board invited the academy to play a 4-match series against the army hockey team in Rawalpindi at the Army Hockey Stadium.

Led by academy's founder president Olympic gold medalist Tauqeer Dar, the Dar HA squad for the series in Rawalpindi comprises 20 players and four officials. The first match is scheduled today (Monday).

Classy Brazil crush Peru to reach Copa America last eight

AGENCIES
SAO PAULO

RESULTS	
Brazil	5
Peru	0
Venezuela	3
Bolivia	1

Brazil overwhelmed Peru with three goals in a superb first half to set up a crushing 5-0 victory on Saturday and cruise into the Copa America quarter-finals. Looking like their imperious old selves in front of 42,000 fans at the Corinthians area, the host nation went ahead after 12 minutes when Casemiro nodded home after a goalmouth scramble and Roberto Firmino made it two seven minutes later after keeper Pedro Gallese made a hash of his kick out.

Firmino charged down the kick and the ball rebounded off the post but the forward picked up the rebound and rounded the keeper to roll the ball into the empty goal. Man of the Match Everton added a third when he cut in from the left and unleashed a low shot that sneaked inside Gallese's near post and Dani Alves made it 4-0 eight minutes into the second half when he finished off a neat team move and lashed the ball into the roof of the net.

Substitute Willian made it five with a vicious strike from outside the box in the final minute, before Gallese made up for his earlier error by saving a spot-kick from Gabriel Jesus in stoppage time. After struggling in the first half of their previous two games,

and failing to score in both, the two early goals settled Brazil and gave them more space to play, said coach Tite. "When you score an early goal the team has play differently and open up, that is real," he said.

The result, combined with Venezuela's 3-1 win over Bolivia, means the hosts top Group A and will play one of the two third-placed teams at the Gremio arena on Thursday. The only down side for Brazil was a second yellow card in three games for Casemiro, which means the combative Real Madrid midfielder will miss Thursday's quarter-final.

Second-placed Venezuela will face the second team in Group B on Friday at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, while Peru must wait to see if their four points are enough to earn them a place as one of the two best third-placed sides. "It's not up to us now, that's the uncomfortable situation," Peru coach Ricardo Gareca said. "They were better than us from start



Brazil's Gabriel Jesus misses from the penalty spot during the Copa America 2019 match against Peru.

to finish. Brazil had lots of chances in their other games and never took them. Today they took them."

MACHIS STRIKES POWER VENEZUELA INTO COPA QUARTER-FINALS: An impressive double from striker Darwin Machis helped Venezuela book their place in the Copa

America quarter-finals with a comfortable 3-1 win over Bolivia on Saturday, qualifying as runners-up in Group A behind Brazil.

Machis got Venezuela off to a perfect start by powering in a header in the second minute, scoring their first goal of the tournament after back-to-

back goalless draws against Peru and hosts Brazil. Machis scored a spectacular goal to put his side further at ease early in the second half, bursting down the left wing on the counter-attack and holding off three defenders before cutting inside to lash the ball into the net from just inside the area.

Federer primed for Wimbledon charge after sealing 10th Halle crown

AGENCIES
HALLE

Roger Federer warmed up for next month's Wimbledon championships by swatting aside David Goffin 7-6(2) 6-1 to win the Halle Open title for the 10th time on Sunday.

The Swiss fired seven aces and broke Goffin's serve three times to down his Belgian opponent in 83 minutes for his 102nd tour-level title that moved him to within seven of Jimmy Connors' record. It was also the 19th tour-level title on grass for the 37-year-old, who will be among the top contenders at Wimbledon as he looks to increase his Grand Slam haul of 20 trophies. "It's unbelievable. I never thought when I first played here that I would win 10 titles," Federer said.

After being dragged to three sets in two of his first three rounds in Germany, Federer looked set for another tough fight when world number 33 Goffin earned three consecutive break points at 2-2 in the opening set. However, Goffin failed to capitalise on those chances as his opponent took the set



to a tiebreak where he switched gears to take the early lead in the contest.

Federer broke quickly in the second set and did not allow Goffin back into the match, becoming become the oldest tour-level champion since a 43-year-old Ken Rosewall prevailed in Hong Kong in 1977. Wimbledon begins on July 1 with Federer seeking a ninth title at the tournament.

Australian Barty guarantees rise to world number one

AGENCIES
BIRMINGHAM

Ashleigh Barty will become the first Australian in 43 years to climb to the top of the WTA singles ranking after she won the Birmingham Classic grass-court title on Sunday.

The 23-year-old beat Germany's Julia Goerges 6-3 7-5 in the final, meaning she will knock Japan's Naomi Osaka off the summit when the new rankings are released on Monday. "It's been the most incredible journey for me and my team," Barty said on court after a standing ovation and a warm hug from her doubles partner Goerges.

"You always dream about (being number one) as a little kid but for it to become a reality it's incredible and not something that was even in my realm, we were aiming for top 10 this year. "We started from scratch three and a half years ago without a ranking and now



to be where we are is a massive achievement for me and my team."

Barty's route to the top has been an unconventional one. The former junior Wimbledon champion took an indefinite break from tennis at the end of 2014, recently citing mental health issues as the reason, and played Big Bash cricket for Brisbane Heat before returning to the sport in 2016. Since

then the Queenslander's rise has been remarkable.

This month she became the first Australian woman to win the French Open for 46 years, and now she has become the 27th woman to reach number one since WTA rankings were introduced in 1975. Despite the prize at stake, Barty looked calm and composed throughout the final against doubles partner Goerges on Sunday.

PDCA gets Rs2.5m financial support from PCB, confirms Ansari

MOHSIN ALI
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Disabled Cricket Association (PDCA) Honorary Secretary Amiruddin Ansari has confirmed that Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has sanctioned the PDCA a grant of Rs 2.5 million for the preparation of Pakistan Disabled cricket team.

Talking to The Nation, Ansari said: "On behalf of PDCA President Rashid Latif, all the directors and disabled cricketers, I want to thank PCB and assure all that we will try to give our 100 percent in the coming tournament in England. We are extremely grateful to PCB for this support, as we required around Rs 12 million to cover

expenditures, so it is a great help and we have private sponsors as well. Our patron Saleem Karim is always very kind and generous and always ready to help for the noble cause.

"We are also thankful to PCB Managing Director Wasim Khan for his personal interest to encourage our special cricketers. His approval to use High Performance Centre Karachi and National Stadium Karachi for 10 days training camp for disabled cricketers will help us prepare well for the tour UK tour," he added.

Ansari added that the PDCA will give his best in upcoming World Series. After the ICC World Cup, the preparations of physically disabled cricketers

will start. The World Series final will be played one day before August 14 and our players are very excited to give Independence Day gift to PCB and entire nation by winning the tournament.

"Six teams including England, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and newcomers Zimbabwe will participate in the first ever historical event in UK (Worcestershire), while the much-anticipated match against archrivals India will be played on August 9, for which the players are confident of their victory. The tournament will start from August 4, as we are facing acute shortage of funds, we will depart for UK on August 2," he added.



“We will try to win the World Series final to give Independence Day gift to the nation”

The PDCA secretary said that the event will be played memorable county grounds, where our Prime Minister Imran Khan had played his initial cricket. "Pakistan physically disabled cricket team has won the tri-nation disability cricket series last year by beating England at Worcestershire County Ground and till date, Pakistan has won all the international events of disability cricket series, including 2012 series against England, 2014 against England, 2015 against Afghanistan, 2016 ICC Academy Series and Tri-National Series in 2018 except 2015 series in Bangladesh, where England were the winners and Pakistan ended up as runners-up."

He said: "Our regular domestic

activities have been going on since 2008, in which national championships and Pentangular Cups are organised every year. We are also thankful to PCB Chairman Ehsan Mani and other officials for their kind support and trust in the PDCA. I also want to thank Interloop Limited, PIA, NBP and ICRC for their wonderful support throughout the years.

"We have acquired services of top domestic coach of the country Sabih Azhar, who has worked with zeal and passion and helped Pakistani disabled players scale down new heights. I know all the players are very motivated and they are ready to win laurels for the country," Ansari concluded.



Social Media Pakistan
03164767348

LONDON: Babar Azam plays a cut shot during the ICC World Cup 2019 match between Pakistan and South Africa.

Today's fixture

Bangladesh
 VS
Afghanistan

MATCH STARTS AT 2:30 PM

BANGLADESH:	AFGHANISTAN:
Moshrafe Mortaza (c)	Gulbadin Naib (c)
Abu Jayed	Noor Ali Zadran
Liton Das (wk)	Hazratullah Zazai
Mahmudullah	Rahmat Shah (wk)
Mehidy Hasan	Asghar Afghan
M Mithun (wk)	Hoshmatullah Shahidi
M Safuddin	Najibullah Zadran
Mosaddek Hossain	Samiullah Shinwari
Mushfiqur Rahim (wk)	Mohammad Nabi
Mustafizur Rahman	Rashid Khan
Rubel Hossain	Dawlat Zadran
Sabbir Rahman	Ahbab Alam
Shakib Al Hasan	Hamid Hassan
Soumya Sarkar	Mujeeb ur Rahman
Tamim Iqbal	Karam Ali Khilji

Haris, Amir keep WC hopes alive

AGENCIES
LONDON

A combined batting performance studded by Haris Sohail's 59-ball 89 was backed up by the bowlers as Pakistan kept their hopes of progression at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 alive with a 49-run win against South Africa.

Chasing Pakistan's 308/7, South Africa came undone against Mohammad Amir (2/49) and Shadab Khan (3/50) to remain with just one win from seven games so far. The World Cup caravan reached the Home of Cricket on Sunday, 23 June, and Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman treated the packed crowd at Lord's to a series of glorious drives. The team fifty came in quick time, taking just 44 balls and including 38 runs in boundaries. Lungi Ngidi came in for particular punishment, Fakhar dispatching him for a big six over midwicket.

Chris Morris created a chance with Fakhar on 28, Imran Tahir diving forward to take a catch. With replays inconclusive, the umpires gave the batsman the benefit of the doubt. Tahir took matters into his own hands, however. In his first over, Fakhar's attempted scoop ballooned up to the

waiting Hashim Amla fielding at first slip; then, the veteran leapt to his right to complete a good low catch of Imam as both set batsmen were sent packing.

Babar Azam looked good in reaching his half-century, but it was Sohail who took apart the bowling. Playing only his second World Cup 2019 match and coming in at 143/3, he opened up with a four through cov-

ers off Kagiso Rabada, before slamming the same bowler over point for six. An 81-run stand with Azam was followed by a 71-run fifth-wicket partnership with Imad Wasim. Before Wasim chipped in with 23 off 15, Sohail had dominated, bringing up a half-century in just 38 balls.

Hashim Amla, who has been in indifferent form, was dismissed on Amir's first ball, after a successful

review for Pakistan showed the delivery hitting leg. Quinton de Kock and captain Faf du Plessis gave South Africa their best period of the game during a partnership of 87.

But with Shadab bowling full and in line, and Amir finding swing, they proved to be a handful. De Kock was well caught in the deep while attempting a slog sweep, Aiden Markram was done in by one that kept low and straight - both off Shadab - and du Plessis' top-edge off Amir found Sarfaraz.

Rassie van der Dussen and David Miller got starts, but with moments of excellence in the field making up for missed chances, Pakistan never let the game get away. Wahab Riaz

was on point with his yorkers and took three lower-order wickets in wrapping up an all-round satisfying day.

After the match, man of the match Haris Sohail said he was playing his World Cup game today and scored a really cool fifty. "It was very difficult to sit out of the games but I knew I would get the opportunity and I was backing myself to do well. When I went in there, the plan was to build partnership with Babar; it was not easy but we did well."

Pakistan skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed said: "I think it's a complete team performance. Credit to the openers. They played really well. Then Babar took over."

SCORECARD

PAKISTAN:	O de Kock c Imam b Shadab Khan.....47
Imam-ul-Haq c & b Imran Tahir.....44	F du Plessis c Sarfaraz b M Amir.....63
Fakhar Zaman c Amla b Imran Tahir.....44	AK Markram b Shadab Khan.....7
Babar Azam c Ngidi b Phehlukwayo.....69	HE van der Dussen c Hafeez b Shadab..36
M Hafeez lbw b Markram.....20	DA Miller b Shaheen Shah Afridi.....31
Haris Sohail c de Kock b Ngidi.....89	AL Phehlukwayo not out.....46
Imad Wasim c sub b Ngidi.....23	CH Morris b Wahab Riaz.....16
Wahab Riaz b Ngidi.....4	K Rabada b Wahab Riaz.....3
Sarfaraz Ahmed not out.....2	L Ngidi b Wahab Riaz.....1
Shadab Khan not out.....1	Imran Tahir not out.....1
EXTRAS: (lb 6, nb 1, w 5).....12	EXTRAS: (lb 1, w 5).....6
TOTAL: (7 wkts, 50 overs).....308	TOTAL: (9 wkts, 50 overs).....259
FOW: 1-81, 2-98, 3-143, 4-224, 5-295, 6-304, 7-307.	FOW: 1-4, 2-91, 3-103, 4-136, 5-189, 6-192, 7-222, 8-239, 9-246.
BOWLING: K Rabada 10-0-65-0, L Ngidi 9-0-64-3, CH Morris 9-0-61-0, AL Phehlukwayo 8-0-49-1, Imran Tahir 10-0-41-2, AK Markram 4-0-22-1.	BOWLING: Mohammad Hafeez 2-0-11-0, Mohammad Amir 10-1-49-2, Shaheen Shah Afridi 8-0-54-1, Imad Wasim 10-0-48-0, Wahab Riaz 10-0-46-3, Shadab Khan 10-1-50-3.
SOUTH AFRICA:	TOSS: Pakistan
H Amla lbw b Mohammad Amir.....2	

PAKISTAN FANS CELEBRATE VICTORY

Photos by APP



B'desh look to overcome Afghanistan in crunch game

AGENCIES
SOUTHAMPTON

Afghanistan, who fell agonisingly short of India's target on Saturday, 22 June, are still in search of their first win at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.

Bangladesh's batting, built on the promotion of Shakib Al Hasan at No.3, has been one of the highlights of the World Cup, characterised by consistently good scores. After hunting down a target of 322 against West Indies in just 41.3 overs, Bangladesh fought admirably in a 382-run chase against Australia, finishing with an impressive 333/8.

The bowling, however, has been their undoing, as Bangladesh have conceded scores in excess of 320 in each of their last three completed

games. Against a strong Afghanistan bowling attack, Bangladesh's own bowlers will have to step up to make life easier for their batsmen.

Afghanistan, having lost to India by a narrow margin of 11 runs on Saturday will be filled with a lot of self-belief and motivation when they take the field on Monday. With experience of the conditions in Southampton, Gulbadin Naib will expect his spinners to weave their magic once again against an in-form Bangladesh batting line-up. Their batsmen though, will have to focus on staying at the crease for longer periods to get the desired result.

Mushfiqur Rahim, wicket-keeper batsman, showed signs of good form as he scored an unbeaten century against Australia at Trent Bridge. Rahim, who scored a match-winning 71

when these two sides met at the 2015 World Cup, will once again look to set it up for his side in a must-win game.

Mohammad Nabi, the most experienced player in the Afghanistan set-up, demonstrated his skills as an all-rounder, with wickets and runs against India. With Bangladesh's top order studded with left-handers, the veteran cricketer will fancy his chances with his off-spin, and will also look to repeat his performance with the bat.

Spin has played a significant role in Southampton, although some of the quicks have used the two-paced nature of the pitch to their advantage as well. While chasing is the preferred option in ODIs, this is a venue where runs on the board can be golden. However, the chance of rain could throw all of that out of the window.

ODIs head to head

MATCHES

7

B'DESH WON	AFGHAN WON	NO RESULT
4	3	0

World Cup head to head

MATCHES

01

B'DESH WON	AFGHAN WON	NO RESULT
01	0	0

Most Runs & Wickets

Bangladesh



SHAKIB SAIFUDDIN
425 9

Most Runs & Wickets

Afghanistan



HASHMAT GULBADIN
186 7



Quick Read

JF-17 Thunder pulls big crowd at Paris show

ISLAMABAD (STAFF REPORTER): A large number of aviation-lovers turned up to see the static and aerial display of PAF JF-17 Thunder on the last day of 53rd Paris Air Show at Le Bourget, Paris.

According to a statement issued here by the PAF pm Sunday, being a weekly holiday, the vast venue was filled with the excited spectators of all ages as the gates opened for the general public.

Elegantly displayed alongside other aircraft and defence equipment, the indigenously manufactured JF-17 Thunder warplane remained the star attraction of the show. The eager crowd was briefed about the operational capabilities and its sophisticated weaponry by the PAF personnel. The public was ecstatic to see the 'Pride of Pakistan' in their midst and had selfies and photographs with the PAF contingent members.

Apart from the static display, the PAC manufactured aircraft also presented a farewell aerobatics performance. The excitement of the eagerly awaiting crowd was worth watching as the aircraft roared in the skies of Paris.

Maryam denies discord with Shehbaz

OUR STAFF REPORTER
LAHORE

Responding to rumours of her alleged differences with her uncle and PML-N President Mian Shehbaz Sharif, party's Vice-President Maryam Nawaz on Sunday said that there was no truth in the reports.

"There are no differences between me and Shehbaz Sharif; and opponents' desire [for discord between us] will never materialize," she said in her tweet.

Speaking in the context of her Sunday's presser that she was against the "Charter of Economy" offered to the Government by the Opposition parties, Maryam said she had made it clear at that time that it was her personal opinion.

Critics are, however, exploiting the point that she had chosen to express her personal opinion publically [through a Press conference] and not in a party meeting.

"Those trying to make a point out of it will be disappointed", she said, adding, that such efforts were being made for the last over 30 years.

It is pertinent to mention here that both the PPP and the PML-N want to sign a "Charter of Economy" with the present government to get the country out of current economic crisis. Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif was even

more vocal to send this message to the government.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has also responded positively by accepting this offer.

Maryam's statement in this background has created the impression that two notable members of the Sharif family are not at the same page on important issues. Had it been some other party leader out of the Sharif family, the issue might not have got much attention in the political circles.

The issue is not going to die down soon despite a clarification by Maryam Nawaz.

NAB summons Shehbaz on July 5

Meanwhile, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has once again summoned Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif in connection with an investigation into a case of assets beyond means.

The PML-N leader has been asked by the anti-corruption authority to appear before a combined investigation team of the Lahore NAB on July 5. Former Punjab chief minister, Shehbaz Sharif has also been directed to bring relevant documents along with him to support of his claims.

Shehbaz Sharif's son Hamza Shehbaz who is also Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly has already been arrested by Lahore NAB for having assets beyond known sources of income.



MUSCAT: Commanding Officer PNS ASLAT exchanging souvenir with Commanding Officer of the Salalah Naval unit during of PNS ASLAT at Salalah Port Muscat (Oman).-APP

System being reformed to benefit people: Buzdar

OUR STAFF REPORTER
LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said on Sunday the outdated system had failed to deliver, but it was not reformed by the successive governments to benefit people.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said: "We are fixing issues created by the previous governments and reforms are being introduced to improve the system."

He said that Pakistan was moving towards its destination under the vibrant leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government would strengthen the institutions and introduce reforms to provide relief to ordinary people. "In order to uplift life of the common man, the government will have to change the old system," he said. The PTI's politics is based on public service. He said that those who claimed to have served the public plundered the national resources and brought the economy to the verge of a collapse.

He said that wrong policies of the past governments caused irreparable loss to Pakistan. Despite the worst economic conditions inherited by the PTI government, it opted

for concrete measures for economic improvement, he said.

The chief minister said the era of loot and plunder was over as "we consider ourselves guardians of the national resources". He said that New Pakistan was based on new ideas and the PTI government would not allow anybody to hinder the journey of development. He said: "Our vision is to eliminate the gap between the poor and the rich."

Buzdar said the PTI government had laid the foundations of transparency in Pakistan. He said that work was being done day and night in order to meet expectations of the public.

Impression of differences in Sharif family may be a strategic move

ASHRAF MUMTAZ
LAHORE

The rejection by Vice President Maryam Nawaz of the Charter of Economy offer made by PML-N President Mian Shehbaz Sharif (and before him PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari) from the floor of the National Assembly has raised many questions about the powers of the party president and vice president.

Under the party constitution, it is the party president who is supposed to take decisions in accordance with the laid-down procedure - and the vice president, even if she happens to be the daughter of the party founder, and other party leaders are duty bound to follow what the party president says.

But Maryam distanced herself from the CoE offer and at a news conference on Saturday termed it a mockery of the economy. She also claimed that her father did not support such a charter.

Now that Shehbaz Sharif is also going to represent the party at the June 26 all-party conference being hosted by JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, it will be interesting to know his stance on the CoE and his line of arguments.

Some analysts are of the view that Shehbaz Sharif is not a free agent and can't be expected to have said anything from the floor of the house without the approval of his incarcerated elder brother. Both the brothers are in constant contact with each other.

Shehbaz Sharif's idea of CoE and rejection by Maryam, ostensibly, is part of a well-thought-out strategy by the Sharif family. It may be aimed at sending wrong signals to the ruling party about differences



Party can't afford to create a Pakistan Maryam League

in the Sharif family so that what is unacceptable to the former prime minister should be accepted by the PTI leadership without delay.

And in case talks start between the two sides on the contours of the charter, some tough conditions should be set by the PML-N leadership.

The Sharif family is united and can't afford to go for a power war at this critical juncture. It is also not in Maryam's interest to give an impression that Pakistan Muslim League of her father has now become Pakistan Maryam League. Shehbaz is a loyal brother and will remain so in future.

The present situation in the PML-N may be likened to what was seen in Iran when Ayatollah Ali Khomeini was (and remains) the supreme leader and Muhammad Khatami was the president. The supreme

leader was strongly opposed to the United States but president Khatami was very soft. There was an impression that the two top leaders were going in the opposite direction.

The writer visited Tehran to cover an OIC summit in December 1997. The approach of the president, as usual, was different from that of the supreme leader.

I asked an Iranian diplomat why the supreme leader and the president were not speaking the same language. In response, he likened this strategy to a pair of scissors whose two blades move in the opposite direction but cut whatever comes between them. The scissors can't perform the same function if the blades don't move in opposite directions, he argued.

Apparently, the same is the situation in the PML-N at present. Maryam and Shehbaz have the common enemy and they have to defeat him through whatever means it is possible.

Observers knowing the history of the Sharif family are convinced that no power race is going on between the Nawaz and Shehbaz families. They are working for the same objectives and are aware of the limits they have to work in.

As for the June 26 APC, it will be an important development on the political scene. The primary target of the moot is to bring all anti-government forces on the same platform. If all participants agree to a joint strategy in the days and weeks ahead, it will be a success for the organisers. But even if they didn't, the moot will lay the foundation of a broad-based opposition alliance.

The JUI-F is trying to woo some ruling party allies. If the coalition maintains its unity, it will be in a better position to deal with the challenges to be posed by the opposition.

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CDA constructs water filtration plant on edge of I-10 Markaz road

Quick Read

Citizen seeks his money back from fake firm

ISLAMABAD (OUR STAFF REPORTER): A citizen is running from pillar to post to get back his hard-earned money from a fake investment company, according to an application submitted by the victim with the FIA officials.

A Lahore-based private investment company allegedly defrauded him in the name of investment, the victim states. Iftikhar Qamar Ghauri, a medical doctor by profession, approached DG FIA for registration of a case against whom he called cheaters and for recovery of his hard-earned money.

In his written complaint to the Director General FIA, Ghauri stated that he was a practicing doctor. He said that on October 18, 2018, Rameez Hassan, who worked as management trainee officer at Harvest Group Markets (Pvt) Ltd, invited him for investment in the company. On October 19, Rameez along with a man who introduced himself with the name Hafiz Salman came to his house and convinced him for an initial investment of Rs1 million.

He issued a cheque of the said amount in the name of Harvest Group Markets. On October 31st, the accused contacted him again just to tell that the money invested had been lost and that he needed another investment of Rs1 million to retrieve the lost amount.

On the same day, according to the victim's statement, he deposited Rs3,47,500 in an account number forwarded by the accused but they made yet another demand of Rs500,000. The victim said that he submitted another Rs500,000 in the account of the company.

A few days later, Ghauri held a meeting with Rashid Ali, chief executive officer of the company to lodge a complaint against Rameez. The CEO told Ghauri that there was no financial loss in the investment and that Rameez had lied to him. However, Rashid Ali declined to compensate him. Ghauri told the FIA officials that Rameez Hassan and Rashid Ali made false statements before him and defrauded him of his amount. The victim said that he had been requesting FIA to arrest culprits and recover his money. However, no headway has been made by the agency so far.

CDA removes encroachments

ISLAMABAD (APP) Capital Development Authority in collaboration with Islamabad Capital Administration conducted massive anti-encroachment operations in different areas of the city on Sunday and demolished several illegal constructions and encroachments.

These operations were participated by staff of Enforcement Directorate, Islamabad Administration, and Islamabad Police while heavy machinery was used to demolish illegal constructions. Staff of Enforcement Directorate during conducted operation in Jaba Telee demolished two houses, five rooms and three boundary walls. Similarly, teams of Enforcement Directorate also demolished a huge boundary wall and removed several building material depot from the area near Sian Mirchu Shrine, Sector H-13.



-Photo by the reporter

**TAHIR NIAZ
ISLAMABAD**

The Capital Development Authority is going to literally chock the main road leading to the sector I-10 Markaz by relocating the water filtration plant on the edge of the Sohni Road.

Work on building of the new water filtration plant which is quite adjacent to the previous one, is underway at a fast pace as the sources claimed that the existing one would be dismantled allegedly to benefit owner of a recently-auctioned plot. Without bothering that the road-users would suffer due to public rush at the filtration plant, the CDA officials chose site

for the new plant on the edge of the Sohni Road, the main artery of sector I-10 which not only connects the whole sector but also connects it with the sector I-9. Sources privy to the development told this scribe that the site had been chosen in haste to benefit the owner of the plot on rear side of the existing water filtration plant by giving the plot an additional passage on its Eastern side.

A passage would be carved out on the Eastern side of the plot east of the main IESCO office in sector I-10, according to the sources. Traffic jam in front of the water filtration plant has been a routine. The road-users have to suffer while possibility of a mis-

hap always looms. But to the astonishment of the residents, the authorities have come almost 20 feet more towards the much busy road thus putting life of the residents at the risk of hitting the moving vehicles.

Abdullah Shakoor, a resident of the sector was astonished to see how the CDA had occupied the road to install water filtration plant. He was of the view that the authorities must take notice of the same and review their decision.

Shoulders on both sides of the roads have always been a part and parcel of the road, and engineers choose not to construct roads without shoulders even when the situation demands

otherwise. However, this water filtration plant is quite strange planning on the part of the CDA authorities that could not be found elsewhere in the capital city.

On the other side, the CDA had constructed a water filtration plant on the edge of the playground in sector I-10/1 near Sheikh Market but it could not be made functional despite lapse of over one year. The building is there but there is no water connection to it. The indifference of the authorities is a reflection of how those at the helm of affairs have been wasting public money in the name of development projects that never become functional.

Civil Defence inspect fire extinguishers at petrol pumps

Civil Defence inspect fire extinguishers at petrol pumps

RAWALPINDI (APP) Civil Defence Department Rawalpindi launched an operation to check fire extinguishers at petrol pumps and CNG stations while 12 petrol pumps operating without fire extinguishers were fined worth Rs140,000. The District Officer, Civil Defence Department, Talib Hussain informed APP that the Civil Defence teams were conducting raids at Petrol Pumps and CNG stations to check fire safety arrangements. He said a team raided at Range Road, Peshawar Road and IJP Road and inspected safety measures while challan slips were issued for lacking fire fighting equipment. The District Officer informed, crackdown against the petrol pumps, CNG stations, factories, buildings and other places operating without modern fire extinguishers had been started. He said, despite notices, certain factories, petrol pumps/CNG stations, Hotels and Marriage Halls lack fire-fighting arrangements.

Action in accordance with the law was being taken against the rules violators, he added. Commercial plazas and buildings situated in Rawalpindi Division would also be issued tickets in this regard, he said.



ISLAMABAD: A deserted look of Jinnah Avenue due to extreme temperature in the city on Sunday.-Online

Call for plantation of more pine trees to combat climate change hazards

**APP
ISLAMABAD**

The mind-blowing panoramic view of Islamabad from Damani-Koh makes manifestation of the fact that it is one of the most beautiful cities of the world located right at the bottom of majestic Margalla Hills. The houses in posh areas can be spotted in dense forest with straight line of wide-roads along pine trees, walking tracks and a vast meadow-like-green-area making it eye-catching.

Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan lying on the Potohar Plateau has a humid subtropical climate with five seasons - winter, spring, summer, monsoon and autumn. The ideal climate of Islamabad makes it more picturesque with abundant greenery, peace, cleanliness, scenic beauty, lush-green-mountains, pleasant-weather as well as public-parks, hiking and jogging tracks, coffee shops and shopping

malls. Plantation of pine trees was the best option for water conservation in the soil as well as to protect the area from climate change hazards and to make the weather more pleasant. Pine trees absorb water from the soil and conserve it in their needle shaped leaves to use it when ever needed and directly and indirectly it contribute in maintaining water table in the soil of the area. These were the views of a Chinese environmentalist Mr. Wang Lei who recently visited Islamabad.

The city owe its beauty to the facts that it is thinly populated, well structured, planned, highly developed from almost every angle. It is surrounded by Margallah Hills on one side which have the species of their own flora (plants) and fauna (animals) while Rawal Lake on the other side is further adding to its exquisiteness.

Islamabad has also been ranked as second in the list of world's most 10 beautiful capitals in May 2015 after

London followed by Berlin, Washington, Paris, Rome, Tokyo, Budapest, Ottawa and Moscow for its eye-catching and fascinating natural beauty.

The capital is divided into different zones and sectors each with a distinction of its own. The city is a source of amusement and a great place to spend holidays and to visit due to its adorable beauty not only of infrastructure but of the green lands and parks.

A resident of the capital, Sadia Khan said that the city has lots of worth-seeing visiting spots like Shakarparian, Lok Virsa Museum, Rawal Dam, Margallah hills, Fatima Jinnah Park, Pir Sohawa, Islamabad Zoo, Pakistan Museum of National History, Saidpur village and Faisal Mosque. She said the foreigners living in Islamabad were always praising the natural beauty of the city for its magnificent green view and superb architecture. Moreover, she said adding to the beauty of the city was grand architecture of nation-

al buildings such as Supreme Court, Prime Ministers's Office, Parliament House and Presidency and the like.

Chaudhary Mukhtar Ahmed, another resident of Islamabad said, "I have visited several capitals of the world, no doubt, every capital is beautiful but there is no match of Islamabad." He said the city could be distinguished from others on basis of wide and signal free roads, abundant green trees; clean environment, view points, beautiful buildings, playgrounds, jogging tracks, monument, and pollution-free environment. The one who didn't visit Islamabad had not seen the beauty of the modern world, he remarked.

Humayun Khan, an official in the capital said that a single rain makes the view mesmerizing by washing the wide-roads and pine trees." He said, "no doubt, Islamabad is the best capital in the world due to its superb weather, unique architecture and design".

When contacted, Director Public Relations Capital Development Authority (CDA) Safdar Shah said that the authority was vigilant in monitoring and taking of prompt action against illegal constructions in the capital. He said, "Primarily, the authority is concerned with planning and development of the capital."

Another official of the Directorate of Municipal Administration in the CDA said that the capital was given the status of second most beautiful capital in the list due to its green areas, population density, planning, and infrastructure and mountain views.

Likewise, making Islamabad the first plastic-free city across the globe till August 14, the Minister of State for Climate Change, Zartaj Gul has urged the public to support the government initiative of "clean and green Islamabad". To ensure implementation of this decision, "heavy fines would be imposed on the violators", she said.

MARGALLAS

Quick Read

Free fish farming training course to start from today

RAWALPINDI (APP): A three-day free fish farming training course for fish farmers, being arranged by Fisheries Research and Training Institute, will start here from June 24.

According to Assistant Director Fish Farming Training, Fisheries Rawalpindi, Sana, the participants of the training course would be given latest and scientific information about fish farming. Awareness regarding modern techniques for fish farming would also be created during the course.

Under the course, the fish farmers would be imparted training to establish new farms, upgrade old ones, she said, adding that latest technologies would also be introduced during the training course.

The course would be held in Fisheries sub-training centre situated at Rawal Town Islamabad.

Those who are interested to participate in this course can get themselves enrolled by visiting the Fisheries institute situated at Rawal Town Islamabad.

The participants would be provided free of cost residential facility during the course, she said.

WASA planning to automate its water supply system

RAWALPINDI (OUR STAFF REPORTER): WASA is planning to automate its water supply system to improve service delivery, according to the officials.

A team of Information Technology University, Lahore met Chairman WASA/RDA Arif Abbassi and MD WASA Tanvir and gave a detail presentation on the possibilities of automation of WASA tube wells, mini filtration plants and Rawal Lake Filtration Plant. Team headed by Dr Tauseef Tauqeer and accompanied with Dr Rehan Hafiz and Dr Usman Younis of the ITU briefed that WASA tube wells would be automated. An online remote monitoring system will be designed to operate, record the working hours of tube wells' pumps and motors, duration of operation, water level and discharge, water quality and electricity consumption. The system will also be fruitful at mini filtration plants to check how much water was being supplied to the consumers; consumers number that took water from the mini filtration plant, water quality i.e. PH, Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and other basic parameters of water.

The ITU team also told the WASA officials that Rawal Lake Filtration Plant will also be semi-automated and readings of inflow and outflow of water, water quality and working duration of pumps could be monitored online. They added that this system will benefit WASA in operation and maintenance of water supply system and quality control. The ITU has offered a pilot project for WASA which could be replicated on entire system in future.

Chairman WASA, after detailed deliberations, appreciated the idea and said that WASA Rawalpindi will take the leadership role and will implement this project immediately. He asked MD WASA Tanvir to start working for implementation of this project as, he said, this step will enable WASA to serve more efficiently to address the water supply problems of Rawalpindi city. MD WASA Tanvir said that WASA had already identified 5 mini filtration plants and Rawal Lake Filtration for automation and working will be started next week.

The MD WASA also said that WASA was keen to introduce IT reforms in their system.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling transparent balloons with lights in the federal capital. -INP

CDA to start Expressway expansion with Korang bridge construction

APP ISLAMABAD

Keeping in consideration the current allocation of the Expressway project, Rs500 million, the Capital Development Authority has decided that in the first phase, bridge at Korang River would be constructed. It was decided in a meeting held at CDA headquarter on the city development. The meeting reviewed the projects being carried out for the uplift of the city and projects of public utility and welfare.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CDA Affairs Ali Nawaz Awan, MNAs Asad Umer and Raja Khuram Nawaz, Chairman CDA Amer Ali Ahmed, Member Engineering, Director General Works, Director General Services and heads of other concerned formations of CDA.

The meeting was briefed about the progress of work on signal-free Islamabad Expressway Corridor.

It was informed that the project was of immense importance because commuters using the Expressway were facing difficulties particularly from Koral Chowk to PWD as traffic congestion in the vicinity was a regular feature. Therefore, completion of the project at the earliest was dire need.

The meeting was apprised that the design of the project from Koral to Rawat has been prepared and PC-I in this context was approved by the CDWP and has recommended for approval from ECNIC.

The meeting agreed to take up the matter with Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms for early approval from ECNIC.

The meeting also discussed that Islamabad is expanding day by day, therefore, facility of graveyard also need to be expanded. In this context, the meeting directed Planning Wing of the Authority to indicate and allocate 100 kanals of land in the western part of the city.

During the meeting concerned formation of the Authority presented a detailed plan regarding carpeting of roads in urban and rural areas of the Islamabad.

In this connection, it was decided that after thorough review of the plan, the members will inform CDA for their input in this context.

It was discussed that there is need to improve water availability in the city as well as restoration of parks.

The DFA appraised that necessary budget was allocated last year to MCI which is now with them.

However, the elected representatives expressed the need that the matter will be taken up at competent forum that CDA may be permitted to spend some additional resources on these matters with a view to improve the current situation of the city.

The meeting discussed the expansion of Fateh Jang Road; it was informed that expansion of the said road was domain of National Highway Authority.

Meanwhile, Capital Development Authority decided to start construction of long-awaited Burma Bridge at Lehtrar Road by next month, says a press release issued here.

Chairman CDA Amer Ali has approved the tender notices and has directed to issue notices in national dailies within next two days.

The Burma Bridge over Lehtrar Raod was built in 1950s and was on verge of collapse. Dilapidated condition of the Bridge was a life threat to motorists. Due to its condition, concerned authorities, nearly seven years ago, had stopped all kinds of movement on the bridge to avoid any untoward incident. People living around the site had filled several applications to repair the bridge but their requests were not heeded. Furthermore, due to closure and dilapidated condition of the bridge traffic jam was a daily routine in the area.

The project was stuck for last many years, however, incumbent management in line with its policy to prioritize the stalled projects and cognizing importance of the project taken up the matter and not only revived the project but also made budget allocation in this regard.

After swift completion of code formalities, tenders notices for awarding the contract have now been approved. The construction of the bridge will be completed with the estimated cost of Rs199 (million). Construction of this bridge will facilitate the commuters going to and coming from Kotli Satian, Bunn Karor, Tumair, Alipur Farash, Murree, Abbottabad, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

EPT fines 22 illegal marble factories in Sangjani

APP ISLAMABAD

Environmental Protection Tribunal imposed Rs11 million worth of fines on 22 illegal marble factories in the federal capital's Sector B-17 near Sangjani. Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (PAK-EPA) DG Farzana Altaf Shah said, "A resident lodged a complaint with the EPT maintaining that over a dozen of marble factories, approximately 22, had been operating in residential area falling under the Zone-II of Islamabad Capital Territory. However, proper legal notice has been issued to the marble factory owners (respondents in the case) but no positive reply has been received on their part."

The complainant maintained that marble factories deal with cutting, polishing, curving, and grooving of marble stones resulting unbearable noise and dust. It was causing injurious to health for serious diseases like asthma, chest problem and other infectious lungs diseases as well as stress to the residents of the society, she added. "The complainants have also quoted the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 in their complaint and stressed upon the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and improvement of the Environment for the protection and control of pollution and promotion of sustainable development as well as noise and air pollution disturbing the ecology," PAK-EPA DG said.

Shah informed that as per report of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) the marble factories' owners were frequently issued notices to make safety measures regarding air and noise pollution, industrial waste and hazardous substances but no necessary actions were made on their part.

The marble units' proprietors challenged the complainants with the objection in the Tribunal that the said factories had been set up in 1996-1997 with the approval of the local government. The industrial area was situated outside the Zone-II whereas the housing project or cooperative society was approved the establishment of marble factories, she added.

During the proceedings of the case before the tribunal, she said, "It has been observed that no record on behalf of the PAK-EPA and the respondents have been produced before the Tribunal regarding issuance of No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Agency neither is any environmental approval on record nor the respondents produced any material document which shows that they have applied for Initial Environment Examination and Environmental Impact Assessment (IEE and EIA)."

PAK-EPA DG noted that the Marble Factories were held responsible for continuous violation of the relevant provision of Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997 where each of the respondent was imposed penalty of Rs 5,00,000 fine to be paid by each of the perpetrators.

"The Marble Factories' owners have been directed to ensure the working timings from 08:00 AM to 05:00PM to avoid the noise pollution for the surrounding residence.

“The decision was taken keeping in view initial allocation of Rs500m for the project by government



ISLAMABAD: A boy displaying traditional summer drink to attract customers. -APP

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مدیر: خالد بیزادھاشمی

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معاشی وہشت گردی

NATIONAL



KARACHI: Horsemen waiting for visitors to take horse ride at the beach on Sunday.—INP

Mohmand elders support PML-N candidate in PK-104 polls

OUR STAFF REPORTER
MOHMAND

tribal elders from different areas of Mohmand districts on Sunday vowed to support the PML-N candidate Tahir Akbar from PK-104, Mohmand-II in the upcoming first ever elections for the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.

The tribal elders extended support to the PML-N candidate during various grand jirgas and gatherings held at the Hujra of Malik Said Qahar Musa Khel and others areas.

Addressing the public gatherings, PK-104 PML-N candidate Tahir Akbar said that tribesmen of the whole Mohmand are with him because his family has served people of the area all time.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik Said Qahar assured full support and said that Tahir Akbar played a vital role in restoration of peace in the area. He would be in a position to do more for the welfare of the people of the area if he succeeded in the election, he added.

On July 20, tribesmen would decide the fate of Mohmand MPAs so they should vote for the suitable candidate. He assured the PML-N candidate of their full cooperation in the upcoming elections. He urged tribal elders to ensure success of Tahir Akbar Khan in the coming election.

Govt urged to include uplift schemes for Mardan

OUR STAFF REPORTER
MARDAN

Former district nazim Mardan Himayat Ullah Mayar has asked the PTI government to include important mega development schemes in provincial Annual Developmental Program (ADP) for the district.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he alleged that provincial government has failed to bring any change in the socio-economic development of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa people.

Mayar said that it would be more appropriate to provide the remaining funds and complete the ongoing mega development projects and schemes in Mardan district without any further delay.

The provincial government should take steps for widening, beautification and installation of traffic lights on all major chowks and intersections of urban venues of Mardan district, he said, adding that women sports complex provided with all facilities for indoor and out-door games should be established.

ANP to stage anti-govt protest outside NAB office

PESHAWAR (Our Staff Reporter): Awami National Party will stage protest demonstration today Monday in front of NAB office to condemn its silence over alleged irregularities of PTI government in various projects.

The protest demonstration would be led by provincial and central leadership of the party.

The party leadership has issued directives party workers and office bearers to fully participate in the protest demonstration.

KP AGP inaugurates Maskeen checkpoint

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police Dr. Muhammad Naeem Khan has inaugurated Maskeen checkpoint located at border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Lower Dir district.

DIG Malakand Division, Muhammad Saeed Wazir and DPO Lower Dir Arif Shahbaz were present of the occasion.

In his speech, the IGP said that security forces with the help of people had wiped out terrorists from the area.

He lauded services and sacrifices of policemen performing duties in remote mountainous terrain for the protection of life and property of people. He said that law and order situation had been improved and restored due to sacrifices of police forces.

AGP report on BRT a test case for NAB: Sherpao

Claims federal budget was made on IMF instructions

OUR STAFF REPORTER
PESHAWAR

Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) leader and former senior minister Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao on Sunday said that the report of the Auditor General of Pakistan into irregularities in the Bus Rapid Transit project is a test case for the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

He was speaking at a press conference at Watan Kor, where Village Council Khazana Nazim Basharat Khan announced quitting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and joined the QWP along with his

family and supporters.

Sherpao said the PTI government was now closing the project management unit for pinpointing flaws in the project. Commenting on the federal budget, he said that new taxes had been proposed in it which would add to the miseries of the people.

He said that the federal budget was made on the instructions of the International Monetary Fund. He said that Rs45 billion were allocated for uplift projects in Karachi and Rs15 billion were earmarked for Quetta, but no allocations were made for Peshawar in the federal budget.

He said that conducting the elections for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly seats in the merged district under the supervision of the army showed that the civil administration did not have the ability to hold the polls.

He added that soldiers could be deployed for security, however, conducting the proceedings of the election was the job of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Sherpao said that the announcement of the uplift projects for the tribal districts amounted to pre-poll rigging and the ECP should take its notice.

The QWP leader said that a three-member delegation of the QWP led by its chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao would attend the all parties conference convened by the opposition to iron out a strategy on how deal with the problems facing the country.

Sherpao said that the people particularly the youth had become disenchanted with the PTI government due to its flawed policies in the last 10 months. He said that his party would soon launch a mass contact movement to mobilise the people and stage protests against price-hike and unemployment in the country.

AIOU adopts new admissions plan to facilitate students

APP
ISLAMABAD

The AIOU has decided to hold admissions for each semester in two phases to make the enrolment process more efficient and to facilitate its over 1.4 million students around the country.

The plan as approved by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia-Ul-Qayyum is also aimed at streamlining the academic sessions for timely mailing of books and conducting examination.

As per the new schedule, the admissions (autumn 2019) for Matric, F.A. MS/M.Ph, PhD and BS (face-to-face) will start from July 15.

The applications for the admissions Matric, FA programs will be received till August 31, while admission for the MS/M.Phil/PhD/BS (face-to-face) will continue till August 12.

As per new schedule, admissions for Post-Graduate programs, B.Ed and BS (ODL) and Associate Degree in Education/Commerce and French Online will take place from September 1 to October 5.

Prospectus sale points will be set up at the University main campus, regional and coordinating offices throughout the country. Special students facilitation Centre will be set up at the University's 49 regional offices to guide and help the aspiring students.

The programs being offered in the upcoming semester from July 15 include short-term Educational program (STEP) and Open Tech (OT).

The programs of MS/M.Phil/PhD/BS include M.Phil/PhD chemistry, PhD Physics, M.Phil Mass Communication, M.Phil Physics, BS Physics and BS CS.

KP govt presented public-friendly budget: Minister

OUR STAFF REPORTER
PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Shahram Khan Tarakai has said that PTI-led provincial government has presented a public friendly budget while keeping in view the troubles faced by the general public.

He was addressing the budget session in provincial assembly. The budget has focused on development of merged districts, health, education, tourism and local bodies along with the uplift of provincial capital Peshawar and other less developed districts, he said.

KP CM condoles death of Yousafzai's mother

OUR STAFF REPORTER
PESHAWAR

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has expressed grief and sorrow over demise of mother of Provincial Minister for Information Shaukat Ali Yousafzai.

The mother of Shaukat Yousafzai breathed her last on Saturday evening and was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in Shangla district on Sunday morning.

KP Assembly Deputy Speaker Mahmood Jan, Provincial Minister Dr Amjad Ali, MPAs Sardar Khan, Rashad Khan, former MPA Abdul Munam, District Nazim Niaz Ahmad, PTI leaders, civil society members and others attended the funeral.

Tarakai said that regardless of opposition's irresponsible behaviour, their good suggestions will be included in budget. In our previous tenure, he said, we have launched the Sehat Insaf Card which has a very positive impact upon the life of poor masses at large.

Now this card would be provided to each and every single resident of the province irrespective of their political affiliation. He further said cancer patients will get free treatment and for this purpose government will provide Rs820 million.

While appreciating the provincial government for allocating a huge amount for merged districts, he said, it was for the first time in the history of the province that Rs62 billion had been allocated for the develop-

ment of merged districts. This amount will be spent to raise the living standard of residents of these areas, he said.

Shahram said an amount of Rs46 billion allocated for local bodies would also benefit the merged districts local bodies. To support the economy of province, government was committed to enhance tourism industry, he said, and for this purpose local government and tourism departments was working in collaboration, he added.

"Areas having more potential for tourism will get more development," he said.

He said Peshawar was the prime focus of provincial government and for the uplift of the city Rs4.5 billion will be spent in the forthcoming fiscal year.

Hundreds of polio refusal cases covered in Lakki

The cases were reported from remote villages and hamlets in several union councils during June 17 anti-polio drive

OUR STAFF REPORTER
LAKKI MARWAT

Deputy Commissioner Jehangir Azam Wazir on Sunday paid visits to several rural localities and got covered a good number of polio vaccination refusal cases after convincing parents on vaccination of their kids.

The refusal cases were reported from remote villages and hamlets in several union councils during June 17 case response anti-polio drive. Wazir along with officials of health department and partner organisations met elders and parents in Matora, Shahbazkhel, Abdulkhel and Langerkhel

Hathi Khan.

He told parents that two drops of anti-polio vaccine in each round were inevitable to keep their children safe from crippling disease. The refusal to immunisation can cause lifelong paralysis to children, he maintained. He asked parents not to link vaccination of children with demands and cooperate with vaccinators.

"The government and district administration will make all out efforts to ensure provision of basic amenities of life to people on their doorsteps" he promised, adding that full support and cooperation by people from all walks of life especially parents can

prove helpful to make polio eradication campaigns a success.

Later, the health department's vaccinators administered anti-polio drops to children of reluctant parents in the presence of deputy commissioner.

Meanwhile, the district administration also launched a comprehensive exercise on Sunday to reach missed children and immunise them against the crippling disease. Wazir supervised the activity, wherein, assistant commissioners and tehsildars along with patwaris took part in the activity and covered hundreds of refusal cases and missed children.

WORLD

Quick Read

Over 40 killed in Afghan fighting within 24 hours



KABUL (Xinhua): More than 40 fighters with majority of them anti-government militants have been killed in conflict-battered Afghanistan over the past 24 hours, officials said Sunday.

The government forces in latest crackdown on the armed militants, stormed a Taliban hideout outside Qalat, capital of the southern Zabul province on Sunday, killing one insurgent and arresting two others, said an army statement released Sunday.

Similarly, another statement of the army asserted that four militants had been killed and seven others injured elsewhere in the western Farah province over the past 24 hours. A Taliban key commander Mullah Awaz was also killed in Shindand district of the Farah's neighboring Herat province.

In the meantime, a statement of the northern Badakhshan provincial administration released Sunday reported killing 30 militants and injuring 30 others across the relatively troubled province since Saturday.

According to the statement, only one security personnel was killed and two others injured in fighting against militants in Badakhshan over the period. Meanwhile, Taliban militants have also killed five people on charge of spying for government in Jarm district of Badakhshan province, police spokesman in the province Sanaullah Ruhani said.

Sudan to agree on Ethiopian initiative for crisis



KHARTOUM (Xinhua): Sudan's major opposition on Saturday announced the agreement on an Ethiopian initiative to resolve the political crisis in Sudan.

"Our agreement on the Ethiopian initiative means a great shift toward achieving the goals of the revolution in freedom, peace and equality, and it will set the country on the right path to achieve democracy," said Babikir Faisal, spokesman of the opposition Freedom and Change Alliance, at a press conference in the capital Khartoum.



BACHU: Farmers carry harvested honeydew melons in Bachu County of northwest China.—Xinhua

Ethiopia army chief shot dead in 'coup bid' attacks

PM urges Ethiopians to unite in the face of "evil" forces set on dividing the country

AGENCIES
ADDIS ABABA

The chief of staff of the Ethiopian Army Gen Seare Mekonnen has been shot dead by his own bodyguard in the capital, Addis Ababa.

He and another officer died trying to prevent a coup attempt against the administration in Ethiopia's northern Amhara region, PM Abiy Ahmed said. In Amhara itself, regional governor Ambachew Mekonnen was killed along with an adviser. The government says the situation is under control after arrests were made.

The prime minister has gone on TV to urge Ethiopians to unite in the face of "evil" forces set on dividing the country. The US state department has warned its staff in Addis Ababa to stay inside. Ethnic violence has hit Amhara and other parts of Ethiopia in recent years. Since his election last year, Mr Abiy has moved to end political repression by releasing political prisoners, removing bans on political parties and prosecuting officials accused of human rights abuses.

Africa's oldest independent country, Ethiopia is also the continent's second most populous (after Nigeria), with 102.5 million inhabitants from more than 80 different ethnic groups.

A transfer hub for long-haul air travel, it has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, but a vast number of young Ethiopians are without work



Gen Seare was killed on Saturday evening at his residence along with another general, Gezai Abera, by the bodyguard who is now in custody, the prime minister's press office says.

The government says it has reason to think the attack was linked to the assassination of the governor of Amhara a few hours earlier in the region's capital, Bahir Dar. Mr Ambachew was killed at a meeting in his office along with his senior adviser, Ezez Wasie, while the region's attorney general was wounded.

Lake Ayalew has now been appointed as the region's acting governor. The prime minister's office accused Amhara's regional security chief, Brig-Gen Asaminew Tsige, of plotting the coup attempt. It is unclear whether he has been arrested. Many of those involved in the coup attempt are under arrest

and operations are in progress to detain others, the PM's press office said. "The coup attempt in Amhara regional state is against the constitution and is intended to scupper the hard-won peace of the region," it added.

"This illegal attempt should be condemned by all Ethiopians and the federal government has full capacity to overpower this armed group."

The mayor of Addis Ababa, Takele Uma, has said life will resume as normal on Monday and he called on the city's public employees to go to work as usual.

Safety and security would be maintained in the capital, he promised. These are tumultuous time for Ethiopia and Prime Minister Abiy, who is already facing increased ethnic tensions.

Chief of staff Seare Mekonnen had only served as head of the military for

a year having been appointed by Mr Abiy, who made sweeping changes in the security apparatus when he took office last April. It is clear there is still significant opposition within the military opposed to the PM's style of leadership.

The killing of Amhara's governor is also a big blow for Mr Abiy, who is credited with installing Ambachew Mekonnen in office. He was a key ally in Amhara, which is itself facing security problems and clamour from some groups for greater autonomy from the central government.

The first general election since Mr

Government says the situation is under control after arrests were made

Abiy came to power is supposed to be held next year, but it is very hard to see how this will go ahead in a country that is highly polarised. The atmosphere is just too toxic. The homeland of the Amhara ethnic group is the country's second most populous region and has given Ethiopia its state language, Amharic. Violence between the Amhara and Gumuz ethnic groups left dozens of people dead last month in Amhara and its neighbouring region, Benishangul Gumuz.

Iran diplomat calls talks with UK minister 'repetitive'



AGENCIES
TEHRAN

A top Iranian diplomat expressed disappointment on Sunday after meeting a minister from Britain's Foreign Office amid escalating regional tensions, saying

the talks were "repetitive", state news agency IRNA reported.

Minister of State for the Middle East Andrew Murrison had the "usual talking points", said Kamal Kharazi, the head of the Strategic Council of Foreign Relations at Iran's Foreign Ministry.

These included saying a European payment mechanism to help Iran with US sanctions "will soon become operational, that Britain has always supported the JCPOA and has its own problems with America ... such talks that have always been repetitive," Kharazi added. The JCPOA is the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, a multilateral 2015 nuclear deal that the US unilaterally withdrew from in May last year.

Washington has since re-imposed biting sanctions against the Islamic Republic, despite Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia remaining committed to the deal.

Murrison is expected to meet deputy foreign minister Abbas

Tehran says drone violated its airspace - a claim US denies - near the strategic Strait of Hormuz

Araghchi later on Sunday.

Murrison was to call for an "urgent de-escalation" and raise British concerns "about Iran's regional conduct and its threat to cease complying with the nuclear deal", according to a statement by Britain's Foreign Office.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have flared further after Iran on Thursday shot down a US drone. Iran said the drone violated its airspace -- a claim the US denies -- near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

In response, the US was ready to carry out a military strike against Iran but US President Donald Trump said he called it off at the last minute. The downing of the drone came after ten-

sions spiked between the two countries following a series of attacks on commercial vessels that the US has blamed on Iran -- accusations vehemently denied by the Islamic Republic. Britain is a signatory to the 2015 nuclear deal which saw Iran scale back its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.

Europe has tried to respond to the US withdrawal by setting up a special trade mechanism called INSTEX that would allow legitimate trade with Iran to continue without falling foul of US sanctions. But the mechanism has been dismissed by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as a "bitter joke."

On May 8, Iran said it would

reduce some of its nuclear commitments unless the remaining partners helped it circumvent US sanctions and sell its oil.

Iran's atomic energy agency said on Monday that it would soon pass the amount of low-enriched uranium allowed under the nuclear deal.

The deal set a limit on the number of uranium-enriching centrifuges, and restricted Iran's right to enrich uranium to no higher than 3.67 percent, well below weapons-grade levels of around 90 percent. Kharazi warned Sunday that European powers must realise Iran is "serious" about its decision and that "in two weeks it will take new steps" to scale down nuclear commitments.

Quick Read

Syrian army cuts rebels' supply routes in North Syria



DAMASCUS (Xinhua): Syrian army is working to cut all rebels' supply routes in a triangle of countryside areas in northern Syria, a pro-government newspaper reported on Sunday.

The al-Watan newspaper said the army is following the tactic of draining the rebels to sap their resolve and weaken them in the countryside areas of the provinces of Hama, Idlib, and Aleppo in northern Syria. It said cutting the rebels' supply routes in these areas is the tactic that is taken now amid feverish attempts by the rebels to restore what they have recently lost.

Citing military sources, the newspaper said the air defenses of the Syrian army shot down a rebel drone outfitted with missiles in Hama.

It said that the Syrian warplanes also targeted positions of the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front in the northern countryside of Hama and areas in the southern and southeastern countryside of Idlib. The military source was cited by al-Watan as saying that the Syrian airstrikes were conducive in cutting the supply routes of the rebels and inflicting hefty losses on them.

Georgia's parliament speaker resigns over protests



TBILISI (AA): Georgian Parliament Speaker Irakli Kobakhidze has resigned following violent protests in the capital Tbilisi, Kakha Kaladze, secretary general of the ruling Georgian Dream party, announced Friday. The resignation came a day after thousands of angry protesters gathered outside parliament over a controversial visit by a Russian lawmaker.

Sergei Gavrilov, a deputy of the Russian State Duma from the Communist Party, addressed the assembly from the speaker's seat during an annual meeting of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy, a forum of lawmakers from Orthodox countries, creating an uproar.

The protesters clashed with police when they attempted to break into the building.



DUESSELDORF: Environmental activists stage a protest in the open cast Garzweiler brown coal mine in Germany.

US 'launched cyberattacks on Iran weapons' after drone downing

“US officials say the attacks on Iranian military computers disabled systems that control missile and rocket launchers

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

The United States military launched cyberattacks against Iranian missile control systems and a spy network on Thursday after Tehran downed an American surveillance drone, US officials have said.

US President Donald Trump ordered a retaliatory military attack against Iran after the drone shootdown but then called it off, saying the response would not be "proportionate" and instead pledged new sanctions on the country.

But after the drone's downing, Trump secretly authorised US Cyber Command to carry out a retaliatory cyber attack on Iran, two officials told the Associated Press news agency on Saturday. A third official confirmed the broad outlines of the attack. All spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly about the operation. US media outlets Yahoo News and The Washington Post also reported the cyberattacks. The cyberattacks - a contingency plan developed over weeks amid escalating tensions - disabled Iranian computer systems that controlled its rocket and missile launchers, the officials said.

The officials said the US targeted the computers of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) after Washington blamed Iran for two recent mine attacks on oil tankers.

There was no immediate reaction on Sunday morning in Iran to the US claims. Iran has hardened and disconnected much of its infrastructure from the internet after the Stuxnet computer virus, widely believed to be a joint US-Israeli creation, disrupted thousands of Iranian centrifuges in the late 2000s.



"As a matter of policy and for operational security, we do not discuss cyberspace operations, intelligence or planning," US Defense Department spokesperson Heather Babb told a private news agency.

In recent weeks, hackers believed to be working for the Iranian government have targeted US government agencies, sending waves of spear-phishing emails, representatives of cybersecurity companies CrowdStrike and FireEye - which regularly track such activity - told AP.

This new campaign appears to have started shortly after the Trump administration imposed sanctions on the Iranian petrochemical sector this month.

It was not known if any of the hackers managed to gain access to the targeted networks with the emails, which typically mimic legitimate emails but contain malicious software.

"Both sides are desperate to know what the other side is thinking," said John Hultquist, director of intelligence

analysis at FireEye told AP.

"You can absolutely expect the regime to be leveraging every tool they have available to reduce the uncertainty about what's going to happen next, about what the US's next move will be," CrowdStrike shared images of the spear-phishing emails with the AP.

US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Director Christopher Krebs said the agency has been working with the intelligence community and cybersecurity partners to monitor Iranian cyber activity and ensure the US and its allies are safe. "What might start as an account compromise, where you think you might just lose data, can quickly become a situation where you've lost your whole network," Krebs said.

The National Security Agency (NSA) would not discuss Iranian cyber actions specifically, but said in a statement to the AP on Friday that "there have been serious issues with malicious Iranian cyber actions in the past."

"In these times of heightened tensions, it is appropriate for everyone to be alert to signs of Iranian aggression in cyberspace and ensure appropriate defences are in place," the NSA said.

Tensions are high between the US and Iran once again following Trump's move more than one year ago to leave a multinational accord curbing Iran's nuclear ambition. His administration has instead imposed a robust slate of punitive economic sanctions designed to choke off Iranian oil sales and cripple its economy. On Saturday, Trump said the US would put "major" new sanctions on Iran next week. He said they would be announced on Monday.

Tehran said it shot down the US drone on Thursday after it violated Iranian airspace - something Washington denies.

Meanwhile, Iran has denied responsibility for the tanker attacks, and a top military official on Saturday pledged to "set fire to the interests of America and its allies" if the US attacks.

Trump delays nationwide operation to deport immigrants



APP
UNITED NATIONS

US President Donald Trump announced Saturday that he would delay nationwide raids aiming to

round up undocumented immigrants and deport them, saying that he would give Congress two weeks to sort out a deal on immigration. "At the request of Democrats, I have delayed the illegal

Immigration Removal Process (Deportation) for two weeks to see if the Democrats and Republicans can get together and work out a solution to the Asylum and Loophole problems at the Southern Border With Mexico," he wrote on Twitter. "If not, Deportations start!", Trump warned. The raids were reported to begin in 10 major US cities on Sunday, according to multiple news outlets, including the Washington Post and the New York Times.

House Of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Trump on Friday evening and asked him personally to call off the raids during a 12-minute phone call, USA TODAY reported, citing

“I have delayed illegal immigration for two weeks to see if the Democrats and Republicans can get together and work out a solution

to a source familiar with the call. Pelosi also released a statement Saturday, hours before Trump's announcement, pressuring him to delay the operation.

"Tomorrow is Sunday, and as many people of faith attend religious services, the President has ordered heartless raids," Pelosi, a Democrat, said. "It is my hope that before Sunday, leaders of the faith-based community and other organizations that respect the dignity and worth of people will call upon the President to stop this brutal action which will tear families apart and inject terror into our communities."

The raids were reportedly planned in cities including New

York, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans and San Francisco, according to CNN.

Earlier this week, Trump announced that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a United States (US) agency, would begin a massive deportation effort that he said would remove "millions" of undocumented immigrants from the US. The threat was made less than 24 hours before he officially kicked off his 2020 reelection campaign in Florida.

"Next week ICE will begin the process of removing the millions of illegal aliens who have illicitly found their way into the United States," Trump posted on Twitter

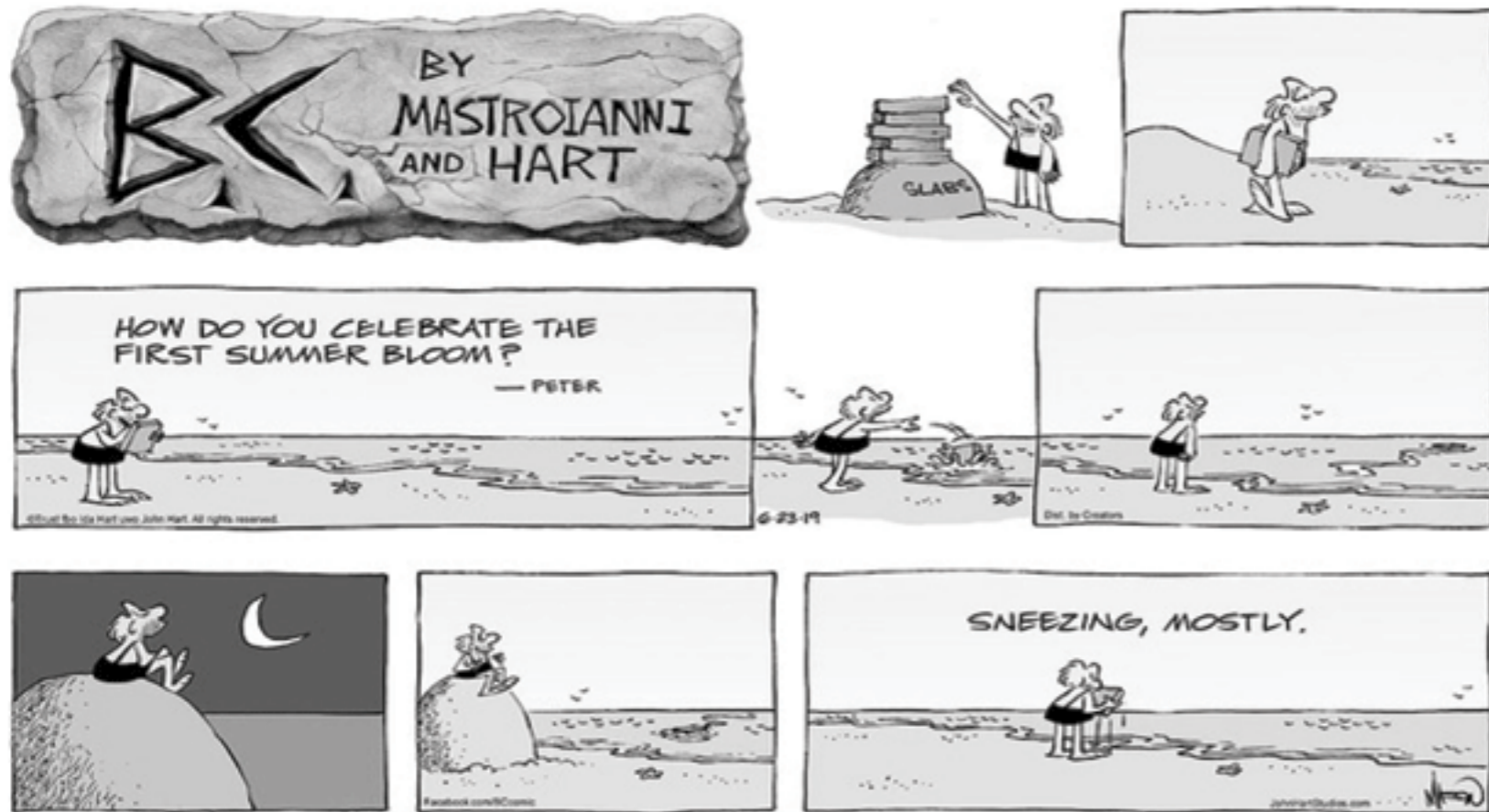
on Monday. "They will be removed as fast as they come in."

The president provided few details of the plan, and White House officials declined to provide specifics earlier this week. Instead, the administration referred to Trump's tweet and to a June 4 briefing by Mark Morgan, acting director of ICE. Morgan signaled then that the agency would increase deportations of families who had received deportation orders. "We will be going after individuals who have gone through due process, who have received final orders of deportation," he said. "That will include families. Right now we're talking about that and what it should look like."

ENTERTAINMENT

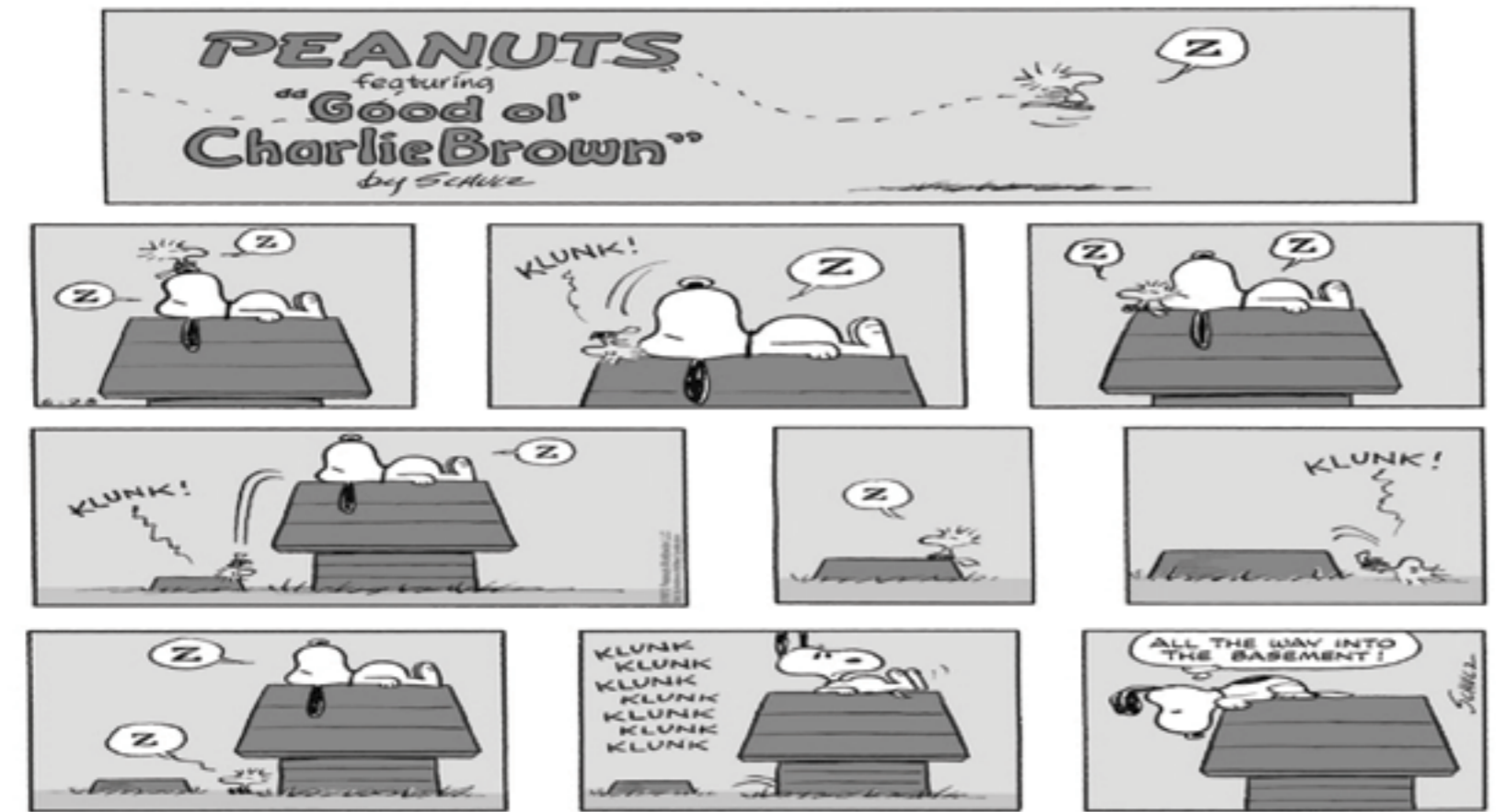
BC

BY MASTROIANNI AND HART



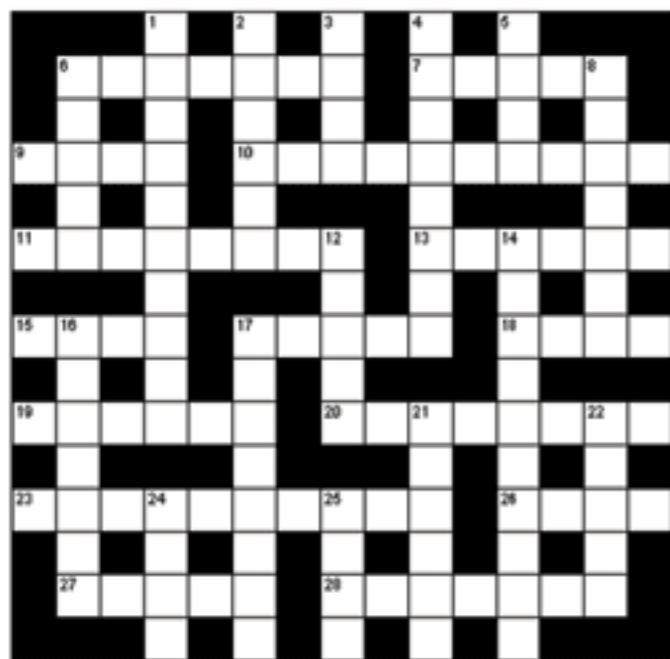
PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



Crossword

670



- ACROSS**
6. People watching their calories (7)
 7. Concepts (5)
 9. Clown (4)
 10. Vaporizes (10)
 11. Space rock (8)
 13. Pulled (6)
 15. Skid (4)
 17. A large and imposing house (5)
 18. Pant (4)
 19. Buxom (6)
 20. Dubious (8)
 23. Video captioning (10)
 26. Assist (4)
 27. A chip or fragment (5)
 28. Five on each hand (7)
- DOWN**
1. The outcome of a sequence of events (10)
 2. Prefix indicating "Different" (6)
 3. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (4)
 4. A unit of computer memory (8)
 5. Stiff hair or bristle (4) 6. Slag (5)
 8. Long pins for holding meat (7)
 12. Ate (5) 14. Bargains (10)
 16. Sports associations (7)
 17. Powerfully (8)
 21. Requiring immediate attention (6) 22. Utilisers (5)
 24. Nipple (4)
 25. Chancy (4)

Word Search

USSTATES



- ALABAMA
COLORADO
CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE
GEORGIA
- INDIANA
KENTUCKY
LOUISIANA
MARYLAND
MINNESOTA
- MONTANA
NEBRASKA
NEW JERSEY
OKLAHOMA
PENNSYLVANIA
- RHODE ISLAND
SOUTH DAKOTA
VERMONT
VIRGINIA
WISCONSIN

Sudoku



Chess

291

White to move (Mating attack)



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

CHESS



1 ... Ng4, 2 Nxb5 Qd7, 3 Qc5 (3 Qb6+ Re6) 3 ... Qd1+, 4 Nf1 Qxe2 wins. If 5 h3, then 5 ... Nf6, 6 Qxe7 Qxb5 is sufficient.

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
MAR 21 - APR 19

Inspire others to come out of their shells today, Aries. Have them join you on the sunny side of the street. Share your cheer with other people and lead them into boisterous discussions about the world. You will be on cloud nine, with a great deal of strength behind your happy-go-lucky emotions. Keep things light and don't worry about tomorrow until it comes.



TAURUS
APR 20 - MAY 20

Keep your cool if something goes wrong today, Taurus. Don't be so impatient about fixing a problem that you end up doing something rash. You may do more damage than you would if you just let things sit for a couple days. Mull over the situation, talk it out with others, and approach the issue at another time with a different frame of mind.



GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUN 20

Play the lottery today, Gemini. The concept for you is profit with no effort. The windfall will come when you least expect it. The less you try to shape things, the more they will generally flow in your favor. Enjoy the day and don't sweat the details. Things will work themselves out. People may be quite emotionally charged, but don't let their behavior throw you off balance.



CANCER
JUN 21 - JUL 19

If you meet someone new today, Cancer, break him or her in gradually. Don't spill all the beans at once. Let the person warm up to your intense emotional nature before you unleash it full force. People are going to need their space, so make sure you allow enough room for emotional and physical freedom. Think about taking a long trip or short vacation of some sort.



LEO
JUL 23 - AUG 22

Spare no emotional or monetary expense today, Leo. Whatever you put into this day will come back to you tenfold. Feel free to indulge and delight in your fun-loving nature. This day speaks of freedom from restraint of all kinds. Break the chains and explore new worlds in your mind and your physical surroundings. Don't say no when the adventure bus comes around to pick you up.



VIRGO
AUG 23 - SEP 22

Today isn't a day to stay inside and sulk, Virgo. Put the past behind you and move on. Grab opportunities with both hands and rev your engine into high gear. Stop looking at what lies behind and focus on the wide-open horizon in front of you. This is an excellent day to turn up the heat and start brewing some new adventures. Transform your life into an action movie with you as the star.



LIBRA
SEP 23 - OCT 22

Get your favorite music out of the closet today, Libra. Have a dance party in your living room and liven things up with some freshly cut flowers on your table. This is a great day to direct your energies outward into the world. Go on a radical adventure that you didn't think was possible. Plow headfirst into new projects and let your good luck carry you through. Don't worry about the details.



SCORPIO
OCT 23 - NOV 21

It may be extremely hard for you to make decisions about anything today, Scorpio. Don't stress about work or the things you need to get done. With today's aspects, it's a day that shouldn't be filled with sour energy from the past. You experience a rebirth every time you wake up in the morning. Venture forth into new adventures!



SAGITTARIUS
NOV 22 - DEC 21

Today should run quite smoothly for you, Sagittarius. You will find that there's a great deal of power fueling your emotions and that you're able to take that power to the extreme. Use your strong, dynamic nature to win the hearts of others. Lead the charge toward good-natured fun. You will be laid-back, easygoing, and adventurous. Take a long-distance trip in your mind.



CAPRICORN
DEC 22 - JAN 19

Don't get upset if people don't take you quite as seriously as you'd like today, Capricorn. It's in the nature of the day to keep things light and uplifting. Come out of the intensity of the last couple days and laugh out loud. Don't stress over things you don't understand. Go with the flow and keep smiling. You can't go wrong as long as you join in the good cheer and merriment of the day.



AQUARIUS
JAN 20 - FEB 18

You might find that something or someone is purposefully trying to make things difficult for you today, Aquarius. It might seem like you're trying to get a handle on the issues, but somehow things are slipping through your fingers. Don't make any major decisions, and certainly don't try to herd people into corners. Let others have their freedom and consider simply riding out the storm.



PISCES
FEB 19 - MAR 20

Lay low today, Pisces. Don't try to force any answers from people. Eat a healthy breakfast and stay away from caffeine. Relate to people on an intellectual or philosophical level and discuss the meaning of life. If you're looking for sympathy, you may need to wait a couple days. People aren't in the mood. They just want to be left alone.

Quick Read

Apple recalls older 15-inch MacBook



Pros over fire risk

ANKARA (AA): US technology giant Apple has announced a voluntary recall of a limited number of older-generation 15-inch MacBook Pro units which contain a battery that may overheat and pose a safety risk.

"The units were sold primarily between September 2015 and February 2017 and can be identified by their product serial number," the company said in a statement on its official website on Thursday. The statement underlined that the recall does not affect any other 15-inch MacBook Pro units or other Mac notebooks. "Because customer safety is a top priority, Apple is asking customers to stop using affected 15-inch MacBook Pro units," it added.

Myanmar blocks Internet access in northern Rakhine



YANGON (AA): Myanmar has cut off Internet services in Rakhine state, said an official on Friday, as the fighting between the government troops and an ethnic Buddhist rebel group intensified over the past months. The Ministry of Transport and Communication directed all mobile service providers to temporarily block Internet access in eight townships in northern Rakhine state and one in adjacent Chin state, with the ban went into effect late Thursday, according to permanent secretary Soe Thein.



PARIS: Thom Browne's menswear spring/summer 2020 show as part of Paris fashion week.

Climate protesters storm Garzweiler coalmine in Germany

AGENCIES BERLIN

Protesters here, police there — one group wants to stop coal mining, the other is trying to stop them. Protests, a ritual in the Rhineland, are getting help from the Fridays for Future movement, as Peter Hille reports.

The site could be an idyllic stretch of countryside, were it not for the giant Garzweiler lignite strip mine. Parallel to the road stands a row of excavators that devour the landscape, insatiably chewing up earth to get to the lignite, or brown coal,

that lies beneath the surface.

The machines are owned by the energy giant RWE, and are the reason the group of hundreds, perhaps thousands of activists are here. The activists are part of the organization Ende Gelände (End of the Line), which protests for climate protection and against strip mining.

Sina Reisch, sporting round glasses and unruly blonde hair, is one of them, "Today, some of us will commit ourselves to storming the pit and stop the mining," she tells DW.

Reisch says the massive amounts of coal stripped from the Rhine district make it Europe's biggest source of environmentally devastating CO2 emissions. She says despite the fact that scientists have long known about the negative effects of climate change, the government still refuses to take action.

"That's why we have decided to take things into our own hands. We are going to use our bodies to stop it," says Reisch.

But the parade of activists is not alone: Hundreds of police are there to keep them

from accessing the pit. The mine is the property of RWE, and anyone who enters the area is guilty of trespassing. Police also say that climbing down into the pit could be deadly.

Some 20 police vans creep along in a column behind the activists, a helicopter rattles away as it circles overhead and mounted police are there as well.

With brightly colored protest banners on one side and horses and uniformed police on the other, the scene is strangely reminiscent of a Catholic holy day procession meandering through the countryside in the sunshine.

The activists are almost as well-organized as the police. The red section is here on the L277, and the gold, pink and multicolored sections are trying to access the pit in other areas. The activists stop every once in a while to pop up umbrellas and gold-silver emergency blankets, in an attempt to create a bit of shade for themselves.



China mounts fight against irregularities in cosmetic surgery

XINHUA BEIJING

China has stepped up efforts to crack down on cosmetic surgery violations, according to the National Health Commission (NHC).

A total of 1,219 criminal cases related to medical treatment and drug safety were handled and 1,899 suspects were detained by police in a campaign aimed at cracking down on violations in cosmetic surgery between May 2017 and April 2018, according to the NHC.

During the year-long crackdown campaign, a total of 4,646 complaints were received across the country, 4,417 of which have been handled. Seven government departments participated in the campaign. Health authorities inspected 40,878 medical organizations and dealt with 843 cases that violated laws and regulations. Thirty-one of the medical organizations were ordered to be suspended from service.

The drug regulators also inspected over 103,000 producers and sellers of drugs and medical apparatus and equipment, and 184 of them

were suspended from service and seven had their licenses revoked, the commission said.

During the campaign, institutions illegally offering cosmetic surgery training, and cosmetic-surgery-related commercial advertisements and online information that violated laws and regulations were also handled. The NHC pledged to further step up supervision by using information and intelligent technology, encouraging industrial associations playing a bigger role in self-regulation, and strengthening coordination with other authorities.



1,219 criminal cases related to medical treatment and drug safety handled and 1,899 suspects detained by police

Walmart uses AI cameras to spot thieves



BBC NEW YORK

US supermarket giant Walmart has confirmed it uses image recognition cameras at checkouts to detect theft.

The cameras identify when items are put in a shopping bag without first being scanned by a cashier, or at the self-service checkout. Walmart told the news site Business Insider that it used the

technology in more than 1,000 stores.

The company said that it had made an "investment to ensure the safety of our customers and associates". The scheme, called Missed Scan Detection by Walmart, uses technology supplied by Irish company Everseen.

The cameras track items rather than people. If an item is spotted being put in a shopping bag before it has been scanned at the

checkout, the system can call an employee to "help".

The retailer said shrinkage - the loss of products due to theft or error - had decreased since the technology had been deployed.

Asda, which is owned by Walmart, and UK supermarket Sainsbury's both told the BBC they did not use image recognition cameras in their stores. Tesco has not yet replied to a BBC request for comment.

Quick Read

Alice Cooper has death pact with wife



MICHIGAN (CM): Alice Cooper has a "death pact" with his wife which means if either of them dies they will "go together".

The 71-year-old shock rocker has been married to the 62-year-old ballerina for 43 years, and despite filing for divorce from the 'School's Out' hitmaker in November 1983 - when his alcoholism was at its worst - nothing has come between the pair since they reconciled months later in mid-1984. Alice says that they "couldn't live without each other" and so if either of them passes away, they will "go together". He said: "We've made a pact - there is no way of surviving without each other. I couldn't live without her. We always said there will never be a time when one of us will be mourning the other. "Whenever it does happen, we are going to go together. I've been married 43 years to the greatest girl in the world. We have never cheated on each other." Despite his wild past - including an addiction to cocaine - the 'Poison' rocker is in good shape thanks to playing golf and eating well and he doesn't think he will be giving up the ghost anytime soon thanks to his strong genes.

Elisabeth Moss reveals how she copes with fame



LOS ANGELES (GN): 'The Handmaid's Tale' Elisabeth Moss revealed she copes with her fame by surrounding herself with friends and family she can "trust".

The 36-year-old actress recently starred in the second season of hit HBO series 'The Handmaid's Tale' and confessed that following the massive success of the show, she keeps herself grounded by often confiding in "people that she loves" and who she knows will give good advice. In an interview with OK! magazine, she said: "I surround myself with people that I love and trust. That's usually my family or friends. Friends that I've had for years. "Obviously I love my family but I rely on my friends too. I think it's important to surround yourself with people who support you and whose opinions you can really trust are for the greater good." The 'Mad Men' star went on to explain that although she can't pinpoint a "turning point" in her three-decade career, when she landed her role as daughter of President Josiah Bartlet in the NBC political drama series 'The West Wing' she knew the show would be "something big".

Original Batman script included another character's death



GN
NEW YORK

Actor Robert Wuhl has revealed that his role as Alexander Knox in 1989's Batman nearly turned out very differently in the 1989 movie, with one iteration of the script including the journalist's shock death. Director Tim Burton's brooding affair was a million miles away from the campy years of Adam West's Batman TV series and famously put the dark in Dark Knight for a wide audience.

Featuring an all-star cast of Wuhl, Kim Basinger, and Jack Nicholson, Burton reinvented the character and cast Michael Keaton as Bruce Wayne's titular alter ego. Over the years, Batman has become a genre-defining superhero movie, but it all could've turned out very differently.

Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, Wuhl explained, "I actually died in the original

script." Instead of today's secretive nature of only giving actors portions of their scripts, the Batman cast was privy to the whole story. Knox was originally supposed to die in the Joker's final attack, but instead, the theatrical release included him being knocked unconscious while trying to defend Basinger's Vicki Vale.

Wuhl went on to discuss a tense table read with Blade Runner's Sean Young, who was originally cast as Vale. Young was injured and had to back out of Batman, which led to the studio nearly casting Michelle Pfeiffer. Fans will know that Pfeiffer went on to play Selina Kyle, aka Catwoman, in Burton's lauded Batman Returns.

As for Vale and Knox, the pair made it out of the finished Batman story alive. Despite Burton returning for the sequel, neither Vale or Knox were part of

the story. While Selina Kyle and Bruce discussed his break-up with Vale is a passing conversation during Batman Returns, Knox's future was left unknown. Burton stepped away from the franchise after Batman Returns, meaning fans will never know what happened next for Vale or Knox.

John Peters and Peter Guber produced Batman, and it was apparently Peters' love of Wuhl that spared Knox from his tragic fate. In Daniel Waters' first draft of Batman, Knox was supposed to be discovered crucified to the Bat Signal - a scene that was later used for Carmine Falcone in Christopher Nolan's Batman Begins. Despite Wuhl's character being relatively minor to the overall story of Batman, it's still interesting to know what was originally supposed to happen to Alexander Knox.

Michael's legacy will continue, says Janet

CM
NEW YORK

Janet Jackson says her late brother Michael Jackson's legacy will continue through his fans.

The 53-year-old star has chosen not to comment on the controversial 'Finding Neverland' documentary, which features allegations from Wade Robson and James Safechuck, who alleged that the King of Pop sexually abused them as children.

But the 'Control' hitmaker has no doubt that the 'Thriller' singer - who died in 2009 - will always be adored by his fans because of the "impact" he and the Jackson family have had on the world.

In a rare interview, Janet told The Sunday Times magazine: "It [Michael's legacy] will continue. I love it when I see kids emulating him, when adults still listen to his music. It just lets you know the impact that my family has had on the world.

"I hope I'm not sounding arrogant in any way - I'm just stating what is. It's really all God's doing, and I'm just thankful for that." Janet and Michael's siblings Tito, Marlon and Jackie Jackson, and his nephew Taj have defended Michael.

Tito's son Taj, 45, claimed that the family did not wish to "put more energy" into the claims against their late relative because they don't want to draw any more attention to the documentary.

During their appearance on 'CBS This Morning', Taj said: "There's a fear to put more energy to it and more eyeballs to it. That's why Janet (his aunt) hasn't said anything, because she doesn't want to make it any bigger."

The siblings stated that they know the 'Man in the Mirror' hitmaker was



not a sexual predator and accused the Channel 4 documentary, which aired in March, of spinning lies.

Jackie, 68, said: "I don't have to see the documentary ... I know my brother. I know what he stood for, what he was all about ... People that really know him, they know the truth."

Marlon, 62, added: "This documentary is not telling the truth. There has not been one piece of evidence that corroborates their story."

Taj went on to explain that he believes the 'Billie Jean' singer had a "naivete" about how "odd" it was for him to sleep in the same bed as the children who stayed at his Neverland Ranch in Santa Barbara, but insisted that it was "very innocent". He said: "I grew up in it, so for me it wasn't odd. You know, I think, to the outside world, yes, I think it can be odd. I mean, I'm not oblivious to what it sounds like.

"But when you're actually there in that atmosphere and you're around it, and you're watching movies with his kids, whether it's 'Little Rascals' or 'Three Stooges', and you're watching these things, it's like, it's very innocent."

Khloe Kardashian would have fought for Tristan Thompson

GN
LOS ANGELES

Khloe Kardashian was "willing to fight" for her relationship with Tristan Thompson when he was unfaithful to her, but says he gave her "every reason not to". Khloe Kardashian was "willing to fight" for Tristan Thompson.

The 34-year-old reality star split with the NBA star - with whom she has 14-month-old daughter True - after he allegedly locked lips with Kardashian family friend Jordyn Woods at a party earlier this year.

And in a new cryptic social media post, Khloe seemed to suggest she was willing to keep working on a romance with Tristan, but he gave her "every reason not to".

Taking to her Instagram Stories, the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star wrote: "I was willing to fight for you, for us, but you gave me every reason not to."

Khloe previously forgave Tristan after he was seen getting close to a mystery woman just days before True's birth in April last year, but was unable to resolve her differences with the basketball player when he was unfaithful to her for a second time in February.

Meanwhile, the 'Revenge Body' star recently

seemed to claim she wasn't surprised when she learned Tristan had been unfaithful, but was shocked at the involvement of 21-year-old Jordyn Woods, who was the best friend of Khloe's half-sister Kylie Jenner.

In a preview clip for the upcoming two-part

'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' season finale - which airs this weekend - Khloe told Kylie: "I knew who he was, I never in a million years thought that's who she was." And 21-year-old Kylie was shocked by her best friend's behaviour.



I was willing to fight for you, for us, but you gave me every reason not to

Julianne and Brooks 'excited' to be parents

GN
NEW YORK

Brooks Laich is "so excited" to see Julianne Hough become a mother, after revealing earlier this week they are trying IVF treatment. Brooks Laich is "so excited" to see Julianne Hough become a mother.

The 'Dancing with the Stars' judge and her hockey player spouse recently revealed they are trying IVF treatment in order to start a family of their own after Julianne's battle with endometriosis has made it difficult for her to conceive naturally.

And now, 35-year-old Brooks has said he's certain Julianne, 30, will be a fantastic mother, because she's already a natural when it comes to the other little ones in her family.

Speaking to Us Weekly magazine, Brooks said: "The way she looks after our dogs, she treats them as her own babies. She cares, she deeply cares, I know that she would be involved heavily in promoting the identity of a child and who they want to be in the world and how they want to show

up in the world and supporting their goals and dreams."

"She does [nurtures] friends and people in our lives already. She does it with our nieces and nephews. She does it with me on a daily basis. I'm so excited to one day see her become a mother."

Earlier this week, Brooks revealed he and the 'America's Got Talent' judge are exploring IVF, and are now keen on making the subject of fertility struggles less taboo.

He said: "My wife and I want to have children in our future, and going through IVF was a decision we made to increase the [odds] of that happening. I wish people would perceive it [that way instead of with] shame or guilt."

Brooks also heaped praise on Julianne - whom he tied the knot with in July 2017 - as he says she's got "the best heart in the world".

He added: "Julianne has the best heart in the world - that's her. I view her as such a better person than I am because of the amount of love she has for every living thing in the world."



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- تمام پاکستانی اخبارات
- روزانہ کی نوکریوں کے اشتہارات
- ہر گھنٹے کی خبریں
- کتابیں اور میگزین
- سنڈے میگزین
- کرکٹ ایڈٹس
- پاکستانی ٹی وی شوز
- پاکستانی اور انڈین ٹی وی ڈرامے
- تعلیمی کتابیں
- پاکستانی، انڈین، انگلش فلمیں اور بہت کچھ جو آپ پسند کریں گے۔

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جو ہر مہینے جمع کروانا لازم ہوگی۔

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ایڈ کروا کے واٹس ایپ کے سب سے بڑے گروپ کا حصہ بنیں۔

نوٹ: نقالوں سے ہوشیار رہیں، اوپر دیے گئے نمبرز کے علاوہ کسی نمبر پر فیس مت سینڈ کریں