

Whatsapp Group: Social Media Pakistan

No discord in
PML-N leadership,
rivals can dream
on: Maryam

LAHORE: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz said Sunday her press conference on Saturday was misunderstood quoted out of context. In a statement, Maryam said that she shares an extremely respectful and very cordial relationship with her paternal uncle Shehbaz Sharif and believed that it was her prime duty to take him into confidence over every matter. "During his budget speech Shehbaz reminded that his offer for a Charter of Economy right after the PTI took change was rudely dismissed by the government. The house speaker Asad Qaiser said that he would take Shehbaz up for his offer to which Shehbaz replied, 'it's never too late', she reminded. During her press conference, Marriyum said, she

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Enthusiasts
enthralled by
JF-17 Thunder

ISLAMABAD: Hordes 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, says a PAF press release on Sunday. The excitement of the eagerly awaiting crowd was worth watching as the aircraft roared in the skies of Paris. The much anticipated display was thoroughly enjoyed by the spectators and they fervently clapped as it landed back at the airstrip. 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

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Country on road
to progress,
says Buzdar

LAHORE: Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that under the vibrant leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan the country is moving forward to its real destination of development and progress. In a statement issued here Sunday, Usman Buzdar said the system was not corrected to facilitate the general public by previous government as the outdated system had not given any relief to public. —P13

• Khalid Mirza asks management to enforce board decisions (Israr Khan) —P4

• Prosecution of influential foreigner may strain Pak ties with Gulf State (Tariq Butt) —P5

Career counselling: questions & answers (Syed Azhar Hussain Abidi) —P13

Calling Imran
'selected PM'
banned in NA

Omar Ayub moves privilege motion and deputy speaker passes ruling to stop use of term 'selected PM' for Imran; Ahsan Iqbal says PTI no more on container and should tolerate criticism

Muhammad Anis

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri Sunday banned calling Imran Khan 'selected Prime Minister' in the House.

On a point of order, Federal Minister Omar Ayub Khan said he wanted to move privilege motion to stop use of word 'selected Prime Minister' for Imran Khan. "Calling Prime Minister Imran 'selected' is breach of our privilege and privilege of the House," the minister said.

The Deputy Speaker said every member of the House had been elected; therefore, the word 'selected' would not be used for any parliamentarian from now on.

Meanwhile, Former Minister for Planning and Development and PML-N Secretary General Chaudhry Ahsan Iqbal,

kicking off debate on the federal budget in the NA, said the government prepared the budget only to please the IMF and get its programme.

"It seems that the present budget has no other agenda but to please IMF, meet conditions to get its programme of six billion dollars loan," the PML-N leader said, adding the budget had brought mere disappointment for the poor masses.

Ahsan Iqbal said the federal budget did not contain any ingredients which are required to increase economic growth rate, create job employments and social investments in sectors like education and health. "The government wants to get the budget passed at any cost to get six billion dollars loan from IMF," he said.

Iqbal went on to say that the PTI government would have to be answerable for its poor performance instead of

making hue and cry and putting all the blames to inherited economy and levelling allegations of corruption. "Not being able to meet revenue targets of Rs400 billion and failing to control current expenditures is not failure of the last PML-N government but it is failure of the PTI government," he said.

The veteran politician said the government staged drama of austerity, auctioned buffaloes and vehicles but did not control its current expenditures resulting in record deficit in the history of the country and now they are compelled external and domestic loans.

He said it was true that the PML-N government obtained Rs10600 billion loans but it was also a fact that from 2013 to 2018, then government used the money on generation of around 12000 megawatts of

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APC to decide
charter of
economy:
Zardari

Says Maryam will also follow narrative of joint opposition

Asim Yasin

ISLAMABAD: Former president and President Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari Sunday said all the opposition parties were bound to follow the narrative in the all parties of conference.

In a media talk on his arrival at the Parliament House, media persons asked him is views on statement of Maryam Nawaz on charter of economy. Zardari said Maryam Nawaz is his daughter but the opposition's narrative will be that which emerges in the all parties conference. He said Maryam will also follow the combined opposition's stance.

"We will follow the collective decision of opposition in the APC," he said. When asked whether he stood with the narrative of Nawaz Sharif or Shahbaz Sharif, Zardari replied that

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Pakistan, Qatar to
boost cooperation in
energy, tourism,
hospitality industry

Emir expresses desire to employ 100,000 workers as well as trained security personnel from Pakistan; leaves for home; Firdous terms Qatari Emir's visit PM's great achievement

Muhammad Saleh Zaafri

ISLAMABAD: Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Sunday met President Dr Arif Alvi at the Aiswan-e-Sadr in which both sides agreed to continue working closely for regional peace and stability while taking note of the progress achieved in the Afghan peace talks.

Sheikh Tamim arrived here on Saturday on a two-day visit heading a high-powered delegation on the invitation of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The wide-ranging talks held in a warm and cordial atmosphere covered bilateral relations and regional issues.

The president complimented Sheikh Tamim for his astute leadership, enabling Qatar to make major strides in energy, tourism, aviation and construction sectors.

In the regional context, the president lauded Qatar's role in promoting peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, which was a notable contribution to regional peace. The president admired Qatar's efforts to promote world sports.

Taking note of 70% increase in Pakistan's exports to Qatar following direct linkage between Karachi and Hamad Ports, the president underlined

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LONDON: Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa waves to spectators during World Cup match between Pakistan and South Africa at Lord's. —AFP

ADB restores
Pakistan's status
as family station

Re-classification done after improved security environment

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has abolished status of non-family station for its staff working in Pakistan after witnessing improved security environment.

The ADB has reclassified its assessment and declared Pakistan as family station for its duty staff working in the country. Now the ADB staff will be allowed to bring wife/spouse into Pakistan during their stay in the country. Pakistani authorities will have to showcase more steps for further improving its reclassification in months ahead.

The ADB's mission visited Islamabad early this month and after taking stock of the whole situation took decision for restoring Pakistan's status as family station for its staff members. Now the formal decision to this effect is expected to be announced early next month. "Pakistan is no longer a non-family station for the ADB staff as this decision will help attract quality staff of the Manila-based multilateral lending institution to work here in the country," top official sources told The News here Sunday.

Earlier, the United Nations had also restored family station status for its staff working in Pakistan. Sources in the ADB and other multilateral donor agencies told this correspondent that after withdrawal

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ICC World Cup

Pakistan overcome
first of four hurdles

Defeat South Africa by 49 runs, Proteas eliminated from World Cup

LONDON:

Pakistan conceded a 50-run lead to South Africa in the first of four hurdles to World Cup elimination and kept alive their own slender chances of advancing to the semi-finals with a 49-run win at Lord's on Sunday. Chasing 309 to remain in the hunt for a last four berth, South Africa's survival bid petered out on 259-9.

Disciplined Pakistan bowling saw Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz take three wickets each as South Africa surrendered without a fight.

Faf du Plessis's side had already been roughed up by Haris Sohail's brilliant 50-ball innings of 89 in Pakistan's total of 308-7 from their 50 overs. South Africa's fifth defeat in seven World Cup matches confirmed their embarrassingly early exit, with matches against Sri Lanka and Australia still to play. For just the second time in their history, and the first time since 2003, South Africa have failed to reach the knockout stages. "The biggest downside is we are not doing ourselves justice as a

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ICC WORLD CUP ENGLAND & WALES 2019

COAS watches
Pakistan-SA
match at Lord's

ISPR DG, PM's son Suleman Khan also watch match

LONDON: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited the Lord's cricket ground on Sunday to watch the Pakistan cricket team playing

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Pakistan, EU to sign new
strategic plan: Qureshi
EU lauds Pak sacrifices in war against
terrorism; FM leaves for Brussels

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Sunday lauded the sacrifices of Pakistan in a war against terrorism.

"Pakistan and the European Union will sign a new strategic engagement plan for strengthening bilateral ties," said FM Qureshi while talking to media just before leaving for Brussels. The foreign minister said that during the visit, he will meet Nato general secretary at its headquarters in Brussels.

"We believe that our relationship with Nato in defence and security matters should

continue," added Qureshi. According to details, Pakistan and the European Union will sign various projects in the fields of trade, investment and energy on June 25 in Brussels. FM Qureshi would lead Pakistan's team while EU Representative for Foreign Relations and Security Policy Federica Mogherini will lead her delegation.

During his visit, FM Qureshi would also address the Pakistani community in Brussels. Earlier on March 25, Pakistan and the European Union (EU)

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FBR proposes
valuation rates
hike in 18 cities

Our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The FBR has proposed hiking of valuation rates of property in 18 major cities and bringing close to fair market value for collection of taxes on transaction of real estate.

The valuation rates for Karachi and Quetta have not been proposed to be increased

See proposed new rates for immovable property in various cities on www.thenews.com.pk

through proposed hike in rates. Now the average valuation rates have hiked in the range of 25 to 35 percent, jacking it up from 60

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THE FIRST WATCH
WORN ON THE MOON

On the 50th anniversary of the first lunar landing, OMEGA is reflecting on the golden moments that defined that iconic day. As a tribute to the occasion, OMEGA has introduced a timepiece not inspired by the Apollo 11 "shine™ Gold."

#MOONWATCH

OMEGA

Fazl's brother elected JUI-F chief for KP

Bureau report
PESHAWAR: Senator Maulana Ataur Rahman was elected unopposed as the president and Maulana Ataul Haq Darvesh general secretary of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter as the election for the provincial office-bearers were held here on Sunday. The election was held at the provincial executive council meeting of the party. The incumbent provincial head Maulana Gul Naseeb Khan, who was also contesting for the slot again, withdrew his candidature at the eleventh hour, paving the way for the unopposed election of Senator Maulana Ataur Rahman, who is the brother of the party's chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman. A tough contest was witnessed for the office of general secretary between the incumbent general secretary Maulana Shujaul Mulik and Maulana Ataul Haq Darvesh. The latter emerged victorious. Members from across the province had gathered for the election at the provincial secretariat of the party on Ring Road.

Girl abducted

Our correspondent
TOBA TEK SINGH: A girl was abducted at Chak 90/JB, Gojra, on Sunday. The daughter of farmer Muhammad Afzal was alone at her home when accused Ali Raza of Thikriwala along with his six accomplices, Ghulam Qadir, Muhammad Rafiq, Khair Din, Abdul Khaliq, Qamar Luqman and Zafar Iqbal, entered the house and allegedly abducted the girl.
CHILD RECOVERED FROM HOTEL: District Labour Welfare Department AD Muhammad Shahbaz on Sunday recovered a minor boy from a hotel at Gojra. Police have registered a case against the hotel owner on the charge of hiring minor boy Ali Hassan as a waiter in his hotel, which was against the Child Labour laws.

MPs panel to discuss MNAs' development schemes

Privatisation of Haveli Bahadur Shah, Balloki power plants to also come under discussion

Tariq Butt

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary panel will discuss on July 2 the development schemes of members of the National Assembly (MNAs) and their approval.

The government has diverted Rs24 billion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other initiatives for spending on MPs' recommended development schemes. This amount has been taken from grant number 137, which is related to CPEC and other initiatives. The money has been moved to the Cabinet Division's grant number 108, which already has an allocation of Rs5 billion.

With this additional Rs24 billion, the total spending on MPs' schemes has gone up to Rs29 billion. Previously, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government had spent Rs32.6 billion under the Prime Minister's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Achievement Fund. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) administration has begun the journey with Rs29 billion spending plan for its first year in power.

Both the PML-N and the PTI have used the name of SDGs to push ahead with their political agendas. The CPEC and other initiatives have a total approved allocation of Rs27 billion and diversion of Rs24 billion suggests that CPEC projects will be affected.

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Energy will also discuss a calling

attention notice regarding difficulties being faced by residents of Islamabad due to ban on new electricity and gas connection and metres moved by Ali Nawaz Awan of the PTI. The non-availability of gas transmission line to the NA-24 of the Charsadda district will come under discussion too.

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Privatisation meeting on June 28 will get a briefing on the financial advisors' report regarding privatisation of Haveli Bahadur Shah and Balloki Power plants and on the report prepared by the Task Force on Energy for privatisation of power distribution companies.

On June 24, the Standing Committee on Defence will take up the issue of General Sales Tax (GST) shares of the Cantonment Boards from Sindh and Balochistan. It will get a briefing on grant-in-aid to these boards which is not being given by the Finance Ministry.

The Inspector General Police (IGP) and Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad will on June 27 brief the Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights and submit a report as discussed in its last session on May 24 on the murder of 10-year old girl Frishta Mohmand in Islamabad.

Besides, the IGP and Intelligence Bureau director general will brief the committee on the harassment of a senior journalist in Islamabad and on the surveillance and scrutiny of

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

'JI not to attend APC'

Our correspondent

OKARA: Jamaat-e-Islami Okara chapter general secretary Amrullah Azeem has said that his party will not participate in the All Parties Conference (APC) of Maulana Fazlur Rahman on June 26.

Addressing a gathering of the JI workers here on Sunday, Amrullah Azeem said that the ruling parties of the country were responsible for the present economic crisis. He demanded the former rulers apologise from the nation for their actions and bring back the money which they had hoarded during their rule from the national resources. He said that the PTI used to be an ideological party when the JI was working in coalition with it in the KP. Today, he added, the PTI had become a status enjoying party while the JI was still running a movement against status quo. He said that whenever any big party leader faced a difficult situation in politics, he sought help from the JI.

BREACH IN CANAL: Hundreds of acres of crops were damaged due to a breach occurred in a canal on Sunday.

The sources told The News that a large breach was occurred in the bank of the canal along side 48/D village at Depalpur area, which inundated the crops. The Canal Department officials were informed about the matter but no action was taken yet.

GIRL RAPED: A girl was raped at Sodheki village on Sunday. Accused Allah Rakha entered the house of Muhammad Javed and allegedly raped his daughter. Police have registered a case.

Gas leak blast leaves two injured

FAISALABAD: Two persons were injured when a building collapsed in Mansoorabad police area on Sunday. Rescue 1122 spokesman said that due to gas leakage, a blast occurred in a house at Gulistan Colony, which resulted in collapse of the house. As a result, Razia Bibi (70), wife of Mian Khan, and Ali Hussain (24), son of Karam Din, received injuries and were shifted to the Allied Hospital. —APP

Private schools defy SC orders, charge summer vacation fee

Yousaf Ali

PESHAWAR: Most of the private educational institutions have been blatantly defying the Supreme Court orders and notification of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Private School Regulatory Authority (KP-PSRA) by making the parents pay the fee for the summer vacation.

The defiance has forced the parents to ask the apex court and the regulatory body to take notice of the situation and provide them relief through implementation of their directives. The KP-PSRA has strictly barred all the private schools from charging summer/winter vacation fee from students.

Through a circular issued on May 30, 2019, the regulatory body directed "All the private school (s) not to charge summer/winter vaca-

tion fees." However, the majority of the private schools have not been complying with the directives and have issued fee vouchers to the students for June, July and August.

Several schools have also warned the parents of fines in case of non-submission of the fees within the stipulated time.

The KP-PSRA is of the opinion that they had taken the step in light of the Supreme Court directives and an increasing number of complaints from parents.

Now the parents are knocking the doors of media houses to reach the government and the regulatory body and urge them to implement their directives.

There is confusion among the parents as the regulatory body wants them to cooperate with it by not depositing

the fee. But they are afraid that they would have to pay a heavy fine in case of non-submission of the fee as they are not sure that the PSRA would implement its directives.

There may be an exception of just a few schools that have redesigned their fee structure in such a manner that they have covered the summer vacation period. KP-PSRA has already started taking action against the schools for charging summer vacation fees and harassing parents.

The authority sealed a number of schools on the complaints of parents.

It was reported that some schools were harassing parents to force them to deposit the vacation fee and they had even withheld the results of the students. Bloomfield Hall School,

University Town Peshawar and a few other schools have already been sealed for charging summer vacation fee and allegedly harassing students and their parents.

The authority has also asked parents not to deposit the summer vacation fee and instead lodge a complaint against the schools demanding it. In a recent telephonic conversation with this scribe, Managing Director KP-PSRA Asad Haroon urged parents to cooperate with the regulatory authority by not submitting the fee and lodging complaints against the schools forcing them for summer vacation fee.

"If any school forces them to pay the fee, they should lodge a complaint with the authority and strict action would be taken against the school concerned," he had stressed.

Wasa ordered to de-silt drains to counter emergency in monsoon

Our correspondent

FAISALABAD: Punjab Housing and Public Health Engineering Secretary Nasim Sadiq has directed the Wasa authorities for de-silting of drains to counter any emergency situation in monsoon season.

He said this while holding a meeting with the Wasa officers during his visit here on Sunday. MPA Khayal Ahmad Kastro, FDA Chairman Dr Asad Moazzam, Wasa Vice-Chairman Sheikh Shahid Javed, Punjab Housing DG Liaqat Ali Chaittha, FDA DG Amir Aziz, Wasa MD Faqir Muhammad Ch and other officers attended the meeting. The Punjab Housing secretary said that the Wasa services were very much important during the monsoon season and all arrangements should be finalised before monsoon.

He said that forecast of rains should be noticed and all drains and sewerage system should be cleared before rains. The secretary stressed upon best services delivery of the Wasa at doorstep of citizens by using advance technologies and close liaison should be developed with public through the SMS regarding managing and delivering of services. He asked the Wasa officers to visit different localities for ascertaining public complaints and problems for attaining the public trust on the Wasa services. He directed for repatriating the employees on deputation and said that long leaves should not be granted.

He sought the details of vehicles and machinery for their auction and said that new vehicles and machinery would be purchased from these funds.

He directed for comprehensive survey of private water filtration plants and said that technical guidance should be provided to them as they were assisting Wasa in providing clean drinking water to the public. He hoped for considerable revenue collection if the Wasa provides best services and quality expectation of the public.

He stressed upon disposal of all pending complaints immediately and directed to bring positive change and behavior of the Wasa officers/officials. The secretary said that the Wasa Faisalabad would be role model for other cities.

Flood relief camps established in Jhang

JHANG: The District Health Authority has established flood relief camps for the villages affected due to the rise of water level in River Jhelum.

DHA Chief Executive Officer Dr Samiullah while giving details said that flood medical relief camps had been established at the Government High School Haveli Sheikh Raju and at the Government High School Monday Syed to provide medical re-

lief to the residents of various affected areas. The Health CEO said that DHO Dr Ahsan and the DDHOs of all our tehsils were supervising the flood medical camps to ensure availability of snake bite vaccine and other required medicines.

He told that 47 rescuers, including Rescue 1122 officers, had been deputed in these areas. District Emergency Officer/Incharge of Rescue 1122 Ali

Hasnain told reporters that rescuers were provided with boats, life jackets and other necessary equipment for rescuing the flood-affected people.

Meanwhile, DPO Ataur Rehman has directed the SHOs of Massan, Qadirpur, Athara Hazari and Kot Shakir police stations to enhance police patrolling in flood affected areas to provide safety and security to the villagers. —Correspondent



Ensure Precautions For a Safer Monsoon



X



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Take Precautionary Measures to Safeguard Precious Lives and Properties in Rainy Season

- Vacate dilapidated residences before rainy season or get them repaired properly.
- Don't enter or lodge in under construction buildings.
- Keep roofs clean, get them repaired and ensure proper drainage.
- Don't swim or bathe in rivers or flood drains in rainy season.
- Don't throw garbage in flood drains or sewers.

- Don't touch soaked electrical instruments or broken wires lying on ground.
- Residents of low-lying areas should shift valuables to safer places.
- Follow necessary precautions to avoid waterborne diseases.
- Stay informed about weather updates.
- Keep children away from electrical wires and poles.

In case of Emergency **1129** or contact your Respective DC Office

Striving to Safeguard Your Lives & Properties

Provincial Disaster Management Authority
Government of the Punjab

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ABDUL ALI

ABDUL GHAFUOR

ABDUL REHMAN

ABDUL SABOOR ABID

ADNAN AHMAD

AFZAAL SHARFOO

AHMAD ALI

AJAZ KHAN

AMJAD KHAN

ASIA BIBI

AWAS YAQOOB

FAHIM AHMED

FAISAL SHABBIR

FATIMA RIZVI

FURQAN HAMEED

H. MUNEEB AHMED

FAZAL ABBAS

HANEEF KHUSHIK

KHURRAM BAIG KAMRAN

M. ALI

MAZHAR ALI

MEHMOOD ALI

MUHAMMAD ABUBAKAR

MUHAMMAD ALI

MUHAMMAD IQBAL

MUHAMMAD HASHIM AMJAD

ZAHID MUSTAFA

MUHAMMAD NAVEED

MUHAMMAD SAQIB

MUHAMMAD SHAKEEL

SARANG SOHAIL

SHAHNILA ALI

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OMER FARHAN

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13,000 candidates appear in UAF entrance test

Our correspondent
FAISALABAD: The first entrance test for the undergraduate programmes of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad was held here on Sunday. Total 13 centres were set up for the entrance test across the province in which 13,000 students participated. As many as 8,500 students took part in the main campus while the rest of the students appeared in other 12 centres. UAF Vice-Chancellor Dr Muhammad Ashraf along with Director Admissions Dr Shahbaz Talib and others inspected the arrangements.

14 power pilferers caught

Our correspondent
GUJRANWALA: The Gepeco regional task force and surveillance teams on Sunday caught 14 power pilferers red-handed during a crackdown here. The teams conducted raids at various parts of the region and found 14 consumers electricity stealing through direct lines. Cases have been registered against the accused persons.

CIVIL DEFENCE: ADCG Khalid Umar on Sunday visited the Civil Defence emergency check-post and inspected arrangements there. Bomb Disposal Squad in-charge Ubaidullah briefed the ADCG about the machinery, staff and other matters. The ADCG appreciated the performance of the Civil Defence officials and assured to provide necessary machinery and staff to the check-post.

130 DRUG PUSHERS BOOKED: City police have booked 130 drug pushers and recovered narcotics from them during a crackdown here. The police also recovered 1,790 grams heroin, 9,060 grams charas, 545 grams opium and 121 litres liquor from the accused persons. The police also recovered illegal arms from various criminals.

FOUR MINI PETROL PUMPS SEALED: AC City Usman Sikandar on Sunday sealed four mini petrol pumps and one gas refilling shop. The AC sealed the mini petrol pumps on Ferozwalla Road, Race Course Road and Peoples Colony.



RAWALPINDI: Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani being briefed by Pakistan Air Force officials on the JF-17 Thunder aircraft at the Nur Khan Airbase. —APP

How hawala/hundi business goes on

Ashraf Malkham
ISLAMABAD: Majority of Pakistan's registered Forex companies collect at least \$40 million (\$42 million is also quoted by private market players) in a single day and deposit with State Bank of Pakistan just \$10 million.

Remaining \$30 million is used for hawala/hundi business, which is highly profitable business for the operators of these transactions.

A background discussion with persons handling hawala/hundi business revealed that in case Forex companies deposit dollars purchased from open market, with SBP, they earn one rupee and maximum two rupees per dollar. If they use this money for hawala/hundi, they earn 4/5 rupees per dollar, which is highly profitable business.

Forex market sources further disclosed that dollars pur-

chased from market are sent abroad mostly through air route and most of the agents travel to three different destinations every day and come back next day. Two of these destinations are in Middle East and one in Far East. Profits earned, from this business, is distributed among all Forex companies equally, and agents of these companies travel daily to transport cash abroad, mostly from Karachi international airport. On airport, all agencies deputed to check smuggling are part of this dirty game. The News learnt reliably. A source in Finance Ministry, privy to this business, disclosed that issue was discussed at the highest level in Islamabad many times and every time directions were issued to stop this business but these were never implemented.

If counted this figures is over one billion dollar a

month, which flew abroad through black market. So, in a year at least \$12 billion flew from Pakistan. Then this cash comes back through banking channel, mainly telegraphic transfer (T T). On Return fifty percent of this cash is retained with forex dealers and fifty percent submitted with SBP. The News also learnt that the money retained in shape of foreign currency is provided to the importers who use to make payments of under-invoiced imports and they make payment abroad or it is utilised to buy property in other destinations.

On other side, Pakistan has to accept a list of harsh conditionality attached by International Monetary Fund (IMF) to get \$2 billion in a year or six billion in three years. Now Pakistan is likely to enter in package with IMF for which staff level dialogue has been completed and approval from IMF board is awaited.

A renowned business man from Karachi while taking to The News said that these figures are almost correct and there dire need to stop this illegal business which will be helpful to stop rupee devaluation at this stage. Otherwise, inflation will be unmanageable and effect business as well as common man negatively, he added. He also suggested that SBP should make efforts to get the entire dollar and other currencies from forex agents every day at an agreed rate, and this was only possible if a win-win situation for SBP and forex dealers is created.

When The News asked SBP governor in his first press conference to frame a mechanism to tap this huge amount of dollars which are smuggled out of Pakistan, he said if SBP purchases dollars from Forex market, this will create panic, which will be more harmful.

KP CM visits Shangla
Our correspondent
BISHAM: Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Sunday visited the residence of provincial Minister for Information Shaukat Ali Yousafzai at Bisham in Shangla district to condole the death of his mother. He expressed grief and sorrow and prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

Youth held for uploading pictures of weapons on social media

FAISALABAD: Lundianwala police on Sunday arrested a youth on the charge of displaying weapons on social media.

Accused Iftikhar Hussain of Chak 651/2-GB had uploaded his pictures with automatic weapons on his facebook account. On a complaint, the police arrested the accused and recovered weapons from his possession.

POWER SHUTDOWN NOTICE: The power supply from the following feeders will remain suspended on Monday (today) due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines.

According to the schedule, power supply from Mongi Road feeder from 132-KV Gojra grid station, Khalid and Rajana feeders originating from 132-KV Mureedwala grid station would remain suspended from 6am to 10am while Kashmir Wood, Ahmad Enterprises, Jewan Shah, Abdullah Fibers, Ariyan Textile, Tayyab Textile Mill, Sarfraz

Textile, Tahir Rafi Textile and Al-Murtaza feeders emanating from 132-KV Kamaipur grid station and Faisalabad Road feeder originating from 132-KV Chiniot grid station would observe power shutdown from 7am to 11am on June 24. Similarly, electricity supply from Rasheedabad, Rehmat Town, Jalal Street and General Hospital feeders emanating from 132-KV University grid station, GM Abad, Marzipura, Rehmatabad, Qadirabad, Ahmadabad, Subhanabad, Sidhupura, Faizabad and Aminpur feeders originating from 132-KV Narwala grid station would remain suspended from 8am to 1pm whereas all feeders emanating from 132-KV Ibrahim Fiber grid station would observe loadshedding from 9am to 1pm on June 24.

Meanwhile, power supply from Yasrab feeder originating from 132-KV OTP grid station, Munirabad, Qaim Sain, Raja Chowk, Qudratabad, Ejaz Town and Saheedabad

No hospital to be handed over to private sector, says minister

MULTAN: Punjab Minister for Health Dr Yasmin Rashid has said that no hospital will be handed over to private sector.

Talking to media, she said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had given clear instructions that no hospital would be given to private sector. She said the government was taking all possible steps to provide top quality health-care facilities to the masses.

The government recruited over 11,000 doctors and also enhanced seats of PGRs, she added. Similarly, 2,422 Basic Health Units were functional round the clock across the province, she informed. She stated that 2,200 specialist doctors were recruited in the BHUs.

About Health Cards, Dr Yasmin stated that another 800,000 people would get health cards during July 2019. She informed that three more hospitals for mother-child health would be established in the south Punjab.

She maintained that funds for the south Punjab would be spent locally, adding that corrupt elements in the Health Department would not be tolerated. She also chaired the syndicate meeting of the Nishtar Medical University. The syndicate approved different projects of Nishtar Burn Unit. The minister informed that revolutionary steps were being taken in the health sector.

The establishment of the Nishtar-II would surely help

reduce burden of patients on the existing hospitals, she hoped. She said that house job officers were deputed purely on merit at the Nishtar Hospital. Vice-Chancellor Dr Mustafa Kamal Pasha, Nishtar Hospital MS Dr Ashiq Malik, MPAs Saleem Labar, Waseem Khan Badozai and Sabeen Gull were also present.

2,295 POWER PILFERERS CAUGHT IN 2 MONTHS: The Multan Electric Power Company (Mepeco) caught 2,295 power pilferers from the south Punjab between May and June, an official of the company said on Sunday.

The Mepeco teams accompanying by the task forces raided different places at Multan, Vehari, Sahiwal, Rahimyar Khan, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalnagar, Khanawal, and Dera Ghazi Khan and detected theft of over 3.8 million units, the Mepeco spokesman said.

A sum of over Rs 68.8 million was imposed as fine on power pilferers. The accused were pilfering electricity by tampering with meters, from direct supply, installing loop in meters, slowing down meters, meter dead stop and meter screen wash. The Mepeco official said that a crackdown would continue without any discrimination as per directives of Mepeco CEO Engineer Tahir Mahnoos.

MEPCO INSTALLED 1,978 KM HT, 1,421 KM LT LINES DURING 2018/19:

The Multan Electric Power Company (Mepeco) installed 1,978km high tension (HT) lines and 1,421km Low Tension (LT) lines during the current fiscal year 2018-19. According to the Mepeco sources, it was top priority of the Mepeco to provide early new connections and electricity with best voltage to the consumers.

The administration installed 1,978km high tension lines for upgradation of the system and to provide electricity with best voltage to the consumers, the sources added. The total length of the HT line reached to 75,853km in the region, they said. The Mepeco administration had also installed 1,421km low tension (LT) line during the same period and the total length of LT lines reached to 49,981km across the region, the sources added. From July 2018 to May 2019, the HT line, including 137km HT and 41km LT lines installed at Multan circle, 163km HT and 76km LT line in DG Khan circle, 268km HT and 14km LT lines in Vehari, 336km HT and 38km LT lines in Bahawalpur, 475km HT and 11km LT lines in Sahiwal, 89km HT and seven km LT lines in Rahimyar Khan, 137km HT and one km LT lines in Muzaffargarh, 168km HT and 43km LT lines in Bahawalnagar while 201km HT lines and 1,185km LT lines had been installed in Khanawal circle, the Mepeco sources added. —APP

14 killed as jeep plunges into river in Kolai-Palas

Our correspondent
MANSEHRA: At least 14 persons, including a man, his wife and two siblings, were killed and seven others injured when a passenger jeep plunged into Indus River in Shalkanabad area of Kolai-Palas district on Sunday.

"We have fished out eight bodies and the search for another six is still underway. The seven injured were taken to the hospital," M Itikhar, the district police officer of Kolai-Palas, told reporters. The jeep, carrying a total of 21 passengers, was on its way to Said Ghaziabad from Ghardar through Palas-Ziarat road, when it skidded off the road and plunged into the Indus River. "Seven passengers who jumped out of the jeep before it could fall into river sustained injuries and the rest drowned," said the official. He added that bodies of eight persons were fished out and shifted to hospital. "The search for the missing people is still underway and personnel of police and locals are taking part in the operation," the official added. Those whose bodies were recovered from the river were identified as Shamsur Rehman, Amal Fared, Gulrang, Shad Muhammad, Gul Bahadar, and wife, daughter and son of Shah-i-Room.

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SHANGHAI: Mian Kashif Ashfaq Chairman FIEDMC with Sardar Ahmed Nawaz Sukhra Secretary Commerce in Shanghai at LI and Fung summit. **

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Tribal people want Hayatabad boundary wall gates

Our correspondent
BARA: The elders from Khyber district have asked the government to help make the gates in Hayatabad boundary wall to facilitate the dwellers of Bara tehsil. The elders and political leaders have staged a sit-in camp at Shahkas on the Frontier Road in Jamrud tehsil to press the government to accept their demand. Speaking on the occasion, Saeedullah Afridi, Sher Bahadur Afridi, Sher Afzal Afridi, Amanat Ali Afridi and others said that the tribal people had been suffering a lot due to no-entry to Hayatabad from Shahkas and other areas. "Now we have been merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but why the provincial government has not fixed the main entry points for the tribal people in Phase-6 and Phase-7," Saeedullah Afridi asked while talking to The News. He said the tribesmen had already suffered during militancy where their houses were destroyed, in addition to their businesses, education and health sectors. He said the tribal people had rendered sacrifices and supported the security forces during militancy but the now there was no focus on their problems.

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AGP report on BRT a test case for NAB: QWP leader

Bureau report

PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) leader and former senior minister Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao on Sunday said the report of the Auditor General of Pakistan about irregularities in the Bus Rapid Transit project was a test case for the National Accountability Bureau. He was speaking at a press conference here, where village council Khazana Nazim Basharat Khan announced joining the Qaumi Watan Party along with his family and supporters. Qaumi Watan Party leaders Hashim Babar and Asad Afridi Advocate were also present on the occasion. Sikandar Sherpao said the provincial government was now closing the Project Management Unit for pinpointing flaws in the BRT 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 the federal budget had been made on the dictates of the International Monetary Fund. The WWP leader said that Rs45 billion were allocated for undertaking 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 election for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly seats in the merged districts under the supervision of the army showed that the civil administration did not have the ability to hold the polls. Sikandar Sherpao said 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 a three-member delegation of the Qaumi Watan Party 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 to deal with the problems facing the country. Sikandar Sherpao said the people particularly the youth had become disenchanted with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government due to its flawed policies in the last 10 months. He said his party would soon launch a mass contact movement to mobilise the people and stage protests against price-hike and employment in the country.

Poor condition of road troubles tourists in Kaghan

Our correspondent

MANSEHRA: The dangerous condition of Balakot-Naran section of Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad road is a big hurdle to promote tourism in scenic Kaghan valley. "The chief minister wants to promote tourism in the province but the highly dangerous and dilapidated condition of Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad road is a big question mark on the claims being made by him in this regard," said Abdul Waheed, a tourist from Lahore. The deteriorated road condition and frequent landslides disrupt traffic and put the lives of travellers in a danger. The National Highway Authority and Communication and Works Department didn't construct embankments walls at most of Balakot-Naran section of the road. "Big ditches and cracks in roads and frequent landslides is a big hurdle to smooth travelling on this road," said Waheed. Another tourist, M Jibran, said two tourists were killed last week when a heavy landslide hit a vehicle but even then the government was not sincerely working to re-carpet this road and construct embankment walls around it. "In some areas, one can experience that road is being eroded into Kunhar River posing a serious threat to travellers," said Jibran. Matiuallah, the president of hoteliers association in Kaghan valley, when contacted said that a delegation of hoteliers met with local lawmakers and visiting ministers and apprised them about their problems including the dilapidated condition of the road. "And we waiting for their response," he added.



PARIS: People witness the display of JF-17 Thunder on the last day of Paris Air Show.

Criticism of budget discounted Pervez Khattak advises Opp to suggest measures for masses welfare

Mushtaq Paracha

NOWSHERA: Federal Minister for Defence Pervez Khattak on Sunday defended the budget and asked the opposition to give suggestions for the welfare of the masses instead of making criticism for the sake of criticism. "The federal budget was prepared and presented keeping in view the present economic and financial condition of the country. The opposition's criticism is without any reason," he said this while addressing various functions in his hometown of the Nowshera district. The defence minister inaugurated various development schemes, attended receptions and spoke at a function where several workers quit the Awami National Party (ANP) and announced joining the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Pervez Khattak believed the present government had inherited the poor economy from the past rulers. He blamed the previous federal government for the raise in debts and hike in a mark-up. "But the people will see improvement in the situation soon," he promised. Coming down hard on the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the defence minister said both the parties ruled the country for a long time but did nothing to improve the lot of the poor. He said the PML-N and the PPP leaders would not be able to deceive the people

again, adding all those who had looted the exchequer would have to face accountability, come what may. Pervez Khattak criticised the ANP and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl as well. He said corruption was at its peak during the rules of ANP-PPP and the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal of which the JUI-F was a component. He hoped Prime Minister Imran Khan would make the country an economic power. "People may face some difficulties in the initial days of the government but things will improve and they will feel a change in the ultimate analysis," he said. The federal minister welcomed the recent visit of the Qatari emir. Pointing to agreements inked with Qatar during the visit, he hoped these would bring positive impacts on the economy. Earlier, Pervez Khattak inaugurated solar tube well at Maulanabad area of Manki Shareef and water sewerage scheme. He opened a gas supply project at Watar Sor-yakhal. The defence minister attended a reception hosted by Syed Lali Shah Khattak and Sajjad Khan Khattak. Two influential families from Cherat in Khattak Nama quit the ANP and joined the PTI as well in his presence. KP Minister for Irrigation Liaqat Khan Khattak, Member Provincial Assembly Mian Jamsheddin Kakakhal and Tehsil Councillor Riaz Ali addressed the gatherings.

Khalid Mirza asks management to enforce board decisions

Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Policy Board has directed the Commission that Listed Companies (Buy Back of Shares) Regulations recently approved by the Board should be revised and restriction of period of buy-back after capital issue be reduced to six months from earlier three years. The SECP's Policy Board that met here with Professor Khalid Mirza in the chair gave these directions. However, the Board expressed concern over the SECP's not implementing its earlier decisions regarding substantial reduction of regulatory fees charged to the asset management companies, withdrawal of cases and officers from National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and renewal of brokers' licences. The Board noted that it was a matter of regret that the policy directions of the Board aimed at facilitating business and reducing the cost of doing business had not been implemented. The Board noted, "The Commission has, yet again, flouted the orders of the Board and is averse to ensuring compliance of the directions." Mirza expressed dissatisfaction and directed the management to en-

sure that all decisions passed by the Board be implemented unconditionally and expeditiously. The Board rejected the SECP 2019-20 annual budget and noted that the reduction in regulatory fees, that it had ordered, had not been incorporated and still constitute the anticipated revenue of the Commission. The Board is of the view that a reduction in fees is essential for growth and development of various segments of the capital market and that volumes have to be increased which, in turn, will produce revenue for the regulator. The management did not share views of the Board and held that the regulator would be reduced to a financially dependent and ineffective one. In response, several Board members observed that 20 percent cut in staff, as already directed by the Board, pronouncements of excessive expense allocations and elimination of certain major or uncalled capital expenditures (which the Board had already unequivocally stated that it would not approve) shall more than adequately compensate for the decline in revenue caused by the Board's direction of fee reductions. The Board has directed the management to revise the proposed annual budget and submit it in its next meeting to be held on July 1, 2019.

Rising political uncertainty

Mazhar Abbas

While political temperatures in the Parliament have somewhat lowered since the last week over debate on the national budget, after initial rumpus in the National Assembly and Senate, it is certainly on the rise outside the House. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has finally announced the date for much-awaited opposition's all parties conference (APC) for Wednesday, June 26, to chalk out a plan for an anti-government movement and the proposed Islamabad lockdown. Now it depends on Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team's strategy to handle the situation with "a carrot or a stick". With some high-profile reshuffle in the establishment, many see this development as politically significant. Pakistan is facing some of the most serious economic challenges currently and, in the last 10 months, the government has been unable to provide any relief to people. There has been an unprecedented rise in prices and gas and electricity tariffs have been increased, for which Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Prime Minister Imran Khan blame the previous governments. He has also constituted a high-powered commission to investigate the foreign loans acquired during the past 10 years and their use, but the things did not look good on the ground. The announcement about the APC date has been made at a critical time. PPP Chairman

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari recently made a hard-hitting speech in Nawabshah on the birth anniversary of slain prime minister Benazir Bhutto and vowed to overthrow the government. On the other hand, PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz looked in a defiant mood with her first formal press conference since long and surprised many with her criticism of the government, establishment and a clear dissent against her own party president Shahbaz Sharif. This also indicated that "all is not well" in the PML-N. These two developments have further increased political heat in an already uncertain situation and it will be a real test for the prime minister, his interior minister Brig (retd) Ejaz Shah. How things will shape up in the next one or two months would be of political significance. Opposition sources said the APC would not only release a 'Declaration' but also short-term and long-term strategies before the final 'march on Islamabad'. One has to wait and see whether the APC would be converted into any formal grand opposition alliance or constitute a committee for the movement. The APC has been called few days before the debate on budget would conclude and the finance bill would be put for vote in the assembly. The conference will also work out a strategy whether to get the budget passed or go for voting. At present, the government may not face much difficulty in getting it passed, particularly after prime minister personally

engaged all the coalition parties and accepted their respective demands, including giving one ministry each to the MQM-P and the PML-Q. However, he is still finding some difficulties in handling the six-points of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M). Opposition's only hope to block the budget depends on division within the PTI-led ruling coalition. Maulana Fazlur Rehman has called the APC after taking all the opposition leaders into confidence including former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who is serving seven-year imprisonment at Kot Lakhpat jail currently. The BNP-M is still undecided about attending the APC, but the Maulana did held an important meeting with its leader, Sardar Akhtar Mengal few days back and the latter put certain conditions for his party's support. Political temperatures rose after the opposition staged a protest during the budget speech in the presence of Prime Minister Imran Khan, who showed his strong anger and issued directive to his party's MNAs not to allow leader of the opposition Shahbaz Sharif to speak. Situation further aggravated after former president Asif Ali Zardari was arrested by NAB, and National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser came under pressure, reportedly from the PM not to issue the production order for Zardari and PML-N leader Khwaja Saad Rafiq. Later on, the premier softened his stance on the advice

of some saner voices within the PTI, and the government and the opposition reached an understanding that no one would create rumpus during the speech of any member, whether from the government or the opposition. But, the production order of two MNAs from tribal areas, who belong to the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), Mohsin Dawar and Ali Wazir, were not issued and the opposition also did not raise much voice on it, except for Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. Now, whether the JUI-F would invite the PTM to the APC or not is yet not clear, as the two sides have political differences as well and the Supreme Court has taken up a petition of the JUI-F defeated candidate in 2018 against Mohsin Dawar. The APC is also being held at a time when elections in tribal areas, which were earlier postponed, would be held on July 21, and Asif Ali Zardari has expressed his reservations over the presence of law-enforcement agencies inside the polling stations. Those who will attend the APC include high powered delegation from the PPP, led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, PML-N led by Shahbaz Sharif and would include Maryam Nawaz as the latter knows her absence would be felt. JI Ameer Sirajul Haq, ANP's Asfandyar Wali, National Party's Hasil Bizenjo and others. The writer is a senior columnist and analyst of Geo, The News and Jang. Twitter: @MazharAbbasGEO

50pc FNC members to be women

Guidelines for FNC polls approved; candidates should not raise more than Dh2m; candidates should furnish statements of accounts for all donations received; no candidate is allowed to use offensive language or insult others; officials of government or any official authority are not allowed to back any candidate or run a campaign in favour of any candidate

Monitoring Desk

ABU DHABI: The representation of women in the Federal National Council (FNC) will be raised to 50 percent in keeping with the decision of the President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. International media reported that as per the decision, 20 of the 40-member house will be women. Meanwhile, the National Election Commission approved the guidelines for elections of representatives of emirates to the FNC. They outline the general rules for elections under which sectarianism and intolerance have no place in campaigns for the FNC polls. Under the general rules, candidates should get their messages across in advertisements and posters without being offensive or disrespectful of social values. The guidelines say candidates have the right to promote themselves freely, but they should refrain from incorporating ideas promoting or raising religious, sectarian, ethnic and tribal or bigotry against others. Similarly, they are not allowed to launch any campaign involving any act of deception or fraud. Tactics of defamation or insulting others are prohibited in campaigns. Candidates are not allowed to spend on their campaigns from public funds,

the progress of elections or obstruct implementation of issued instructions, and take action by warning member of the electoral college of withdrawal from electoral lists or from the list of candidates for the current or future elections, cancel any names stated in the elections lists, even they are final, revoke the licence of advertisement and promotion given to the candidate. Every public servant can nominate himself for the FNC membership under the rules and he shall not assume his public job from the date of announcement of candidates lists, but can return to his job if he doesn't win the FNC seat. If the candidate is a military personnel, he should furnish a certificate of leave from his employer. If he is a member of the judiciary, he should resign upon candidacy. The resolution specified the elections campaign rules under which cast of votes shall be through direct secret balloting. Candidates can present their programmes through the local TV, radio and print media, hold symposia and press conferences according to conditions laid down by the NEC. The rules have allowed candidates to raise donation from normal or legal individuals, provided that these donations should not exceed the Dh2 million spending ceiling of cam-

aigns, but prevented them from offering gifts to voters in cash or kind. Candidates should furnish account statements of the donations they receive to the emirate election committee. It is totally prohibited for candidates to receive funds or donations from outside the country or from foreign circles. All candidates shall be committed to spending a ceiling of campaigns of Dh 2 million, and to disclosing sources that finance their campaigns, besides submitting the campaign plan and budget to the elections management committee for approval. No candidate shall be allowed to use the emblem or symbols of the UAE in his meetings, advertisements or electoral bulletins and all sorts of publications and illustrations. He is not allowed to use his campaign for any purposes other than FNC elections. Government and semi-government schools, universities, institutes, mosques, hospitals, buildings, public parks and commercials malls should not be used in the candidate's campaign. Candidates are prohibited to post bulletins, advertisements or any types of illustrations or photos on vehicles or car. Also the use of loudspeakers are only allowed in halls assigned to this purpose. Campaigns shall be conducted individually by each candidate and candi-

dates are not allowed to agree on unified electoral lists for the FNC elections or team up together directly or indirectly in running the campaigns. Similarly, candidates are prohibited from showing any illegal, direct or indirect behaviour or acting or using offending language or insult against other candidates. Campaigns should not include phrases, speeches, statements or bulletins that harm or touch any other candidate. Keeping in mind the role of the FNC member, the candidate should not announce during his campaign promises or plans breaching the powers of the FNC members. Under the regulations, government departments or companies and corporations in which the government owns part of their stakes are not allowed to offer any forms of financial or moral support or any facilities or resources to any candidate or assume any act that can affect directly or indirectly the campaign of any candidate whether in favour of or against the candidate. Also, officials of the government or any official authority are not allowed to back any candidate or run a campaign in favour of any candidate. On the day of elections, a candidate is not allowed to distribute — by himself or through others — action plans, bulletins or slips or any other documents.

Japanese envoy calls on Punjab governor

Saeed Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan H E Kuninor Matsuda called on Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar at Punjab House here on Sunday. Matters pertaining to mutual interest, economic development, bilateral relations and promotion of trade and commerce between two countries were discussed in the meeting. Governor Punjab apprised Ambassador of Japan about the initiatives of government for bringing economic stability and social reforms to mitigate the sufferings of common people. He said that special emphasis has been laid on promotion of economic activities so that new opportunities of jobs and business could be created. He also mentioned foreign visits of Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and foreign delegate's visits to Pakistan for strengthening economic relations. Chaudhry Sarwar said that we are committed to bring visible change in Pakistan with sustainable development and in order to obtain this objective, government has adopted drastic steps to observe austerity and utilize all available resources with best planning. The governor appreciated the support of Japanese Government in education, health, social and economic sector in Pakistan and said that the close cooperation among Pakistan and Japan would be further developed with the passage of time. He was of the view that remarkable industrial development of Japan is a role model and we are trying our best for capacity building and resource mobilization in this sector by following such success stories under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Punjab Governor during the meeting also pointed out the direct foreign investment opportunities provided by government of Pakistan in different sectors and asked that Japan can also get benefit of this market. He said we are giving due priorities to the neglected sectors and allocations had been earmarked in current fiscal year budget to provide helping hand and social security to the downtrodden. During the meeting matters about peace and tranquility in the regions also came under discussion. Japanese Ambassador lauded the efforts of Government of Pakistan for national development and assured that Japan would continue its support and bilateral ties among two countries would be further promoted.

A problem for every solution

Why did Ghalib drink alcohol on credit when he knew that his habit would land him in prison? We are about to explore this question, even when Ghalib is sitting among creditors, drinking even more expensive wine – and in larger quantities.



Zaigham Khan

The writer is an anthropologist and development professional.

The prime minister has found another Kekra well to keep his core sufficiently engaged and angry and to keep his political opponents in perpetual fear and awe. Exploring Pakistan's addiction to loans (once called aid, now termed package) is important because loans are a major symptom of the two chronic diseases (fiscal and current account deficits) our economy has suffered from for decades. Though not terribly high in GDP terms, these loans are fast becoming unsustainable, again due to the two diseases they are rooted in.

Exploring the question of loans can help us understand our morbid political economy. It can expose the fault lines of an elitist economy that works very well for special interests but badly fails the poor majority. A panel of top national and international economists and social-sector experts would have been most suitable for such an investigation. Their recommendations might have provided us with the milestones for a new national economic policy built on solid evidence and national consensus – a Charter of Economy.

We have hit rock bottom, to borrow the words of Pervez Musharraf. Unfortunately, whenever we hit rock bottom, our ruling elite reaches for a drill to dig a hole. The PTI is one party which has a problem for every solution and this problem is, of course, corruption. Why is the party making a commission when it already knows that everything in Pakistan happened due to corruption and corruption happened due to politicians who refused to join the PTI?

Now that corruption is over, the twin diseases of fiscal deficit and current account deficit still persist, forcing the government to seek more and more loans or Zanzam packages. These diseases can be temporarily solved with the IMF's help, as has always been the case but they will return soon if we do not change the very structure of our economy. This will not happen through the simplistic narrative of corruption. Had NAB been a solution to our economic problems, we would be a Holland already, even if the prime minister did not feel inclined to ride a bicycle from Bani Gala to Constitution Avenue.

The prime minister is telling his core that former governments took large amounts of loans and now he is trying to pay those loans back by taking more loans. He is again being generous with the truth. His government is borrowing a lot more than the loans it is paying back to foreign creditors. He is carrying the same begging bowl and for the very same reasons – because his government is running huge fiscal and current account deficits. The reasons for the two deficits are also the same – low taxation and low export base.

This year, the budget deficit can reach the historic figures of Rs2800 billion. Alongside various expenses, the main reason lies in the failure of the government to increase taxation. The government may face more than Rs450 billion revenue shortfall, which amounts to 1.3 percent of GDP.

In the next financial year, Pakistan's federal government has targeted fiscal deficit of Rs3500 billion, again due to the low taxation base. Pakistan is one of the least taxed countries in the world. Even in our less developed region, most countries collect 18-20 percent of GDP in taxes while Pakistan collects less than 11 percent. Last year was one of the worst in our history in terms of collection of taxes. In fact, tax receipts went down by one percent of GDP.

So the real question for the economists and everyone to ask is: Why have successive governments failed to collect taxes and chosen to fill the gap through loans? One simple answer is: because they could. For a good part of our history, cheap loans and grants were available and our governments had no hesitation in seeking them. We have reached a point where such luxury is not available, unless something dramatic happens in the region and opens the door to the cave of wonders for us once again.

Born and bred in the house of protection, our industry will takes years or even decades to become competitive once it is weaned off from the blood of the poor

There is an underlying cause for this behaviour. Taxes are unpopular and they result in citizens making governments accountable. In Pakistan, an unwritten social contract has existed between the ruling elite and the rich. By rich, I mean all people who fall in the direct taxpaying category. They are all rich in the Pakistani context. The rich (including the middle class) don't pay their taxes, sometime not even their utility bills, and in return they don't make governments accountable.

Take one simple example. Pervez Musharraf, who was showered with loans and grants by the West, was so uninterested in collecting taxes that he abolished the wealth tax in 2003. The wealth tax is good source of revenue and redistribution, used by most developed countries.

In fact, successive Pakistani governments have used aid ie loans (Zanzam packages), just the way some oil-rich countries use oil to avoid accountability. This is how Stewart Patrick explains this situation in his book, *Weak Links: Fragile States, Global Threats, and International Security*.

"Most obviously, easy resource revenues eliminate a critical link of accountability between government and citizens, by reducing incentives to tax other productive activity and use the revenue to deliver social services effectively. The same revenues also generate staggering wealth that facilitates corruption and patronage networks. Together,

they consolidate the power of entrenched elites and regime supporters, sharpening income inequality and stifling political reform."

However, we must remind ourselves that not all loans were misused. For decades, our social sector was mostly reliant on foreign aid. Without foreign aid, perhaps our ruling elite would have kept us even more illiterate and unhealthy. More recently, we have built infrastructure and power houses through CPEC loans that can be a great foundation for economic development.

Then there is another, bigger, problem. We also borrow because of our huge current account deficits, mainly created due to imbalance between imports and exports. A good part of the deficit is covered by our poor workers, mainly based in the Gulf, whose families back home fail to get much from the state.

Why have we failed to grow exports? After all, most developing countries grew their economies on the back of the textile sector. Being a major cotton producer, we were most suitable to use this great vehicle of upward mobility.

There are two simple reasons for this. The export sector requires productive, skilled workers and entrepreneurs. Both skilled workforce and entrepreneurship require investment in human development. This is what Mahbubul Haq and Amartya Sen have argued in their work and showed how the East Asian Tiger became an economic miracle by investing in human development. Amartya Sen argues that the difference between development in China and India also lies in China's high human development. Pakistan, I need not tell you, lies at the bottom of the heap in terms of human development.

The second reason is linked to our political economy. Instead of entrepreneurship, we have promoted crony capitalism. Crony capitalism feeds on state patronage, exploits primary producers and makes easy money without getting into the trouble of innovation or hard work.

We mainly export cheap sootier (yarn) and grey cloth because our textile sector can make loads of money just by exploiting farmers and getting subsidies, tax exemptions and cheaper utilities from the government. Why would these elites get sycophantic with international importers and burn the midnight oil when they can make money even after attracting dumping duties?

Born and bred in the house of protection, our industry will takes years or even decades to become competitive once it is weaned off from the blood of the poor and taxpayers money. Our current problems can only be solved through Foreign Direct investment (FDI) in the export sector that can link our production into the international value chain.

Unfortunately, foreign investors, including the Chinese, are a jittery lot. We are joining the game too late, at a time when investors are flying away from emerging markets and we need to work very hard to attract them. To attract them, we must have political stability. Kaptana can either bring in FDI or keep his core sufficiently angry and his opposition sufficiently scared.

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THE HOLY QURAN

Let not their wealth nor their children astonish thee! Allah purpeth only to punish them thereby in the world, and that their souls shall pass away while they are disbelievers.

Surah At-Taubah - 9, Verse - 85

Normalising atrocity

Kenn Orphan

Last week President Trump vowed mass arrests and the removal of "millions of illegal aliens" by early this week. These proclamations have become increasingly normalized in an age where his absurdities are spouted daily, but this is the kind of rhetoric which often precedes atrocity.

"Mass arrests" of millions of people is the kind of language that communicates the naked aggression of the state against the "other" it permits a sweeping dehumanization of entire groups. That they are non-violent or paying taxes is of no consequence. They are "aliens" who must be "removed," extracted from the so-called "legal" population by any means. In the last 20 years this has generally meant people of color, especially those with non-Anglo surnames. Yet, in response to this latest threat I saw a comment from one American liberal which read "meh, the logistics of doing something like this are enormous." In other words, "it can't happen here." History begs to differ.

Thousands of socialists and leftists were marched into stadiums in Chile in the 1970s and gunned down, tortured, or disappeared in a country with a much smaller military than the US. Between 1965 and 1966, at least a million communists, or those believed to be communists, were hunted down and brutally murdered in Indonesia by rightwing death squads and the police.

And millions of Jews, Roma, communists, homosexuals and the disabled were persecuted, rounded up and sent to concentration camps in the 1930s and 40s in Germany and Nazi occupied countries, where most perished at a time when many ordinary people thought "the logistics" of doing something like that were too "enormous" to be fathomed, much less carried out. And each atrocity was preceded by the rise of a pernicious fascism and the language of dehumanization by leaders.

The notion that atrocity "can't happen here" is soundly refuted by the fact that it has happened here. And countless times. The US, a nation founded upon or-

ganized ethnic cleansing and genocide of the native population, and the brutal enslavement of millions of Africans, has also been home to more recent mass atrocities. Thousands of black and brown men and some women were lynched over the early part of the 20th century. Events organized and sanctioned by authorities, police and politicians, where popcorn, postcards and body parts were sold as souvenirs to the ghoulish onlookers. Thousands of Japanese Americans were rounded up and put in internment camps in the desert during WW2 for the sake of "national security."

Indeed, over the 20th century the US military, energy, and intelligence agencies have been at the forefront of atrocity, conducting medical, chemical and radiation experiments on millions of unsuspecting people. Whether it was feeding radioactive food to mentally disabled children and conscientious objectors, or irradiating pregnant women, infants or prisoners, or releasing radioactive chemicals over US and Canadian cities, the US establishment has demonstrated it is quite at home in administering atrocity and then burying it all until years later.

And this is not counting the non-Americans in the Marshall Islands where the US tested its nuclear bombs. Or the millions of deaths caused by American imperialistic wars which carpet bombed cities and villages, used napalm and Agent Orange or, more recently, the use of burning white phosphorus and cancer causing depleted uranium.

Entire regions have been devastated, scores slaughtered from American forays. But one thing has been consistent, the vast majority of the victims of American atrocities have been women, the poor, and people of color.

So to some, alarm at Trump's threat may seem hyperbolic. Indeed, there may not be any nascent mass atrocity unfolding here at this time. Others might say he is merely removing people who are in the US illegally, or that it could simply be more distraction, a nod to his xenophobic base.

Excerpted from: *'Normalizing Atrocity'*.
Courtesy: *Counterpunch.org*

Trouble with talks

New Delhi appears to be sticking to previous reluctance to resume dialogue with Pakistan, with the Ministry of External Affairs making it clear it had not made any request for talks with Pakistan. The statement came after reports appeared in the Pakistani media stating that following Prime Minister Imran Khan's congratulatory messages to Prime Minister Modi, a wish had been expressed by India to put the talks process back on track. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has also stated there was no evidence, at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit or elsewhere, that India was in any mood to enter into dialogue.

The exchange of warm messages between the prime ministers of the two countries, even as a diplomatic exercise, is however encouraging. Pakistan's gesture in this respect brought from Modi a response, saying his country wished to build an environment of 'trust' and one that was free of terror and hostility. The need to push away terror and violence was also stressed by External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. It seems then that India is clinging on strongly to its previous line on terrorism and has no immediate intentions of shifting its focus. The lines then are clearly drawn. While Pakistan has said it is open for dialogue on all issues, India has been less enthusiastic and in fact appears to wish to stay away from dialogue, even while talking about regional peace and development. The message about the significance of peace and stability in the region has also been reiterated by Pakistan's Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa while speaking at the prestigious IISS.

It is obvious that there can be no real peace in the region unless core issues between New Delhi and Islamabad are tackled head on. These issues have become especially urgent since the war-like situation which developed early this year following India's aggressive actions post the Pulwama attack. Pakistan has consistently been mature about the need to keep talking to India. But, somewhat like a recalcitrant child, Modi's India has kept itself away. If allowed to go on, the status quo will continue to mar cooperation, development and lasting peace in South Asia. It will also mean that the plight of the Kashmiri people in particular will not change. Pakistan needs to bring in influence from other quarters to further its cause. There can be no doubt about the need to resolve conflict and ensure a stable relationship between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. And it would be in the interest of the world to work towards this using whatever means is available to them.

Black and white

The report about Anita Bibi in Lahore, who allegedly with the help of an aunt burnt her two young children with a candle while performing a black magic exorcism of some kind at her home in Qila Gujjar Singh has made the national media. Anita Bibi is currently in custody, awaiting trial. Her children, Maryam, 3, and George, 2, are under treatment at Mayo Hospital and mercifully stated to be in a stable condition. Their father is tending to them and has stated he was shocked by what he found when he visited the home where the ritual was taking place, with a goat tied in the same room as the two children, who had been fastened to a bed and a sofa.

The account has drawn public interest. Its details are bizarre. But perhaps this is so because many of us, especially those who considered themselves educated and removed from the world of superstition and shadow that so many in the country live under, do not know what happens in homes all around us. There have been no authoritative surveys on such practices and the extent to which they prevail in Pakistan. But the anecdotal evidence which exists suggests that the practice is extremely widespread, with a foothold in almost every home across the country, even those belonging to the privileged. In the cases of those who are less able to turn to science, modern medicine or other expert help due to a lack of resources and a lack of knowledge, black magic is still more popular. It has brought terrible tragedies. It is almost inevitably the poor and most vulnerable who suffer as victims. We do not know what was going through the mind of the mother who used a candle to burn her children.

Sadly, too many in our country are left in this uncertain world of such practices. There does not appear to have been a reduction in the dominant belief in such dark practices, even as we enter the modern age and literacy grows in the country. To liberate people from the hold of those who manipulate them using their fears, and create more streamlined knowledge which can help society move forward, we need to re-examine teaching at schools, the science curriculum and the manner in which it is delivered to children. Reports that these practices are on the rise may be due to the increasingly uncertain times we live in. There is no evidence of precisely what is happening, but clearly we must not accept any situation in which persons do harm to others.

News Post

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Empathetic centres

Approximately more than 20 years back the then government had announced that senior citizens, ie 65 years and above, shall be given special treatment at public places. This included separate counters at banks, NSCs and all places/government departments doing public dealing. Initially, there were a few banks which opened up special counters for senior citizens. Unfortunately, this was for just a few months.

Now I come to the most important place for pensioners and senior citizens where a majority of them have to go every month. This place is the National Saving Centres, where most of the old people have invested their money. The NSCs offer excellent schemes which give reasonable returns on the money invested. The conditions there though are quite bad, in fact sometimes humiliating. The Ministry of Finance should address this issue seriously. The NSCs have to be made more spacious and staff strength has to be increased to boost efficiency and reduce the waiting time. Also, senior citizens have peculiar habits which are sometimes irritating for others. The NSC staff is requested to show a bit of tolerance and extend a helping hand to them as everybody has to some day reach this stage.

Sqn-Ldr (r) **Tarique Mahmood Malak**
Rawalpindi

Rising temperature

According to some media reports, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced that two recent temperature readings have been accepted among the hottest recorded on Earth. One of

the scorching marks came from the Middle East, the other from South Asia.

Rigorous investigations such as this independent temperature sensor calibration give us much higher confidence in our existing climate records, and consequently provide a solid basis for examining records being broken around the world and for studies of attribution of extremes to climate change. The WMO archive of weather and climate extremes includes the world's highest and lowest temperatures, rainfall, heaviest hailstone, longest dry period, maximum gust of wind, as well as hemispheric weather and climate extremes.

Khan Faraz
Peshawar

EObI in neglect

The government is finalizing various budgetary proposals for the fiscal year 2019-20 including provision of benefits to serving as well as retired employees of various organisations by enhancing monthly remuneration besides other supporting measures. A look into these policy measures reveals that EObI pensioners have been totally ignored for any type of assistance.

The current EObI pension amount is a meagre one and not even sufficient to meet one's kitchen requirements. A retired person is in dire need of proper medical care, in addition to many other hardships faced in post-retirement life. Realizing the hardships of EObI pensioners, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Syed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari in the recent past had vowed to enhance the amount of the Employees Old-Age Benefits In-

stitution (EObI) pension thus giving a hope to EObI pensioners. All that hope has totally vanished after the budget. The prime minister needs to immediately take notice of this serious issue and approve an increase in pension amounts to a minimum Rs20,000 per month to be implemented from the next fiscal year 2019-20

Khalid Mahmood
Islamabad

Jobless and Pakistani

In Pakistan, unemployment – which is increasing rapidly – is creating problems for the citizens of the country. According to a report, at least 5.3 million people in Pakistan are unemployed.

Another report says that only 39 percent of the youth are employed while 61 percent youth is still jobless. This issue needs a holistic approach and the government must act now.

Sager Ahmed
Turbat

Karachi's water woes

The water shortage in Karachi has started deepening as warm weather arrives in the megacity of Pakistan. Citizens in many areas have been compelled to drink contaminated water. These areas include Lyari, Baldia, Orangi, Keamari, Shershah and parts of Gulistan-e-Johar. Despite several protests across the city and raising of the issue in the Sindh Assembly in almost every session, there is no respite.

According to a report, 40 percent water in Karachi is being wasted due to leakages, whereas District

Budget blues

I am amazed at the revenue minister's budget presentation. He announced an increase in salaries while giving a long list of taxes that would bring our salaries back to where they were – or even lower. The minister asked us to hope that the difficulties arising out of budgetary measures, including inflation, would subside over six months or a year. Did he think how people would survive in this time? Did he realize that people can end up committing suicide due to inflation?

The magnitude of the problem can be judged by the fact that they did not have a full-time finance minister to present their first federal budget. It sounded good when the budget offered to help the poor, increased allocations or social safety nets, social protection programmes, interest-free loans etc – but these all are empty promises that have no place in the given budget. I do not consider the budgetary measures to be favourable to the ordinary folks if the items of daily use like food and fuel are taxed more heavily while there is no scope to receive additional incomes to sustain a sane standard of living. In the present circumstances, it is hardly expected that the new fiscal measures will be of any help to match the increasing expenditures.

Izhan Ahmed
Karachi

West faces acute water as the water level in Hub Dam is low. The city is getting low water supply to the pumping stations due to non-desilting of water channel from Keenjhar Lake, which is a bulk water supply source for the city. A water tanker of 1000 gallons in Baldia and Orangi towns is sold for Rs2500, which is slightly briskish. People in many areas are running from pillar to post to get drinking water.

Alma Zehra
Karachi

The loan question

This refers to the letter, 'Where's the appreciation?' (June 22) by Egr Asim Nawab. The best policy for a nation is to remain within its means and seek a loan only when unavoidable. In the case of Pakistan, the priorities for the general public include clean drinking

Dr Najeeb A Khan
Boston
USA

Arabs renew pledge to give Palestinians \$100m in monthly aid

CAIRO: The Arab League Sunday reaffirmed a pledge to pay \$100 million a month to the Palestinian Authority, a day after Washington unveiled its Middle East peace plan. Arab finance ministers meeting in Cairo renewed a promise first made in April to boost "the Palestinian Authority's budget with a \$100 million monthly transfer... as it faces financial burdens", a statement said.

They also insisted, in an implicit rebuke to the White House's economic plan, on the "complete Arab support to the Palestinian state's economic, political and financial independence". On Saturday the United States said its Middle East peace plan to be presented next week in Bahrain aims to raise more than \$50 billion for the Palestinians and create one million jobs for them within a decade.

The so-called "Peace to Prosperity" plan is led by US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner. The Palestinian Authority is boycotting the Bahrain two-day Bahrain conference that opens on Tuesday, chiding that pro-Israel Trump is seeking to buy off the Palestinians and deprive them of an independent state. Egypt and Jordan confirmed they would be sending delegations to the Manama workshop, which will also be attended by energy-rich Gulf Arab countries, Morocco and Israel.

The peace plan has so far deliberately avoided mapping a political component. US officials have hinted that the political part of the plan — which could come out as late as November, after Israel holds new elections and forms a government — will not mention the creation of an independent Palestinian state, a goal of decades of US diplomacy. On Sunday, the Arab League finance ministers also condemned what they dubbed as "Israeli piracy of Palestinian public funds". Israel collects taxes on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, but withheld \$138 million in transfers in February over Palestinian payments to political prisoners jailed for attacks against Israelis. The Arab League initially pledged in April to pay a \$100 million to plug the gap left when Israel blocked tax transfers. Earlier this year it said the US plan "will not succeed in achieving long-lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East".

KUSHNER'S ECONOMIC PLAN FOR MIDEAST PEACE FACES ARAB REJECTION: Arab politicians and commentators greeted U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East \$50 billion economic vision with a mixture of derision and exasperation, although some in the Gulf called for it to be given a chance.

Set to be presented by Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner at a conference in Bahrain on June 25-26, the blueprint envisions a global investment fund to lift the Palestinian and neighboring Arab

economies and is part of broader efforts to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

"We don't need the Bahrain meeting to build our country, we need peace, and the sequence of (the plan) — economic revival followed by peace is unrealistic and an illusion," Palestinian Finance Minister Shukri Bishara said on Sunday.

The lack of a political solution, which Washington has said would be unveiled later, prompted rejection not only from Palestinians but also in Arab countries with which Israel would seek normal relations.

From Sudan to Kuwait, commentators and ordinary citizens denounced Kushner's proposals in strikingly similar terms: "colossal waste of time," "non-starter," "dead on arrival."

Egyptian liberal and leftist parties slammed the workshop as an attempt to "consecrate and legitimize" occupation of Arab land and said in a joint statement that any Arab participation would be "beyond the limits of normalization" with Israel.

While the precise outline of the political plan has been shrouded in secrecy, officials briefed on it say Kushner has jettisoned the two-state solution — the long-standing worldwide formula that envisages an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. —Agencies



A woman holds a Czech flag during a rally demanding the resignation of Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis in Prague. Huge crowds flooded central Prague demanding Prime Minister Andrej Babis to step down over allegations of graft in a protest that organisers and local media claim drew around 250,000 people, which would make it the largest since the fall of communism in 1989. —AFP

White House confirms Trump letter to North Korea's Kim ahead of Asia trip

WASHINGTON: The White House confirmed on Sunday that President Donald Trump had sent a letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, days before the U.S. president leaves for a trip to Japan and South Korea.

"A letter was sent by President Trump and correspondence between the two leaders has been ongoing," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said in an email.

Earlier North Korea's state-run news agency KCNA said Kim would put serious thought into the content of the letter, details of which it did not describe.

The KCNA report said Kim described the letter as being "of excellent content" and that he "would seriously contemplate the interesting content."

U.S.-North Korea talks stalled after a failed summit in February between Trump and the North Korean leader in Hanoi, Vietnam.

A U.S. official said on Wednesday the United States had no pre-conditions for new talks, but that progress would require meaningful and verifiable North Korean steps to abandon its nuclear weapons program. Trump leaves for Asia later this week for the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan, and meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in Seoul. —News desk

Saudi Arabia launches special residency scheme for expats

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia on Sunday launched a new special residency scheme aimed at luring wealthy expats as the petro-state seeks to boost non-oil revenue.

The scheme offers a permanent residency for 800,000 riyals (\$213,000) and a one-year but renewable residency costing 100,000 riyals (27,000), according to the online portal for registrations. The scheme will allow expats to do business without a Saudi sponsor, buy property and sponsor visas for relatives, the website said.

Analysts say the programme will largely benefit wealthy Arabs who have lived in Saudi Arabia for years without permanent residency or multinational companies seeking to do long-term business in the kingdom.

The move appears aimed at boosting non-oil revenue as the kingdom seeks to diversify its economy.

It was approved by the Saudi cabinet last month, but the portal began accepting applications on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia is currently home to some 10 million overseas workers, many of whom are subjected to what labour activists describe as restrictive residency rules.

Expatriate workers are typically sponsored by a Saudi employer and are required to get visas to exit and enter the kingdom. Saudi Arabia has seen a strong exodus of foreign workers in recent years amid rising costs after the government imposed fees on dependents and restricted foreigners from working in certain sectors.

SAUDI AIRLINES SHIFT FLIGHTS AWAY FROM GULF OF OMAN, STRAIT OF HORMUZ: Saudi Arabian Airlines has altered the path of its international flights away from the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz, Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya said on Sunday, citing its own correspondent.

The US aviation regulator barred its carriers from the area until further notice after Iran shot down a high-altitude, unmanned U.S. drone, sparking concerns about a threat to the safety of commercial airlines. —Agencies



Crown Princess Mary (L) of Denmark receives flowers as she arrives to the House of Denmark on the Champs Elysee avenue near the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France. —AFP

Trump says reelection 'easier' if he is impeached

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said in an interview broadcast Sunday his chances of retaining the White House in 2020 would be strengthened if Democratic lawmakers start impeachment proceedings against him.

Asked on NBC's "Meet the Press" whether he thought impeachment was good politics for him, Trump replied, "I think I win the election easier." The president repeated his long-standing allegation that the FBI's counterintelligence investigation into his 2016 campaign was illegal. "I was spied on."

What they did to me was illegal. It was illegal on the other side. I did nothing wrong," he said. "So impeachment's a very unfair thing because nothing

Trump says reelection 'easier' if he is impeached

that I did was wrong. And if you look at the Mueller report, there was no collusion.

This was all about collusion. The Democrats are split over whether Trump should be impeached after the Mueller Report into Russian interference in the 2016 election outlined numerous contacts between his campaign and Russians, as well as evidence that the president tried on several occasions to stymie the investigation. While many of the candidates for the Democratic nomination are pro-impeachment, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has argued that it would be a risky move without an "ironclad" case and bipartisan support.

Trump told "Meet the Press" Pelosi was staving off growing impeachment calls from within the Democratic caucus because she agreed with his assessment that it would harm their prospects in 2020. "I think she feels that I will win much easier," Trump said. "I mean, I've been told that by many people."

Former special counsel Robert Mueller spent nearly two years investigating Russian election interference and possible involvement by Trump and his inner circle. He concluded that there wasn't sufficient proof of a criminal conspiracy but found that Trump's campaign welcomed and expected to benefit electorally from information stolen and released through Russian efforts. —AFP

Anger over introduction of female sanitary products tax in Tanzania

NAIROBI: A decision by Tanzania's government to reintroduce a tax on sanitary pads and tampons has angered women in the country, with one activist on Sunday saying it would have "heavy consequences" for women.

Taxes on female sanitary products — which are basic necessities — have come under increasing scrutiny across the globe, and Tanzania in 2018 decided to join those nations scrapping Value Added Tax on pads and tampons.

However the tax was reintroduced during the unveiling of this year's budget last week. Finance Minister Philip Mpango said removing the tax was counter-productive, as retailers had not lowered their prices. "Whatever the reason given by the government, the re-introduction of this tax is an unfortunate decision with heavy consequences for women and girls," Anna Henga of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) told AFP.

"The government should rather try and understand why the exemption did not lead to the expected results, and then correct the errors in the application of the exemption." Henga called for a "subsidy" of the products, or for them to be freely distributed in public health centres. Lack of access to pads or tampons and stigma over menstruation is often cited as a key reason girls miss out on school, or stop going entirely, in African nations.

Opposition lawmaker Zitto Kabwe, who is also an economist, told parliament on Friday that the government had acted too fast. "Is 12 months really enough to do an evaluation?" he said, urging government to better control the sale of female sanitary products.

"When we scrapped this tax the whole world applauded. And many countries followed suit. And now we want to take a step backwards," he said. Even members of the ruling CCM called for the tax exemption to remain. "The government freely distributes condoms used by some to commit adultery. Why can't it give these pads freely to students," said lawmaker Goodluck Mlinga.

"The high rate of school failures by girls in rural areas is largely due to their absence during their periods," he said. On social media a campaign has been launched under the hashtag #PediBilaKodi (pads without tax, in Swahili). "Menstruation is not a luxury or a choice. —AFP

Protectionism slammed as SE Asian leaders rally to trade pact

BANGKOK: Thailand's premier made an impassioned plea against protectionism on Sunday at a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders where the fallout from the US-China tariff war has dominated talks. A controversial repatriation plan for the persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority and ongoing disputes over the South China Sea will also be tackled by leaders at the final day of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit. But trade has topped the agenda at the Bangkok meeting, as tit-for-tat tariffs between China and the US cast a dark cloud over global growth. Thailand, which is chairing ASEAN this year, rallied against global protectionism and called for urgency in concluding talks on RCEP — a China-led trade pact, which once inked will be the world's biggest.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) includes all 10 ASEAN economies, plus India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. "The winds of protectionism are hurting our multilateral trading system," Thailand's junta leader-turned-premier Prayut Chan-O-cha said Sunday.

"ASEAN must hold our hands tightly in negotiating... on the RCEP, so it is concluded this year. It will help off-set any impact from the ongoing trade conflict." RCEP is seen as a mechanism for China to draft the rules of Asia-Pacific trade, following a US retreat from the region as it withdrew from another trade pact at the start of President Donald Trump's administration.

The trade war between the world's biggest two economies have sent reverberations across the world, said Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. The two countries "must both take the high road and resolve their differences before the situation spirals out of control," warned

Europe braces for summer scorcher

PARIS: Temperatures were climbing on Sunday as Europe braced for a blistering heatwave with the mercury set to hit 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) as summer kicks in on the back of a wave of hot air from North Africa.

Europeans are set to bake in what forecasters are warning will likely be record-breaking temperatures for June with the mercury set to peak mid-week.

Hot and humid nights can be expected, officials say, with many issuing guidelines for surviving the scorcher, and local authorities and hospitals on high alert for a surge in cases of dehydration, heatstroke and other weather-related conditions.

They are also warning that the extreme heat could bring on violent storms.

Spain's AEMET weather agency issued a "yellow alert" for severe weather on Sunday, but said it expected the heat to peak later in the week with temperatures soaring over 40 degrees Celsius, particularly inland.

"Temperatures may exceed 42 degrees" in the northeastern Ebro valley area from Thursday until Saturday, the agency said, indicating the heat could persist into early next week.

Britain's MetOffice said it was particularly concerned that the heatwave could trigger "violent storms" and warned Britons to expect "hot, humid and unstable" weather.

It issued a severe weather warning for heavy rain and thunderstorms on Monday and Tuesday, saying the highest temperatures were expected later in the week rising into the 30s in central and southwest England.

In Germany, forecasters said they were expecting a week-long heatwave with temperatures that could break the 2015 record of 40.3 degrees, blanning it on a front of "warm air coming from the Sahara."

And after last summer's heatwave, farmers are again fearful the high temperatures could damage crops. "Should we get tropical temperatures of 35 degrees or more, that would depress the crop yields," farmers' spokesman Joachim Rukwied told DPA news agency, saying grain crops had received just enough rainfall last month and were going through an "important growing phase".

And Meteo France also warned of a "hot, humid and unstable" weather front that could push the mercury up to 40 degrees from Tuesday. —AFP



A man sits in a hammock under the pine trees along the banks of Saint-Ferreol at Revel, southwestern France. Forecasters say Europeans will feel sizzling heat next week with temperatures soaring as high as 40 degrees Celsius in an unprecedented heatwave hitting much of Western Europe. —AFP



Thousands march in Ukraine capital's Gay Pride

KIEV: More than 8,000 people turned out on Sunday for Kiev's annual Gay Pride parade amid tight security as far-right activists sought to disrupt the celebration, organisers said. Waving rainbow and Ukrainian flags, dressed in bright colours, marched they marched through the centre of the capital as thousands of police and National Guards stood by to ensure order. "We go out to show that there are a lot of us and we have a lot of support," Ruslana Panukhnyk, director of the NGO KyivPride that organizes the parade, told AFP. "Because democratic values, human rights values are not empty words for a very large number of Ukrainians," she added. Vitaliy, now a 27-year-old man, was attacked with glass bottles after the parade in 2015. He admits that "it was scary" to participate in parade the very next year, but now, he believes, "Ukraine has made a big step forward" in terms of security.—AFP

Sudan court orders end to internet blackout

KHARTOUM: A Sudanese court Sunday ordered authorities to end a nationwide internet blockade imposed by the ruling generals after a deadly crackdown on protesters earlier this month, a lawyer said. Crowds of protesters were violently dispersed on June 3 by men in military fatigues, who stormed a weeks-long protest camp outside the army headquarters in Khartoum where they had camped to demand that the generals step down. Internet on mobile phones and fixed land connections was cut across Sudan by the ruling military council, with users saying it was done to prevent further mobilisation of protesters. Lawyer Abdelazim al-Hassan said he had filed a petition against the blockade, and on Sunday a court in Khartoum ordered that the services be resumed.—AFP



Artworks are seen at 'Dismaland', a theme park-styled art installation by British artist Banksy, at Weston-Super-Mare in southwest England, Britain.—News desk

Bodies of 7 climbers retrieved from Indian mountain

NEW DELHI: The bodies of seven climbers killed on India's second highest mountain were retrieved Sunday, the border police said. The eight person group that went missing just under a month ago included four Britons, two Americans, one Indian and one Australian. They had set out to summit an "unclimbed peak" in the northern state of Uttarakhand. A group of mountaineers from the paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) found the seven bodies near an unnamed peak on Nanda Devi East. The search for the eighth person missing would continue on Monday, ITBP spokesman Vivek Kumar Pandey told AFP. The bodies retrieved have been "taken to a nearby site", Pandey said, adding "We have also found some mountaineering equipment and gear from the site." The identities and nationalities of those brought back from the mountain have not yet been determined. Four Britons were rescued earlier after separating from the main group and had been helping the search teams to locate the others.—AFP

India stampede leaves at least 14 dead

NEW DELHI: At least 14 people were killed and dozens injured in a stampede at a religious gathering in northern India Sunday, after strong winds caused a large marquee to collapse. More than a thousand people were at the event in Rajasthan state, where Hindu religious sermons were being given. "There was a stampede and it appears some iron pipes also fell causing grievous injuries," senior police officer Khinvi Singh told AFP. He said at least 60 people were injured. Police have launched an investigation to see if rules were flouted by organisers. Photos showed wires, pipes and step ladders lying scattered about the venue. In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was quoted by his office as saying the incident was "unfortunate" and wishing the injured a quick recovery.—AFP



A woman takes pictures of Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan (R, rear) as he greets people after casting his ballot, outside a polling station in Istanbul, during the mayoral election re-run.—AFP

Erdogan's candidate concedes defeat in Istanbul vote

Syria regime air strikes kill 5 civilians

BEIRUT: Syrian regime air strikes killed five civilians including two children Sunday in a northwestern bastion of the opposition, a war monitor said. The Idlib region of some three million people is supposed to be protected by a September buffer zone deal, but the jihadist-run enclave has come under mounting bombardment by the government and its ally Russia since late April. An air raid by Damascus aircraft on Sunday killed five civilians, including two sisters under the age of 10, in the village of Josef in Idlib province, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The strikes also wounded several people, some of whom were in serious condition, said the Observatory. Since Wednesday, more than 60 civilians have been killed in regime air raids in the surrounding anti-government enclave, the Britain-based monitoring group says. Since the start of the escalation in late April, more than 470 civilians have died in regime and Russian bombardment there. In addition, 780 rebel and jihadist fighters and more than 610 pro-regime fighters have died in raids and clashes on the ground. The violence has forced around 330,000 people to flee their homes and hit 23 health centres, the United Nations says. The September deal signed by Russia and rebel backer Turkey was supposed to set up a buffer zone around the Idlib region, but the accord was never fully implemented as jihadists refused to pull back from the front lines. In January, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham — an alliance led by Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate — took over administrative control of the region, which is made up of a large part of the Idlib province and slivers of neighbouring governorates. The Syria conflict has killed more than 370,000 people and displaced millions since it erupted in 2011 with the brutal repression of protests against President Bashar al-Assad.—AFP

ISTANBUL: Binali Yildirim, the ruling party candidate in the controversial re-run of Istanbul's mayoral election, conceded defeat on Sunday. Initial results from the state-run Anadolu news agency showed opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu leading with 53.69 percent to Yildirim's 45.4 percent with more than 95 percent of ballots counted. "According to the result as of now my competitor Ekrem Imamoglu is leading the race. I congratulate him and wish him good luck," Yildirim said. Earlier, Istanbul returned to the polls in a re-run of the mayoral election that has become a test of Turkish democracy as well as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's continued popularity at a time of economic trouble. Election authorities annulled the first vote in March after Erdogan's ruling party alleged corruption. Critics say Erdogan simply did not like the result, after a little-known former district mayor, 49-year-old Ekrem Imamoglu, snatched victory for the opposition by just 13,000 votes. The city of 15 million is Turkey's economic powerhouse and has been a crucial source of patronage for Islamic conservatives since Erdogan himself won the mayorship a quarter-century ago. Imamoglu, of the secular Republican People's Party, has become a household name since being stripped of his victory, depicting the rerun as "a battle for democracy." "Today our people will make the best decision... for the sake of our democracy. For Istanbul and also for the legitimacy of all future elections," he said after voting. His upbeat message under the slogan "Everything will be fine" is in contrast to the usual aggressive name-calling of Turkish politics. At a voting station in the trendy Beyoglu neighbourhood, 31-year-old architect Begum said: "I voted against injustice and those who seek to polarise this nation." Imamoglu faces Binali Yildirim, a mild-mannered Erdogan loyalist who oversaw several huge transport projects and served as prime minister. He struck a conciliatory tone on Sunday, saying "If we have wronged, knowingly or unknowingly, one of our fellow Istanbulites or our challengers, if we have done something unjust, I ask for your forgiveness." The March election showed Erdogan's party remains the most popular nationwide, adored by millions for overseeing dramatic growth, fiercely defending the country's interests abroad and allowing religious conservatives a seat at the table. But double-digit inflation and rising unemployment have dented Erdogan's reputation for economic stewardship and the AKP lost control of both Istanbul and the capital Ankara. Analysts warn he faces a "lose-lose" situation with the Istanbul rerun: a second defeat would undermine his image of invincibility and embolden rivals within his party, while a victory would forever be seen by the opposition as stolen.—AFP

UK's Boris Johnson under pressure over domestic 'row'

LONDON: Boris Johnson, the strong favourite to become Britain's next prime minister, came under pressure from figures in his own party on Sunday to explain reports of a domestic 'row' that led to a police visit. Although still heavily backed to beat Jeremy Hunt to become Conservative Party leader, and therefore prime minister, a snap poll published in the Mail on Sunday suggested that the incident had cut his support. The Guardian reported that police were alerted early on Friday after a neighbour heard a loud altercation involving screams, shouts and bangs at the south London property, shortly after Johnson had secured his place in the final run-off to become prime minister. The paper said Johnson's partner Carrie Symonds could be heard telling the former London

mayor to "get off me" and "get out of my flat". The former foreign secretary refused to answer questions about the incident on the first day of the month-long contest to win over Conservative grassroots members, saying "I don't think people want to hear about that kind of thing." He instead tried to focus on his policies, saying "we need to get Brexit done" and promising to prepare Britain for a no deal exit from the EU, if a deal cannot be reached. Tory grandee Malcolm Rifkind criticised the response, saying "the fact is there was a police visit. You don't just say 'no comment'." "That implies you may have something you don't want to disclose," he told BBC Radio 5. Former Tory foreign office minister Alan Duncan told the Guardian his former boss now had a "big question mark over his head", adding Johnson had shown a "lack of discipline" throughout his career. Among all voters, Hunt is now the preferred candidate to become prime minister, according to the Survation poll in the Mail on Sunday, as Johnson saw a seven percent decline in support. He also saw his lead over Hunt with Tory voters slashed from 27 percent to nine percent since Friday.—AFP

adding Johnson had shown a "lack of discipline" throughout his career. Among all voters, Hunt is now the preferred candidate to become prime minister, according to the Survation poll in the Mail on Sunday, as Johnson saw a seven percent decline in support. He also saw his lead over Hunt with Tory voters slashed from 27 percent to nine percent since Friday.—AFP

Democratic White House candidates face grilling on abortion

COLUMBIA, United States: Democrats running for US president in next year's election sat down with voters on Saturday to outline their stance on abortion, a long-simmering issue newly inflamed by attempts to curtail it nationwide. With abortion now among the most-discussed topics in the presidential race, the candidates aimed to impress an audience cheering "Who decides? We decide!" at the conference put on by family planning organization Planned Parenthood. "If you're not pro-choice, you're not getting my vote," declared 34-year-old Jennifer Egor, who traveled to the forum held in the South Carolina state capital Columbia. "Women's healthcare is everything. It's not just about abortion, it's so much more than that," she said. Attended by 20 of the 23 candidates aiming to unseat Republican President Donald Trump in the 2020 vote, the conference was titled "We decide 2020," a reference not just to what is promising to be a contentious election, but also to the debate over who can choose if and when an abortion is necessary.—AFP

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Ethiopia army chief, local officials killed amid regional 'coup' bid

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia's army chief and a top local leader have been shot dead during an attempt to overthrow a regional government in the north of the country, underscoring political instability as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed tries to reform the nation. Violence flared on Saturday afternoon in Amhara, one of nine autonomous regions, when a "hit squad" attacked a meeting of top officials, Abiy's office said Sunday. Spokeswoman Billene Seyoum told journalists the Amhara "coup attempt" was led by local security chief Asaminew Tsigie, who was only last year released from almost a decade in prison over a 2009 coup plot. State president Ambachew Mekonnen and his advisor were "gravely injured in the attack and later died of their wounds," she said, adding that the regional attorney general had been seriously wounded. "Several hours later in what seems like a co-ordinated attack, the chief of the staff of the national security forces Seare Mekonnen was killed in his home by his bodyguard", she said. Seare and a visiting retired general were shot dead in his home in the upmarket Bole district of Addis Ababa, home to diplomats, aid workers and expats. The bodyguard has been apprehended while Asaminew was still on the loose, sources said. There was a heavy police presence outside Seare's house

on Sunday, as mourners, some dressed in black, streamed to his house to pay their respects. A parking attendant, who asked not to be named, said he heard about 10 minutes of gunfire at the residence at 9:00pm local time on Saturday before security officers arrived. Gedrekristos Tessaye, 30, said he had come to pay respects to honour Seare's service to the country. "I am so worried, I want Ethiopia to be an ambassador of peace and democracy but this kind of event shows that we are heading to anarchy," he said. Elsewhere in the capital it appeared a normal, quiet Sunday, with shops and restaurants open, however there was heavy security outside Abiy's offices. According to the statement from Abiy's office, the situation in Amhara region was "currently under full control". Since coming to power in 2018, Abiy has won praise for his reforms to open up the country from the iron-grip of his predecessors, but his moves have also brought to the surface long-running ethnic tensions and territorial disputes. The prime minister took to national television in military fatigues in the early hours of Sunday morning. "The people of Ethiopia do not believe in silencing, killing and claiming power by spilling the blood of their brothers and sisters," he said. "They don't accept totalitarian regimes. They've shown that through a common struggle."—AFP

Ruling party candidate declares himself victor in Mauritania vote

NOUAKHOTT: Government candidate and frontrunner Mohamed Ould Ghazouani has declared himself the winner of the first round of Mauritania's presidential election, with around 20 percent of the votes still to be counted. The 62-year-old former head of the domestic security service made the claim in the early hours of Sunday in the presence of current president Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, his supporters and journalists. The ballot is the first in Mauritania's coup-strewn history that looks set to see an elected president complete his mandate and transfer power to an elected successor, although the opposition has raised concerns the vote could perpetuate a government dominated by military figures. Some 1.5 million people were eligible to vote Saturday in the vast, predominantly Muslim state, which is approximately twice the size of former colonial power France and has a popu-

lation of just 4.5 million. Preliminary official results had been expected at the start of this week. But according to a source at the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), Ghazouani had won 50.56 percent of the votes after 80 percent of the votes had been counted. "There is only 20 percent left (to count), but that will not change the final result," journalists quoted Ghazouani as saying. "Our candidate will win in the first round of voting," ruling party spokesman Sidi Ould Domane had told reporters just before voting ended. CENI said in a statement that it would continue compiling the results from across the West African desert country before handing them over to the Constitutional Council. In the meantime, it said it "advises the candidates to show prudence and restraint," and hoped the calm climate seen during the campaign and on voting day would prevail.—AFP

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Indian troops martyr four Kashmiri youths in Shopian

ISLAMABAD: In Held Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism 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 Keegan area of the district of IHK. Meanwhile, the occupation authorities have suspended internet service in the district. —PPI

Former actress Anjuman weds film producer Lucky Ali

News desk

LAHORE: Former film actress Anjuman Shaheen, one of the most successful actresses of Punjabi cinema, has wedded fellow film producer and director Waseem alias 'Lucky' Ali. The secret wedding ceremony of the 64-year-old actress took place on June 17 and was attended by only close family and friends. But the news was revealed earlier this week when pictures of the ceremony were leaked on the social media. The two have now publicly confirmed the wedding. Speaking to Geo News, Anjuman said she was ecstatic on starting a new journey in her life. She said her husband gifted her a car and a house on the wedding, and said that she would share more pictures of the ceremony soon. Anjuman was one of the most popular actresses in the Punjabi film industry who shot to stardom in the 1980s and 1990s

Continued on page 8

Ethiopia army chief, local officials killed amid regional 'coup' bid

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia's army chief and a top local leader have been shot dead during an attempt to overthrow a regional government in northern Ethiopia, underscoring political instability in the country as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed tries to push through reforms. The latest unrest in the Horn of Africa nation flared on Saturday afternoon in Amhara, one of nine autonomous regions, when a "hit squad" attacked a meeting of top officials, Abiy's office said Sunday. —P11

Power Division finalises gas tariff hike today

Khalid Mustafa

ISLAMABAD: The government has assured the IMF that it will not add more to the existing circular debt in the gas sector currently standing at Rs180 billion.

In order to honour its word, the government will increase the gas and power tariff from July 1. The power tariff will be increased by Rs1.50 per unit from July 1, 2019 determined by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra).

The Petroleum Division held exhaustive meetings on Saturday and Sunday to work out gas tariff for domestic and other categories of consumers such as industrial, commercial, CNG and power sectors.

During these meetings, the authorities examined the Ogra's determination to raise gas tariff for 2019-20 and will finalise tariff today (Monday).

For industrial, commercial, CNG and power sectors, the Ogra determined gas hike by 31 percent.

"Whatever the gas prices is to be worked out by the Petroleum Division will be pitched in the ECC and then the federal cabinet for approval," a Petroleum Division top official, who was also part of weekend meetings, told The News.

However, he refused to share exactly what the gas tariff will be, saying different scenarios are under consideration that will be pitched in the ECC meeting that is to recommend to the federal cabinet for approval. And by Monday, (today), it would be sorted out.

Under one of the prior actions, the official said ensuring no increase in circular debt to qualify for IMF loan program of \$6 billion, the government will increase the tariff ensuring zero increase in circular debt from now onward as the existing circular debt stands at Rs180 billion.

"We will certainly hike the gas tariff but less than the increase determined by the OGRA for the domestic gas consumers and will also achieve the target of zero increase in circular debt determined by the IMF. However, the gas consumers will be provided with one slab benefit," he maintained.

"If we reduce the gas tariff for domestic consumers, the bur-

den will be shifted to the industrial, commercial, CNG and power sectors. The more we reduce the tariff for domestic consumers, the more we increase the tariff for bulk consumers such as CNG, Industrial, commercial and power sectors."

The regulator has allowed the gas companies to pass their 15th of the previous year's shortfall on to the end consumers. This is how the circular debt of Rs180 billion will be made zero by passing on to consumers in three to five years.

According to Ogra, the main reason for increase in the prescribed gas price was the cost of gas, mainly due to the current exchange rate of Rs150 against a dollar. The combined impact of increase in the prescribed price of both companies for recovery from consumers has been estimated at about Rs60 billion.

The Ogra recommended to the government to increase rates in a manner that first two slabs of domestic and special commercial consumers should pay at least half of the average cost of gas that are over-subsidized at present.

The third slab (100-200 cubic meters) should be charged 75pc of the average cost of service, the fourth slab 100pc and the top category (over 300 cubic meters) 150pc.

In doing so, the regulator worked out an increase of 205pc for the first (lifeline) slab consuming less than 50 cubic meters per month to Rs369 per MMBTU from Rs121. The monthly bill of this category (about 18pc of total consumers) will increase by 188pc to Rs789 from Rs274.

The rate for the second domestic slab (50-100 cubic meters) has been proposed at Rs369, instead of Rs127 per MMBTU, up by 191pc. The monthly bill of this category of 29pc consumers will increase by 183pc to Rs1,555 from Rs550.

The regulator worked out the rate for consumers using 100-200 cubic meters per month at Rs553 per MMBTU, instead of Rs264, an increase of 110pc. The monthly bill of this category of 32pc consumers will increase by 74pc to Rs3,854 from Rs2,215.

The next slab of 201-300 cubic meters per month has been proposed at Rs738 per

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Nishan-i-Pakistan conferred on Emir of Qatar

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan upon Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar, members of federal cabinet, members of parliament, members of Qatar delegation, and civil and military officials attended the ceremony. The highest civil

award was conferred upon the Emir of Qatar in recognition of his efforts for further fostering fraternal ties between the two brotherly countries. Earlier, upon arrival at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president warmly received the visiting dignitary. Children clad in traditional dresses presented a bouquet to the Qatari Emir. The president also hosted a luncheon in the honour of Emir and his delegation. —APP

• Picture on page 2



پاکستانی میڈیا کی تاریخ میں پہلی بار

کراچی، لاہور، سرحد اور کوئٹہ، چیمبرز آف کامرس میں موجود معروف تاجر رہنما مختلف تنظیموں کے نمائندے اور مختلف شعبوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے عوام براہ راست ٹیلیفون کال کے ذریعے حکومتی معاشی ٹیم کے اہم ارکان

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Ex-FM Abdul Sattar passes the foreign minister, passed away: Career diplomat Abdul Sattar, who has also served as

Continued on page 8

FST 'Appellate Division' on the cards

Imdad Soomro

KARACHI: After long discussions with the concerned quarters, the federal government has decided to introduce a bill in parliament to establish 'Appellate Division' of Federal Service Tribunal (FST) separately from its current branch of 'Operational Division'.

According to the well-placed sources of Ministry of Law and Justice, the bill is ready and likely to be presented in parliament in coming one to two months. These sources were of the view that this legislation will reduce the burden of some 30 thousand plus cases from upper courts throughout the country 'of employment disputes' filed under article 109 of the constitution.

In current procedure, Federal Service Tribunal (FST) deals and decides the removal from service matters, pension and allowances benefit disputes, seniority and promotion issues, and reduction of the grades and stoppage of salary matters of the federal government employees including civilian employees of armed forces.

Apart from Federal Service Tribunal and provincial service tribunals, many of the applicants and complainants prefer to approach high courts for

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Erdogan's party loses controversial replay of Istanbul polls

ISTANBUL: The opposition candidate in the controversial replay of Istanbul's mayoral election was headed for a comfortable victory on Sunday, dealing a blow to the ruling party of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan's candidate, Binalli Yildirim, conceded defeat as initial results showed his opponent ahead with 53.69 percent of the vote with more than 95 percent of ballots counted. "According to the result, as of now my competitor Ekrem Imamoglu is leading the race. I congratulate him and wish him good luck," Yildirim said.

Imamoglu, a little-known district mayor at the start of the year, had portrayed the rerun as a test of Turkish democracy after he was controversially stripped of his first victory in March.

Election authorities annulled that result after Erdogan claimed irregularities in the counting - but that galvanised Imamoglu, who vowed "a battle for democracy" to take back the city of 15 million.

Critics say Erdogan was simply reluctant to give up control of Istanbul, Turkey's economic powerhouse and a crucial source of patronage for Islamic conservatives since he won the mayoralty himself a quarter-century ago.

Imamoglu, who represents the secular Republican People's Party, said after voting earlier on Sunday: "Today our people will make the best decision for the sake of our democracy, for Istanbul and also for the legitimacy of all future elections." His upbeat message under the slogan "Everything will be fine" contrasted with the usual aggressive name-calling of Turkish politics and struck a chord with voters.

But he faced the juggernaut of the AKP, which has ruled Turkey since 2002 and remains the most popular political force nationwide thanks to years of dramatic growth and support for previously excluded religious conservatives.

Yildirim, a mild-mannered Erdogan loyalist who oversaw

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• Another story on page 11

Trump vows new Iran sanctions, Tehran warns US against attack

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Saturday pledged to hit Iran with "major" new sanctions as Tehran warned Washington that any attack would see its interests across the Middle East go up in flames.

The war of words heated up after Trump had pulled back from military action against Iran in response to its downing of a US reconnaissance drone.

That incident, which came after a series of attacks on tankers in the congested shipping lanes out of the Gulf that the US has blamed on Iran, exacerbated already tense relations between the two countries.

Iran has denied responsibility for those attacks. Trump, who spent Saturday huddling with his advisors at Camp David, initially told reporters that he was keen to be Iran's "best friend" - if the country agreed to renounce nuclear weapons.

"When they agree to that, they're going to have a wealthy country. They're going to be so happy, and I'm going to be their best friend," he told reporters.

Iran has denied seeking a nuclear weapon and says its program is for civilian purposes.

A multinational accord reached by Tehran and world powers in 2015 sought to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for sanctions relief.

But Trump left that agreement more than a year ago and has imposed a robust slate of punitive economic sanctions designed to choke off Iranian oil sales and cripple its economy - one he now plans to expand.

"We are putting major additional Sanctions on Iran on Monday," tweeted Trump, who has also deployed additional troops to the Middle East.

"I look forward to the day that Sanctions come off Iran, and they become a productive and prosperous nation again - The sooner the better!"

Added Secretary of State Mike Pompeo: "When the Iranian regime decides to forgo violence and meet our diplomacy with diplomacy, it knows how to reach us. Until then, our diplomatic isolation and economic pressure campaign against the regime will intensify."

But lest anyone think he was entirely ruling out military action, Trump tweeted Saturday evening that "I never called the strike against Iran BACK," as people are incorrectly reporting. I just stopped it from going forward at this time!"

A top Iranian military official warned Washington against any strikes.

"Firing one bullet towards Iran will set fire to the interests of America and its allies" in the region, armed forces general staff spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi told the Tasnim news agency.

"If the enemy - especially America and its allies in the region - make the military mistake of shooting the powder keg on which America's interests lie, the region will be set on fire," Shekarchi warned.

Following his comments, Iran said it had executed a man, a contractor for the defense ministry's aerospace organization, who had been convicted of spying for the United States.

Continued on page 8



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Country on road to progress, says Buzdar

Our correspondent

LAHORE
CHIEF Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that under the vibrant leadership of Prime Minister Inran Khan the country is moving forward to its real destination of development and progress.

In a statement issued here Sunday, Usman Buzdar said the system was not corrected to facilitate the general public by previous government as the outdated system had not given any relief to public. We are fixing the issues created by previous governments and reforms are being introduced to improve this system, he added.

He said that the PTI government would develop organisations and we are bringing such reforms that will surely bring relief and ease in the people's lives. In order to uplift the life of common man we have to change the old system, he said adding that politics of PTI was the other name of public service.

The chief minister said those who were claiming public service had plundered national resources and brought economy at the verge of disaster. He said the wrong policies of the previous government had brought great loss to Pakistan. Despite the worst economic conditions inherited our government opted concrete measures for economic improvement, he said and added that a common man would stand confidently in new Pakistan as we believe in work, "let our work speak by itself", Buzdar said.

He said that the era of plunder and looting national re-

sources had passed as we consider ourselves guardians of these national resources. Our goal is to serve the people and we have no other agenda.

Usman Buzdar said New Pakistan is based on new ideas and new emotions and we won't allow anybody to hinder the voyage of development. Our vision is to eliminate the difference between the poor and the rich. Positive strategy is underway to improve the living standard of the people by giving preference to merit in every field, he maintained.

The chief minister said the PTI government had laid the foundation of transparent Pakistan. We don't believe in hollow claims and slogans in fact we believe in practical steps. He claimed that work was being done day and night in order to meet the people's expectations.

WASA: Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) continued its aggressive campaign against water users involved in wasting precious drinking water and fined many domestic and commercial consumers here on Sunday.

The Wasa field staff fined over 15 consumers in the areas of Samanabad, Gulberg, Fateh Garh, Sabzazar, Timber Market, College Road, Sandha, Outfall Road and Sabzazar.

The campaign was launched on the directions of Wasa Managing Director Syed Zahid Aziz who directed the staff to identify such consumers without any discrimination. He said that anyone involved in wasting precious drinking water would be fined.

The Wasa MD said that the campaign would be intensified in the coming days.



Social Media Pakistan

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People enjoy pleasant weather at the Bagh-i-Jinnah. —Photo by Mansoor Ahmed

Scattered rain forecast

Our correspondent

LAHORE

SCATTERED rain brought down the rising temperature in the provincial metropolis here on Sunday while Met office predicted similar weather conditions for the next 24 hours.

Met officials said that seasonal low lies over north Balochistan. A westerly wave is affecting upper parts of the country and may persist in upper and central parts till Monday. They predicted dust-thundershower/rain with gusty winds at scattered places in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, while at isolated places in Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, DG Khan, Bahawalpur, Sahiwal, Mirpurkhas, Kalat, Zhob divisions and Islamabad. Hot and dry weather is expected in rest of the country.

On Sunday weather remained hot and dry in most parts of the country. However, dust-thundershower/rain with gusty winds occurred at isolated places in Malakand, Hazara, Bannu, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Lahore, Faisalabad, D.G. Khan, Zhob divisions, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir. Rainfall was also recorded in other cities including Faisalabad, Kasur, Noorpurthal, Murree, TT Singh, Sargodha, Mangla, Joharabad, Balakot, Dir, Malanjappa, Kakul, Bannu, Kotli, Gariduppatta, Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, Zhob and Astore. Sunday's highest maximum temperature was recorded at Sibbi where mercury reached 48°C while in Lahore it was 40.3°C and minimum was 28°C.

Jawwad Rizvi

LAHORE

SURGING trend in the prices of vegetables continued as the government has yet to ensure availability of all seasonal vegetables and stop overcharging in the makeshift markets.

Overcharging continued unabated across the city and in the makeshift markets as the government has least bothered to control the artificial price hike due to overcharging and violation of the price lists issued by the market committee with duly signed by the deputy commissioner office representatives.

On the other hand, the sellers claimed that the government official issued false rate lists as vegetables were even not available at the official rates in Badami Bagh wholesale market how they can sell it at lower than their purchase price.

This week again number of seasonal vegetables were not sold on account of wrong pricing, including, ladyfinger, bitter gourd, zucchini, spinach, capsicum, cauliflower and cabbage along with some fruits, including apples, phalsa, litchi, and papaya.

The price of potato soft skin further gained by Rs4 per kg, fixed at Rs32 to 34 per kg, stored variety by Rs3 per kg, fixed at Rs16 to 17 per kg, and potato sugar-free at Rs17 to 18 per kg, while stored variety was sold at Rs34 per kg. This

Overcharging continues unabated in makeshift markets



week official price of onion was increased by Rs2 per kg, fixed at Rs32 to 34 per kg, mixed sold at Rs34 per kg while A-grade sold at Rs40 per kg. The price of tomato was also increased by Rs2 per kg, fixed at Rs25 to 27 per kg. The lemon price was fixed at Rs88 to 92 per kg, sold at Rs100 per kg.

Garlic local was gained by Rs4 per kg, fixed at Rs117 to 122 per kg, sold at Rs160 per kg, garlic hemaiy fixed at Rs155 to 162 per kg, sold at Rs200 per kg. Ginger Chinese fixed at Rs203 to 212 per kg, not sold, garlic Thai at Rs151 to 158 per kg, and sold at Rs240 per kg. Brinjal was gained by

Rs4 per kg, fixed at Rs31 to 33 per kg, not sold on wrong pricing issue. Cucumber farm was gained by Rs5 per kg, fixed at Rs47 to 49 per kg, sold at Rs50 per kg, while cucumber local stable at Rs39 to 41 per kg, sold at Rs45 per kg.

Bitter gourd local was also increased by Rs17 per kg, fixed at Rs54 to 56 per kg, not sold on pricing issue. Spinach was increased by Rs4 per kg, fixed at Rs13 to 15 kg, also not sold there on pricing issue. Zucchini long fixed at Rs24 to 26 per kg, not sold, zucchini farm gained by Rs5 per kg, fixed at Rs31 per kg, not sold and local variety was enhanced by Rs10 per kg, fixed at Rs61 to 64 per kg, sold

at Rs70 per kg. Cauliflower was stable at Rs44 to 46 per kg, sold at Rs70 per kg, and cabbage was fixed at Rs64 to 67 per kg, not sold there. Pumpkin was reduced by Rs8 per kg, fixed at Rs34 to 36 per kg, sold at Rs40 per kg. Luffa was gained by Rs7 per kg, fixed at Rs51 per kg. Ladyfinger was increased by Rs2 per kg, fixed at Rs49 to 51 per kg, not sold on wrong pricing issue. Arum price was reduced by Rs10 per kg, fixed at Rs83 to 87 per kg, sold at Rs90 per kg. Green chili price was fixed at Rs24 to 36 per kg, sold Rs60 per kg.

Capsicum stable at Rs83 to 87 per kg, sold at Rs100 per kg. Carrot was increased by Rs4 per kg, fixed at Rs31 per kg, sold at Rs40 per kg. Coriander was fixed at Rs95 per kg, sold at Rs200 per kg. Beans were fixed at Rs60 per kg, sold at Rs200 per kg.

Raw mangoes for pickle were fixed at Rs40 per kg, sold at Rs50 per kg.

The price of different variety of apples was fixed at Rs88 to 172 per kg, not sold in makeshift markets. The price of Banana A-category was fixed at Rs68 to 72 per dozen and B-category was fixed at Rs54 to 56 per dozen, sold at Rs70 per dozen, while A-category was not available. Papaya was fixed at Rs92 per kg, sold at Rs120 per kg. Dates Irani were fixed at Rs151 to 158 per kg, sold at Rs300 per kg. Melon fixed at Rs29 to 31 per kg, sold at Rs20 to 25 per kg. Watermelon was fixed at Rs7 to 16 per kg, sold at Rs20 per kg. Phalsa was fixed at Rs92 to 97 per kg, not sold there. Different variety of mangoes was fixed at Rs39 to 148 per kg, sold at Rs100 to 150 per kg. Peach A-category was fixed at Rs117 to 122 per kg, and B-category at Rs59 to 62 per kg, while mixed quality was sold at Rs120 per kg. Apricot white was fixed at Rs117 to 127 per kg, while apricot yellow was fixed at Rs107 to 112 per kg, and sold at Rs150 per kg. Plum was fixed at Rs88 to 132 per kg, mixed sold up to Rs140 per kg. Litchi was fixed at Rs200 per kg and sold at Rs250 per kg.

Career counselling; questions and answers

Q1: Dear Abidi sahib, my daughter is studying Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. She is very much keen in studying Mechanical Engineering.

Q2: Sir, I have recently completed my intermediate Pre-Medical with 75 percent marks. I am very keen in getting admission in a medical university/ college but due to high merit, unfortunately could not get admission. Now I have two career choices one is honors degree in Psychology and secondly DPT. Due to confusion, I thought you would be the right person to ask for help. Please advise (Atif Sami-Lahore)

it right now will do her no good and have very little value. I suggest you should first let her do this degree and later on decide specialisation or MS after her current degree programme.

Ans: Keeping in view your interest and current situation I would suggest you should do

Continued on page 14

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MEDIA BRIDGE



PPP activists protest against rising prices outside the Lahore Press Club. —The News photo

'New taxes to increase prices of chicken, edible oil'

Our correspondent
LAHORE
NEW taxation measures announced in the federal budget may lead to increase prices of chicken meat by Rs 20 per kg and Rs 15 per litre of soybean oil.

The federal government has proposed to enhance sales tax on soybean seeds used in poultry feed from six percent to 17 percent. Similarly, there is a proposal to levy 17 per cent sales tax on soybean seeds used for extracting oil. Both these steps

would lead to price hike of two key food items, said Dr Muhammad Arshad, former chairman Pakistan Solvent Extractors Association here on Sunday.

He was of the view that the government should carefully look into this issue and should not take any step that could affect the masses. Poultry products are a cheap source of protein for the masses while we are already deficient in the production of edible oil. Such unwise imposition of taxes would be counterproductive as it would put

these essential food items out of reach of poor people who are already facing challenge of malnutrition, he said.

Arshad added that growing gap between Pak rupee and US dollar also means further increase in the prices of food items manufactured with imported raw material.

He observed that the government should exempt food items from a tax with a view to keep them within the reach of the masses. Like many other countries in the world, he said, "our government should refrain from making

food items costly by slapping 'unnecessary' taxes.

Provision of cheap protein is indispensable for the growth of children and young kids as 45 percent of them are already facing menace of stunted growth due to malnutrition." He expressed reservation over PTI government's approach towards agriculture and food sector, saying that such taxation measures being politically incorrect would badly hit the masses.

Talking about consumption of eggs, Arshad said consumption of protein rich food

has been at the lowest level among the masses. Per capita egg consumption is already far below the desirable level of 47 in the country against the recommended level of 300, he said and expressed fear that consumption of eggs would further drop following imposition of higher slabs of taxes by the PTI government.

Keeping in view importance of poultry products and edible oil for human health, Dr Arshad demanded of the government to reconsider levy of taxes on soybean seeds.

Career counselling

Continued from page 13

an honors degree in Biochemistry or Microbiology. After that you will have a lot of choices to work in hospitals with doctors as health specialist and pathologists. They are very high in demand. I wish you best of luck in your future plans.

Q3: I would be thankful if you please give me your expert advice for my studies and future plans. I am currently studying DAE Electronics second semester in a prominent college in Rawalpindi. (Wajahat Rafique - Rawalpindi)

Ans: According to your current situation, I would like to suggest you must complete bachelors in Electronics and after that you should do Masters in Telecommunication with Wireless Engineering. This will definitely help you a lot for a successful professional career.

Q4: Sir, I am doing engineering degree from University of Engineering and Technology (UET). I'm doing this degree in Chemical Engineering. Many of my relatives especially my cousin is saying this subject is not suitable for women and ultimately I will face hardship in finding jobs in future. I am sure if you guide me which Masters degree after this I choose it will help me a lot; that is why, I am writing this for your advice. (Nadia Rehman Baig - Lahore)

Ans: I think you should do an MSc in Biotechnology or Biomedical Engineering. These two degrees require good science degree. I'm confident that you will do well and qualify for any of these degrees. This will open up more chances and opportunities and I tell you that it has very suitable environment for women. (Syed Azhar Husnain Abidi is a renowned educationist in Pakistan, with more than 20 years of experience as provider of education counselling services. He has represented Pakistan in over 100 national and international seminars, conferences and forums. He is a recipient of the most coveted civil award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz).

Transparency, fair conduct of exams Daanish Schools told to register with respective boards

Khalid Khattak

LAHORE
BOARD of Intermediate & Secondary Education (BISE) Lahore has asked the Daanish Schools Authority to get its schools registered with examination boards of their respective division for Matriculation and Intermediate examinations in order to maintain transparency and fair conduct of the exams, it is learnt.

Presently, under a special arrangement, BISE Lahore conducts Matric and Intermediate Exams of all the 14 campuses of Daanish Schools situated in Dera Ghazi Khan, Rahim Yar Khan, Fazilpur (District Rajanpur), Hasilpur (District Bahawalpur), Chishtian (District Bahawalnagar), Attock and Mianwali.

It is pertinent to mention here that Daanish School was a brainchild of the former chief minister Shahbaz Sharif to empower extremely underprivileged families by providing high quality education to their children. On his special instructions, all campuses of Daanish Schools were registered with the BISE Lahore for the examinations. There are nine examination boards, one each in a divisional headquarters, across Punjab. However, all the Daanish School students appear in Matric and Inter exams conducted by the Lahore Board.

Since Shahbaz Sharif is no more in power in the province, it seems the BISE Lahore administration has now gathered courage to unburden itself from the task which involves a number of risk factors in the smooth and fair conduct of the exams primarily because of the distance between Lahore and these districts. It is also pertinent mention here that Matric and Inter exams are conducted simultaneously on a uniform basis by all the nine

BISEs across the province. The BISE Lahore has to make special arrangements for conducting exams of Daanish School students which include transportation of question papers, answer books and human resource, including examination staff from the provincial metropolises to these districts.

A senior official of BISE Lahore said multiple risk factors were involved in the entire exercise as the board had to follow certain SOPs to ensure smooth and fair conduct of the exams. He said there had been instances in the past which demand a proper review of the situation in order to maintain transparency in the conduct of exams. He quoted an example of replacing entire team of examination staff last year in Dera Ghazi Khan and deploying staff to monitor the conduct of exam through CCTV cameras.

When contacted, BISE Lahore Chairman Prof Ch Muhammad Ismail said the board had suggested the Daanish Schools Authority to register its schools with examination boards of their respective division for betterment of the exam system. "This is just a suggestion; otherwise, we are ready to continue the exercise," he added.

Prof Ch Muhammad Ismail further said the BISEs were following a centralised mechanism so there won't be any problem for the students of Daanish Schools. He said the boards were also following inter-board marking under which papers of one board were marked by the other board and vice versa. He further said with the conduct of the exams by the boards in their jurisdiction, there would be proper monitoring of the entire process to ensure maximum transparency and fairness.

PU tops natural sciences ranking

Our correspondent

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 among all Pakistani universities.

According to a press release, PU falls in general category of the universities while it has left many science universities behind in the ranking.

The overall research output of PU scientists in the subjects of Chemistry, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, 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 second number, has secured 3.25 score.

According to ranking, Is-

lamia 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 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.

In a press statement, ASA President Prof Dr Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry, Secretary Javed Sami and others said the achievement was result of research-friendly policies of incumbent administration which had taken several initiatives to promote research culture in Punjab University and had supported university teachers.

Heroin capsules concealed in stomach seized

Our correspondent

LAHORE
THE Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) arrested a passenger at Allama Iqbal International Airport on Sunday and recovered 71 heroin-filled capsules from his possession. The accused identified as Raza Abbas had concealed the capsules in his stomach. He was attempting to smuggle the heroin abroad.

YOUTH COMMITS SUICIDE: A 21-year-old youth committed suicide by hanging himself with a rope in the Green Town area on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Bilal, a class 10 student. He committed suicide over some unknown issue. The body was shifted to morgue.

CHECKED: Dolphins Squad and PRU wings of police showed immediate response to the all

730 calls received on helpline 15 during the last week. While promoting community policing, both Dolphins and PRU helped 37 people on different roads. Both wings checked more than 99,000 motorbikes, 150 other vehicles and more than 65,000 persons. Four vehicles and 16 motorbikes were impounded and 65 persons arrested due to incomplete documents. Dolphin Squad and PRU also arrested 10 target offenders during the last week crackdown.

ARRESTED: Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) claimed to have arrested 193 criminals, including 17 proclaimed offenders (POs). PHP teams arrested 17 POs and eight court absconders. They rounded up 76 persons on charges of possessing drugs and 64 on having in possession of illicit arms.

Governor's wife announces girls guide awareness campaign

Our correspondent

LAHORE
PUNJAB governor's wife and president of Punjab Girls Guide Association (PGGA), Parveen Sarwar, on Sunday announced initiating girls guide awareness campaign across the province.

Addressing a meeting of the association here at Governor's House, she said girls would be offered courses regarding beautician, medical first aid, self-defence, table setting and decoration, social ethics, effective communication skills and collaboration.

Parveen Sarwar told the participants that during the awareness campaign, girls and women would be provided with opportunities enabling them to polish their

abilities and become confident and law-abiding citizens of Pakistan.

"Our country cannot make progress without taking womenfolk on board in the development works. Girls guide training will facilitate women to better equip themselves with skills so that they can play a constructive role in the overall well-being of society," she added.

Governor's begun said that workshops, training camps and social welfare programmes would also be arranged to enlighten women about the relevance of the initiative in an effort to achieve the aims and objectives of the awareness campaign.

She said that Girls Guide was not just a movement but

the name of enlightenment, knowledge, skillfulness, which had, since its inception, been contributing positively towards our society despite limited resources, asserting that the Father of the Nation had laid the foundation of the movement.

"Today, it is a responsibility of all of us to take further the mission of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Insha Allah, I shall make sure that I play my part efficiently," she vowed. Salma Sajjad from Punjab Girls Guide Association, All Pakistan Private Schools Federation (APPSF) President Kashif Mirza, Punjab Sports Department's Assistant Director Raees Ahmad and Prof Khalida Ilyas also attended the meeting.

Painting workshop for children

Our correspondent

LAHORE
LAHORE Arts Council has arranged a five-day children painting workshop from Monday (today) at Alhambra Art Gallery. Executive Director, Ather Ali Khan, said "It is our foremost priority to enrich our children with cultural and artistic activities to enhance their minds. We have specially engaged highly professional teachers for this workshop." Alhambra has already registered 38 children for the workshop and their age group is from 7-15 years old. This workshop will continue till June 28.

CM grieved

CHIEF Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has expressed deep and grief over the death of mother of KP Minister Information Shaukat Ali Yousafzai. In his condolence message, the CM extended his heartiest sympathies to the families and prayed for peace to the departed soul and patience to the family. —Correspondent

BLOCKBUSTER COMEDY OF THE YEAR

CINE STAR CINE STAR CINE STAR CINE STAR CINE STAR GULISTAN DHA
KINODIA MALL KINODIA MALL KINODIA MALL KINODIA MALL KINODIA MALL KINODIA MALL

SUPER SUPER SUPER SUPER SUPER SUPER SUPER SUPER SUPER SUPER SUPER SUPER
TOWER TOWER TOWER TOWER TOWER TOWER TOWER TOWER TOWER TOWER TOWER TOWER

SOZO CINE GOLD ARENA CINE GOLD ARENA CINE GOLD ARENA CINE GOLD ARENA CINE GOLD ARENA
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WRONG NO. 2

A FILM BY YASIR NAWAZ

PRODUCED BY SH. AMJAD RASHEED & HASSAN ZIA

Social Media Pakistan

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People take a boat ride at Minar-i-Pakistan. —Photo by Akmal Bhatti

Islamabad development projects reviewed

Our correspondent ISLAMABAD

A high-level meeting on city development was held at CDA Headquarters in which projects being carried out for the uplift of the city, public utility and welfare were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CDA Affairs, Ali Nawaz Awan, Member National Assembly Asad Umer, Member National Assembly 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 is of immense importance because commuters using Islamabad Expressway are facing difficulties particularly from Koral Chowk to PWD as traffic congestion in the vicinity is a regular feature. Therefore, completion of the project at the earliest is 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 ECNEC.

The meeting agreed to take up the matter with Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms for early approval from ECNEC. The meeting was informed that the PSDP grant of Rs500 million has been allocated for the project for this year. Keeping in consideration the cur-

rent allocation of the project, the meeting discussed different viable solutions for development of Signal Free Islamabad Expressway Corridor. It was decided that in the first instance Bridge at Korang River would be constructed. It was discussed if a self-financing model can also be developed should be explored.

The meeting discussed that Islamabad is expanding day by day, therefore, facility of graveyards also need to be expanded. In this context meeting directed the Planning Wing of the Authority to indicate and allocate 100 kanal 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 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 restore parks as well as road furniture.

The DFA apprised 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 the 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 Fatehjang Road, it was informed that expansion of the said road is domain of National Highway Authority.



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Pigeons fly at Qartaba Chowk during gusty winds on Sunday evening. —Photo by Akmal Bhatti

PMA criticises PHC affairs

Our correspondent LAHORE

THE Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has criticized Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) for allegedly promoting favouritism in the appointment of its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and filling of other posts as it called only previous government's favourite candidates for interviews.

According to a press release, PMA's executive council has also criticized the PHC for accommodating the ex-CEO, "who was responsible for the decline of the institution." The PMA also rejected the provisions of the Medical Teaching Institutions' Act whereby it proposed abolition of doctors' government service and pension benefits after retirement.

Credibility of APC questioned

LAHORE PUNJAB Information Minister Samsam Bukhari on Sunday raised questions over opposition's All Parties Conference (APC). Opposition's APC is nothing more than Apne Pyaron Ki Corruption, Bukhari said in his reaction to the call of APC by the JUI-F chief Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman. The minister questioned the credibility of the APC under the chair of an unelected man. Reiterating his government's resolve to uplift south Punjab, he said the first time in the history of the provincial budget a heavy amount has been reserved for the health sector in the province. —INP

Concerted efforts needed to address child labour

ISLAMABAD

CHILD labour is still rampant in various markets of the federal capital despite legislation of numerous laws suggesting severe punishment to the employers.

The child labour creates mental and physical issues for children as they start hard work from initial age.

A large number of underage boys are working in automobile workshops, homes, hotels, brick kilns, factories, vending in the streets, bracelets making, even as rag pickers and masons.

During a visit of different areas of the federal capital including, Aabpara Market G-6, Alah Wali Market F-8/1, Ayyub Market F-8 Markaz, Cafe Irum

Market G-6/2, Jinnah Super Market F-7 Markaz, Jummah Bazar (near Peshawar Mor G-9 and G-6), Karachi Company G-9 Markaz, Safa Gold Mall, Super Market F-6 Markaz, it was observed that large number of children were employed by haulers, car washing and shoe polishing. The impact of Child Protection Act passed by the Parliament last year was nowhere to be seen.

However, when contacted the administration seemed clueless on how to implement the law to prevent child labour in the federal capital.

Most of the employers told APP that children were employed by them as per the wishes of their parents. Rizwan, a 10 year old, who

works in automobile workshop for over 12 hours daily, said he was earning Rs50 daily, another Kamran Khan in his teens, who is a rag picker, said he earns Rs100 to Rs150 daily.

Walid, who sells pens at different bus stops, said he could manage to earn over Rs250 daily. Ali, the owner of Auto Workshop in G-7/1 said although a number of children and teenagers were employed at the workshop, they were all well treated and trained in the necessary skills to succeed in the industry and earn good livelihood.

"Children who leave the workshop in search of better earnings often go astray and fall into drug addiction," he added.

However, a workshop owner in Faizabad and another in Blue Area urged the government to devise a mechanism of imparting skill-based training among such children, so that they could earn more in workshops and other institutions.

National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) member Chaudhry Shafeeq said efforts were underway to strictly implement child labour laws in the federal capital.

The government was massively doing efforts to create awareness among the people by organizing workshops, seminars and through social media tools.

According to International Labour Organization, worldwide 218 million children be-

tween 5 and 17 years were in employment.

Among them, 152 million were victims of child labour; almost half of them, 73 million, work in hazardous child labour almost half of child labour (72.1 million) is to be found in Africa; 62.1 million in the Asia and the Pacific; 10.7 million in the Americas; 1.2 million in the Arab States and 5.5 million in Europe and Central Asia.

The 2030 sustainable development agenda reaffirms the urgency of eliminating the worst forms of child labour, which includes hazardous work, the need to promote safe and secure working environment for all, and sets the target of ending all forms of child labour by 2025. —APP

Wasa all set to automate supply system

Saeed Ahmed RAWALPINDI

THE Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) is planning to automate its water supply system to improve service delivery.

In this connection, Information Technology University Lahore (ITU) team met Wasa Chairman, Muhammad Arif Abbasi and Managing Director Wasa Muhammad Tanvir and gave a detailed presentation on the possibilities of automation of WASA tubewells, 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 ITU briefed that Wasa tube wells will be automated.

An online Remote Monitoring System will be designed to operate, record the working hours of tube well's 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 is 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. ITU team also told 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 can be monitored online. They added that this system will benefit Wasa in operation & maintenance of water supply system and quality control. ITU has offered a pilot project for Wasa which can be replicated on entire system in future. Wasa chairman after detailed deliberations appreciated the idea and said that Wasa Rawalpindi will take the leadership role and will implement this project immediately.

A 'thank you' farewell!

Ishrat Hyatt ISLAMABAD

TO thank all those who 'generously granted support, love and friendship during their stay in Pakistan,' the Ambassador of Argentina, Ivan Ivanissevich and spouse Ana Helena Walberg hosted a dinner at their residence as they will be leaving Pakistan by the end of the month.

The event was held at their residence and obviously attended by their colleagues and friends who could be bracketed in the

above criteria! Arrangements had been made out in the front lawn and the weather was good so it was pleasant to sit — or stand — and interact with other guests. Nostalgic music of days gone played throughout the evening and was a pleasure to listen to and it motivated a few people to smile and sing along, albeit quietly in their own group! Briefly addressing his guests, the host thanked them for accepting his invitation; appreciated their 'support, love and friendship' during his tenure;

said he and his wife had enjoyed their stay and would return to explore more of the country and its beautiful and historical sites because they had not been able to travel as much as they would have liked to during their time here. He concluded with a few remarks about Argentina /Pakistan relations. What was appreciated was the fact that Ambassador Ivanissevich said all members of the embassy were present as guests and were not on duty, as he did not believe in the term 'status.'

AIOU adopts new admissions plan to facilitate students

ISLAMABAD

THE Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has decided to hold admissions for each semester in two phases to make the process more efficient and to facilitate its over 1.4 million students around the country.

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

As per the new schedule, the admissions (autumn 2019) for Matric, FA, MS/MPhil, 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/MPhil/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 programmes being offered in the upcoming semester from July 15 include short-term Educational program (STEP) and Open Tech (OT).

The programmes of MS/MPhil/PhD/BS include MPhil/PhD chemistry, PhD Physics, MPhil Mass Communication, MPhil Physics, BS Physics and BS CS. —APP

Clean-up operation

Our correspondent ISLAMABAD

THE Capital Development Authority (CDA) in collaboration with Islamabad Capital Administration (ICT) conducted massive anti-encroachment operations in different areas of the city 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 2 houses, 5 rooms and 3 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. Similarly, during another action an illegally constructed boundary wall in Katchi Abadi

sector G-6/2, 02 newly constructed rooms in Katchi Abadi sector G-7/4, 01 car shed near government residents in sector G-7/4 and constructions carried out by contractor near Edhi Home, Sector H-8 were demolished.

Staff of Enforcement Directorate also removed encroachments from surrounds of Shifa International Hospital and sector I-11/4 and confiscated 04 trucks encroachment material which was later on shifted to Enforcement Store.

Furthermore, an illegal animal shed in sector F-11 was also removed. Moreover, on constructing house in restricted area of Nilor an application with the consultation of Assistant Commissioner, ICT was also lodged in Nilor Police Station for legal action. Another action was taken by the teams of Enforcement Directorate in sector H-9 katchi abadi and demolished 08 newly constructed rooms, four boundary walls and also destroyed building blocks in the vicinity.



People cool themselves off in the canal on Sunday morning, when it was hot. —Photo by Mansoor Ahmed

Monday

June 24, 2019

Retiring Spain
star Torres
eyes future
coaching role

TOKYO: Spanish World Cup winner Fernando Torres said Sunday his body could no longer cope with the physical demands of football after announcing his retirement from the game.

But the 35-year-old, once one of the deadliest marksmen in the world, would not rule out a future in coaching.

The former Atletico Madrid, Liverpool and Chelsea striker finished his career at Japanese club Sagan Tosu after joining the J-League side last year.

"I have a high demand of myself - I always want to be honest and perform at the level I think I should," said Torres, who scored Spain's winning goal in the 2008 European championships and played a key role in their 2010 World Cup triumph.

"Knowing my body and listening to my body, I think, especially mentally, that time (when I can't perform at the top level) is not far and I wanted to end my career in a good way before that happens. "I always gave everything I had and I still will give in the next two months," added Torres, whose last game will be against former Spain team mate Andres Iniesta's Vissel Kobe on August 23. Torres tweeted his retirement on Friday, saying "After 18 exciting years, the time has come to put an end to my football career."

He left Atletico last summer to play in Japan after returning to his boyhood club in 2015 but has struggled with form and injuries.

Torres, dubbed "El Nino" during his heyday, played 334 times in total for Atletico, scoring 111 goals.

He made 142 appearances for Liverpool, finding the net 81 times in his prime, before joining Chelsea where he scored 45 goals in 172 matches for the London club. Asked about the future, Torres told a news conference in Tokyo he would continue in an advisory role for Sagan, likely identifying Spanish youth players for the Kyushu club. He also did not rule out becoming a manager or coach back in Europe.

"I just need time to spend with my family and think about my next step - I don't know if it will be coaching or managing," said Torres, who named his former Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard as the best he had ever played alongside. —AFP

Squash great
Jahangir urges
Pakistan to
show WC fight

LONDON: Pakistan squash great Jahangir Khan has urged Pakistan to show grit at the World Cup, saying they have the talent to reach the semi-finals despite a string of bad results.

Jahangir, one of the finest squash players of all time, was in the stands at Lord's on Sunday to watch his side take on South Africa. "Pakistan still have a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals but for that I want them to be fighting throughout the match," he said. The 1992 champions, who came into the South Africa match with just one victory in five games, must realistically win all their remaining four ties and hope other results go their way.

Jahangir, who won 10 British Open titles and six world titles, was known for his never-say-die approach and stamina, traits that he wants to see in the Pakistan team, who scored 308-7 in their 50 overs on Sunday.

"What I have seen in the previous games was that the team lacked aggression, especially against India," said Jahangir, referring to last week's defeat against Pakistan's arch-rivals.

Pakistan went down by 89 runs in the rain-affected game, which sparked a furious reaction back home, but Jahangir said Pakistan could recover. "This team has talent so I am confident that it will bounce back as the whole nation wants them in the semi-final and then in the final," he said. Pakistan's powerful military chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa was in the stands at Lord's, along with military colleagues.

Sulaiman Khan, the son of World Cup-winning Pakistan captain and current Prime Minister Imran Khan, was also at Lord's. —AFP



LONDON: Pakistan's Haris Sohail (L) celebrates with teammate Imad Wasim after scoring a half-century while Babar Azam (R) plays a shot during the Cricket World Cup match against South Africa. —AFP

Haris, Babar boost Pakistan's
bid for World Cup survival

LONDON: Haris Sohail boosted Pakistan's bid to avoid World Cup elimination with a blistering 89 in his side's 308 for seven against fellow strugglers South Africa on Sunday.

Sohail was making just his second appearance at this year's World Cup and his dashing display at Lord's suggested he should have been involved more often. The 30-year-old, dropped following Pakistan's opener against the West Indies, made up for lost time as he demolished South Africa's beleaguered bowlers.

Hitting nine fours and three sixes in his 59-ball blitz, Sohail gave Pakistan a shot of adrenaline after Babar Azam's more sedate 60 laid the foundations.

With only one win apiece, Pakistan and South Africa both need a victory to keep alive their slender hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals via a top-four finish in the 10-team group

stage. 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.

After Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed won the toss and decided to bat first, Fakhar Zaman and Imad-ul-Haq lifted morale with a stand of 81 for the first wicket. Zaman slapped Kagiso Rabada's second ball of the match through the covers for a one-setting four.

The green-shirt-clad Pakistan fans who made up the majority of the crowd were on their feet cheering when Zaman's effortless six off Lungi Ngidi made it 44-0 from the first six overs. Zaman had a narrow escape when he slogged Chris Morris to Imran Tahir, who claimed he made the catch after running in from the boundary.

The umpires asked for a review that showed the Pakistan-

born South African's fingers were not under the ball as it hit the turf. Tahir was booed by Pakistan fans when he came on to bowl, but the leg-spinner got his revenge when Zaman attempted a bizarre scooped shot that saw him caught in the slips by Hashim Amla on 44.

Not surprisingly, Tahir's trademark celebration sprint around the pitch seemed a little more vigorous than usual.

Tahir was just getting warmed up and he produced a sublime catch off his own bowling to dismiss Imad for 44. Lunging low to pluck the ball just before it hit the ground, Tahir was ecstatic as he blew kisses to his detractors in the crowd.

Tahir's 30th World Cup scalp made him South Africa's all-time leading wicket-taker in the tournament. Mohammad Hafeez departed for 20, lbw to Aiden Markram, to leave Pak-

istan 143-3 in the 30th over.

Pakistan
Imam-ul-Haq c & b Tahir 44
Fakhar Zaman c Amla b Tahir 44
Babar Azam c Ngidi b Phehlukwayo 69
Mohammad Hafeez lbw b Markram 20
Haris Sohail c De Kock b Ngidi 89
Imad Wasim c sub (Duminy) b Ngidi 23
Wahab Riaz b Ngidi 4
Sarfaraz Ahmed not out 2
Shadab Khan not out 1
Extras: (lb, nb, w) 12
Total: (for seven wickets; 50 overs) 308
DNB: Mohammad Amir, Shaheen Shah Afridi
Fall of wickets: 1-81 (Zaman), 2-98 (Imam), 3-143 (Hafeez), 4-224 (Azam), 5-295 (Imad), 6-304 (Riaz), 7-307 (Sohail)
Bowling: Rabada 10-0-65-0 (1w); Ngidi 9-0-64-3; Morris 9-0-61-0; Phehlukwayo 8-0-49-1 (1nb, 2w); Tahir 10-0-41-2 (1w); Markram 4-0-22-1 (1w)

Toss: Pakistan
Umpires: Joel Wilson (WS) and Kumar Dharmasena (SRI)
TV Umpire: Chris Gallaney (NZL)
Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI). —AFP

Haris returns
with a bang

Khalid Hussain

LONDON: It was a critical phase in their innings for Pakistan as they looked to put on a challenging total in the must-win World Cup match against South Africa.

Senior batsman Mohammad Hafeez had just fallen to the part-time spin of Aiden Markram on the last ball of the 30th over. Pakistan were 143-3 and knew that one of their batters needed to rise to the occasion and get them past the 300-run mark to put the Proteas under pressure.

In came, Haris Sohail. The 30-year-old left-hander had been handed a raw deal before Sunday's game at Lord's. He was dropped after just one World Cup failure (he scored 8 runs in Pakistan's seven-wicket defeat against West Indies) as Pakistan persisted with the misfiring Shoaib Malik in three consecutive matches against England, Australia and India.

It was only after Malik's back-to-back naughts in defeats against Australia and India that Pakistan were finally forced to bring back the more reliable Haris.

And he made the most of the opportunity. Generally regarded as a middle-order batsman, who is more of a consolidator, Haris provided the Pakistani innings with the sort



of impetus that it was looking for following the dismissal of Hafeez.

In an impressive display of craft batting and power-hitting, Haris clobbered the South African attack for 89 runs from just 59 balls with the help of nine fours and three sixes. His knock was completely out of character something that was aptly underlined by his stunning strike rate (150.84). That's almost double his career strike rate (83.05).

Perhaps Haris had a point to prove. Pakistan had been persistently ignoring him as they favoured Malik despite a series of failures.

Why were they opting for Malik despite the fact that the veteran all-rounder was completely out of form? Ask Waqar Younis and he would tell you that fear could have been the

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New Zealand
can be WC
winners, says
McCullum

MANCHESTER: Former captain Brendon McCullum says New Zealand have the firepower to win the World Cup for the first time in their history. The Black Caps won a nail-biter against the West Indies in Manchester on Saturday to stay unbeaten at the 50-over tournament in England and Wales.

New Zealand, often labelled as underdogs, reached their first World Cup final in 2015 under McCullum after six semi-final appearances, only to lose to Australia in Melbourne.

Kane Williamson's side are almost certain of a place in the 2019 semi-finals already, sitting top of the 10-team table with five wins and a no result from six matches. "Some people say underdogs but probably they don't see New Zealand play that often. Broadcast-wise they are not seen as often as some of the other teams and hence they are out of sight out of mind thing," McCullum told AFP. "The World Cup historically for New Zealand has always been very, very good. I think we are second in most wins behind Australia in World Cup matches."

The cricketer-turned-commentator said his former side were gaining confidence after a fine start and would peak for the semi-finals.

Williamson, who replaced McCullum as captain in all three formats of the game after the veteran batsman's retirement in 2016, has led by example at the World Cup with his elegant batting. He produced another masterclass against the West Indies at Old Trafford, scoring 148 - his second successive century - as New Zealand scraped home by five runs. McCullum said, "He is a magnificent player, turned into a fine leader. He is definitely more of an elegant type of cricketer. He is almost surgeon-like. He is among the most consistent players around we talk about. (Joe) Root and (Virat) Kohli and Steve Smith, all of them are quite similar. They are very much batsmen rather than power-hitters."

McCullum believes the teams currently occupying the top four slots in the 10-team table - New Zealand, Australia, India and England - are likely to reach next month's semi-finals, though he believes all the teams have vulnerabilities. —AFP

Barty wins
WTA title to be
on top of the
tennis world

BIRMINGHAM: Ashleigh Barty became only the second Australian woman to top the world rankings when she won Birmingham WTA title on Sunday, beating Julia Goerges 6-3, 7-5.

The 23-year-old French Open champion emulates Yvonne Goolagong-Cawley, who held it for a fortnight in 1976. Barty displaces Japan's Naomi Osaka as women's world number one.

Barty showed little sign of the arm injury - the same one she had going into the French Open - which saw her pull out of the doubles on Saturday where coincidentally she was partnering Goerges. Barty saved two break points early in the first set but she made no mistake when she was offered the opportunity - Goerges putting a backhand wide to give the Australian a 4-2 lead. Barty closed out the set without further ado - the pick of her shots a delightful lob into the far corner which Goerges tried valiantly to get back but it dropped short of the net to give her a 5-2 lead.

Goerges, though, struck back in the second set, breaking Barty in her first service game and the German held her own to move into a 3-0 lead. —AFP

Kohli fined for
'excessive appealing'
against Afghanistan

SOUTHAMPTON: India captain Virat Kohli has been fined 25 percent of his match fee for "excessive appealing" in a tense World Cup victory over Afghanistan, the International Council announced on Sunday.

The star batsman has also had one demerit point added to his disciplinary record after he was ruled to have approached experienced Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar in an aggressive manner when appealing an lbw decision during the 29th over of India's nailbiting 11-run win over rank outsiders Afghanistan at Southampton on Saturday. Kohli was found to have

breached Level 1 of the ICC code of conduct, with his offence relating to the clause concerning "excessive appealing during an international match".

The India skipper admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by match referee Chris Broad, the former England batsman. As such, there was no need for a formal hearing. Victory, sealed by a Mohammed Shami hat-trick, saw India remain on course to qualify for the semi-finals from the 10-team group stage but only after bottom of the table Afghanistan threatened to produce one of the all-time great upsets. —AFP



BIRMINGHAM: Australia's Ashley Barty with the trophy after victory over Germany's Julia Goerges during the Nature Valley Classic Championship. —AFP

West Indies flatter
to deceive once again

MANCHESTER: The West Indies started their World Cup campaign in style, blowing Pakistan away to revive memories of their glory days of swashbuckling batting and fearsome fast bowling.

But, six games in, it is a familiar tale of what-ifs as the two-time former champions contemplate another failed campaign dogged by their old foe - inconsistency.

Carlos Brathwaite on Saturday exemplified West Indies' fighting spirit and impressive reserves of talent, smashing a breathtaking century to take his side agonisingly close to victory against New Zealand at Old Trafford.

But instead of completing an unlikely and glorious win, Jason Holder's team lost by five runs, effectively ending their hopes of qualifying for the semi-finals of the 50-over event.

It is a familiar scenario for West Indies sides and former paceman Ian Bishop believes the lack of time the team's core group spends together is one reason for their below-par showing in England and Wales.

"Obviously they are a talented team," Bishop told AFP. "They haven't been together for a long time, unlike teams like England, New Zealand and India, who have had a core group for a long time."

"This team hasn't had that for different reasons, whether it's injury or guys going to different leagues, which is understand-

able. So I think that has hindered preparation."

West Indies cricket went through huge upheavals after the team cut short their tour of India in 2014 due to a payment dispute between the players and the board.

Dwayne Bravo was sacked as one-day international captain and Kieron Pollard and Darren Sammy were sidelined.

The enormously talented and charismatic Chris Gayle subsequently became a "gun for hire", playing in leagues all around the world as coaches came and went.

Bishop said the changing support staff had not helped team-building - Floyd Reifer was appointed interim head coach after the sacking of Richard Pybus in April.

A change in guard at Cricket West Indies saw Ricky Skerritt succeed controversial predecessor Dave Cameron as president in March.

"There have been changes in the selection panel and things like that - change in coaches, so different philosophies have evolved over the last three or four years," said Bishop, who also called for a shake-up in Caribbean domestic cricket.

"It's not just these guys, - West Indies cricket has struggled for a fair while now in different formats at different times. In Twenty20 they are kings of the world. Some credit needs to

be given there." The West Indies witnessed an upturn in fortunes on the pitch with a shock 2-1 Test series win over England and 2-2 ODI series draw earlier this year.

But the stark truth is that the former undisputed kings of world cricket under Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards have not won an ODI series since 2014.

Remind Holder, who has been captain since 2015, of West Indies' rich legacy and the pressure it might put on the present side and he smilingly says "no pressure".

"We need to be a little bit more consistent in what we're doing," he said after the heart-breaking loss to New Zealand at Old Trafford. "But as I said before, we're really, really proud of the way the guys fought."

West Indies, world champions in 1975 and 1979, started the World Cup with a comprehensive seven-wicket win over Pakistan only to lose steam, with defeats to Australia, England and Bangladesh. But they can take heart from good individual batting performances from Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope and Brathwaite.

Pacemen Oshane Thomas and Sheldon Cottrell have also impressed with their pace and swing in English conditions and Bishop is more than happy with the talent on tap, saying many of the players are relatively inexperienced. —AFP



ALEXANDRIA: Madagascar's players celebrate their goal during the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations football match against Guinea. —AFP

Hamilton wins French GP to extend unbeaten run to 10



PARIS: Winner Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates with his trophy at the podium after the Formula One Grand Prix de France. —AFP

PARIS: Lewis Hamilton extended his championship lead and continued his relentless run of success when he scorched to an emphatic victory ahead of Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas at the French Grand Prix on Sunday.

The defending five-time champion repeated his pole-to-flag triumph of 2018 with a flawless drive to his fourth win in succession, sixth this season and 79th of his career. His victory extended Mercedes' unbeaten start to the 2019 season to eight races and their overall winning streak to 10, the Silver Arrows leaving their main rivals trailing in their wake again.

After eight of this season's 21 races, Hamilton leads the championship with 187 points ahead of Bottas on 151.

Vettel in the second Ferrari and the resurgent McLaren of Carlos Sainz.

Vettel, who started seventh after a troubled qualifying, took a late pit stop for fresh tyres and snatched fastest lap and a track record by 0.024 seconds from Hamilton in the final seconds.

Daniel Ricciardo was seventh for Renault ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Alfa Romeo and Nico Hulkenberg in the second Renault with Lando Norris finishing 10th despite hydraulics problems in the second McLaren. The race began with a track temperature of 57 degrees Celsius and an air temperature of 30, sizzling conditions that ensured a difficult afternoon for tyre-wear.

Hamilton made a smooth start with Bottas and Leclerc following him on the opening lap, the Englishman soon opening up a gap of more than a second, by the end of lap one, and 1.5 by lap three. On lap six, Vettel finally passed Norris for sixth. The British rookie responded at Signes, but Vettel resisted while Hamilton, at the front, reeled off another fastest lap. Vettel continued his progress, passing Sainz into the chicane on lap seven for fifth, 18 seconds adrift of the leader, but back in the main scrap behind him. By lap 12, Hamilton was 2.5 seconds clear of Bottas, but the Finn responded with a fastest lap of his own. —AFP



NICE, France: Norway's players celebrate their victory at the end of the France 2019 women's World Cup football match against Australia. —AFP

PCB sacks coaches Sabih, Taimoor without show-cause notices

Abdul Mohi Shah

ISLAMABAD: In an unprecedented move, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has terminated services of two leading highly qualified and most decorated domestic coaches Sabih Azhar and Taimoor Azam without mentioning any genuine reasons or without issuing them the show-cause notices.

Former first class cricketer of a caliber Sabih Azhar recently been adjudged as the top coach in evaluation process conducted by the Board. Surprisingly a month later, the best coach is now shown the door, leaving a big question mark over the PCB's evaluation system as well as its newly-adopted 'merit slogs'.

Sabih who coached KP to

title triumph in Pakistan Cup 2019 organised just prior to team's departure to England have numerous other achievements up his sleeves including coaching the team to under-19, under-17 and under-16 nationals with decent success.

It was his vision of coaching that forced the PCB make necessary adjustments in the women cricket's handling for better and affective results. Sabih helped produce number of international cricketers including Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Amir, Sohail Tanvir and Mohammad Wasim to name a few.

Sabih also coached Pakistan A, Pakistan under-19 and other junior teams with immense success. He has been the coach of Rawalpindi Division since as-

suming permanent job with the PCB in 2007.

Last year top performer in the evaluation process Taimoor Azam who also faced the PCB axe is a quality coach who helped Islamabad land different age group national titles during his 12-year association. Taimoor coached his team to back to back Pakistan Cup titles in 2016-17 and then 2017-18. His international achievements as a head coach Pakistan under 16 saw team win 4-2 against Australia recently. His success as national-16 coach came at the back of his team 5-1 win two years back.

The two along with Abdul Rehman (Peshawar) are considered as linchpins of domestic cricket coaches and have helped and groomed many

cricketers in recent times.

Their terminations has sent a wave of surprise and shock amongst cricketers, coaches and officials of the sister cities who demanded a detailed inquiry into this hasty and unjust PCB decision. All efforts to contact PCB Managing Director Wasim Khan by this scribe went fruitless.

Then SMS message to Wasim Khan was then sent to know his point of view on termination of the two.

When the PCB spokesman was contacted, he replied: "As part of the change process under way at PCB, a number of decisions have already been implemented. These further changes continue to form part of our forward planning," a PCB spokesman said.

Farzam, Noor clinch doubles title in Junaid Tennis

Our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Farzam Raja and Noor Muhammad won the open doubles final beating Muhammad Yahya and Imran Shahid in the Captain Junaid Shaheed Tennis Tournament at the 502 Workshop Tennis Club.

The pair won 6-2, 6-4 to land the title. Major General Rehan Akbar Baki was the chief guest and gave away prizes to the winners and runners up. He appreciated Director Tournament Inam ul Haq efforts for holding tournaments in the name of Shaheeds. Director Tournament thanked chief guest for taking time out of his busy schedule.

Inamul Haq also thanked Chairman Punjab Tennis Iftikhar Ahmed Rao and Secretary Rashid Malik for providing organisers with trophies, medals and tennis balls.

Inam also congratulated newly elected President PLTA Dr. Raheel Siddiqui (Secretary HEC). He also thanked PLTA official Rizwan Mashahid for providing us the tennis facility in Rawalpindi.

Mr Punjab title for Attock's Wasil

Our correspondent

LAHORE: Wasil from Attock claimed the Mr Punjab title of the B.T.E 5th Punjab Armwrestling Championship (Men & Women) here on Saturday night.

The competitions were held in sub junior, junior, youth, senior, disabled categories. Runner-up of the event was M Usman Ghani. Among the women participants the winner of was Amda Saleem.

Chief guest of the prize distribution ceremony was Bahadur Khan, chairman Pakistan Armwrestling Federation. Aqeel Javed Butt, Imran Ali Butt, Faisal Khan, Rehan, Malik Latif and Zameer Sultan were the organising officials.

Results: Sub-junior winners players: Bahwal Faisal Khan, Abdullah Sohail Butt, Usman Aqeel Butt

Men's participants: Zameer Sultan, Hafiz Rehan Arif, Usman Ghani, M. Ali, Waseem Akram, Abid Khan, Zubair, Husnain, M. Rehan, Husnain, Naveed Ashraf, Junaid, Muazzam Ali, Saad, Tayyab Amjad, Shan Gouri, Ammar Hassan, Waleed Khan, Salim Shah, Shahzad, Mustafa, Tahir Shah.

Women's: Amda Saleem, Amna Rasheed, Mehreen Khan, Sobia Ameen, Natasha Khan, Zarfa Salamat, Saba, Zainab Shaheen, Hafiza Iqra Arif, Nazish, Rohab Ashraf, Pakiza and Saman.



HALLE, Germany: Roger Federer from Switzerland poses with the trophy after he won his final against Belgium's David Goffin at the ATP tournament. —AFP

Federer crushes Goffin for 10th Halle title

HALLE, Germany: Roger Federer will head to Wimbledon in high spirits after waltzing past Belgium's David Goffin in straight sets to win a record-extending 10th title at the ATP event in Halle on Sunday.

Federer, 37, beat Goffin 7-6 (7/2), 6-1 to secure his 102nd career singles title and remain unbeaten on grass so far this season. The Swiss star is chasing a ninth Wimbledon crown in London next month as he looks to extend and defend his record of 20 career majors.

Long-term rival Rafael Nadal moved to within just two titles of Federer's record with his 12th French Open triumph earlier this month, while world number one Novak Djokovic is just five short with 15 career majors. Federer endured a rough ride in the early rounds in Halle, battling to hard-fought, three-set victories over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Roberto Bautista Agut.

Things got easier in the latter stages as he thrashed Andy Murray's new doubles partner Pierre-Hugues Herbert in the semi-finals before dispatching Goffin on Sunday.

Federer held off three break points early in the first set before prevailing in the tiebreaker.

An unsettled looking Goffin then gifted Federer the opening game of the second set with a double fault on break point.

From there, the Swiss never looked back, breaking Goffin twice more on his way to a 10th Halle title. "I thought David was actually better than me in the first 10 games," said Federer.

Goffin added: "I thought I started really well, there was great intensity in the first set.

"I had opportunities, but you have to take them against Roger. This guy is pretty good."

It is the first time Federer has reached double figures at any individual tournament.

He has triumphed eight times at both Wimbledon and the Dubai Open, and has won his home tournament in Basel on nine occasions. —AFP

Brazil skipper Alves leaves PSG

PARIS: Just hours after scoring in Brazil's 5-0 thrashing of Peru at the Copa America, Dani Alves announced he was leaving Paris Saint-Germain.

The 36-year-old right back, who is captain of Brazil, had been with the French champions for two seasons and was at the end of his contract.

Alves did not reveal where he might go, and leaves PSG as compatriot Leonardo returns as the new sporting director.

His departure also comes at a time when rumours are circulating about the future of Neymar, the world's most expensive footballer who has had an injury-hit season laced with controversy. Alves signed for PSG at the same time as Neymar, in the summer of 2017.

The Juazeiro-born player, capped 111 times internationally, previously played club football for Bahia in Brazil, Sevilla and Barcelona in Spain and Juventus.

Alves' two seasons with PSG saw him part of a team that won back-to-back Ligue 1 titles as well as League Cup and French Cup trophies in his first year. —AFP



SAO PAULO: Brazil's Roberto Firmino celebrates with teammates after scoring the team's second goal against Peru during their Copa America football tournament match. —AFP

Uruguay, Chile set for high-stakes Copa America clash

RIO DE JANEIRO: Fireworks could be in store when reigning champions Chile and record 15-time winners Uruguay meet in the Copa America on Monday at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium. It will be the fourth edition running of the oldest continental competition in international football in which the South American rivals meet and memories are still fresh of the controversy surrounding their stormy 2015 clash.

Uruguay, then the reigning champions, finished the quarter-final encounter in Santiago with nine men after Edinson Cavani and Jorge Fucile were given their marching orders in a 1-0 defeat. Cavani's dismissal was the most controversial as he received a second yellow card just after the hour mark for flicking a hand into Chile defender Gonzalo Jara's face.

Cavani, though, was left incensed as Jara had appeared to shove a finger up the forward's backside prior to his reaction, and his misdeed went unpunished. Uruguay defended doggedly after that but fell to a Mauricio Isla winner 10 minutes from time. And tempers boiled over in the final minute when Fucile was given his marching orders, sparking a mass confrontation involving players and officials from both sides.

Cavani and Jara were both hit with two-game bans over the earlier incident while Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez, who entered the field during the late melee, was suspended for three matches for insulting the referee. It wasn't the first time that Jara had been involved in a controversial sexual assault on a Uruguay player.

In 2013, he and Luis Suarez had a running battle on the pitch in a World Cup qualifier that reached its zenith when Jara touched the Uruguay forward's testicles, and received a retaliatory punch for his troubles. Jara may not be able to spark a ruckus this time around, though, as the 33-year-old is no longer a regular starter. —AFP

Haris returns with a bang

Continued from page 17

chief reason behind this selection blunder. "During important and high-pressure tournaments like the World Cup, some teams get scared and look towards experience despite having younger and better options.

"I think Pakistan felt safer having a seasoned player like Malik in the playing eleven instead of Haris despite the fact that he (Haris) was the more reliable bet.

"They probably were scared that a less experienced Haris could falter in high-pressure matches especially the one against India," Waqar, a former Pakistan captain and coach told 'The News' on the sidelines of Sunday's game at Lord's. "Pakistan are not the only side taking such decisions out of fear in this tournament," he noted. "Take the case of the Indian team. I think they are persisting with (MS) Dhoni for the very same reason. Dhoni brings in experience and that's why he is in the team despite the fact that India has better wicket-keeping options like (Rishabh) Pant."

Meanwhile, Haris showed in front of a packed Lord's ground that Pakistan could have been better placed in the World Cup had they trusted in his abilities. But, as they say, better late than never.

Modern Club Gujrat enter Fazal Cricket final

Our correspondent

LAHORE: Modern Club qualified for final of the 2nd Fazal Mahmood National Club Cricket Championship 2019 when they outplayed Gujrat XI by 8 wickets in semifinal played at Ch Zahur Elahi Stadium Gujrat.

Scores: Gujrat 20 120 for all out 31.2 (Abdullah Butt 37, Zulqar Hussain 30, Ali Raza 3 for 21, Kashif Masood Butt 3 for 29, Sarjeel Ahmed 2 for 37). Modern Club 122 for 2 in 17.1 overs (Amir Shahzad 51, Ali Raza 21, Usama Parvaiz 19, Usman Ghani 17").

Night motor rally organised

Our correspondent

LAHORE: Pakistan Motor Racing Club in collaboration with Guard Group organised an inaugural Cross Lahore Night Motor Rally 2019 in three categories on Saturday night.

In motorcycle rally, Moin Khan and Ibrahim Shah were the winners of the first two places hile Nauman Maqbool was third. Zoia Ali claimed the ladies cross rally crown with Mrs Asma Saddique was second and Reema Shahab was third.

In category D, Zafar Khan Baloch was the winner, Ameenullah Khan and Sahibzada Usman were places second and third. In B category, Zayim Magis was first, Khan Bahadar Aziz was second and Nuaman was third. In category C, Raza Saeed was first, Usman Nadeem was second and Usman Iqbal was third.

Later Ch Noor Hussain, chairman Guard Group was the chief guest of the closing ceremony and he gave prizes to the winners.

Pakistan finish 6th in Asian Beach Handball

Our correspondent

KARACHE: Former champions Pakistan finished sixth in the 12-team 7th Asian Beach Handball Championship when they went 1-2 down against Thailand in their fifth place tie at Weihai, China, on Sunday.

It was a tough clash. Pakistan took the lead when they emerged victorious in the first half 22-14. However in the second session a grueling fight was witnessed with Thailand, eventually sealing a 24-22 victory to make it 1-1. In penalty shootout Thailand kept their nerves, winning it 8-4 to finish at the fifth place. The score was 14-22, 24-22 (8-4) in favour of Thailand.

Pakistan, the winners of 2007 edition, had an unfortunate start when they went 1-2 down to Thailand in their Group B outing on June 15. The score remained 20-19, 18-23 (8-6) in Thailand's favour.

In their second league outing on June 16 Pakistan defeated Saudi Arabia 2-0 with the halves score being 16-14, 18-12. On June 17, the last edition runners-up Oman overwhelmed Pakistan 2-0 with the halves score of 13-10, 16-14. On June 19, Pakistan were downed by Iran 2-0 with the halves score of 13-10, 17-10.

On June 20, Pakistan defeated Japan 2-0, their second win, with the halves score being 23-13, 28-24. On June 21, Pakistan defeated Chinese Taipei 15-14, 19-15.

Meanwhile defending champions Qatar and Oman qualified for the final which will be held on Monday (today).

The winners will qualify for the World Beach Games which will be held in San Diego, USA, in October this year. However it is now confirmed that both the finalists Qatar and Oman have qualified for the World Beach Handball Championships which will be held in Italy next year as two spots from Asia were up for grab.

In the first semi-final Qatar defeated Iran 2-0 with halves score of 20-14, 16-10. In the other semi-final Oman outwitted Vietnam 2-0 with the halves score of 13-12, 18-16. Before the Qatar-Oman final on Monday (today) Iran will face Vietnam in the third-place outing.



LONDON: Spain's Feliciano Lopez returns to France's Gilles Simon in their men's singles final of the ATP Fever-Tree Championship. —AFP

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اگر آپ سوشل میڈیا پاکستان گروپ میں ایڈ ہونا اور مندرجہ ذیل مواد حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں

- 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۔

ابھی گروپ میں ایڈ ہونے کی ماہانہ فیس صرف 50 روپے جمع کروا کر ایڈ ہو سکتے ہیں۔
جو ہر مہینے جمع کروانا لازم ہوگی۔

فیس جمع کروانے کا طریقہ

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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