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Former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe shot dead



UAE's president accepts PM Shehbaz's invitation to visit Pakistan

Balochistan floods: Death toll rises to 57 as 4 more dead bodies found

Manan Mandokhail Abdullah Lehri Imran Sumalani Sardar M.Khondai:

QUETTA: The death toll in rains and floodsrelated incidents reached 57 as four more dead bodies were found across Balochistan on Friday. A well-placed officer at the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said most of the casualties have been reported from Quetta, Barkhan, Pishin, Kohlu, Bolan, Zhob, and other districts of Balochistan.

He requested anonymity since he was not authorized to speak to the media. Flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall played havoc in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan during the last five days.

Dozens injured in rains-related incidents

Dozens of people have suffered injuries as a result of the rains related incidents and floods. Most of the injured were admitted to the civil hospital Quetta for med-ical treatment. An emergency has been declared in all government-run hospitals located in all affected districts of the province

"Expedite relief and

t h r o u g h o u t Balochistan', Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Quddus Bizenjo directed the concerned departments. Bizenjo chaired a highlevel meeting on Friday to review the rescue and relief operation in the

province.
The floods and torrential rains have also dam-aged over 673 mud and bricked-walled houses in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan, a PDMA shared with journalists revealed on Friday. Rains have left thousands of people home-less in Quetta and other

affected districts.

Flash floods swept away bridges, roads, and dams

Flash floods have also swept away small bridges, and delay and check dams across Balochistan.

Chief Secretary Balochistan, Abdul Aziz Uqiali visited floods and rains that affected dis-tinct Pishin on Friday. Deputy Commissioner Pishin briefed CS Balochistan about the pace of rescue and relief operations in the dis-

Member Provincial Assembly (MPA), Asghar Tareen and political leaders were also present on the occa-sion. The CS directed an





inquiry into the breach-ing of various dams in the Pishin district. Floods have swept away small dams in the dis-

The passenger train was temporarily halted due to a landslide near Dozan Post in the Machh area yesterday. However, the trains were restored after the railway track was cleared by FC personnel and railway work-

ers.
Casualties were reported from Quetta, Barkhan, Dera Bugti, Pishin

Pishin

Most of the casualties
were reported from
Quetta, Barkhan, Dera
Bugti, Pishin, Zhob,
Dukki, Kohlu, Harnai,
Sibi and Lasbella.
Heavy rainfall played
havoc in Quetta's Link
Badini Road,
K har o tab ad Badini Road, K h a r o t a b a d , Pashtoonabad, Nawan Killi, Sariab Road and other poor neighbor-hoods of the city. Rains have damaged dozens of small bridges

and delay and check dams in Quetta and other parts of Balochistan. Videos of widely shared on social media show dams and bridges being swept away in floods and heavy rainfall. for their financial demanded.

missioners to assess the damages", Mir Ziaullah Langove, the Balochistan Home Minister said. He said the government was aware of the difficulties of the masses.

Pak Army FC person-nel assisting civil administration

Personnel of the Pak Army, Frontier Corps (FC) assisted the PDMA and civil administration during rescue and relief operations throughout the province. Pak Army personnel were seen rescuing the trapped people in Gwadar, Killa Saifullah, and other parts of the province.

Heavy rainfall and floods have left thousands of people homeless in Balochistan. Most people are still in desperate need of sup-"Government should practically launch relief operation should rather than words", Fazal ur Rehman, a tribal elder from Pishin said.

He said flash floods unleashed by heavy rainfall have swept away most of the bridges and small dams in the usual "Government should compensate the people for their human and financial losses", he



NEW YORK: Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN New York meeting with Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary of UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

4 killed in Dukki, Baghbana Balochistan firing incidents

Hussain Zarkoon, News Desk

At least four people were killed in two different firing incidents in Balochistan's Baghbana area of Dukki on Friday. Levies sources said armed men open fire in the Baghbana area of the Khuzdar district and killed two people on the

The attackers sped away on their motorcycle from the spot. Levies personnel reached on the spot and shipped the dead bodies to the basic health unit in Baghbana. The reason for the incident is still unknown

Also Read: Three including two women killed in Quetta firing Firing incident claims two lives

in Dukki District In Balochistan's Dukki district, unknown armed men opened fire in the Nali Rabath area and killed two people on the spot. The victims were identified as Zahoor Ahmed



s/o Abdul Qader, Asmat Ullah s/o Muhammad Essa. The belonged to a local tribe. The reason behind the incident is an old

According to Police sources, both of the dead bodies were shifted to the civil hospital in Dukki. A large number of local tribesmen reached the hospital after the arrival of the dead bodies.

Former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe shot dead

Monitoring Desk

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot dead on Friday while campaigning. He is the longest-served PM in the coun-

"Shinzo Abe was transported to (the hospital) at 12:20 pm. He was in a state of cardiac arrest upon arrival. Resuscitation was adminisarrival. Resuscitation was administered. However, unfortunately, he died at 5:03 pm," said Hidetada Fukushima, professor of emergency medicine at Nara Medical University hospital.

Abe, 67, was delivering a stump speech with security present, but spectators were able to approach him fairly easily.

NHK guoted the suspect identi-

NHK quoted the suspect, identi-fied as Tetsuya Yamagami, as telling police he was dissatisfied with Abe and wanted to kill him. He has since been taken into cus-

UAE's president accepts PM Shehbaz's invitation to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to visit Pakistan which the latter accepted with "great pleasure"

A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office said that the invitation was extended by PM Shehbaz during a telephone call with the UAE president. He had called the UAE leader to convey warm greetings to him on Eid ul Adha Web Desk

A trolley kills a coal miner in **Dukki Balochistan**

Hussain Zarkoon

A trolley killed a coal miner inside a coal mine in Balochistan's Dukki district on Friday evening Levies sources said the coal miner was working deep inside the mine when a trolley hit him. He breathed his last

on the spot. Rescue workers and fellow miners retrieved the dead body from the mine. The dead body was shifted to district head-quarters hospital Dukki. The victim was identified as Ahmed Shah, a resident of Afghanistan.

The hospital adminis-tration handed over the



Weekly inflation soars by 1.32%, PBS data shows

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation report shows an increase of 1.32% in the last week, taking the overall inflation rate to

According to details, the inflation rate in the county reaches 33.66% as the weekly inflation report shows an increase of

Data issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) show that the price of 30 essential items increased, dropping for five items while the price for 16 items remained stationary.

The price for petrol increased by 6.36%, diesel soared by 5.06 % while the price for Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) increased by 2.33%. The rates for a 2.5 kg box of Ghee increased by 1.64%, while potatoes gained by 2.57%,

the data shows.

PBS data shows that Garlic prices increased by 5.06% while prices for eggs, Yogurt, Rice, Sugar, Milk, flour and pulses also increased.

While the prices for tomatoes, onion and daal mash decreased in the last week Last week, the weekly inflation increased by 3.63 per cent during the week ended on June 30.

The SPI-based weekly inflation went up for the week ended on June 30, 2022, after registering an increase of 3.63 per cent and 32.1 per cent on-year to year

Out of 51 items, prices of 28 (54.91%) items increased, 06 (11.76%) items decreased and 17 remained items stable INP

CM Hamza Shehbaz announces remission in prisoners' sentences

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz Sharif on Friday announced one-month remission in the sentences of the prisoners across the province.

According to the notification, the government has given one remission to convicted prisoners in

their jail terms.

The remission does not apply to

The remission does not apply to those convicted for murder, espionage, anti-state activities, sectarianism, adultery, robbery, dacoity, kidnapping, culpable homicide and terrorists acts and also those undergoing sentences under the Foreigners Act, 1946.

The chief minister Hamza Shahbaz congratulated the prisoners and their families over remission in their sentences and expressed hope that the relief in jail term will improve their lives INP

have no disagreements with 'neutrals':

PTI Chairman Imran Khan Friday said he has no disagreements with the

"neutrals", questioning why should be get into a quarrel with them.

"Weakening the 'neutrals' means strengthening the enemy and only the country will suffer during this fight," he said while speaking to senior jour-

Regarding chances of him being arrested, he said that if the government wants to arrest him, they can do so. "I have no fear because I haven't crossed any red line. "Free and fair elections are the only solution to pull the country out of

the crisis," Khan said, adding that when a pro-people government will be formed only then will the economy flourish.

He said: "If I would speak to the neutrals there would be only one stance free and fair elections.

'Better to be in Opposition than to speak with PPP'

The PTI Chairman said that nobody is ready to speak to the leaders of this "imported government", asserting that he will never join hands with the "thieves" even if he has to sit on the Opposition benches. "It is better to be in the Opposition than to have a dialogue with PPP,"

Khan warned that if by-polls in 20 constituencies of Punjab are rigged,

"What do I have to do? I can wait but it is the country that will suffer," he maintained. The reference from the former premier about the man comes in the wake of PTI claims that its workers and employees have been



receiving "threatening phone calls" from certain quarters.

Separately, the party has also alleged that the Punjab government was trying to influence the polls in its favour by announcing uplift schemes. Earlier this week, PTI Secretary General Asad Umar had alleged that the PML-N had begun rigging by announcing and doing development works in 20 by-election constituencies in the province.

The ECP had suspended Hamza's plans to provide free electricity for the

poor of Punjab, terming it an attempt to influence poll outcomes A recent Dawn report characterised the high-stakes nature of these elec-tions as one which "will not only determine the outcome of the next gen-

eral elections, but are also going to decide who rules Punjab for another year or so — Hamza Shehbaz or Chaudhry Parvez Elahi". In a similar vein, Imran said at his address today that the upcoming by-

elections would decide "the future of Pakistan", urging people to defeat the incumbent Punjab government in the polls. He also called out the United States for "putting corrupt people at the helm in Pakistan" "The US never even appoints a convict as a peon, but they have made thieves rulers in Pakistan," the PTI chief thundered.

He said there was a certain man in Lahore, this one he referred to as "Mr. X", who he said was allegedly "colluding with the chief election commissioner to rig the by-elections". "I just learned today that the man's wife has been given a top post in the customs [department] which can help her generate a lot of money. But despite this rigging, we will defeat them," the former premier said. Web Desk

By Kamila Hyat

QUETTA VOICE Editor Asim Khan Balochistan needs

inclusive development

Balochistan, the country's resource-rich province is lagging behind all other provinces in terms of key social indicators including education, health, sanitation, clean drinking water etc. Mismanagement, injudicious distribution of development funds coupled with a lack of political commitments are the underlying reasons behind backwardness of the province.

Track record shows, successive governments have always launched politically motivated development schemes to please their influential supporters. Constituency, individual and political schemes always dominated the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) in every year's financial budget. Nexus among the Chief Minister's Secretariat, the Planning Development and Finance Department continue to deprive the constituencies of other lawmakers.

Opposition's constituencies were ignored

Opposition lawmakers constituencies remained ignored during last three-years of former chief minister, Jam Kamal Khan's government. Despite agitation in and outside the assembly, the opposition lawmakers were not able to force government to allocate funds for their constituencies

This is irony of fate that the mandate of the lawmakers is to frame laws since the assemblies are called legislative assemblies. But legislators are least bothered about the legislation rather they take keen interest in construction of roads, buildings etc. That's why, provincial governments prefer not to hold local bodies elections rather decentralization of development projects.

Development deficit of Balochistan is likely to be Rs. 100b

Balochistan government announced to have allocated Rs. 172 bs for the PSDP during the financial year 2021-22. However, currently the government has more than Rs. 40bs as per the statement of ruling party's Spokesman Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran. The province has already spent Rs. 40bs and it has more than 40bs for the remaining year. It means the deficit is close to Rs. 100bs.

Chief Minister Quddus Bizenjo needs to put his house in order and introduce a strict financial policy to ensure completion of development projects. The government should ensure inclusive development and end the practice of exclusive development so that this backward province could come at par with other parts of the country. Action should match

Pakistan and the future

Pakistan at the moment is attempting to crawl out of a crisis created by three and a half years of three and a half years of incompetent governance. But all of us know that the PDM government which has assumed power for an indefinite period of time will struggle to solve the problems created both due to domestic inadequacies and the international market

ket. The increase of at least Rs30 per litre of the price of petroleum demanded by the IMF after Imran Khan originally offered a subsidy on the product will make everyone's lives a little harder, a little nore difficult to sustain. This includes not just the poorest of the poor but also the salaried middle class which is of course far more reluctant to seek handouts. Creating an economic policy for Pakistan is also being complicated by the lack of consistency seen over the years and the changes which come in with every government. Across the country are scattered half finished projects begun by one government but which the next has refused to complete, instead beginning its own development plans. This

The four finance minis-ters who served under the PTI's three years in power achieved little, and the last of them, Shaukat Taien, himself said that

serves no one.

lack of planning has left the economy in a mess. It does not take an experienced expert to tell us this. There are really only a handful of ways to build up the resources Pakistan urgently needs as the millions in the country face a situation akin to slow starvation. The 50 per cent of children who are stunted and unable to reach the expected height reach the expected height for their age are proof of this. The Rs2,000 additional cash handout offered by PM Shehbaz to 14 million families may offer a minuscule amount of relief but Rs2,000 in this age of inflation vanishes quickly.

If we are to bring real benefit to people, there are only three sources from which we can add money to the exchequer, while also increasing our exports. The decision made by the PML-N to prevent the import of luxury items will really offer very little in terms of resources given the very small number of people who actually bought imported cheese, chocolate or other similar items. What we really need is to increase our exports and consider why Bangladesh for example has moved ahead of us in the export of cotton tex-tile items, a market once held by Pakistan.

The real issue however is how to add substantial resources to what we

have. We cannot cut on debt servicing given the huge debt we have accumulated and will pass on to future generations, for other reasons we cannot cut on defence - so we are left with attempting to cut back on administrative expenses. These three sectors make up the largest amounts which go out as expenditure, Cutting administration means cutting down on what is spent by minis-ters, bureaucrats and oth-ers in official positions. After all, not every offi-cial needs to drive a car with a flag or be escorted

by dozens of policemen.

They are also other huge wastages in departments which can be cut back on to help save money. After all, for many years, India, which notably until the Covid-19 crisis was faring far better economically than us and is still predicted to assume position as a world economic power in the years ahead, had no issues of pride or ego with ministers and even the prime minister riding in the tiny Marutis made in the tiny Marutis made mainly by the country itself. For us, nothing but exported luxury limou-sines or even helicopters will do. We also need to think of our country as a whole, even though it is of course a federation with each province hold-

ing considerable power. The federation needs to

order to solve the water disputes currently disrupting relations between Punjab and Sindh while Balochistan too cries out for water. These needs can only be met if we plan carefully and per-haps most importantly haps most importantly put curbs to prevent Pakistan's population reaching the anticipated mark of 380 million by 2050. This would be a disaster – perhaps a big-ger disaster than anything else.

We already lack resources to offer to the people we have. Water is people we have. Water is running shorter by the day. Pakistan now ranks among countries with increasingly severe water scarcity mainly because we have over the last seven decades polluted the abundant water we the abundant water we had and not developed programmes to conserve rainwater or devise other solutions beyond large trams, although environmentalists and water experts suggest far smaller reservoirs and other systems to harness water if necessary even from

the sea.
We know that the PDM government will not be able to manage much. In the first place, it is unlikely that the parties will hold together for long given that the alliance consists of eight groups, most with different ideologies and separate plans. If only the PML-N and PPP, the two biggest

parties in the group, stay united this alone will be a miracle. But what the PDM can do is work out a plan for the future and put it on paper. It is a wel-come sign that we are hearing more open talk from the media since the Imran Khan government departed, especially on Balochistan and its problems. Popular artists have also attempted to high-light the existence of a province that has too often been virtually forgotten and subjected to an immense amount of abuse. Families still look for loved ones who disappeared years or even decades ago and as PM Shehbaz Sharif himself said the resources of Balochistan are taken away from people and packed out to the Punjab and other provinces. This is a travesty of justice and

equity.

Efforts need to be made to draw back Balochistan into the mainstream. School textbooks often fail to highlight what other parts of the country look like or what their main. ike or what their main features are in terms of culture or production, beyond the cliched picbeyond the cliched pic-tures of children in Sindhi topis and ajrak or whatever other garment is deemed to reflect the culture of that province. This offers no real meaning and builds no real empathy for other provinces.

Accountability of the educator

Everyone who is even a little bit familiar with how governance works knows that only those systems work that can be held accountable. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. There is a dire need of checks and balances for the systems to work. Those systems that have in-built checks and bal-ances work and those systems that lack effective accountability do not work or do not work that well.

Capitalism is a highly exploitative economic system and it has historically evolved due to the value generated out of colonialism, slavery, exploitation of the labour, and changing the terms of trade in favour of the emerging capitalist class through state patronage. Capitalism still works through the exploitation of the peripheral regions of the world, labour exploitation, exploitation of the free environmental commons, imperial wars and

imperial proxy wars However, capitalism is also dynamic, productive, and has in-built correcting mechanisms. It has an automatic feedback loop So, when there is no demand for a certain commodity, that commodity or market for those commodities perishes and new commodities, markets, and technologies take over Capitalism works on market demand and supply signals. It minimizes the red tape of bureaucra-cies and inefficiencies.

That is why capitalism

has survived as an eco-nomic system for the past few centuries and periphcapitalism even thrives in developing countries like Pakistan. There have been many endogenous and exogenous shocks to capitalism in the last few centuries and these shocks are inbuilt in the way capitalism functions and they will continue to take place till a better economic system replaces capitalism. Maybe the Chinese and Southeast Asian countries' state capitalism will replace the unbridled free market capitalism in this

However, capitalism has survived as an economic system because it is dynamic, productive, and has an in-built accounta-bility feedback loop. The planned economic system collapsed with the fall of the USSR because it was an inefficient system and did not have an in-built loop. feedback Chinese and Southeast Asian countries' state-led successful and needs to be studied more to learn lessons for the development of countries like Pakistan.

However, the success of the Chinese and East Asian Tigers state-led capitalism has been that their states and bureaucracies had ample state capacity and they have guided the private sector and continue to guide the private sector, but they have ultimately let the private sector to lead by carefully monitor-

ing and calibrating it. Even the public sector and the local governments in China work on the basis of a competitive model of capitalism; and that is why they have been successful

In short, you need state capacity to plan, guide, calibrate, implement, monitor, provide incen-tives, punish in the case of non-delivery but you also need accountable systems that change their market behaviour on the basis of the laws of demand and supply and feedback loop supply and feedback loop in-built in the system. Peripheral capitalism works its way through caste, gender, ethnic, and local and regional net-works. There is enough political economy litera-ture that has analysed and researched what is written researched what is written The literature on educa-

tional outcomes in Pakistan both by the national Idara Taleem-o-Agahi (ITA) and research by Harvard academic Asim Ijaz Khwaja and his co-authors shows that educational outcomes for children are better (even if marginally) in the private schools in Pakistan than the public schools even by using fewer financial resources that the public sector. This set of research on educational outcomes does not refer to elite pri-vate schools in the urban areas necessarily whose educational outcomes are bound to be better than the resource-crunched public sector. This research refers that have opened up in every nook and corner of urban areas including the urban slums and also in the rural areas in the more developed provinces of

the country.

And one of the possible explanations for better educational outcomes for low-fee private sector schools could be that these schools are more accountable to their customers; parents, neighbourhoods, and communities. Despite the fact that teachers in public-sector schools have received more education and training and they are paid more than the teachers who teach in low-fee private schools; the educational outcomes for children are still marginally better even in the low fee private-sector schools compared to the public schools because of less teacher absenteeism, bet-ter motivation, and better accountability.

We refer International Growth Centre (IGC)'s Policy Brief on Educator Brief Accountability by Saher Asad et al, 2020 in this article today to take this debate forward. The IGC research team conducted a randomized control trial (RCT) in 240 rural pri-mary schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) during the education year in 2017-18. The learning levels are low for children in Pakistan, and they are even lower in KP com-

pared to Punjab.

The government of KP wanted to reform the

By Foqia Sadiq Khan

accountability system of educators. It wanted to link the educator promotions to performance rather than seniority (that is the prevalent system) The RCT of the IGC research evaluated two criteria: it linked teachers' promotion to the teachers and their students' per-formance, and it linked the head teacher's promotion to the head teacher and their subordinate teachers'

performance. The research team of the IGC found out that there has been no signifi-cant impact on the learn-ing levels of students or performance of educators during this RCT and the reform process. According to the authors, "This may be due to 'system incoherence' - the accountability relationships created for educators and district officials were not sufficiently aligned around improving learning because of design constraints but also seri ous implementation challenges."In the policy rec ommendations of this pol war. icy brief, the researchers state that changing district officials' mindset is difficult and it is not easily possible to make it more pro-accountability and oriented towards a perform-ance-based rewards system. The inspection system of the education department has low incentives and low stakes therefore, incentives and stakes for the inspection

very

Putin's goals By Leonid Ragozin

he last of the Ukrainian defenders in the port city of Mariupol surrendered at the

Azovstal plant on Friday. The fact that at least half of them belong to the Azov regiment, created by far-right militants in 2014, offers the Kremlin a chance to claim major progress with regards to

progress with regards to one of the officially declared goals of its war on Ukraine – the 'denazifica-tion' of the country. Inevitably, the Russian propaganda machine is now excitedly parading all the tattoos and patches on the uniforms of the surrenthe uniforms of the surrendering Ukrainian soldiers, which betray the far-right sympathies of their bear-ers. In violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, pro-Kremlin outlets are circu-lating videos of POWs, who are being forced to strip and expose their tat-toos for the cameras of propagandist TV channels. Filming POWs, including scenes of their interrogation and torture, is practised by both sides in this

Officials in both Russia and Russian-backed unrecognised statelets in eastern Ukraine are now calling for a trial of Azov fighters. Right at the end of the Azovstal siege, the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office appealed to the Supreme Court to declare the Azov regiment a terrorist organisation. This would potentially allow Russia to try the members of Azov in its territory terrorists. Alternatively, the Kremlin

could stage that trial in the Donetsk and Luhansk statelets, which - unlike

Russia itself – practise cap-ital punishment.

The Russian effort to highlight Ukraine's trou-bling tolerance of the far right would be more con-vincing if Russia itself weren't coopting them as well. The infamous well. The infamous Wagner Group, a private army that now fights on the Donbas front near the town of Popasna, for example, includes the Rusich unit, which is made up of open neo-Nazis from St

Petersburg, But such facts are virtually unknown to the Russian public, so with the help of its massive propa-ganda machine, the Kremlin will be able to tick off the goal of "denazification" as achieved, given that Azov is by far the most symbolic example of Ukraine's controversial controversial relationship with the far But what about the other goals?While many in the

West seem to think that Putin aims to occupy the whole of Ukraine, Russia's territorial expansion goals officially declared at the start of the operation are not nearly as ambitious.
They boil down to estab-lishing control over the entire territories of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine, which Russian-backed separatists have only partially con-trolled since 2014.

This is a rather daunting task in military terms because it involves taking over the best-fortified areas of Ukraine, which have been carefully preparing for this battle for seven years.

The Russian progress in Donbas has been steady so far, but very slow. The Russians are now close to establishing full control of Luhansk region, but Ukraine's strongholds in Donetsk region will be a

much harder nut to crack.

In terms of selling the war to the jingoist part of Russian society, any Ukrainian territory outside of Donetsk and Luhansk claimed by Russia is just a bonus. The Kremlin does not need to obtain any territory outside Donbas to convince its support base that it achieved its goals and declared victory.
The fall of Mariupol to

the Russian military repre-sents one of these bonus achievements. Russia now has a land corridor to Crimea, which it occupied in 2014. On top of that, it has ended Crimea's water and power blockade, maintained by Ukraine all those years. The freshwater canal connecting the Dnieper River to the arid Crimean Peninsula is now in Russia's hands. So is a nuclear power station to the north of the peninsula, not to mention the power rrid in southeastern Ukraine which can be now connected to Russia

Only historians looking into the Kremlin archives, years or decades from now will be able to reveal the details of Putin's original plan for Ukraine. For now, all we know is

that the first stage of the war included an ill-fated march on Kyiv and a failed attempt to encircle Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv. Was it a part of the plan for a broad occupation or a way of dis-tracting Ukrainian.

Inescapable facts

Israel's coalition government of right-wing Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is on the verge of collapse, which is unsur-prising. Israeli politics, after all, is among the most fractious in the world, and this particular coalition was born out of the obsessive desire to dethrone Israel's former Benjamin

Netanyahu While Netanyahu was successfully ousted in June 2021, Bennett's coalition has been left to contend with the painful reality that its odd political components have very little in common.

On April 6, Israeli law-maker Ildit Salman defected from the coalition, leaving Bennett and his temporary allies wrangling with the fact that their Knesset (Israel's Parliament) coalition no longer has a majority. Now that the Knesset count stands at 60-60, a single defection could potentially send Israelis back to the voting which has been

quite habitual recently. Two current Bennett allies, Abir Kara and Bir Orbach, are possible defectors. Even Bennett's old Bayit Yehudi (Jewish Home) partner, Ayelet Shaked, could ultimately betray him, once his coalition ship begins sinking. And it is. Both Bennett and

Shaked left the Jewish Home in 2018 to form Yamina. Although the latter won only seven seats in the March 2021 elections, the far-right party proved to be the king-maker, which allowed the anti-Netanyahu coalition to be formed. The only alternative to this current coalition would have been a government in which Netanyahu and Bennett would alternate the prime minister post. Though Bennett is a pro-tegé of Netanyahu, the current prime minister knew too well that his former boss cannot be trusted. So, instead, Bennett opted to join a hotchpotch

coalition of political des-perados, each joining an unlikely government for simply having no other option. For example, Yesh Atid (17 seats), and Kahol Lavan (8 seats), once part of the Blue and White center-right coalition, betrayed their political base by joining far-right Yamina and, consequently, leaving behind Telem of Moshe Yalon, which now has no Knesset representation.

The same can be said of Labor (7 seats) and Meretz (6 seats) who, earlier, were the backbone of the Israeli political establishment – in 1992 they had 56 seats combined. Losing faith in their own political base.

their own political base, they opted to join their supposed ideological nemesis, instead of enduring the painstaking process of breathing life into a dying camp

The captivating part of the story is the United Arab List of Mansour Abbas, which is rightly perceived to have betrayed its Arab base in Israel and its own Palestinian people every-where else. As the Israeli army is cracking down on Palestinian communities

Palestine, including Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Naqab – Mansour Abbas' own base – this strange political creature remains committed to Bennett, though nervous about future possibilities, espe-cially that the nature of the Israeli attacks on Palestinians are increas-ingly shifting towards a religious war. religious war.

Consequently, it is hard to imagine that Bennett's government could realis-tically survive till 2025. In fact, it is quite rare in Israeli politics that any government coalition has served its full four-year term. Still, Israel's his-toric political instability is worsening. In fact, Bennett's government is the outcome of an agoniz-ing political process that saw Israeli voters cast their votes in four differ-ent general elections in two years.

Perhaps, what is keep-ing Bennett's coalition together, though precariously, is the menacing image of Netanyahu, the current opposition leader, sinisterly watching from across the Knesset aisles while waiting for the right opportunity to pounce. Some Israeli analysts even argue that the defection of MK Salman was largely instigated by the abuse and intimidation she received from Netanyahu's Likud party, which saw her as a traitor to their right-wing agen-da Regardless of the fate of Bennett's government, Israel's political crisis will continue indefinitely, and there are reasons for this.Though the Israeli right has dominated the

country's politics for

many years, especially since 1996, it remains fractious and opportunistic. The constant need to feed the insatiable appetite of the country's powerful right-wing constituency keeps pushing Israel's right-wing parties further to the right. They are merely united around such values as the racial and religious supremacy and religious supremacy of Israeli Jews, their hate for Palestinians and Arabs, the desire to expand the illegal Jewish settlements and the rejection of any mediated solution that would provide Palestinians with their basic human rights.

their basic human rights.

The left in Israel is, frankly, not a left at all. It s recognized as such, largely because of its peace-process legacy, which died with the assassination of Labor Minister Yitzhak Rabi, in Tellingly, Rabin was not a peacenik but one of Israel's most militant and violent leaders. However, the erroneous association, linking any Israeli leader with the 'peace process', automat-ically classified that individual as a 'leftist'. According to Israeli ana-lyst Oz Aruch, this also applied to Ariel Sharon. The name of the late notorious Israeli prime minister and Army General is associated with the Sabra and Shatila massacre, along with other horrific enisodes

Without a real ideology and without a 'peace process', or even the desire to engage in one, the Israeli left has become irrelevant.

The same applies to the

By Ramzy Baroud

system should increased. The

bureaucratic.

center which, by definition, is the political camp that occupies the space between the right and the left. With the right being in constant redefinition and the left having no strong ideological base, the Israeli center has proven equally hopeless. The outcome of the April 2019 elections, when the center coalition Blue and White obtained 35 seats should have been a watershed moment for Israel' political center. This ulti-mately culminated to nil and eventually led to the collapse of Blue and White itself.

While this is taking place in Israel, the Palestinian body politic has been slowly reani-mating. Though mating. Though Palestinian Arab parties in Israel remain divided, and Palestinian groups in the occupied territories are yet to find their common ground, Palestinian communities, especially the younger generations, have been articulating a new political discourse With grassroots leaderships, they are coordinating their actions from occupied Jerusalem to Gaza, to the Naqab to the West Bank and to Palestinian communities in Israel itself. For the first time in many years, Israel finds

many years, israel finds itself in a position where it is no longer the only party that is shaping events or determining outcomes in the country. Therefore, Israeli politi-cal instability will wors-en. Contrastingly, Palestinians are finally Palestinians are finally becoming a factor in Israeli politics and,

Inequality and hunger

eginning on May 24, the W o r I d Economic Forum is gath-ering in Davos, Switzerland for an in-per-son meeting, discussing the global tax system and financial inclusion. Thanks to protests and new research, however, participants will not be participants will not be able to avoid the elephant in the room: the surging inequality of wealth during the pandemic.

As the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) and Inequality org have documented over the last two years of a clobal pandam.

years of a global pandemic, billionaire assets have surged while millions lost their lives and livelihoods A new report from Oxfam dramatizes how hundreds of millions of people around the world have slid further into poverty during this time period. In a detailed examination of the food and agriculture industry. Oxfam found that billionaires in that industry saw their wealth increase by \$382 billion during the pandemic. An emergency windfall tax on their wealth increase alone (to say nothing of their pre-pandemic billions) could end world hunger and double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farm-

ers.
In January, an analysis by the Fight Inequality Alliance, Institute for Policy Studies, Oxfam, and the Patriotic Millionaires found that an annual wealth tax starting at just 2 percent for those at just 2 percent for those

with more than \$5 million, 3 percent for those with over \$50 million, and up to 5 percent for billion-aires could generate upwards of \$2.52 trillion a year. That's enough to lift 2.3 billion people out of poverty, fund vaccines for everyone in the world, and deliver universal health-care and social protections for all the citizens of lowand lower-middle-income countries.

A group of over 150 millionaires released a strong statement calling on Davos attendees to face the dangers of runaway wealth inequality and speak out in favor of national efforts to levy progressive income and wealth taxes on the ultra-wealthy. "The truth is that 'Davos' doesn't deserve the world's trust right now," the statement reads. "For all the countless hours spent talking about making the world a better place, the conference has produced little tangible value amidst a torrent of self-congratulations."

self-congratulations."
"Until participants acknowledge the simple, effective solution staring them in the face - taxing the rich - the people of the world will continue to see their so-called dedication to fixing the world's prob-lems as little more than a

performance." The letter is signed by actor and activist Mark Ruffalo, as well as sup-porters of the In Tax We Trust movement including Abigail Disney, Morris Pearl, and Nick Hanauer. These millionaires delivered the In Tax We Trust

By Chuck Collins letter directly to the World Economic Forfum offices in New York and Geneva, and attended pro-taxation demonstrations at the out-

skirts of the elite com-pound in Davos itself.

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Hajj-e-Akbar: PM prays for Ummah's unity, Pakistan's prosperity

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated the pilgrims of Hajj-e-Akbar and prayed for the blessings of Allah Almighty upon the Muslim Ummah and Pakistan.

Pakistan.

In a message on Twitter, he appealed to the fortunate pilgrims performing the Hajj-e-Akbar to offer special prayers for the humanity and seek forgiveness from miseries.

PM Sharif said it was the blessed occasion to

the blessed occasion to pray for the prosperity

of mankind and its deliverance from epi-demics and diseases. He prayed to Allah Almighty for the free-dom of the occupied Palestine and Kashmir to save the oppressed

to save the oppressed people.
"May Allah Almighty bring Pakistan out of its debt situation with the blessings of Hajj-e-Akbar and grant us economic self-reliance," he said. He also urged the nation to offer special prayers for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs.

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the blessed occasion to pray for the prosperity of mankind and its deliverance from epidemics and diseases. He prayed to Allah Almighty for the freedom of the occupied Palestine and Kashmir to save the oppressed people INP

country. Government is

also focusing on renew-able sources of energy to

make access to energy affordable.

attordable.

The exploration of alternate and renewable sources of energy will also help ensure energy security and sustainability, he added.

For example accomplete the second security and sustainability and sustainability and sustainability and sustainability accomplete the second secon

For example, con-

sumers are using solar panels on a small scale without the support of the

government, which should allocate funds out

of the subsidy allocation

Therefore, Musadik Masood Malik explained

the PM constituted a task force on solar energy ini-tiatives with a vision to

promote sustainable and green energy. Members of the task force included

officials from different ministries and depart-ments. Under the initia-

tive, the government is working on a comprehen-

sive solar energy package comprising tax waivers and concessionary loans for consumers in a bid to

overcome the prolonged power outages that have stalled life in the country

The solar package will also include a short-term plan for shifting govern-

ment offices to solar ener-

gy. It involves prepara-tion of a plan for helping small consumers.INP

Musadik

in the budget.

Utilisation of indigenous resources key to solving energy crisis: Minister

ISLAMABAD: "We should focus on all the energy resources that can be produced on our land," said Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik while tak-ing to Gwadar Pro, adding that utilisation of adding that utilisation of indigenous resources is the key to solving Pakistan's energy crisis over the long haul.

According to Gwadar Pro, Pakistan's energy

sector is again hanging in balance due to inefficiencies, burgeoning circular debt, massive depend-ence on imported fossil fuels, and the rise in global fuel prices. It's not the first time that Pakistan was stuck in an energy crisis. What is worse, it is fac-

ing high power shortages after the demands owing to the summer months have increased rapidly as compared with the total

electricity generation.
"Energy security is essential because the kind of disruption we have seen is a potential threat to our economic well-being. Exploration of the more indigenous and renewable resources is the key to energy securi-ty," pinpointed Pakistan ty," pinpointed Pakistan Economic Survey 2021-

Responding to this, the minister said, "The prob-

lem we are facing in Pakistan at the moment is that we have to import fuel on which most of our power plants run. This import puts a heavy burden on our treasury, on our external sector, and also on the rupee which

depreciates."

That is why the government is considering a fundamental transforma-tion of the energy system to achieve sustainable

development. That remains to be tested, though As per the Survey, historically Pakistan's economic growth is constrained by bottlenecks in the energy sector. Pakistan's energy requirements are increasing and demand for energy in the coming decades will rise substantially.

Energy demand on this scale will put increasing pressure on energy resources and distribution networks. This is unsustainable without a fundamental transformation of mental transformation of the energy system. Dependency on the dominant fossil energy resources, especially oil

The minister noted that the government has been endeavoring to bring in transformational changes in power system by exploring alternate sources of energy in the

HAJJ 2022: Pakistani pilgrims to undergo Covid test upon return

QUETTA: Vendor displaying coal to attract customers along roadside.

KARACHI: Pakistan's health ministry has decided to conduct a rapid antigen test at the airports to detect COVID-19 in the Hajj pilgrims upon their return to the country.

The national health ministry has directed the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to submit details of the pilgrims. The DG CAA has been asked to appoint its officials along with the personnel of the with the personnel of the Airport Security Force (ASF) to conduct rapid antigen tests

at the airports.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims from around the world converged in Maidan-e-Arafat on Friday to perform the Rukn-e-Azam of Haii "Wagoofe-Arafat" Hajj "Waqoof-e-Arafat" which marks climax of the

Hajj.
The worshippers, capped at one million including 850,000 from abroad, spent the night at camps in the valley of

On Friday comes the high-light of the Hajj: ascending Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) delivered his final sermon.

The pilgrims will listen the Hajj Sermon at Masjid-e-Nimrah while staying in Arafat on Friday Dr Al Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al Issa will deliver the sermon Worshippers will pray and recite the holy Quran for several hours at the mountain and sleep nearby After Azaan-e-Maghrib, the pilgrims will leave for Muzdalifah where they will offer Maghrib and Isha prayers together and spend the night under open sky. From Muzdalifah, pil-grims will also collect peb-bles to throw at Satin the next

morning.

After offering Fajr Prayer at
Muzdalifah, they will leave
for Mina for remaining Hajj
rituals. The Hajj is a once-ina-lifetime duty for all Muslims physically and financially able to make the

This year's hajj is taking place against the backdrop of a resurgence of Covid-19 in the region. All participants were required to submit proof of full pareitation and research of full vaccination and nega-tive PCR tests.INP

Utility stores to remain open on Eid-ul-Azha

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to keep utility stores open on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

According to details, utility stores across the country would remain open on the three days of Eid-ul-Azha. The step has been taken to provide relief to the poor class and the sid feet utiles.

amid the eid festivities, a spokesperson said.

They added that officials would ensure the supply of all essential items at stores. People would not face any difficults in purchasing assential. ficulty in purchasing essential items at subsidised rates. Moreover, on June 28, the

submit a copy of your CNIC to shop at a utility store. According to details, the one-time password system has also been discontinued to shop at utility stores. The shoppers do not have to submit a copy of the CNIC to shop at any utility store from now on.

The shoppers will only have to show their original CNIC at the counter to buy subsidized items at the utility store. Shoppers will receive a confirmation message on a mobile number registered under their name.

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Shoppers will receive a confirmation message on a mobile number registered under their name.

Moreover, on June 28, the federal government on Sunday announced to abolish the need to submit a copy of your CNIC to shop at a utility store. According to details, the

one-time password system has also been discontinued to shop at utility stores. The shoppers do not have to submit a copy of the CNIC to shop at any utility store from now on.

The shoppers will only have to show their original CNIC at the counter to buy subsidized items at the utility store. Shoppers.INP

UK envoy wishes happy Eid with message of environment protection

ISLAMABAD: In a video mes-sage uploaded Friday on his Twitter handle, British High Commissioner in Pakistan Christian Turner wished happy Eid to Muslims all over the world with a message to protect environment and fight climate change. "Assalam-u-Alaikum friends!

Assaum-u-Affakum Tielius: Today, I am very happy that I am back in the Northern Areas, in the beautiful mountains. I am absolutely delighted to be back here in the Northern Areas—one of the most beautiful landscapes in

Pakistan where I am trekking with my family and friends and enjoy-ing all that it has to offer," he said. "But as I see the rising flood waters, the melting glaciers, I know we must work ever hard to protect our environment, to fight climate change and protect our communities. Our world is our responsibility. Wherever you are this Eid, happy Eid to you from me," he wished happy Eid.INP

Bird strikes: Operations suspended at Lahore airport during 5-8 am

LAHORE: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has banned flight

Authority (CAA) has banned flight landings and takeoffs from 5-8 am at the Lahore Airport to avoid bird strikes, ARY News reported.

According to details, the CAA issues a notum to ensure safe air travel at the Lahore airport after over 30 incidents of bird strikes with planes in the last few weeks. All takeoff and landing on the Lahore Airport between 5-8 am will be banned from July 11, 2022, the notum said. According to a spokesperson of CAA, all domestic and international will have to comply with the policy. The ban tic and international will have to comply with the policy. The ban will be in place for two months and all authorities have been ordered strictly to comply with the policy, a CAA spokesperson added. Only flights in an emergency would be allowed to land at the Allama Lobal International the Allama Iqual International Airport during the two-month peri-od, they added. The number of birds has increased drastically due to the start of monsoons. The CAA to the start of monsoons. The CAA has also initiated an awareness campaign regarding flight safety. PIA has changed its flight schedule to comply with the new policy. As many as 48 planes of foreign and national airlines had been affected by bird strikes from January 2022 to May 2022, and several of them. to May 2022, and several of them were damaged causing huge finan-cial losses to the airlines.INP



QUETTA: People buying goats on the eve of Eid ul Azha.

Khursheed Shah asks Imran to quit politics after ex-NAB chief scandal

Federal and Minister for Water Sved Resources Khursheed Shah on Friday demanded of PTI Chairman Imran Khan to leave politics after the emergence of harassment scandal of a woman by the

former NAB chairman. In his reaction to the former NAB chairman scandal, Khursheed Shah said the head of entire nation bowed in shame after learning that the vic-tim woman, Tayyaba Gul, was kept in the PM House during the tenure of previous government. He demanded of former prime minister Imran Khan to immediately step down as PTI chairman.

"Imran has no right to take part in politics after this serious allegation. First, he should face the transparent investigation. State is like a mother and the importance of PM House is like a shelter home for the daughters of the nation," the minister

"What would be the biggest allegation other than this to soil the name of the state and country's

rine state and country's politics," he added. Khursheed Shah said that it was so shameful to make the PM House a harassment centre for the daughters of the nation. He said it had been transpiring that Imran allegedly kept Tayyaba Gul at PM House blackmail former NAB chairman Javed Iqbal. "The former

crossed every limit to victimize his political oppo-nents," he said lamenting that it's so pitiful that Imran gave State of Medina example to the victim woman in this loathsome case.

He demanded of all the investigation agencies and parliament to reach the bottom of this scandal at

former NAB chairman scandal, Khursheed Shah said the head of entire nation bowed in shame after learning that the vic-tim woman, Tayyaba Gul, was kept in the PM House during the tenure of previ-ous government. He demanded of former prime minister Imran Khan to immediately step down as PTI chairman.

"Imran has no right to take part in politics after this serious allegation. First, he should face the transparent investigation. State is like a mother and the importance of PM House is like a shelter home for the daughters of the nation," the minister held."What would be the biggest allegation other than this to soil the name of the state and country' politics." politics," he added. Khursheed Shah said that it was so shameful.INP

federal government on Sunday announced to abolish the need Kashmiris observing

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris are observing the 6th mar-tyrdom anniversary of popular youth leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani as Resistance Day, today. Burhan Wani, along with two other associates, was killed by Indian troops during a fake encounter in

Wani's 6th anniversary as Resistance Day today

Kokernag area of Islamabad district on this day in 2016, said a report released by the KMS, today.

It said Burhan Wani is the face of Kashmiris' resistance against India's illegal occupation and the people of Kashmir will continue his mission as he lives in the hearts of the Kashmiri people. The report said that India martyred Burhan Wani but thousands of Burhans emerged, adding that India could snatch Burhans physi-cally, but it can't kill the freedom sentiment of the Cashmiri people It said Burhans will keep on coming till Kashmiris achieve freedom from Indian tyranny and the people of Kashmir will keep on treading martyr Burhan Wani's path till freedom from India The report main-tained that Burhan Wani will continue to inspire the Kashmiris in their struggle against occupation. Burhan Wani was an ardent supporter of J&K's accession to Pakistan, it said. The Kashmiri people love their heroes and will not let martyrs' blood go in vain, the report said, adding that India must read the writing on the wall as it cannot subdue the Kashmiris' passion for freedom INP

Shehbaz' family behind solar agency conundrum, says Sh Rashid

ISLAMABAD: While denouncing recent increase in electricity tariff by Rs9 per unit, former interior minis-ter and Awami Muslim League Chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has said that the government has fully entrapped in the IMF web harbingering that country is heading towards default.

The former minister was of the view that the real face behind the solar agency commission was the Shehbaz Sharif family. He held that Pakistan had

become the most expensive country of the world.
In his tweets posted on Friday, Sh Rashid said: "The government has entrapped in the IMF web. 400 textile mills have been shut down. The country is going to default. Electricity has become more expensive with Rs9 per unit hike in its price. The real face behind the commission of solar agency is that of Shahbaz Sharif family. Their agenda is: trade with India, friendship with Israel and giving permission for drone bases.

"Inflation has risen by 31% and interest rate has gone up by 15%. Who will invest here now? Ministries are

on sale nowadays. Money launderers have become rulers. The loot market is on. People are dying of hunger. Gravediggers are watching the spectacle. The election will be decisive. The next 45 days will decide about democracy and government." INP

QUETTA: Blacksmith busy in sharpening knives to be used in slaughter sacrificial animal on Eid ul Azha.

Much-awaited World Games declared open at an impressive ceremony

BIRMINGHAM: The 11th edition of The World Games 2022 was declared open by Mayor Randall Woodfin in front of around 27,000 spectators at the Protective Stadium on Thursday night. "Tonight, we make history together. In the name of unity," Mayor Woodfin said in his welcome message.

said in his welcome message.

José Perurena, President of the
International World Games Association
(IWGA) said in his speech: "Our athletes will be a beacon of hope in a world often torn apart by intolerance and hatred.

The impressive opening ceremony referring to the history of the city and its expectations for the future was the perfect start for the biggest international sport event ever held in Alabama. It is the first world-wide multi-sport event since the start of the pandemic that has

spectators in the stands During the next ten days, they will witness 3,600 athletes from 104 coun-tries competing in 34 sports to become The World Games Champion in one of 223 medal events. However, Thursday was the day to celebrate the unity of The World Games Family IWGA President José Perurena spoke in his speech of the special challenges for the organizers, but also for the athletes, to celebrate this family reunion: "The global pandemic has affected us all, and continues to affect us. We have had to delay the Games by a year and put in place many

additional measures. The Organizing Committee, the public authorities, the medical staff and the people of Birmingham have risen to the challenge,

enabling us all to be here today."

He addressed the athletes in his speech directly: "You are the lucky ones who have overcome all the challenges and endured so much uncertainty to get here. You have the honour and responsibility to be the ambassadors of your countries and your sports.

José Perurena also took the opportuni-ty to point out the importance of the event in challenging times: "The World Games must serve as bridge-builders. The only walls you will see here in Birmingham are those used by our wall-climbing athletes." Mayor Randall Woodfin also put the multi-sport event in a larger context: "We're ready to put the world on notice: Birmingham is here, and we're ready once again to change the globe. Over the past few years, our world has seen so much division. From global pandemics to political strife, and to social unrest. But as I look out into this crowd, what I see is a world united, right here in Birmingham. Our ancestors greatest dreams. The show programme under the title "Witness History" took up these motifs. Through the creative vision of Executive Producer Rashada LeRoy and the crevision of Executive ative mechanics of Artistic Director Dr. Henry Panion.INP

diseases through technolog-Khan said that Pakistan is Zones Authority Chairman vessels and nerves noninvasively, thus by observ-Amer Hashmi, ex-Surgeon ranked among the countries ical intervention. General of Pak Army, Lt-Gen (r) Asif Mumtaz Sukhera, Health Services Academy VC Prof Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, former Initiating research evi-dence-based interventions ing the subtle changes of having high alert of genetic disorders, adding that majorly the increased inciblood vessels and nerves on for genetic diseases in the retina, people can glimpse the clues of more than 200 common chronic dence and prevalence of the genetic disorders are associ-Pakistan will open another dimension of trade i.e. Pakated with lack of pre-natal Ambassador to China Ms China Health Corridor. diseases. The application of At the meeting, Yang Yaquan, representative of Naghmana A Hashmi, Advisor to GoP on Health Al technology has made this test, which has a solid testing facilities in the coun-Faced with the increasmedical theoretical founda-tion, more efficient and accessible, making large-Dr Ghazna Khalid, and numerous other profession-Airdoc's overseas business department, gave a keynote speech on "Artificial Intelligence Solutions for Early Screening of Chronic ingly serious disease burden als from public health sector in Pakistan, advanced medical technology is an inevitable solution at pres-One of the major objecscale early screening of chronic diseases possible. ent." Experts such as Ms Hashmi, former Pakistani ambassador to China,

ISLAMABAD: People gather at Faizabad bus stand to go back home ahead of the Muslim festival Eid al-Adha or the 'Festival of Sacrifice, in Federal Capital.

China-Pak medical AI coop to boost local chronic disease screening

agreed that pre-marital test-

ing and counseling in Pakistan's health care sys-

tem will effectively relieve

the heavy burden of genetic

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan medical AI cooperation to boost local chronic disease screening, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

Lately, at the first inter-national "Medical Conference and Exhibition for Next Generation Healthcare" held in Islamabad, Chinese medical Al leader Airdoc Technology and Pakistan's well-known medical device import and distribution company Dynamic Medical Company (DMC) officially signed a cooperation agreement to work together to promote the application of Airdoc retinal imaging AI products in Pakistan.

Special

Technology

tives of this conference was sensitizing the participants, the general public and the government to hereditary or genetic disorders, its timely diagnosis and available

In his speech HAS VC Dr

treatments.

Diseases", introducing that a series of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, coronary heart disease has a genetic predisposition. The retina is the only part of the human body that can directly observe blood

The reporter learned that Airdoc will promote a portable fundus camera in Pakistan, which looks like a VR glasses, is very convenient to carry, and can be driven by ordinary power banks.INP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can boost cotton production by adopting Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt), a genetically-modified pest-resistant plant, which contains genes that make the plant resist the cotton bollworm complex, according to WealthPK.

Pakistan remained the fourth largest producer of cotton in the past, but in the last few years it has experienced a decline in production because of climate change effects and different biotic stresses.

Talking to WealthPK, an expert from Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, said, "Pakistan should adopt

Talking to WealthPK, an expert from Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, said, "Pakistan should adopt Bt cotton to increase production and decrease crop losses. The biggest advantage of Bt cotton is that it is resistant to insect pests and is a deterrence to harmful pests such as cotton bollworms."

"Bt cotton is one of the highly genetically-modified cotton varieties produced through biotechnology that has improved cotton production the world over," the agriculture expert said while requesting not to be named. "Cotton is Pakistan's cash crop as it contributes significantly to the country's economy. After China, US and India, Pakistan is the fourth largest producer of cotton," he explained.

The agriculturist said: "Cotton crop confronts numerous challenges as it is in competition with other crops, particularly sugarcane, and its cultivation area and production are decreasing with time."

He informed WealthPK that cotton crop was grown on 2,079 hectares in 2020-21 compared to 2,517 hectares



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik addressing a press conference.

NEPRA approves another power tariff hike

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has approved an increase of Rs1.55 per unit in power tariff on account of periodic adjustments in tar-iff for the second quarter of current

financial year.
A notification in this regard has also been issued by the power regulatory authority. Power distribution compa-nies will recover Rs39 billion from the consumers following the tariff revi-

Nepra said that it had decided to apply the same with effect from July 1, 2022, which would be recovered within three months from the date of

However, the increase in the elec-tricity tariff will not be applicable to lifeline consumers and the consumers of K-Electric, the power regulatory authority added INP

Heavy showers disrupt flight operations at Karachi airport

KARACHI: Heavy rainfall in the port city has disrupted flight opera-tions at Karachi International airport. According to details, four domestic flights from Karachi airport have been delayed due to torrential rains in the

port city.

A PIA flight heading towards
Karachi airport from Quetta was
diverted to Multan due to heavy
downpour, while Sukkur-bound flight PK-536 from Jinnah International air-

port was suspended.

A PIA flight PK-537 coming to
Karachi from Sukkur was also suspended due to inclement weather con-

Meanwhile, an Islamabad-bound flight of private airlines has been delayed from the Karachi airport.INP

Peshawar police fulfil wish of 14-year-old thalassemia patient

PESHAWAR: PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) police have ful-filled the wish of a 14-year-old tha-lassemia patient, Shoaib Akhtar from Charsadda, who aspired to become a

Peshawar Police SSP Operation
Lieutenant Commander (Retd) Kashif
Aftab Abbasi hosted the 14-year-old
thalassemia patient at his office.

Shoaib Akhtar was wearing a police uniform during the meeting.

During the meeting, Shoaib Akhtar expressed his wish to meet the SSP Operation Kashif Aftab. The police officer spent time with the thalassemia national after which a City Patrol Force. patient, after which a City Patrol Force vehicle escorted Shoaib to the police line gate with full protocol.

Karachi receives heavy showers

KARACHI: Parts of Karachi on Friday received heavy rainfall, caus-ing a flood-like situation in the lowlying areas of the metropolis

lying areas of the metropolis.

As per details, several parts of the city including, Gadap Town, Surjani Town, North Karachi, North Nazimabad, Gulshan-e-Maymar, Jinnah Old Terminal, Tariq Road, Defence View, FC Area, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Saddar, Guru Mandir, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Nazimabad and other areas received downpour for several hours. Several vehicles got stuck on inundated roads near causing massive traffic jams.

near, causing massive traffic jams. Rescue officials said several vehicles were also submerged in the water while the Superhighway road from Karachi to Hyderabad was closed for traffic due to the current situation.

According to the Met Office, monsoon currents are continuously penetrating the country and are expected to weaken over the next 24 hours before strengthening over the weekend (9 and 10 July). Under the influence of this weather system, it forecast more rainwind/thundershowers in Islamabad, Kashmir, Swat, Mansehra, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Kurram, Kohat, Mianwali INP

APHC-AJK holds demos in Islamabad, AJK on Wani's anniversary

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurrivat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter organized a protest demonstration at Press Club in Islamabad, today, on the 6th martyrdom anniversary of popular Kashmiri youth leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani.

The protesters were holding por-traits of Burhan Wani and placards with pro-freedom and anti-India slogans. They also raised high-pitched slogans in favour of Kashmiri martyrs and against the Indian brutalities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.Addressing the demonstra-tion, the Hurriyat leaders paid rich tributes to Burhan Wani and other martyrs. They said that the Kashmiri martyrs. They said that the Kashmin martyrs had rendered their lives for a sacred cause and their sacrifices would definitely bring positive results soon. They said that Burhan Wani's sacrifice gave a new impetus to the Kashmir freedom movement, adding that the world was fully aware

of the situation in HOJK. The Hurriyat leaders deplored that the Indian troops were using brute force to sup-press the Kashmiris' indigenous free-dom movement but would never suc-ceed in its perforance deplacement. ceed in its nefarious designs and the people of Kashmir would continue their struggle for right to self-deter-mination till complete success. They said Burhan Wani passed the freedom movement of Kashmir to the younger generation by embracing martyrdom and today every youth of Kashmir in the form of Burhan Wani stands like a rock against the illegal occupation of India over Kashmir.The Hurriyat leaders reiterated the Kashmiris' commitment to continue the mission of their martyrs till its logical conclusion. They also paid rich tributes to the Kashmiri youth martyred by the Indian troops recently and con-demned the issuance of Jammu and Kashmir domiciles to Indian citizens to turn the Muslim-majority status of

ECP takes notice of election code violation by Sindh police

KARACHI: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken notice of the violation of the election code by Sindh police after a senior officer from Kashmore was transferred to Hyderabad.

The provincial election com-mission took notice of a violation of the code ahead of the second

of the code ahead of the second phase of Sindh local government (LG) polls, ordering Inspector General (IG) Sindh Police to stop the transfer of a senior officer.

The provincial police department issued an order to transfer Superintendent Police (SP) Kashmore Amjad Shaikh to Hyderbad despite the ECP ban on transfers and postings on the government. transfers and postings on the gov-

ernment officers due to the upcoming Sindh LG polls.

In a letter sent to IG Sindh, the provincial ECP wrote that the second phase of LG polls will be held

soon and the recent posting will influence the elections. As per the announcement of the commission, the position of any government officials could not be changed till

the issuance of election results. The commission ordered the IG Sindh to withdraw the transfer orders of SP Kashmore Amjad Shaikh. The transfer should be withheld till the announcement of election results.

Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) banned the organization of politibanned the organization of politi-cal rallies during electioneering for the second phase of local gov-ernment (LG) polls under the revised election code. After wit-nessing large-scale mismanage-ment during by-elections, the election commission has tough-ened enforcement of the election code of conduct for the upcoming second phase of LG polls. INP second phase of LG polls.INP

Pakistani-American Khizr Khan gets Medal of Freedom from US president

ISLAMABAD: US President Joe Biden on Thursday present-ed the Medal of Freedom to Khizr Khan, the Pakistani-American father of an Iraq War veteran killed in action who criticised Donald Trump over his proposed "Muslim ban" Mr Khan was one of 17 peo-

ple to receive America's highest

The others included gymnast Simone Biles; the late John McCain, the Arizona Republican with whom Mr Biden served in the Senate; and was a support of the served in the Senate; and was a support of the served in the Senate; and was a support of the served in the Senate; and was a support of the served in the Senate; and was a support of the served in the Senate; and was a support of the served in the Senate; and was a support of the served in the Senate; and was a support of the served in gun-control advocate Gabby Giffords, a former congress-woman who was shot in the head in 2011. "The Fourth of July week reminds us what brought us together long ago and still binds us, binds us at our best," Mr Biden said. Mr Khan's son, US Army Capt Humayun Khan, was killed in Iraq in 2004 while defending his squad from a car homb attack

bomb attack.

He spoke out against Mr
Trump in 2016 over his proposal to limit immigration from Muslim-majority countries. Before moving to the US, Mr Khan had reportedly lived in the UAE Olympian gymnast Biles, 25, is the youngest ever Medal of Freedom recipient, Mr Biden said. She publicly fought against sexual abuse in the US Olympic team and advocated for mental health at the Tokyo Games.INP



OUETTA: EX Principle Secretary to CM Serwer Javaid , renewed poet Jahan Aara and other attend the ceremony in connection with shaheed Burhan Wani organized by Youth for Kashmir.

sown in the previous year, registering a decrease of 17.4%. As a result, production dropped by 22.8% to 7.064 million bales compared to the previous year's 9.148 million bales.

He said a large number of people from rural areas, including women, were involved in cotton production, and quality of crop was crucial to their sustenance levels. He said draughts caused by climate change and fre-

quent insect attacks were causing low cotton production.

The expert further said that cotton production area should be fixed without any other crops being cultivated there, especially maize and sugarcane, since they changed the microclimate of the land. "As the duration of sugarcane crop is one year, it increases the land's insect pest threshold level. The land also gets moist which causes damage to cotton."

"In order to reduce insect pest damage, Pakistan should adopt Bt cotton biotechnology since it contains three enes from bacillus thuringiensis, which means we will need to use less insecticide and it will also be resistant to bollworms and sucking insects," he added.

He also called for enhancing the seed germination to 80% from the current 40% to increase yields of farmers. "We can help minimise crop losses by using good agronomic practices and technology, including applying the transgenic approach." INP

President house completely running on solar energy: Arif Alvi

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Friday said that the Presidency has been completely converted to solar energy, a day after the government announced that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is set to announce the national solar energy policy on

The president shared the details in a meeting to save energy today where the participants expressed their satisfaction over measures to conserve electricity, water and gas resources under the 'Green Presidency project. "The Presidency saved Rs108 million in terms of

energy conservation during the last two years," Arif Alvi said and termed the project as one of the best

For the entire country.

He said that the Presidency is being run through a solar-powered 1MW project and has also contributed 112,000 additional units to the national grid.

It is pertinent to mention here that the federal gov-ernment will announce the national solar energy pol-icy on August 01 with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif saying that it would drastically cut fuel imports, bring down the cost of electricity and pro-

imports, bring down the cost of electricity and provide clean energy.

The prime minister chaired a meeting of the energy task force where it was decided that the national solar energy policy will be announced on August 01 and would be implemented after approval from the Council of Common Interest (CCI).

The Prime Minister House and Prime Minister Office (PM0) will be shifted to solar energy in a month

Taking to Twitter to share details of the initiative from his personal handle, Shehbaz Sharif said that he was briefed about the key solar energy initiatives

Kashmiri journalist Shaikh Abdul Lateef passes away in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD Kashmiri journalist Shaikh Abdul Lateef passed away in Islamabad, today. He was associated with Kashmir

Media Service as sub edi-

According to Kashmir Media Service, Shaikh Abdul Lateef, as a jour-nalist, highlighted Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He was a kidney patient

and was undergoing treatment at CMH Rawalpindi. He was originally from Srinagar, and migrated to Pakistan after India unleashed a reign of terror in occupied Jammu and Kashmir in 1990s.

His funeral prayers will be offered at Khana, Islamabad after Maghrib

prayers.

KMS staff, APHC leaders and members of community have expressed grief and Shaikh Abdul Lateef.INP

Kamran Akmal's sacrificial goat stolen outside Lahore house

sacrificial animals is increasing across the country as Eid-ul-Adha is approaching nearer.

approaching hearer.

In one such incident reported on Thursday hight, Test cricketer Kamran Akmal's sacrificial animal was stolen from outside his home in a private housing society in Lahore.

According to Kamran Akmal's father, they had bought six goats for Eidul Azha and tied them out-side their home in Lahore INP

Pakistanis remember Abdul Sattar Edhi on his 6th death anniversary

KARACHI, The 6th death anniversary of prominent philanthropis and humanitarian Abdul Sattar Edhi was observed on Friday Abdul Sattar Edhi was born on February 28, 1928, in Gujarat before partition of the sub-continent. He started welfare services in Pakistan in 1951.He established World s largest volunteer ambulance network along with shelters for homeless peo-ple and animals.INP

earlier today.

He said that the coalition government will soon introduce the country's first comprehensive solar policy after the approval of the CCI. "Solar energy will drastically cut fuel imports, bring down cost of The president shared the details in a meeting to save energy today where the participants expressed their satisfaction over measures to conserve electric-

ity, water and gas resources under the 'Green Presidency' project. "The Presidency saved Rs108 million in terms of

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tive from his personal handle, Shehbaz Sharif said that he was briefed about the key solar energy initia-tives earlier today INP

PM pays glowing tributes to Burhan Wani on his anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has paid glowing tributes to popular youth leader Burhan Wani on his 6th martyrdom

anniversary, today.
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a message on Friday said that Burhan Wani penned down a new chapter in the freedom movement of Kashmir through his unparalleled sacrifice. He said Burhan, an ardent student,

was forced to leave books and carry guns due to unjust Indian oppression and has now become an epitome of Kashmiri people's indomitable resistance against India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister said a nation having brave sons like Burhan Wani cannot be enslaved by the whole world, what to speak of nine hundred thousand Indian forces.

Saluting the Kashmiri people for their decades-long courageous strug-gle, he reiterated Pakistan's every possible support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for free-

He urged the international community to play its role in resolving the Kashmir dispute through plebiscite under the relevant UN resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.INP



ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Pakistan Bait-Ul-Mal (PBM), Amir Fida Paracha meeting with former MD PBM, Barrister Abid Waheed Sheikh.

Case against Karnataka Hindutva activist for his 'terrorist' remarks filed

filed a case against a Hindutva organ-izations activist for making 'terrorist'

remarks against the Muslims.
According to Kashmir Media
Service, the case was lodged against State Coordinator of the Hindutyas Jagarana Vedike Keshavamurthy following a complaint by the President of Anjuman-E-Islamia Zameer Ahmad.

The complaint has stated that Keshavamurthy had given defamato-ry statements against Muslims. Keshavamurthy had made these

Keshavamurthy had made these remarks in his speech during a protest organised to condemn the beheading of Kanhaiya Lal, a Hindu tailor in Rajasthan for supporting BJP leader Nurpur Sharma's blasphemy against Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Meanwhile, a local court in Aligarh acquitted former Hindutva Bhartiya Janta Yiyya Morcha (BJYM)

Bhartiya Janta Yuva Morcha (BJYM) office-bearer Vinay Varshney and two

others in the murder case of a 22-year-old Muslim youth who was killed during an anti-CAA protest in February 2020.

The court gave them clean-chit after witnesses changed their statements and opposed the FIR registered by the police.

Mohammad Tariq Munawwar was standing on the terrace of his house when a bullet of Hindutva groups and police hit him on 23 February 2020 in Aligarh. He was rushed to the hospi-

tal but succumbed to his injuries dur-ing treatment on 12 March 2020. Vinay was arrested after Munawwar's family accused him of firing the bullet. According to the Times of India report, Police recov-ered the weapon which was used for crime and it was registered in Vinay's name. Last year, charges were framed against by the Aligarh court and he was sent to judicial custody in Etah jail. INP

Matters sorted: Farooq Sattar to return to MQM-P fold after Eid

Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Farooq Sattar is likely to return to the fold of the party after matters have been sorted out with Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

According to sources privy to the According to sources privy to the development, a meeting took place between Farooq Sattar and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui at a residential complex in Gulistan-e-Jauhar which was also attended by Mooed Anwar and Furqan Attayab from MQM-P side and Kamran Farooqui, Faisal Rafiq and Nighat Shakil represented Sattar group

resented Sattar group.
"A formula has been finalized between the two for appointment of office bearers and adjustment of independent local government candidates," they said, adding that

members of the Sattar group will be accommodated in Karachi and

They said that Faroog Sattar will return to the MQM-P fold after Eidul Azha and a general workers meeting will be organized at the KMC Stadium in the PIB where Sattar would be welcomed back to the party along with his associates.

"Farooq Sattar will announce to quit the race for NA-245 by-election while local government candidates will also be announced during the gathering," they said.

Recently, Sattar invited all factions of the MQM to unite and said that Khalid Maqbool, Afaq Ahmed, Mustafa Kamal should sit together.

Mustafa Kamal should sit together. 'They should sit together for the interest of the urban centers of the province," he said.INP