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Maryam terms Imran Khan as 'foreign agent' launched to stop development in Pakistan

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday said that the Pak-

powers. Reacting to ECP's verdict on the prohibited funding case against PTI on Twitter, Maryam Nawaz said that Imran Khan sought fi-

to stop the development of Pakistan and to end the CPEC," she added. Maryam terms Imran Khan as 'foreign agent' launched to stop development in Pakistan. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan who talked about liberating the nation from slavery turned out to be a slave of external powers. Reacting to ECP's verdict on the prohibited funding case against PTI on Twitter, Maryam Nawaz said that Imran Khan sought financial support from external powers and spent the money to spread chaos in the country. "This foreign agent [Imran Khan] was launched

financial support from external powers and spent the money to spread chaos in the country. "This foreign agent [Imran Khan] was launched



istan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan who talked about liberating the nation from slavery turned out to be a slave of external

Six Pakistan Army personnel martyred in Balochistan helicopter crash: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army helicopter that had gone missing last evening in Balochistan crashed, leaving six military personnel martyred, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Tuesday. The military chopper had gone missing as it was en route from Quetta to Karachi at around 5:30pm. The personnel in the chopper were overseeing the flood relief efforts in the southwest of the country. Above normal monsoon rains and deadly flooding have hit Pakistan hard this year, killing hundreds of people so far and wreaking havoc, particularly in Balochistan. The army has remained in-

involved in rescue and relief efforts there. The ISPR, in a statement, said that the

cers and soldiers, including Corps Commander Quetta Lieutenant General Sarfraz



wreckage of the unfortunate helicopter was found in Musa Goth, Windar, Lasbela. It said that the accident occurred due to "bad weather" as per the initial investigation. All six offi-

The Prime Minister also commiserated with the bereaved families.

President, PM express grief over the helicopter crash incident

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday telephoned Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and expressed their deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of military officers and soldiers who were martyred in a helicopter crash in Balochistan. In his phone call

with the COAS, the President expressed deep grief and regret over the martyrdom of Corps Commander 12 Corps Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali, Director General Pakistan Coast Guard Major General Amjad Hanif, 12 Corps Brigadier Muhammad Khalid, Pilot Major Saeed Ahmed, Assistant Pilot Major Muhammad Talha Mannan and Naik



Mudassar Fayyaz. He prayed for the highest rank and also expressed sympathies with the bereaved families. Dr Alvi while paying tribute to the martyrs' services for the country and the nation said that the sons of the nation were engaged in relief work related to floods in Balochistan and they performed their duty and worked very hard to

serve the nation. They martyred while performing their duties and serving the nation with great zeal, hard work and dedication, he said. During his conversation with the Army Chief, he also mentioned the meeting with Corps Commander Lt Gen Sarfraz Ali and the briefing given by him during his previous visit to Gwadar.

PTI to challenge ECP's verdict on the foreign funding case

Former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Tuesday said that the party will challenge the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)'s verdict in court, using political and legal means. The ECP in a unanimous verdict, said that the PTI received foreign funds from 34 individuals and 351 businesses. The donations were sent from America, Australia, Canada, and the UAE. In addition, PTI took funds from an American businessman, the ECP said, issuing a show-cause notice to the party. The PTI leader said that the party met all the criteria and submitted all the evidence

to come clean. "Today's verdict proved that there was no foreign funding case. The media trial going on for years has finally come to an end today," Qureshi said that his party has objections against the election commission for not being impartial. "We provided everything that the commission asked us to, however, it did not seek any evidence from the other parties," he added. "We demand action against those parties that received funding from former Al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden and Libya. They should also be held accountable," he said.

ECP verdict proves Imran is 'Jewish agent': Fazlur Rehman

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday while reacting to the verdict of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) over the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prohibited funding case said that today's verdict proved Imran Khan is a 'Jewish agent'. Taking a dig at PTI chairman, Fazl said that Imran Khan and his party are on the agenda of foreign powers, and PTI is working against the interests of Pakistan on foreign funds. ECP verdict proves Imran is 'Jewish agent': Fazlur Rehman.

Administration is taking serious steps to solve people's problems: Commissioner

Sargodha (Soon Times), Commissioner Dr. Arshad Ahmed attended an open court held at the district headquarters Sargodha and heard the revenue related issues of applicants. He issued orders to solve the problem on the spot. All revenue officers including Assistant Commissioner Azim Shaikat Awan were also present at the Revenue Public Service Office. While talking to the petitioners, the commissioner said, the division and district administration are taking serious steps to solve the prob-

lems of the people. Unresolved applications are being dealt with on the spot. During the open court, the citizens

Department, including issuance of accuracy records, issuance of individual, registration of deaths, registry, in-



presented issues and complaints related to the Finance

come certificate and issuance of domicile.

PTI top brass rejects ECP verdict, upholds protest call

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) top brass rejected the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) verdict over prohibited funding case and decided to uphold a peaceful protest call outside ECP. Sources privy to the matter said that PTI chairman Imran Khan presided over the meeting after the announcement of verdict, which was attended by party leaders. During the meeting Imran said that verdict was biased, adding that they will not come under any

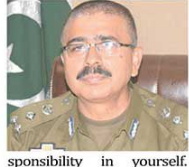
pressure. In this regard, the sources further said that the PTI leadership unanimously rejected the decision of the Election Commission and put legal defects of the decision before the nation. PTI top brass rejects ECP verdict, upholds protest call. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) top brass rejected the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) verdict over prohibited funding case and decided to uphold a peaceful protest call outside ECP. Sources privy to the matter said that PTI

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Provision of justice is the top priority: RPO

Sargodha (Soon Times), DIG Muhammad Azhar Akram has taken charge of RPO Sargodha and started working. He issued orders to DIG Zafar Javed Malik to further improve administrative and security matters. On this occasion, he issued orders to the subordinate staff, saying that all possible steps should be taken to solve the problems of the people and

redress their grievances. Develop a sense of duty and re-



sponsibility in yourself.

Protection of life and property of people and establishment of law and order are among the first responsibilities of the police. The police officers behaved very politely. Use the best professional skills while providing services. He said, the Sargodha Region Police is deploying all available resources to maintain the establishment of law and order.

Pakistan reports 392 coronavirus cases, 2 deaths in the 24 hours

LAHORE: Pakistan has reported 2 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of confirmed positive cases has surged to 1,555,639. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 30,490 on Tuesday. According to the latest figures by the National Institute of Health (NIH), at least 392 persons were tested positive for COVID-19 across the country in the past 24 hours. Pakistan has conducted 13,822 tests in the past 24 hours out of which 392 persons were tested positive for the disease. The COVID Positivity Ratio was recorded at 2.84 percent. Pakistan has

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Foreign funding case: British journalist raises question on funds sent to PTI from the UK

British Journalist Simon Clark of the Financial Times, who reported on the foreign funding of the PTI, has said that the people who donated for the charity cricket match did not know that their money was being used to fund a political party's election campaign in Pakistan. Talking during Geo News' programme, 'Aaj Shazab Khanzada Kay Sath' on Monday, Clark said: "When I told them about [their money going to] the

PTI, they were astonished." He said the guests at the charity match knew that their money would be spent on "philanthropic ventures" but they did not know precisely which charity organisation or activity the match was raising funds for. The British journalist said the PTI admitted that Arif Naqvi's company, Wootton Cricket Limited, sent \$2.1 million to it. Of the total, \$1.3 million came from Naqvi's Abraj Enterprise. "The

overseas Pakistani citizens did not send this money," he explained. British Journalist Simon Clark explained his Financial Times story on the PTI's foreign funding. Says the people who donated for a charity match didn't know where their money is headed. Says under Pakistan's law no company can bankroll a political party but Abraj did. He noted that under Pakistani law, no company is permitted to bankroll political parties.

Pakistan has fulfilled last prior action after increasing oil levy: IMF

Pakistan has completed the last precondition for the combined seventh and eighth reviews, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday, adding that a board meeting is tentatively scheduled for late August once adequate financing assurances are confirmed. Esther Perez Ruiz, the IMF's Resident Representative for Pakistan, confirmed the last prior action in a statement sent to the media. "Pakistan has fulfilled the preconditions for the seventh and eighth joint review by increasing the PDL (petroleum development levy) on July 31," said the statement. "The IMF Executive Board meeting will be held at the end of August if adequate funding is assured to Pakistan," the IMF statement said. According to sources, the IMF meeting is contingent on assurances of \$4.2 billion in funding from Pakistan's friendly countries. The state-

ment came after two days after the government announced doubling the petroleum levy on petrol from Rs10 to Rs20 per litre and diesel from Rs5 to Rs10 per litre for the first half of August 2022. The price of petrol was brought down by Rs3.05 per litre. Following the changes in the prices, petrol is now available for Rs27.19 per litre. Previously, petrol was being sold in the country for

Rs230.34 per litre. Meanwhile, there has been an increase of Rs8.95 in the price of high-speed diesel, after which the new price will stand at Rs244.95 per litre. On Monday, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail said that Pakistan can come out of its current economic crisis without descending into default as progress has been made on the stalled Interna-

tional Monetary Fund (IMF) loan as well as spending cuts. Bloomberg reported. In a phone interview, the finance minister said: "With the commodity supercycle and Russia-Ukraine war, oil prices skyrocketing and gas going as high as ever been in history, Pakistan and other emerging countries have been facing the worst crisis. "Nonetheless, Pakistan will weather the storm through the IMF bailout programme, the introduction of a significant tight budget, and by depressing the demand for imports." Pakistan meets last preceding action for combined seventh and eighth reviews of IMF. The IMF's Resident Representative for Pakistan confirms the last prior action in a statement. IMF meeting is contingent on assurances of \$4.2 billion in funding from Pakistan's friendly countries: sources.



KSE-100 records marginal gain on positive cues

KARACHI: The bears and bulls locked horns at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday as the KSE-100 index traded on both sides of the fence, but closed with a gain of over 100 points as players cherry-picked stocks that lost valuation earlier. The benchmark KSE-100 index kept oscillating between red and green zones, touching intra-day high and low of 40,458.09 and 39,762.50 points. The bullish trend was driven by the appreciation of the rupee against the US dollar and the confirmation that Pakistan has fulfilled all prior actions necessary for the dispersal of the International Monetary Fund's loan tranche. At close, the benchmark KSE-100 index closed at 40,191.61 points with a gain of 115.65 points or 0.29%. A report from Arif Habib Limited noted that the PSX observed a positive session today as the Pakistani rupee continued to show resistance against the US dollar as

further appreciation was witnessed. "The market opened in the negative zone but investors opted for value buying during the day resulting in the index to close in the green," the brokerage house stated. Meanwhile, main board activity remained decent although healthy volumes were observed in the third-tier stocks. Sectors contributing to the performance included fertiliser (+73.6 points), chemicals (+46.8 points), cement (+35.6 points), refinery (+10.5 points) and automobile assembler (+9.1 points). Shares of 327 companies were traded during the session. At the close of trading, 191 scrips closed in the green, 105 in the red, and 31 remained unchanged. Overall trading volumes rose to 217.50 million shares compared with Monday's tally of 110.42 million. The value of shares traded during the day was Rs6.32 billion.

Australia bumps interest rates, vows to tame inflation

SYDNEY: Australia's central bank raised interest rates by another 50 basis points Tuesday while pledging to "do what is necessary" to bring soaring inflation under control. The Reserve Bank of Australia's fourth successive increase saw its central rate rise to 1.85 percent, and officials put borrowers on notice of more. Governor Phillip Lowe said inflation — already at the highest level in decades — was expected to reach 7.75 percent this year, and may take two-three years to bring back to stable levels. The bank, like others around the world, faces a difficult balance-

ing act in trying to curb consumer prices without stalling the already slowing economy. "The path to achieve this balance is a narrow one and clouded in uncertainty, not least because of global developments," said Lowe. Australia's central bank raised interest rates by another 50 basis points Tuesday while pledging to "do what is necessary" to bring soaring inflation under control. The Reserve Bank of Australia's fourth successive increase saw its central rate rise to 1.85 percent, and officials put borrowers on notice of more.

Gold subdued as price declines by Rs3,500 per tola in Pakistan

KARACHI: Gold prices were subdued on Wednesday in choppy trade as a rupee appreciation and the prospect the central bank could raise interest rates after record high inflation kept investors on edge. The price of gold — considered a safe haven — plummeted by Rs3,500 per tola and Rs3,000 per 10 grams to settle at Rs154,900 and Rs13,945 in the local market, data released by the All Sindh Saraf and Jewellers Association (ASSJA). The gold hit an all-time high of Rs162,500 per tola on July 28. It should be noted that the gold

price is standing below cost. Gold is cheaper by Rs3,000 per tola compared to its price in Dubai. The latest price for local markets was determined to keep in view the prices at which trades took place among buyers and sellers. In the international market, bullion prices increased by \$6 per ounce to settle at \$1,780 as the US dollar inched higher, although a dip in Treasury yields and growing recession fears kept bullion near four-week peak. Meanwhile, silver prices in the domestic market gained Rs10 per tola and Rs8.57 per 10 grams

to settle at Rs1,640 per tola and Rs1,460.03 per 10 grams today. Gold price settles at Rs154,900

all-time high of Rs162,500 per tola on July 28. It should be noted that the gold price is standing below cost. Gold is cheaper by Rs3,000 per tola compared to its price in Dubai.



Oil prices slip as weak manufacturing data stokes recession fears

Oil prices edged lower on Tuesday, extending losses from the previous session, as investors worried about global oil demand following weak manufacturing data in several countries. Brent crude futures fell 29 cents to \$99.74 a barrel by 0002 GMT, with WTI crude futures down 22 cents at \$93.67 a barrel. The slide came after Brent futures slumped on Monday to a session low of \$99.09 a barrel, their lowest since July 15. The US crude benchmark dropped to as low as \$92.42 a barrel, its weakest since July 14. Prices have been volatile, as investors weigh tight global supply with fears of a potential global recession. Recessionary concerns were heightened on Monday as surveys from the United States, Europe and Asia showed that factories struggled for momen-

tum in July. Flagging global demand and China's strict COVID-19 restrictions slowed production. The price drops also come as market participants await the outcome of a meeting on Wednesday between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia, together known as OPEC+, to decide on September

output. A Fox Business news reporter said Saudi Arabia will push OPEC+ to increase oil production at the meeting. Two of eight OPEC+ sources in a Reuters survey said that a modest increase for September

on Chinese and other firms it said helped to sell tens of millions of dollars' in Iranian oil and petrochemical products to East Asia as it seeks to raise pressure on Tehran to curb its nuclear programme. Oil prices edged lower on Tuesday, extending losses from the previous session, as investors worried about global oil demand following weak manufacturing data in several countries. Brent crude futures fell 29 cents to \$99.74 a barrel by 0002 GMT, with WTI crude futures down 22 cents at \$93.67 a barrel. The slide came after Brent futures slumped on Monday to a session low of \$99.09 a barrel, their lowest since July 15. The US crude benchmark dropped to as low as \$92.42 a barrel, its weakest since July 14.



Rupee continues uptrend against dollar for third consecutive session

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee continued to register gains against the US dollar for the third consecutive session in the interbank market on Tuesday — as the market remained stable after the government's surety of tackling the uphill economic task. The dollar started losing ground on Friday after the rupee appropriately tightened to reduce demand-led pressures and rein in the current account deficit, which is a major challenge for the government. The SBP and finance ministry said that the rupee has been overshoot temporarily, but it is expected to appreciate in line with fundamentals over the next few months. Around half of the rupee depreciation, since December 2021 can be attributed to the global surge in the US dollar, following historic tightening by the Federal Reserve and heightened risk aversion, they said, noting that the market sentiment has also played a major role in this regard. "This uncertainty is being resolved, such that the sentiment-driven part of the Rupee depreciation will also unwind over the coming period," the statement assured.

statement assured that all prior actions for the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) review were completed and the Executive Board's meeting for the release of the \$1.2 billion loan is expected in a couple of weeks. It also mentioned that macroeconomic policies — both fiscal policy and monetary policy — have been appropriately tightened to reduce demand-led pressures and rein in the current account deficit, which is a major challenge for the government. The SBP and finance ministry said that the rupee has been overshoot temporarily, but it is expected to appreciate in line with fundamentals over the next few months. Around half of the rupee depreciation, since December 2021 can be attributed to the global surge in the US dollar, following historic tightening by the Federal Reserve and heightened risk aversion, they said, noting that the market sentiment has also played a major role in this regard. "This uncertainty is being resolved, such that the sentiment-driven part of the Rupee depreciation will also unwind over the coming period," the statement assured.

PSX gains 115.65 points to close at 40,191.61 points

ISLAMABAD: The KSE 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 115.65 points, a positive change of 0.29 percent, closing at 40,191.61 points against 40,075.96 points on the last working day. A total of 217,504,902 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 110,422,594 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.6,326 billion against Rs.3,718 billion on last trading day. As many as 327 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 191 of them recorded gain and 105 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 31 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were TPL Properties with a volume of 35,087,913 shares and price per share of Rs18.98, Agritech Limited with volume of 22,626,500 and price per share of Rs8.13 and Pak Refinery with volume of 13,181,522 and price per share of Rs16.07. Allawasya Tex witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.235.17 per share, closing at Rs.3,373.49 whereas the runner up was Colgate Palm, the share prices of which climbed up by Rs.161.20 to Rs.2,310.66. Nestle Pakistan witnessed maximum decrease of Rs295.50 per share closing at Rs.5,994.50 followed by Sapphire Tex, the share price of which de-

clined by Rs80 to close at Rs993. The KSE 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 115.65 points, a positive change of 0.29 percent, closing at 40,191.61 points against 40,075.96 points on the last working day. A total of 217,504,902 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 110,422,594 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.6,326 billion against Rs.3,718 billion on last trading day. As many as 327 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 191 of them recorded gain and 105 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 31 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were TPL Properties with a volume of 35,087,913 shares and price per share of Rs18.98, Agritech Limited with volume of 22,626,500 and price per share of Rs8.13 and Pak Refinery with volume of 13,181,522 and price per share of Rs16.07. The three top trading companies were TPL Properties with a volume of 35,087,913 shares and price per share of Rs18.98, Agritech Limited with volume of 22,626,500 and price per share of Rs8.13 and Pak Refinery with volume of 13,181,522 and price per share of Rs16.07.

Agriculture machinery valuing \$112.025 million imported in the FY2021

ISLAMABAD: The imports of agriculture machinery and implements into the country during financial year ended on June 30, 2022 witnessed about 18.32 percent increase as against the imports of the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-June 2021-22, agriculture machinery and implements valuing \$112.025 million as against the imports of \$84.679 million of same period last year. During the period under review, the imports of machinery group registered about 7.63 percent increase and reached to \$10.146 billion as against the imports of \$10.920 billion as against the import of \$9.299 billion of same period last year. During the period under review, the imports of agriculture chemicals grew by 51.43 percent as compared the imports of the corresponding period of last year, it added. From July-June, 2021-22 about 1,400,833 metric tons of fertilizers manufac-

turing costing \$845.539 million imported to fulfill the domestic requirements as against the imports of 1,779,679 metric tons worth of \$718.756 million of same period last year. The country spent \$201.740 million on the imports of 35,875 metric tons of insecticides, which was recorded at \$188.988 million of same period of last year, it added. During the period under review, the imports of plastic material valuing \$3.135 billion imported, whereas as medicinal products worth of \$4.063 billion also imported as compared the imports of the corresponding period last year. Agriculture machinery valuing \$112.025 million imported in FY2021. The imports of agriculture machinery and implements into the country during financial year ended on June 30, 2022 witnessed about 18.32 percent increase as against the imports of the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-June 2021-22, agriculture machinery and implements valuing \$112.025 million as against the imports of \$84.679 million of same period last year.

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Crackdown by food safety teams are ongoing

Sargodha (Soon Times), Food safety teams under the leadership of Additional Director Operation Muhammad Umar Farooq checked 2 sweatshops, 2 dairy shops and 2 grocery stores for poor storage, production of goods with expired ingredients, very poor cleaning arrangements and have imposed a total fine of Rs 1 lakh 22 thousands. The vehicles carrying milk were inspected by installing gates at the entrances and exits of the city. A fine of 39 thousand rupees was imposed on 7 vehicles due to poor results of the samples taken. During checking in Bhakkar, the food safety teams imposed a fine of 20 thousand rupees on 1 water plant and 1 ice factory for serious violations of hygiene rules. During the inspection in Mianwali, 1 hotel was fined 14 thousand rupees for poor cleaning arrangements. In Khushab, 1 dairy shop and 1 hotel were fined Rs 17,000 for storage of adulterated milk and violations of previous notices. Warning notices have been issued to 97 food points for minor defects.

It is proved that IK is the corrupt man: Officials

Okara (Soon Times), regarding the Election Commission of Pakistan foreign funding case, a joint press conference of the officials of People's Youth Organization Sahiwal Division was held at Youth Secretariat District Okara. In this, Mohsin Hasan Malhi President People's Youth Organization Central Punjab, Asif Khan Baloch Deputy General Secretary People's Youth Organization Central Punjab, Sardar Akhtar Hasan Dogar and others issued their joint statement and said, the way Shaukat Khanum Hospital is running on charity Tehreek-e-Insaf is also running on charity. In the end it is proved that Imran Khan is a corrupt man. The Election Commission has declared Imran Khan a certified thief. Imran Khan reached its logical conclusion with the decision of the Election Commission. Imran Khan's affidavit given in Election Commission has also been declared false. Now the federal government will refer the reference to the Supreme Court for punishment.

Big Tech should share Europe network costs, France, Italy and Spain say

MILAN: France, Italy and Spain are stepping up pressure on the European Commission to come up with legislation that ensures Big Tech firms partly finance telecoms infrastructure in the bloc, a document showed on Monday. This was the first time the three governments have expressed their joint position on the issue. EU regulators said in May they were analysing the question of whether tech giants Alphabet's (GOOGL) Google, Meta and Netflix (NFLX) should shoulder some of the costs of upgrading telecoms networks. In a joint paper, a copy of which was seen by Reuters, the three governments said the six largest content providers are required for 55 per cent of internet traffic. "This generates specific costs for European telecom operators in terms of capacity, at a time they are already hugely investing in the most costly parts of the networks with 5G and Fiber-To-The-Home," the document said. It urged that European telecom networks and large online content providers pay fair shares of network costs. "We call for a legislative proposal...ensuring all market players contribute to digital infrastructure costs," the document said. Two Italian government officials confirmed details of the joint document. One of them said Rome's government was set to give informal support in its caretaking capacity ahead of a general election in September. The French and Spanish governments did immediately respond to a request for comment.

Shopkeepers will be forced to cut electricity meters: Asif

Sargodha (Soon Times), and install solar panels. Shaikh Asif, founder president of Sargodha Chamber of Small Traders and Industry, told the advisory meeting of the business community that the government had announced the imposition of additional tax on electricity bills on all businesses in the budget 2022-23. Additional tax has been added to the meter bills. Additional tax has been added to the meter bills.

All employees should perform their duties well: DC

Mianwali (Soon Times), Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Umair, after taking formal charge of his post, met the in-charges of all branches of the DC office yesterday in the DC office committee room. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Syed Nizarat Ali and Additional Deputy Commissioner General Rai Zulfiqar Ali were also present on this occasion. DC said, all the employees of DC office should perform their duties well and keep merit in every case. I should not receive any complaint otherwise strict disciplinary action will be taken. If there is any kind of problem, bring it to my notice immediately. The in-charges of the branches assured him that his guidelines would be followed 100%.

Plantation aims to control environmental pollution: DC

Sialkot (Soon Times), Deputy Commissioner Maiman Ali Bukhari was also with him on this occasion. He urged to four tehsil and make it successful. He said, the purpose of plantation is to control the increasing environmental pollution and to protect the future generation and the environment from the adverse effects of extreme climate change. Planting in rainy season accelerates their natural growth. Planting plants and trees especially on the banks of rivers and canals provides natural passages and protective embankments. It is the responsibility of each individual to plant and protect at least 2 saplings per season.

Public transport should be given industry status: Shabbir

Okara (Soon Times), President of All Pakistan Itehad Goods Transport Owners Association Muhammad Shabbir Bhatti, Chairman Asif Bhacchi, Chaudhry Taqeer Senior Vice President and others while addressing the protest participants said, Income Tax, Token Tax, Toll Tax and others are implemented on us. Public transporters across Pakistan staged a complete strike against the increase in taxes. President said, public transport should be given the status of an industry. Getting a driving license in Punjab should be made easier. The route system should be implemented in Punjab like other provinces. Traffic wardens and motorway police should be stopped from issuing illegal challans. If our demands are not met, there will be an indefinite strike.

Kharadar blasted out on orders of Aqib Chandio: arrested cop

KARACHI: The cop Dilbar Ali, who had been arrested in connection with the Karachi bomb blasts said that the Kharadar blast was carried out on the orders of SRA chief Aqib Chandio. In this regard, Received the investigative reports for the operations and used to hide in the RRF office after committing the crime. The accused said during the investigation that on the orders of Aqib Chandio, who was sitting in Iran, the search of sensitive places was also carried out, which included the search of the Chinese employees of the Chinese restaurant in Clifton and the power plant company located on Maripur Road. While police arrested two more associates of the accused Qayyum.

South Korea develops nanotech tattoo as health monitoring device

DAEJEON: South Koreans may soon be able to carry a device inside their own bodies in the form of a bespoke tattoo that automatically alerts them to potential health problems, if a science team's project bears fruit. Researchers at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in the city of Daejeon southwest of Seoul have developed an electronic tattoo ink made of liquid metal and carbon nanotubes that functions as a bioelectrode. Hooked up to an electrocardiogram (ECG) device or other biosensor, it can send a readout of a patient's heart rate and other vital signs such as glucose and lactate to a monitor. The researchers eventually aim to be able to dispense with biosensors. "In the future, what we hope to do is connect a wireless chip integrated with this ink, so that we can communicate, or we can send signal back and forth between our body to an external device," said project leader Steve Park, a materials science and engineering professor. Such monitors could in theory be located anywhere, including in patients' homes. The ink is non-invasive and made from particles based on gallium, a soft, silvery metal also used in semiconductors or in thermometers. Platinum-decorated carbon nanotubes help conduct electricity while providing durability. "When it is applied to the skin, even with rubbing the tattoo doesn't come off, which is not possible with just liquid metal," Park said. South Koreans may soon be able to carry a device inside their own bodies in the form of a bespoke tattoo that automatically alerts them to potential health problems, if a science team's project bears fruit. Researchers at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in the city of Daejeon southwest of Seoul have developed an electronic tattoo ink made of liquid metal and carbon nanotubes that functions as a bioelectrode.

Entire nation salutes martyrs of helicopter crash: Hakeem

Mianwali (Soon Times), the entire nation pays tribute to the martyrs of the helicopter crash in Baluchistan. These views were expressed by Pakistan Muslim League-N District Mianwali General Secretary Hakeem Muhammad Ayub Qureshi, Pakistan Muslim League-N City Mianwali Information Secretary Malik Muhammad Yasin and all officials and workers of the district. He said, the whole of Pakistan pays tribute to the soldiers who were martyred while helping the flood victims in Baluchistan and supervising their rescue. We are all saddened by this accident. Their martyrdoms for the country will always be remembered. History will always remember them.

Aug 11 should be celebrated as Minority Day: Adil

Sialkot (Soon Times), Central Chairman of Christian Movement, Dr Immanuul Adil Ghauri, while talking to media representatives, said that August 11 Minority Day should be declared as an official celebration. He said, Minority Day is celebrated at the official level in most countries of the world including China and India. On this day, the government and political parties express solidarity with the minorities and try to understand their problems. Unfortunately, the importance of this day in Pakistan is nothing but a symbolic day. He demanded that the parties in the government and the opposition coalition should express solidarity with the minorities and approve the democratic demand that the minorities should be given the democratic right to elect their representatives through their vote.

Girl kidnapped boy and forced him into marriage

LAHORE: The girl kidnapped the boy and forcibly married him on Monday. A strange case came to light in the session court of Lahore, in which the girl Razia kidnapped the boy Ijaz after his parents released in the night after the boy's father, Manzoor Ahmed, filed a kidnapping report. When Ijaz Ahmed reached his home, he was produced in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Ghulam Hussain Bhandar of the Sessions Court. The court has sought a report from the Naserabad police on August 5 on the application of the registered case.

Semiconductor stocks under pressure as Taiwan tensions mount

Semiconductor stocks fell globally on Tuesday as an expected visit by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan, which China claims as its territory, fueled a fresh escalation in tensions between Washington and Beijing. China views the visit by Pelosi, second in the line of succession to the U.S. presidency and a long-time critic of China, as sending an encouraging signal to the pro-independence camp in Taiwan and has repeatedly warned against it. Taiwan is home to the world's biggest manufacturer of semiconductors on contract, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd (TSMC) (2330.TW). Shares of the company closed down 2.4%, while peer United Microelectronics Corp (UMC) (2303.TW) fell 3%. Taiwanese stocks (TWI) dropped 1.6%, marking their biggest percentage decline in three weeks, while stocks in China posted their biggest fall in more than two months as mounting tensions unsettled Asian financial markets. "The outlook for trade in Asia is likely to weigh on semiconductors, given how much of the world's global production comes from Taiwan," said Michael Hewson, chief markets analyst at CMC Markets UK. Semiconductor stocks globally felt the heat. Germany's Infineon (IFXGn.DE) declined 2.3%, while Dutch firms ASML (ASML.AS), ASMI (ASMI.AS) and BESI (BESL.AS) fell between 3% and 4%.

Cryptoverse: Bitcoin beats the heat in a jumpin' July

It's been a good month for bitcoin - and we haven't started that for a while. After months of freefall, it jumped more than 17% in July, its best performance since October. Ether rose 57%, its strongest monthly gain since January 2021. The rally was in step with gains of riskier assets such as stocks as investors bet that economic weakness could deter the Fed from aggressively tightening monetary policy. Bitcoin's 40-day correlation to the tech-focused Nasdaq (JXIC) now stands at 0.90 - up from 0.41 in January - where 1 means their prices move in perfect lockstep. The leading cryptocurrency has been consistently positively correlated with the Nasdaq since late November, unlike in previous years where it would routinely turn negative, meaning they moved in opposite directions. Itai Avneri, deputy CEO at cryptocurrency trading platform INX, described July's convergence as "good news". "It means institutional investors are looking at bitcoin like any other asset," he said. "When the market turns - and it will turn - these institutions will come back and invest in crypto." Gains were not limited to bitcoin, as the value of the global cryptocurrency market crept back above \$1.15 trillion last month, adding over \$255 billion since the end of June, CoinGecko data showed. Assets under management in digital asset investment products rose 16.9% to \$25.9 billion in July, reversing June's decline of 36.8%, according to research firm CryptoCompare.

Russia labels Ukraine's Azov regiment 'terrorist' group

MOSCOW: Russia's Supreme Court on Tuesday designated the Azov regiment -- a former volunteer battalion that was incorporated into Ukraine's army -- a "terrorist" organisation, allowing for lengthy jail terms for its members. The court ruled to "recognise the Ukrainian paramilitary unit Azov a terrorist organisation and to ban its activities on the territory of the Russian Federation," the judge

said, state news agency TASS reported. The decision takes immediate effect. According to Russia's criminal code, members of "terrorist" groups can face up to 10 years in jail, while their leaders and organisers can be jailed for up to 20 years. Ukraine's Azov regiment is a former volunteer battalion that has drawn controversy for its links to far-right figures, with Russia calling it a "neo-Nazi" group.

Ayman al-Zawahiri: from Cairo physician to al Qaeda leader

(Reuters) - Ayman al-Zawahiri succeeded Osama bin Laden as al Qaeda leader after years as its main organiser and strategist, but his lack of charisma and competition from rival militants Islamic State hobbled his ability to inspire sizeable attacks on the West. Zawahiri, 71, was killed in a U.S. drone strike, U.S. President Joe Biden said on live television on Monday evening. U.S. officials said the attack took place on Sunday in the Afghan capital Kabul. In the years following bin Laden's death in 2011, U.S. air strikes killed a succession of Zawahiri's deputies, weakening the veteran Egyptian militant's ability to coordi-

nate globally. He had watched as al Qaeda was effectively sidelined by the 2011 Arab revolts, launched mainly by middle-class activists and intellectuals opposed to decades of autocracy. Despite a reputation as an inflexible and combative personality, Zawahiri managed to nurture loosely affiliated groups around the world that grew to wage devastating insurgencies, some of them rooted in turmoil arising from the Arab Spring. The violence destabilised a number of countries across Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Chinese warplanes buzz line dividing Taiwan Strait before expected Pelosi visit



TAIPEI: U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi was expected to arrive in Taipei later on Tuesday, people briefed on the matter said, as several Chinese warplanes flew close to the median line dividing the Taiwan Strait, a source told Reuters. China has repeatedly warned against Pelosi going to Taiwan, which it claims as its own, while the United States said on Monday that it would not be intimidated by Chinese "sabre rattling". In addition to Chinese planes flying close to the median line of the strait, several Chinese warships sailed near the unofficial

dividing line since Monday, the source told Reuters. The source said both Chinese warships and aircraft "squeezed" the median line on Tuesday morning, an unusual move the person described as "very provocative." The Chinese aircraft repeatedly conducted tactical moves of briefly "touching" the median line and circling back to the other side of the strait on Tuesday morning, while Taiwanese aircraft were on standby nearby, the person said. The Chinese planes left the area in the afternoon but the ships remained, the person said. Neither side's aircraft normally cross the

median line. Taiwan's Defence Ministry said in a statement it has a full grasp of military activities near Taiwan and will appropriately dispatch forces in reaction to "enemy threats". China's defense and foreign ministries did not immediately respond to requests for comment. In the southeastern Chinese city of Xiamen, which lies opposite Taiwan and is home to a large military presence, residents reported sightings of armoured vehicles on the move on Tuesday and posted pictures online, which could not immediately be verified by Reuters.

How the CIA identified and killed Al-Qaeda leader Zawahiri

Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a U.S. strike in Afghanistan over the weekend, the biggest blow to the militant group since its founder Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011. Zawahiri had been in hiding for years and the operation to locate and kill him was the result of "careful patient and persistent" work by the counter-terrorism and intelligence community, a senior administration official told reporters. Until the U.S. announcement, Zawahiri had been rumored variously to be in Pakistan's tribal area or inside Afghanistan. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the official provided the following details on the operation: * For several years, the U.S. government had been aware of a network that it assessed supported Zawahiri, and over the past year, following the U.S. States.

US says Russia using 'nuclear shield' in Ukraine, risks terrible accident

UNITED NATIONS: The United States has accused Russia of using Ukraine's biggest nuclear power plant as a "nuclear shield" by stationing troops there, preventing Ukrainian forces from returning fire and risking a terrible nuclear accident. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States was "deeply concerned" that the Zaporizhzhia plant, which Russia was accused of firing shells dangerously close to in March, was now a Russian military base used to fire on nearby Ukrainian forces. "Of course the Ukrainians cannot fire back lest there be a terrible accident involving the nuclear plant," Blinken told reporters after nuclear non-proliferation talks at the United Nations in New York on Monday. At the New York talks, Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Mykola Tochytyskyi said "robust joint actions are needed to prevent nuclear disaster."

Russia backs China over the 'provocative' Pelosi visit to Taiwan

LONDON: Russia backed China on Tuesday over an expected visit to Taiwan by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, warning Washington that such a provocative trip would put the United States on a collision course with Beijing, Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned U.S. President Joe Biden against playing with fire over Taiwan in a call last week but three sources told Reuters on Tuesday that Pelosi was still set to visit the island. "We cannot say for sure right now whether she will or will not get there, but everything about this tour and the possible visit to Taiwan is purely provocative," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. Maria Zakharova, Russia's foreign

ministry spokeswoman, said the expected visit was a provocative attempt by Washington to pile pressure on China - with whom Russia has forged a strong partnership in recent years. "We consider a possible visit by Pelosi to Taiwan... as another provocative action by the United States

aimed at exerting additional pressure on Beijing," she said. "Russia confirms the principle of "one China" and opposes the independence of the island in any form," Zakharova said. China views visits by U.S. officials to Taiwan as sending an encouraging signal to the pro-independence camp in the island.



Pelosi set to visit Taiwan despite China warnings, sources say

Taiwan's foreign ministry said it had no comment on reports of Pelosi's travel plans, but the White House - which wouldn't confirm the trip - said she had the right to go. China's responses could include firing missiles near Taiwan, large-scale air or naval activities, or further "spurious legal claims" such as Beijing's assertion that the Taiwan Strait is not an international waterway, White House national security spokesman John Kirby told reporters in Washington. "We will not take the bait or engage in sabre rattling. At the same time, we will not be intimidated," Kirby said. Amid widespread speculation over whether

she would make a stop in Taiwan, Pelosi's office said on Sunday that she was leading a congressional delegation to the region that would include visits to Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan. It did not mention Taiwan. Two other sources said Pelosi was scheduled to meet a small group of activists who are outspoken about China's human rights record during her stay in Taiwan, possibly on Wednesday. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman John Lijian said on Monday that it would be "a gross interference in China's internal affairs" if Pelosi visits Taiwan, and warned that it would lead to "very serious developments and consequences."

Sports & Entertainment

Asia Cup 2022: Pakistan to face arch-rivals India on August 28 in Dubai



DUBAI: Pakistan and India will face each other on August 28 as the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced the schedule for the Asia Cup 2022 (T20 format). Hosts Sri Lanka will play against Afghanistan in the opening match of the Asian event. Meanwhile, Sharjah and Dubai will host the multi-na-

tion event. The much-awaited contest between Pakistan and India will remain the centre of attraction. In 2021, Pakistan beat India by 10 wickets to win their first-ever World Cup match against the arch-rivals. In the first phase, UAE, Singapore, Kuwait, and Hong Kong will play in qualifiers. Later on, a team from the qualifiers will join the five main teams for the main event. Asia Cup 2022 was first scheduled to be played in Sri Lanka. But later on, due to the political and economic crisis in the country, the event was shifted to the UAE. Asia Cup 2022 was first scheduled to be played in Sri Lanka.

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Priyanka Chopra gets emotional after meeting Ukrainian refugee women, children

Priyanka Chopra, the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, has shared a video on her Instagram account from her time in Poland where she met Ukrainian refugee women and children. In the video, Priyanka was seen playing around with Ukrainian children. She also received some hand-

made dolls named after her. The Baywatch actor got emotional after listening to a woman about her family member who couldn't join her in Poland. Sharing the details of the largest human displacement crisis in the world, Priyanka uploaded a video on her Instagram with the caption, "The

invisible wounds of war are the ones we don't usually see on the news. Yet, they were so evident to me today as started day 1 of my @unicef mission in Warsaw. 2/3 of children from Ukraine have been displaced (internally and externally).

Sunidhi Chauhan is huge fan of Pakistani Zeb Bangash

ISLAMABAD: India's Sunidhi Chauhan who came together with Pakistani's Zeb Bangash at a recent BBC's episode appreciated the latter's work and great vocals. The show hears the musicians praising each other and discussed the dynamics of creating music for an audience, that is spread so far wide, divided by borders, politics but united by art and music. The episode kicked off with Chauhan complimenting Bangash's "Sooha Saaha" from Alia Bhatt's blockbuster film "Highway". About this, the "Kamli" hit-maker said, "When that song released, I listened to it every single day for months and I still do." She added, "Sooha Saaha became a part of my life and I would listen to it when I'd workout,

during recording and sang it as a lullaby after I had a baby. It's so close to me. However, Bangash also did not miss the chance to re-

veal her favorite Chauhan song "Bhaage Re Mann" from the 2003 film "Chameli". Bangash made her Bollywood debut with a song for



worked in Pakistan three years ago for film "Baaji". The song was "Gangster Guriya" starring Meera and Melwish Hayat.

England to tour Pakistan in September for T20s

England will tour Pakistan in September for the first time in 17 years to play seven Twenty20, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement. They will go against the Men In Green in three T20 matches in December. England pulled out of their Pakistan tour last year soon after New Zealand had abandoned their tour of the South Asian country over security concerns. Beginning on September 20, England will play seven Twenty20 Internationals in Karachi and Lahore in

the first leg of their tour. After the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia, England will return to play three tests in December, PCB said in a statement. "We demonstrated our event planning and operational skills in the highly successful series against Australia in March/April and I am confident we will be able to replicate these when England visit us for the first time since 2005," Zakir Khan, PCB Director of International Cricket, said.

Neymar as the double as PSG romp to easy Super Cup win

TEL AVIV - Paris St Germain's Neymar scored twice with Lionel Messi and Sergio Ramos contributing the other two goals as they romped to a 4-0 victory over Nantes in the French Super Cup at the Bloomfield Stadium on Sunday. It was the ninth time in 10 years that the Parisians had won the traditional season-opening clash between the Ligue 1 champions and the French Cup winners, which has been regularly played outside of the country over the last decade. PSG's array of world class talent did not disappoint the Israeli crowd with Messi opening the scoring in the 22nd minute, after a through ball from Neymar that allowed him to round the goalkeeper and net from a tight angle. Neymar added a second from a curling free kick on the stroke of halftime before Sergio Ramos, who spent most of last season out injured after his move from Real Madrid, added the third with an audacious backheel from close range in the 57th minute.

Woods rejected \$700-800 million LIV offer, says Norman

(Reuters) - Tiger Woods turned down a sum in the region of \$700-800 million to join the Saudi-backed LIV Golf Invitational Series, the breakaway circuit's CEO Greg Norman told Fox News. Norman said the offer was made before the Australian was named chief of the controversial series, which is bankrolled by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. "That number was over there before I became CEO. So that number has been

out there, yes," two-times major winner Norman said in an interview that aired on Monday night. "Look, Tiger is a needle mover, right? So, of course you re go to look at the best of the best. They had originally approached Tiger before I became CEO. That number is somewhere in that (\$700-800 million) neighborhood." LIV Golf has signed several marquee players for the series, including Phil Mickelson,

Beyonce to remove offensive lyric after disabled community outcry

LOS ANGELES - Beyonce will remove a derogatory term for disabled people from her new song "Heated," a spokesperson said Monday, after its use was condemned as offensive by campaigners. The US pop megastar will re-record the track from her latest album "Renaissance" on

which she originally sang the lyrics "Spazzin' on that ass, spazz on that ass." "The word, not used intentionally in a harmful way, will be replaced," a spokesperson for Beyonce told AFP via email. Co-written with Canadian rapper Drake, the dance track appears to use the word "spaz" in the collo-

qual sense of temporarily losing control or acting erratically. But disability campaigners noted that the word is derived from "spastic." According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, spasticity is a movement disorder involving stiff muscles and awkward movement, suffered by 80 percent of people with cerebral palsy. In June, US singer Lizzo re-recorded her song "Grrits" to remove the same term following complaints that it was derogatory. In an Instagram post published soon after the album's release, Beyonce said creating the album "allowed me a place to dream and to find escape during a scary time for the world."

