

EDITORIAL

Founders: Late Kazi Saeed Akbar, Late Kazi Jawad Akbar, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher: Kazi Sajjad Akbar

Monday, June 13, 2022

A nation in disarray gets something to smile about thanks to Babar Azam and his boys

While there has been very little to smile about of late due to the self-inflicted economic and political crisis we find ourselves in nowadays, the one thing that we can absolutely jump for joy over is the series whitewash of the touring West Indies in the one day internationals by Babar Azam and his boys in the green. Once again, it has been our cricket team that has brought some much needed joy to a nation in disarray.

The latest one day series in which each victory of Babar and his boys was almost clinical also resulted in a lot of positives that the nation can be proud of. These boys are truly special and the recent additions to the side show that Pakistan has a deep pool of extremely talented young men that can be tapped into and called up to the national side to per-

form on any given day and in any given format of the game.

In this regard, we can only hope and pray that the current set up in the PCB which has produced such amazing results during this past year remains intact and free from politics. As a nation, we have an innate ability to shoot ourselves in



the foot every time we get something right and it would be absolutely criminal if this same self-destruct tendency derails Pakistan cricket and the tremendous success that we have been enjoying of late.

Another major positive achieved from the one day series has been the reemergence of international cricket in Multan. All the relevant stakeholders including the organizers and most of all, the people of Multan deserve full kudos for the excellent job they have done in showing the world that the city of Saints can deliver a first class product. And the fact that the organizers and fans were able to deliver so in such blistering heat, makes the achievement even more commendable.

Lastly, this nation owes an eternal debt of gratitude to the touring West Indies side for gracing our country with their presence and their competitiveness. We may have won the series against them, but they too are true winners with fantastic sportsmanship.

GLOBAL WATCH



Russia to reopen new 'McDonald's' after doing away with old logo

MOSCOW: Sunday marks a new dawn for Russia's fast-food lovers as former McDonald's Corp MCD.N restaurants reopen under new branding and ownership, more than three decades after the arrival of the hugely popular Western fast food chain.

The relaunch will begin on Russia Day (June 12), a patriotic holiday celebrating the country's independence, at the same flagship location in Moscow's Pushkin Square where McDonald's first opened in Russia in January 1990. In the early 1990s, as the Soviet Union crumbled, McDonald's came to embody a thawing of Cold War tensions and was a vehicle for millions of Russians to sample American food and culture. The brand's exit is now a powerful symbol of how Russia and the West are once again turning their backs on each other.

McDonald's last month said it was selling its restaurants in Russia to one of its local licensees, Alexander Govor. The deal marked one of the most high-profile business departures since Russia sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. Read full story



McDonald's iconic 'Golden Arches' have been taken down at sites in Moscow and St Petersburg, where they will make way for a new logo comprising two fries and a hamburger patty against a green background. The reopening will initially cover 15 locations in Moscow and the surrounding region.

The new chain's name remains a closely guarded secret. A change in the name of the McDonald's app on Friday to 'My Burger' generated some online excitement, but the chain's press team said this was only temporary, the RBC daily reported.

A motto on the app's home page read: "Some things are changing, but sta-

ble work is here to stay."

Russian media, citing leaked images of the new menu, have reported the re-naming of dishes such as the Filet-O-Fish to 'Fish Burger' and Chicken McNuggets to simply 'Nuggets'. Reuters could not verify the changes. Govor has said he plans to expand the new brand to 1,000 locations across the country and re-open all the chain's restaurants within two months. But there may be some headwinds. It takes decades to build a brand, said Peter Gabrielson, Professor of International Marketing at Finland's University of Vaasa, and the new launch is crucial for the brand's future success.—Agency

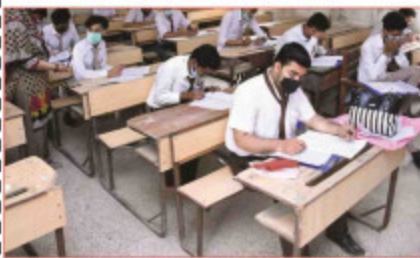
Chinese Defence Minister says country's nuclear arsenal is 'for self-defence'

China has made "impressive progress" in developing new nuclear weapons, but will only use them for self-defence, and never use them first, Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe told delegates at the Shangri-La Dialogue on Sunday.

In response to a question about reports last year on construction of more than 100 new nuclear missile silos in China's east, he said China "has always pursued an appropriate path to de-

veloping nuclear capabilities for protection of our country". He added nuclear weapons displayed in a 2019 military parade in Beijing - which included upgraded launchers for China's DF-41 intercontinental ballistic missiles - were operational and deployed. "China has developed its capabilities for over five decades. It's fair to say there has been impressive progress," he said.—Agency

Larkana Board's English paper leaked in Shikarpur



KARACHI: English paper of Larkana Intermediate and Secondary Education Board in Shikarpur was leaked amid cheating in the examination on Sunday.

Sindh education authorities literally surrendered before the copy mafia as question papers of intermediate exams were leaked well before time. This time English subject paper was out before time and was available at the photocopy shops near the examination centres. This happened under the nose of the

Larkana Intermediate and Secondary Education Board. Contrary to the exam halls practices, the copy mafia has been ruling the examination centres where students are using mobile phones freely and invigilators have become facilitators.

Also, WhatsApp groups are filled with the solved answers of an English paper. A large number of people are present outside the examination centres despite authorities imposing Section 144.—RT Agency

Cruel son kills father in Pano Aqil

PANO AQIL: A cruel son killed his father for not marrying him with a girl he liked in Pano Aqil town of Sindh on Sunday.

According to a report, accused Abdul Rehman wanted to marry a Punjab girl but his father Shahzad raised objection and disallowed him following which he turned irate and killed his father ruthlessly. The incident

has created a mourning atmosphere in the house.

Police said that the accused had admitted to killing his father with knife attacks. The deceased's body was shifted to a local hospital for medico-legal formalities and later handed over to the heirs. Further investigation into the incident was underway, said the police.—Agency

Three children drown while bathing in Ghotki

RAWALPINDI: Three children drowned while taking a bath in a pond in Ghotki on Sunday. Locals rushed to the pond to save them but the three expired before they got any help. Locals managed to pull out bodies of children from the pond and shifted them to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities.

The dead were identified as Irfan, Rehan and Abbas and they were between five

to ten years of age. The children were bathing in a pond to beat the heat on a hot summer day, said citizens. A mourning atmosphere prevailed in the houses of victims.

In 2021, three children drowned while taking a bath in Qazi Wah canal of district Ghotki. The drowned children were identified as Rihan Mirasi, Naeem and Zeeshan.—Agency

US Announces Tough Background Checks, Other Measures To Curb Gun Violence

Washington: A bipartisan group of US senators on Sunday proposed steps to curb gun violence following devastating mass shootings in Texas and New York, but the limited measures fall far short of the president's calls for change.

The shootings in May -- one at a Texas elementary school that killed 19 young children and two teachers, and another at a New York supermarket that left 10 Black people dead -- have piled pressure on politicians to take action.

But Republicans lawmakers, who have repeatedly blocked tougher measures, are still resisting major changes to gun regulations, instead pointing to mental health issues as the root of the problem.

The new proposals include tougher background checks for gun buyers under 21, increasing resources for states to keep weapons out of the hands of people deemed a risk, and cracking down on illegal gun purchases.

"Today, we are announcing a commonsense, bipartisan proposal to protect America's children, keep our schools safe, and reduce the threat of violence across our country," the group of 20 Democratic and Republican lawmakers said in a statement.

"Our plan increases needed mental health resources, improves school safety and support for students, and helps ensure dangerous criminals and those



who are adjudicated as mentally ill can't purchase weapons."

The senators also called for increased investment in mental health services and school safety resources, as well as including domestic violence convictions and restraining orders in the national background check database.

President Joe Biden praised the announcement and urged lawmakers to pass it quickly, while making clear that the proposals do not go far enough.

"Obviously, it does not do everything that I think is needed, but it reflects important steps in the right direction, and would be the most significant gun safety legislation to pass Congress in decades," he said in a statement. "With bipartisan support, there are no excuses for delay, and no reason why it should not quickly move through the Senate and the House." Frequent mass shootings The president had pushed for more substantive reforms, including a ban on

assault rifles -- which were used in both the Texas and New York shootings -- or at least an increase in the age at which they can be purchased.

He had also urged lawmakers to ban high-capacity magazines, mandate safe storage of firearms, and allow gun manufacturers to be held liable for crimes committed with their products.

The Democrat-controlled House of Representatives passed a broad package of proposals that included raising the purchasing age for most semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21. But the party does not have the requisite 60 votes to advance it in the Senate, leaving the bipartisan deal as the only hope for federal measures to address firearms violence. Frequent mass shootings have led to widespread outrage in the United States, where a majority of people support tighter gun laws, but opposition from many Republican lawmakers and voters has long been a hurdle to major changes.—Agency

THE HEARTLAND

PPP candidate Mian Muhammad Hassan Ujjan continues campaigning in Kumb

By Naz Solangi

KUMB: PPP candidate for the upcoming local bodies polls in Ward No-4, who named Mian Muhammad Hassan Ujjan chaired a corner meeting of the area notables at a local hotel on

Sunday. Addressing on the occasion, Mian Muhammad Hassan Ujjan said that with the support of the people of Ward No-4 he will be elected as the Chairman. He also assured the people to make all out efforts for carrying out de-

velopment works and provision of best possible facilities to the people. On the occasion, Nadir Ali Solangi, Tanveer Ahmed Wasani, Liaquat Ali Solangi, Sikandar Ali Solangi and others were also present.

Biryani seller to contest LB polls on SUP's ticket in NWM

By Yousif Rind

NAWAB WALI MUHAMMAD: A Biryani seller and poet Imran Rind is contesting the upcoming LB polls for the post of Councilor on the ticket of the Sindh United Party in Union Council Ahmed Bughio's Ward No-2. While talking to the media, Imran Rind said that the people of Sindh have always been betrayed by the rulers due to which the majority of the people of Pakistan's rich province are spending life below the poverty line. He said that the people need sincere and honest leaders, who



could resolve their problems. He assured the people of Nawab Wali Muhammad to make all out efforts for the

provision of the best possible facilities to them after sweeping the polls with their support.

PPP's opponents will face a historic defeat in LB polls: Imtiaz

By Adeel Alvi

SHIKARPUR: Sindh Minister for Energy, Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh offered condolence with journalists Muhammad Waryal Shaikh and Zubair Shaikh over the sad demise of their beloved family members. While talking to the media, Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh said that the alliance formed against the PPP in Shikarpur has no support of the people. He said that such temporary alliances will prove unsuccessful in the upcoming LB



polls and history will repeat itself in this regard. He further said the Sindh govern-

ment is committed to provide relief to the people and all out measures in this regard are being taken.

Larkana police have recovered 51 abducted persons so far this year: DIGP

LARKANA: Larkana Range Police on Sunday reported that they had killed 59 outlaws in 673 alleged encounters, injured 175, arrested 1348 criminals and confiscated a large number of weapons and contraband from them.

The police also got re-

leased 51 abducted persons in this period during different operations, said Deputy Inspector General of Police,

Larkana Range, Mazhar Nawaz Shaikh while talking to media on Sunday. He said that Larkana range police arrested 5910 wanted criminals, 8781 fugitives of law

and confiscated 40695 kg contraband which include 2816 litres of wine.

He further said that 25 reported kidnapping cases emerged in the Larkana range during the year and 27 cases were unreported out of which 51 have been recovered.—RT/Agency

Khadro residents recover two stolen buffaloes

By Akhtar Marri

KHADRO: A few unidentified armed men held hostage a 13-year-old boy named Ashiq Ali Khaskheli

S/o Muhammad Usman Khaskheli, who was grazing his buffaloes on Jagir Road on Sunday. The armed men took away two buffaloes but the local area

people after seeing them chased the culprits. After a long chase the thieves left the stolen buffaloes and managed to flee from the scene.

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Cardi B talks negatives of fame: 'My life's not mine anymore'

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CM Sindh's two advisers resign

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CIRCULATION CERTIFIED BY ABC

Transit visas to help Afghan citizens complete paperwork for onward travel: PM

Prime Minister Shvabaz Sharif observed on Sunday that the granting of transit visas to Afghan citizens will help them complete paperwork for onward travel.

"Since Afghan visa policy by our government is part of our efforts to continue helping our Afghan brothers and sisters in their hour of need," remarked the premier.

The premier urged the "international community" to lend a helping hand to the people of Afghanistan.

Addressing the Head of PM's Strategic Reform Initiatives Shvabaz Sharif said the premier had approved a new transit visa policy for the Afghan immigrant citizens.

Taking notice of the issues faced by the Afghan citizens and illegal immigrants, the prime minister had accorded his nod to the new policy of issuance of on-



transit visa to Afghan citizens going abroad through Pakistan, the PM Office Media Wing had said in a press release.

On his Twitter handle, Sharif posted, "Taking notice of issues faced by Afghan citizens, at the request of Raza Soomro, PM Shvabaz has approved an official visa for Afghan citizens who need to pass through Pakistan to reach their destination country which has approved their immigration."

Sharif further said that under the new policy, the Government of Pakistan would issue 30-day transit visas to Afghan citizens within 24 hours.

These countries that had granted immigration to Afghan citizens could apply for transit visas from Pakistan, he added.—RT/Agency

Bilawal, OIC Secretary-General discuss persecution of Muslims in India

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Sunday announced that he has recently had a discussion with the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Hassan Brahmi Taha on the issue of persecution of Muslims in India.

Taking to Twitter, Bilawal wrote: "Spoke to OIC SG H. Brahmi Taha on the issue of persecution of Muslims in India. We discussed the need to address this through collective efforts."

Earlier today, Prime



Minister Shvabaz Sharif said that he had recently had a discussion with the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Hassan Brahmi Taha on the issue of persecution of Muslims in India.

"We want to send out a clear message to the entire world by passing a resolution that we are ready to render any assistance to the people of India who are persecuted in their hour of need," he said.

Last week, two senior officials of India's ruling party BJP issued derogatory remarks against the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

IMF unhappy over non-implementation of its income tax proposals: Miftah

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is still unhappy with the government over the budget, mainly because they did not implement the Personal Income Tax (PIT) measures suggested by it, revealed Finance Minister Miftah Ismail Sunday.

Addressing the post-budget news conference at P-Block Auditorium, Ismail said there was no development on the IMF front at the moment.

"No other choice but to take more tough decisions," he admitted, but there was no other choice but to take more tough decisions.

He said further changes would be made in budgetary allocations after 15 days, The News reported.

The government did not pick up the tax rate on monthly income salary earnings of Rs100,000 per month, but took measures to stop increased taxes on property and wealthy people. The government also introduced a fixed tax scheme for retailers by offering them to pay Rs1,000 to Rs10,000 per month and the



sector had also declined to Rs1,000 billion due to unaccounted for gas (LFG).

Accompanied by Minister of State for Finance Ayman Ghani Pasha, Finance Secretary Haris Vagabi and FBR Chairman Aziz Ahmed, Miftah Ismail painted a very grim fiscal position of the country, and stated that total net revenues of the federal government had turned into negative after transfer of financial share to the provinces under the NFC Award and fuelling the debt servicing obligations," he stated from a negative Rs400 billion and then the country's deficits, including the civil government, including salaries and pension related obligations, were met through loans. He also stated that the fiscal consolidation was the main objective of the government. He said the trickle-down approach failed in Pakistan, so they changed the approach to targeting the poor and less privileged, and jacked up the growth trajectory.

He also highlighted that the electricity debt of the gas

for how long the country would keep tapping from multilateral creditors and bilateral friends?

The minister said that Islamabad has signed a loan on export of power oil, adding Prime Minister Shvabaz Sharif has talked to the Indonesian president. The price of oil in the international market touched \$1,000 to \$1,500 and now the government earmarked Rs20 billion oil funds development. Through increased area, Pakistan could save \$750 million to \$1 billion precious foreign exchange earnings by producing local power oil. Better oil would have to be sold at a loss. He said that the tightening of fiscal policies would cause pain, and a bitter pill would have to be swallowed by the rich classes for paying increased share in taxes. He said that zero load shedding was not possible in June because 23,600-MW was the maximum power plants could generate, while one furnace oil-based furnace plant was producing one unit at cost of Rs29.—RT/Agency

Pakistan condemns brutal treatment of Muslims protesting in India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday strongly condemned the heavy-handed treatment by the Indian authorities of Muslims who were registering a peaceful protest after Friday prayers over the derogatory remarks of the two members of the ruling political party BJP against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

"The indiscriminate and widespread use of force by the Indian authorities across various states in India has resulted in the killing of two innocent Muslim protesters and critically injured 11 others in Ranchi city," a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

It is worth mentioning that in Ranchi's Ranchi, Indian police shot dead two protesters when they spread fire at the demonstrators.

Protesters took to the streets after Friday prayers in large numbers across India and neighboring countries to condemn the comments, with police firing on crowd in the eastern city of Ranchi.

Protesters were arrested in many states across India following a BJP spokesperson's blasphemous remarks about the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

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blasphemous actions and has shamefully chosen to handle public protest with brutal and indiscriminate use of force," the ministry noted.

The office stated that the Indian Government's apathy to the grievous situation and the vicious cycle of communal violence may lead to further marginalisation of the Indian Muslims.

Referring to Pakistan's stance, the Foreign Office once again strongly urged India to ensure that demonstrable action is taken against those responsible for making derogatory remarks and attacking the dignity of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

"The international community must also take immediate cognizance of the grossly aggravating situation of Islamophobia in

blasphemous actions and has shamefully chosen to handle public protest with brutal and indiscriminate use of force," the ministry noted.

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