

World Refugee Day to be observed today

ISLAMABAD: World Refugee Day will be observed today (Monday, June 20) across the world including Pakistan to honour the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence. It is a day to recognize the contributions of refugees in their communities. Organizations such as Amnesty International and the IRC often get involved in various activities for the day. —APP

The Business

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ECP extends display centres till 30th

SARGODHA: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Saturday extended the term of display centres till June 30 which were established for registration, correction and transfer of electoral votes. Regional Election Commissioner Amir Javed, while talking to media persons said that the ECP had set up 1,059 display centres across the division for the information of current status of electoral votes. The last date of these centres were June 19, 2022 which has been extended till June 30, he added. He said that ECP had already given the task to display centres teams to visit door-to-door for the provision of vote-related information to those people who were unable to visit these centres. —APP

Govt taking steps for improving quality of education: Tanvir

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Development, Rana Tanvir Hussain has said that the present government was taking various steps for bringing improvement in the education sector.

He expressed these views while addressing to the ground-breaking ceremony of Regional Campus of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in Sheikhupura further said the Govt will train the teachers in the first phase.

He said that AIOU offers various programs of teacher training, universities should take steps by introducing a special training program for teacher training to secure the future of children. He further added that Allama Iqbal Open University could play an important role in popularizing education, training teachers and improvement of quality education in the country. Unless the direction is right, we cannot make progress. We should pay special attention to merit, transparency, and quality of education. He further said that after Covid 19, the distance education system and online education have become very popular all over the world. The education minister said that Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum is one of the most active Vice-Chancellors and he can bring further improvement to this education system.

He said that Saudi Arabia has made an excellent setup of an e-learning and communication system education system consisting of 20 TV channels.

The Government of Pakistan is sending Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum to Saudi Arabia in the first week of July to review Saudi Arabia's communication education system to further improve Pakistan's distance education. Rana Tanvir Hussain further said that he gets peace of mind for contributing to the betterment of the region or the country. The Federal Minister for Education said that Open University is the second-largest university in South Asia. The establishment of a campus in Sheikhupura will also provide free education to the needy children of the area which will increase the number of 1.2 million students at the university over many times. —APP

Five die as floodwater sweeps away pick-up van in Sibi

QUTTA: Five people including women and children died as flash flood triggered by heavy rains in Balochistan swept away a pick-up van in Sibi on Sunday.

Three injured including the driver Farooq were rescued while the authorities feared the death toll might rise as there were many passengers in the vehicle which was swept away by rising water in Katmandahi Beiji stream.

According to a private news channel, only one of the victims was identified so far as Ghulam Bakhsh Marri. —APP

Corona positivity rate recorded at 0.47pc in Pindi

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi district coronavirus positivity ratio was recorded at 0.47 per cent here on Sunday, while five more cases, had been reported from the Rawalpindi district during the last 24 hours. According to new data released by the District Health Authority, as many as 46,692 coronavirus positive cases had been recorded, while 1765 had lost their battle of life since the pandemic in the district. In addition, the report updated that 45,317 patients had been discharged after recovery.

The health authority updated that three cases were reported from Rawal town and two from Rawalpindi Cantonment area among the new cases. The report said the number of active cases was 41 and quarantined in home isolation.

Around 6,887,182 people, including 44,797 health workers, had been vaccinated against the fatal disease since the start of the vaccination drive from March 10, 2021.

In addition, District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 1,062 samples were collected, out of which 1,057 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.47 per cent. —APP



TEHRAN: Federal Minister for Power, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan meets with Muhammad Ali Farahnakian, Deputy Minister of Energy for International Affairs during his 4-day visit to Tehran.

President returns Elections (Amend) Bill 2022 unsigned



President Arif Alvi says it was 'very painful' for him as head of state to not sign a bill passed by Majlis Shoora

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has returned the Elections (Amendment) EVM/OP bill 2022 unsigned after citing certain reasons and recording his observations.

The president said that he had been pursuing the issue of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and Overseas Pakistanis Voting (OP) with all the governments, in the parliament, as well as at the Supreme Court of Pakistan since more than a decade.

The president observed that he had not signed the bill despite the fact, that the constitution that he upheld, would make it into law, a press release of President Secretariat Press Wing on Sunday said.

In this regard, he referred to Article 75 (2) of Constitution of Pakistan which said "When the President has returned a Bill to the Majlis-e Shoora (Parliament), it shall be

reconsidered by the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) in joint sitting and, if it is again passed, with or without amendment, by the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), by the votes of the majority of the members of both Houses present and voting, it shall be deemed for the purposes of the Constitution to have been passed by both Houses and shall be presented to the President, and the President shall give his assent within ten days, failing which such assent shall be deemed to have been given."

He further noted that it has been very painful to him as 'President of Pakistan' to not sign a bill passed by the Majlis-e-Shoora. Therefore, he must record his reasons for posterity. While enlisting the reasons, the president said that besides, the proposed laws' regressive nature that he pointed out in detail when he referred the bill back to Parliament, he strongly believed that today's technology especially with EVMs when used judiciously contained many solutions that reduced the impact of confusion, discord and accusations in the 'ever-marred' and challenged election processes.

Technology could also improve transparency, make elections inclusive with the vote of the overseas Pakistanis, build confidence and reduce polarization to finally achieve the elusive dream of free and fair elections, he added. More than that, President Alvi said, he wanted Pakistan to leapfrog into the world of tomorrow, not to solve today's problems only through the lens and experiences of yesterday but through newer and better scientific approaches that were available, or even 'birthing' today.

He did understand that this could not happen without confidence building measures across the aisles, and broad stakeholder involvement, he said, posing a question why was this not done and why the obvious was not visible to the opinion and decision makers would remain an enigma to him.

He observed that the present and future governments and parliaments would be facing two choices, whether to allow the past to drag Pakistan down or allow the lessons from the past and technologies of today to boost them into the bright progressive and dynamic future of Pakistan that had been

Italy promoting 'Olive Culture' in Pakistan: Italian Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese on Sunday said that Italy was playing vital role in promoting 'Olive Culture' in Pakistan for improving olive value.

Talking to mediamen, he said there was full potential of olives in Pakistan in which Italy has been playing its role for the betterment and promotion of olive culture in Pakistan. He said that Italy would cooperate with Pakistan worth €1.5 million for the promotion of olive culture in Pakistan.

He said that olive culture means olive supply value chain and procession, without which development in this sector would not be easy in Pakistan. Replying to a question, he said that "Olive Culture" project worth €1.5 million shall be executed in 26 months in suitable areas by CIHEAM Bari in cooperation with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) through the Pakistan Oilseed Department. He said that it represents a continuum with all the work done by Italy in the past, with a holistic

approach encompassing all stages and stakeholders. Ambassador Andreas said that Pakistan had a lot of potential for olive production and the country could earn foreign exchange by increasing olive production and using it for commercial purposes.

He said that Italian olives were the best in the world in terms of quality. Pakistan could import olives from Italy. Olives, he said, were an integral part of the entire Mediterranean civilization without which life and culture would be incomplete.

The Ambassador said that Italy had always supported Pakistan's journey in the field and "We are happy to continue with an aim to develop a sustainable, modern and rich olive culture in Pakistan." He said that it would not only provide quality edible oil for the Pakistani people but also help reduce the import bill of the country.

Rather, he said, "We look forward to the times when Pakistan would be among leading olive-producing and exporting countries in the world". While talking to mediamen,

Project Coordinator, CIHEAM Bari International Olive Culture, Marco Marchetti said that there was a need to work more on the olive supply chain in Pakistan, the lack of which at present could not reap the benefits in Pakistan. He said that consumption of edible oil in Pakistan is 4.5 million tons for which the market needs to introduce the best olive oil for human health. Marco Marchetti said that for the promotion of olive oil culture in Pakistan, there was a need to introduce the technology, including awareness to the farmers. He said that there was a need to reduce the cost of production in the olive supply value chain with the acquisition of technology, by improving the cost of production, local farmers can be given opportunities to sell olive oil in the market at a good price. "Olive culture has been around for thousands of years in Italy, where we have been associated with Mediterranean civilization, where olives have been cultivated for thousands of years," he said. —APP

'Russia-Ukraine war reshaping world trade, investment'

ISLAMABAD: Russia-Ukraine war is reshaping world trade and investment that will also affect Pakistan in the prevailing global scenario.

Talking to a delegation of Business Think Tank led by Muhammad Azam Khan, Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and former Senior Vice President Lahore Chambers of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Meher Kashif Younis said with no signs of an early end to the war in Ukraine, the risk is growing that conflict will tip a fragile global economy into recession.

He said in February last, the crisis between Russia-Ukraine escalated, the global economy was beginning to recover from Covid after recording worst economic performance since the great recession. He said the current outlook for the global economy now seems bleak and South Asia will also be affected equally.

He said rising inflation has outpaced the recovery in the real economy, adding that disruption in supply chains and rising petroleum prices before Russia's invasion caused challenges in managing global inflation and growth. He said that Russia and Ukraine combined have a significant share of global supplies of oil, gas and other commodities so that the conflict resulted into increased commodity prices.

Sparking on the occasion, Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan Furniture Council Meher Kashif said current global crisis apart from rich countries, will also impact the South Asia region as well and its economic activities will decline as inflation is being driven up further by soaring prices of food and fuel brought by Russia-Ukraine war. —APP

CEC orders probe into firing incident in PP-167 by-poll

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja has directed Inspector General Police Punjab to conduct an impartial inquiry of firing incident in PP-167 by-election (Lahore), and to take strict action against all those responsible for the violence and submit a report to the Election Commission.

Taking notice about the firing and violence incident in Lahore, following a clash between candidates of two major political parties, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) directed the IGP to ensure the arrest of culprits involved in firing incident without giving any due thought about culprits' political affiliation. The CEC directed the IGP Punjab to sternly check the gun culture, violence and subversive elements, especially during the electioneering. CEC directed IGP to ensure a zero tolerance policy in this regard, while showing no leniency against perpetrators of violence. Reportedly, a brawl broke out between supporters of two main political parties at Allah Ho Chowk, Johar Town, Lahore. According to reports, the activists of both the parties became livid and opened fire against each other. Some even reportedly manhandled members of rival group with clubs. —APP

Sialkot made footballs to be used in FIFA World Cup 2022

SIALKOT: Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) Senior Vice President Sheikh Zohaib Rafique Sethi said on Sunday that Sialkot made football "Al Rihla" would be used in the FIFA World Cup 2022 to be played in Qatar.

Talking to APP, the SCCI SVP said that a Sialkot-based leading exports firm "Forward Sports" had produced "Al Rihla" football for Adidas which would be played officially in FIFA football World Cup-2022 as it was a great honour and pride for Sialkot and even for Pakistan. He said it was third time that the brand of "Forward Sports" would be used in the FIFA World Cup. He said the design of football would be as per the culture of Qatar. Zohaib said the world was currently moving towards sustainability and the material used in its manufacturing was a bio-based recycling material. No solvent chemicals were used in football making but water-based chemicals were used which do not pollute the

India blocks UN listing of Indian national responsible for terrorist attacks against Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS: In a blatant misuse of its UN Security Council's membership, India has blocked a proposal to proscribe an Indian national, Gobinda Patnaik Duggivalasa, by a 15-member body's panel, known as the 1267 Sanctions Committee, according to the informed sources.

The Committee procedures require consent of all Council members to accept a listing request. The proposal for listing of Gobinda Patnaik Duggivalasa was tabled in the Committee because of his role in financing and supporting terrorist attacks against Pakistan, including the 13 July 2018 suicide bomb attack in Mastung, Balochistan, that he planned, coordi-

nated and executed. Over 160 individuals lost their lives and more than 200 were injured in that attack.

Duggivalasa was also involved in suicide attack on a bus carrying Chinese nationals in Dalbandin, Balochistan, on 11 August 2018, the sources said. This individual is part of India's state-sponsored terrorist network responsible for unifying various Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) factions in the past in Afghanistan, they said. Recent reports of the U.N. Monitoring Team focusing on the global threat posed by Al-Qaeda, Daesh and related groups have highlighted increasing cross-border terrorist threat posed by proscribed TTP to Pakistan

from the Afghan soil as result of the re-unification of the group in Afghanistan.

Pakistan, according to the sources, has shared concrete evidence on the involvement of Indian intelligence agencies in sponsoring UN-listed terrorist organizations such as TTP and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) in cross-border terrorist attacks against Pakistani military and civilian targets. India's blocking of the listing proposal, including by asserting political pressure on other members of the Committee, shows India's "farical" stance on terrorism as well as its misuse of the U.N.'s counter-terrorism mechanisms, the sources. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Minister Finance, Inland Revenue & Cooperative Department of Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Abdul Majid Khan addresses a press conference at National Press Club.