

Increased petroleum prices with heavy heart: Shehbaz Sharif

Says Imran Khan sought an NRO, but when his attempts failed he concocted the 'foreign conspiracy' narrative

MANSEHRA/ISLAM-ABAD, May 29: The Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the government was helpless and they increased the petroleum prices with a heavy heart.

Addressing a rally in Mansehra, Shehbaz Sharif said that Nawaz Sharif worked day and night for the development of Pakistan. If given a chance, we will turn Khyber Pakhtunkhwa into Punjab.

He brutally criticized the previous government explaining that they did not fulfil any of the promises made to the public. Talking about five million houses they did not even lay a single brick. In the previous government, millions of people lost their jobs, he added.

The PM put forward a choice to the people of KP telling them to decide that who is the saboteur and who is the builder.

Carrying on with it, the PM further added that Imran Khan lowered oil prices in his last days, the PTI Chairman knew that he will be ousted constitutionally.

The PML-N leader expressed that the government was helpless in the matter, they had to raise oil prices. He also mentioned that the government has announced a subsidy for 80 million people. 10 kg flour will cost Rs. 400 in utility stores.

PM Shehbaz in his address also urged the KP Chief Minister to provide flour in a cheap price to the people.

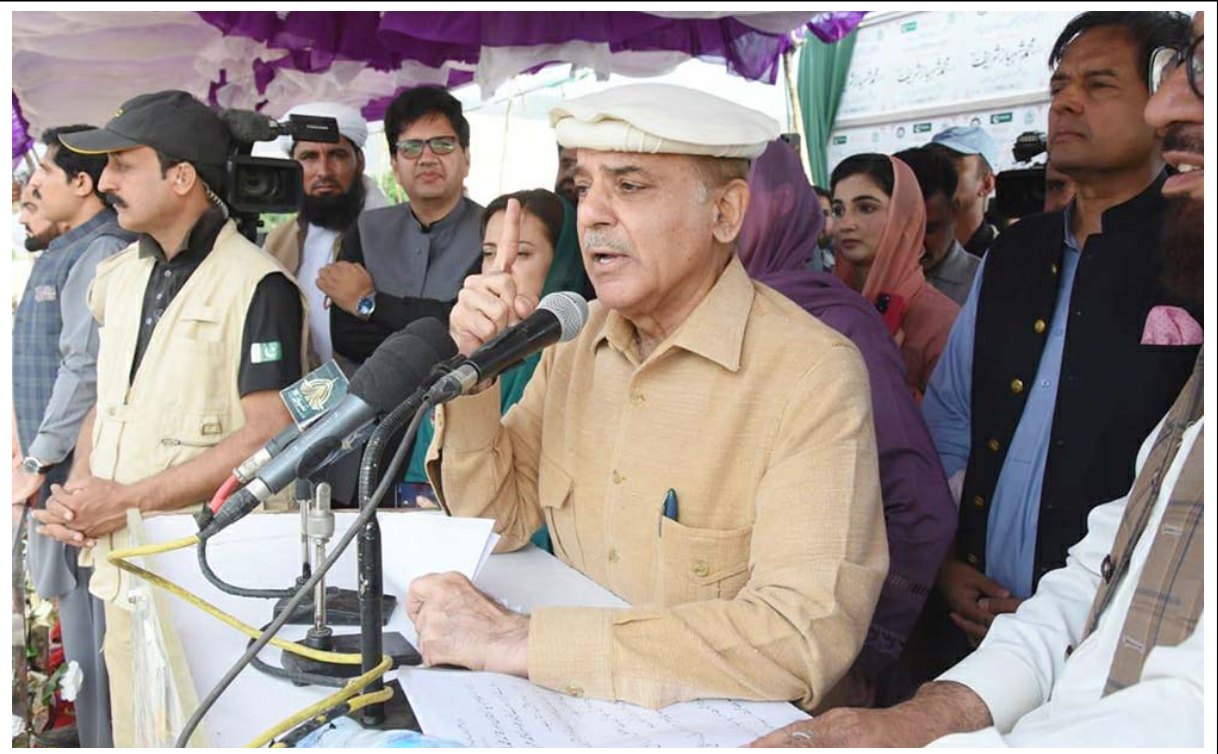
Earlier, Prime Minister She-

hbaz Sharif has said that a leaked audio tape, purportedly recording of a phone conversation between PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari and property tycoon Malik Riaz, has exposed "Imran Khan's hypocrisy and double standards."

Shehbaz Sharif said that Imran Khan had sought an NRO for him to defeat the no-confidence motion against him but when his attempts failed his concocted the 'foreign conspiracy' narrative.

Taking to his Twitter handle, Prime Minister Shehbaz tweeted on Sunday: "The audio tape that surfaced recently exposes Imran Khan's hypocrisy & double standards. Contrary to his claims, he sought NRO to save

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Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing a public gathering in Mansehra.

Elahi bashes PTI's opponents telling them to worry about themselves

LAHORE, May 29: Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Sunday said that those who have been dreaming of Imran Khan's arrest should worry about themselves.

Talking to media, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said that the preparations for the real independence long march [Haqiqi Azadi long march] are ongoing. He mentioned that the

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PAKISTAN CONTRIBUTED 200,000 TROOPS TO UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION

Pakistan is one of the largest troops contributing countries in the UN peacekeeping efforts: ISPR

RAWALPINDI, May 29: Pakistan has contributed 200,000 troops to UN peacekeeping missions across the world while 169 of them had laid down their lives to serve humanity globally, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

In a message on the occasion of World UN Peacekeepers Day, the ISPR stated that Pakistan stands tall in the comity of nations being one of the largest troops con-

tributing countries in the UN peacekeeping efforts.

"Pakistan's journey in UN peacekeeping operations began in 1960 when the first-ever Pakistan Army contingent was deployed for UN peacekeeping operations in Congo, the military media's wing said sharing the history of the missions.

It said that over the last 61 years, Pakistan has been the most significant and consistent contributor to UN peace-

keeping around the world.

"Pakistan has participated in 46 UN peacekeeping missions including some of the most challenging undertakings and so far contributed more than 200,000 troops to the UN peacekeeping missions across the world," the ISPR said.

It further shared that up till now, 169 Pakistani peacekeepers have sacrificed their lives in the noble cause of

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Incumbent govt is going to recognise Israel: Imran Khan

CHARSADDA, May 29: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has said that the present government led by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) is going to recognise Israel following a delegation's visit, sources reported

on Sunday.

While addressing the PTI Workers' Convention in Charsadda today, Imran Khan criticised the rulers and said that a delegation visited Israel for the first time which included a salaried person of state television Pakistan

Television (PTV).

Imran Khan said that the nation will never accept the rulership of thieves and US slaves in Pakistan.

Khan said that they are fighting for real independence from the thieves. He

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MWM urges FO to explain nation on Pakistani delegation's visit to Israel

ISLAMABAD, May 29 (NNI): Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM) chief Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri has urged the Foreign Office to explain to the nation about the visit of the Pakistani delegation to Israel.

Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri in a statement issued by the MWM media cell on Sunday said travel to Israel is not allowed on a Pakistani passport so how did Pakistani citizens visit the usurping Zionist state?

The MWM chief said that friendship with those occupying the Mosque

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FO submits report to IHC on Aafia Siddiqui case

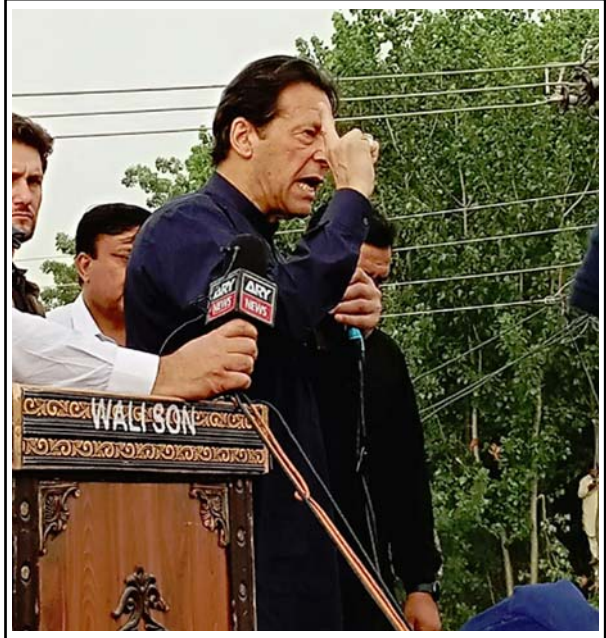
-As per the report, Dr Aafia was completely fine by the time of counsellor access



ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Foreign Ministry of Pakistan on Saturday submitted a report to Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Dr Aafia Siddiqui case in which it was stated that she has the permission to communicate with her family.

As per the report, Dr Aafia was completely fine by the time of counselor access. The issue of human right is regularly raised before American US officials.

Aafia Siddiqui is serving an 86-year prison sentence after being convicted in Manhattan in 2010 on charges that she sought to shoot US military officers while being detained in Afghanistan two years earlier.



PTI leader Imran Khan is addressing a gathering in Charsadda on Sunday.

Self-proclaimed 'unshakeable' fell at Zardari's feet: Maryam Nawaz

MANSEHRA (Dunya News) - Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Sunday said that Imran Khan claimed to be standing firm but fell at Asif Ali Zardari's feet and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have rejected the long march based on anarchy and sedi-

tion and Shahbaz Sharif will heal the wounds inflicted by former PM.

Addressing the rally, she said that Shehbaz Sharif is the real servant of Pakistan who changed the destiny of Punjab and he will also change the fate of Pakistan.

"I promise that the wounds

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Pakistani delegation reaches India for water talks

LAHORE, May 29: A five-member Pakistani delegation, led by Indus Water Commissioner Mehr Ali Shah, left for India via Wagah Border on Sunday, to discuss issues pertaining to sharing of water resources under the Indus Waters Agreement.

Speaking before his departure, Mehr Ali Shah said the two-day talks will begin in New Delhi on Monday, which will focus on issues of sharing flood data in the upcoming monsoon season as well as forecast information regarding floods in rivers coming from India. He said Pakistan has objections over India's three mega hydel projects on River Chenab.

It is pertinent to mention here that the 116th meeting of the India-Pakistan Permanent Indus Commission was held in New Delhi on 23-24 March 2021. The Foreign Office in a statement said that under the relevant provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the meeting is held annually alternately in Pakistan and India.

A host of issues related to the IWT were discussed during the meeting. The Pakistan side reiterated its

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Pakistan will not recognize Israel: Ahsan Iqbal

- Says all our sympathies are with our Palestinian brothers and sisters

ISLAMABAD, May 29: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said that the policy of the government of Pakistan is clear and it does not recognize the state of Israel.

In a statement on the social networking site Twitter, Ahsan Iqbal made it clear that no government or semi-government delegation of



Pakistan met the Israeli president. The participants in the

1 killed, 16 injured during Balochistan Local Bodies polls

QUETTA, May 29: One person was killed and 16 were injured in firing and fighting in different parts of the province during Balochistan local body polls, while three rockets were fired in Dera Bugti and two officials were also injured in a grenade attack on a polling station in Kalat, Dunya News reported on Sunday.

According to Levies sources, unidentified persons hurled a hand grenade and fled, adding that one person was injured in a

minor altercation between two groups at UC-1 Ward No. 7 Padag in Noshki and three rockets were fired from an unknown direction at a polling station in Dera Bugti area of Basa, Balochistan, which landed near the Levies check post at the polling station, however no casualties were reported.

In Dera Bugti District Kohlu Union Council 6 Ward No. 2 Misri Khan Makori 8 people were injured during the fight,

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Bilawal Bhutto to visit Turkey from today, meet President Tayyip Erdogan

KARACHI, May 29: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will leave for a two-day visit to Turkey from Dubai on Monday (today). Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will leave for Istanbul from Dubai on a special chartered plane at 3pm. He is expected to meet Turkish President Tayyab Erdogan and his counterpart to discuss bilateral relations, trade and international politics. He

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Azerbaijan, Pakistan deepening mutually beneficial relations: Khazar Farhadov

- Says under the visionary leadership of President Ilham Aliyev process of development of democratic, legal, secular state and civil society continues successfully

By Riaz A Malik

ISLAMABAD, May 29: The Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, His Excellency Khazar Farhadov has said that after the independence of Azerbaijan in 1991 under the leadership of National leader Heydar Aliyev tremendous efforts were made to strengthen the restored independence, thereby today under the visionary leadership of sitting President Ilham Aliyev, the process of development of democratic, legal, secular state and civil society continues successfully.

This he stated while addressing a ceremony held here on Friday at a local hotel in connection with the Independence Day of Azerbaijan.

He added that the victory in the war of the liberation of Azerbaijani territories from Armenian occupation in

2020, and the surrender of Armenia are the natural consequence of the talented leadership of the supreme

commander in chief President Ilham Aliyev.

The envoy went on to say that Azerbaijan and Pakistan



are bound by the relations of strong friendship, brotherhood and strategic partnership based on historical and cultural roots. The two countries have always supported each other both bilaterally and within international organizations.

The Ambassador added that Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations underpinned by mutual trust and confidence, have developed exponentially, and that new directions of this engagement have been identified. He added that the high level of political relations and mutually beneficial cooperation in the economic, defense industry, humanitarian and other spheres are gratifying.

Azerbaijan-Pakistan Inter-governmental Joint Com-

mission and around 10 Joint Working Groups under this Commission serve the further improvement of the relations between two brotherly countries, he further said.

Direct flights which started from Karachi, Lahore to Baku in March, 2022 (Islamabad to be started in coming weeks) is also another milestone that was achieved between Azerbaijan and Pakistan which gave an impetus to further deepen people to people contacts with easily visa obtaining procedure, to increase number of tourists from both countries, as well as to expand economic cooperation, increase trade and raise the level of relations between business communities of the two countries.

INT'L CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY: HRDN ORGANISES CONFERENCE IN BAKU

35-member delegation of professionals from Pakistan participates in the conference

NHT Report

ISLAMABAD, May 29: Islamabad based renowned Think Tank, HRDN organized a conference entitled "Youth as Ambassadors for Cultural Diversity and Peace" in Baku, Azerbaijan in connection with the International Cultural Diversity Day, May 21, 2022. A 35 members delegation of high-profile professionals and head of the organizations from Pakistan attended the conference. Dr. Roomi S. Hayat Chairperson HRDN declared the conference open. In his inaugural address Dr. Roomi observed that culture has the power to transform entire societies, strengthen local communities and forge a sense of identity and belonging for people of all ages. Youth can act as a bridge between cultures and serve as key agents in promoting peace and intercultural understanding.

Ms. Tarana Suleymanli-BoD Member Azerbaijan Democratic Students and Youth Organization (ADSAYO) and Mr. Muhammad Mobeen Yaqoob CFO FINCA-Azerbaijan shed the light on the role of youth in cultural diversity and Peace keeping agents across the borders. Ms. Robela Bangash, CEO-HRDN at the close of the conference thanked the speakers and the participants for making the event a big success. She highlighted that heritage related initiatives clearly demonstrate that culture is an indispensable driver and enabler of sustainable development. Transmitting heritage values to young people favors intercultural understanding, respect for cultural diversity and helps create an environment propitious to a culture of peace building. Besides attending the conference the delegation had the opportunity to visit Gubala, Atishgah and Yandaghin Baku which are habitat of rich and diverse cultures. At the end the delegation left Baku for Islamabad with sweet memories and strong wishes for the enhancement of Pak-Azerbaijan relations in diverse fields including the tourism.



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IG Islamabad, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan is being briefed during a visit to Safe City in Islamabad on Sunday.

IGP for coordinated efforts to make Safe City more effective

ISLAMABAD, May 29: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Nasir Akbar Khan has directed for coordinated efforts to improve efficacy of Islamabad Safe City Project.

During his visit at Safe City Project on Sunday, he said it was an excellent project of modern technology for maintenance of peace, safety of wealth and property of the public. The problems of traffic management should be resolved preferentially by taking advantage of the project.

All senior officers of operational and investigation were present on the occasion. Director Operations Safe City Rai Mazhar and Director IT Saleem Raza Sheikh briefed the IGP about the current progress of the project and performance of Rescue 15 Helpline, Traffic Helpline 1915 and Gender Protection Unit Helpline 1815.

The IGP instructed the staff to closely monitor the criminal activities through safe city cameras, besides working of patrolling police and personnel deployed at pickets. The officers should keep the field officers aware of the current situation with the help of monitoring by cameras so that an in time and immediate proceedings may be started against culprits and anti social elements of society, the IGP said.

The IGP directed senior police offices that every possible step should be taken for maintaining peace especially clinching street criminals into the grip of law by the help of cameras installed over roads in accordance with the parameters of modern policing.

He said that the prime object of Safe City and other modern technology based projects was to ensure the safety of property and lives of people and extermination of criminals from society. -PNP

Special squads to curb one-wheeling and road stunt activities in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, May 29: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has erected constituted special squads to curb one-wheeling and road stunt activities in the city. Following the directions of Inspector General of Police Islamabad DR. Akbar Nasir these special squads have been erected to check practices of one wheeling, car racing and rash driving which not only put the lives of violators in danger but also of other road users. Various teams and special squads of ITP would continuously patrol in various areas of the city especially in 7th avenue, 9th avenue, Margallah Road, Kashmir Highway, Expressway, Murree Road to take action against speedsters who play stunt on roads. The policemen of these teams and squad performing in

these areas would ensure special vigilance and stopping youngsters to get involved in these stunts putting their lives on risk. SSP (Traffic) Syed Mustafa Tanvir said that strict action would be taken against one-wheelers and rash drivers. He appealed the parents to ensure strict vigilance of their children and do not allow them to play stunt on the roads and risk their lives. "Such steps by the ITP have the only purpose to ensure safe road environment for the citizens of Islamabad," he said but termed the cooperation of the parents vital to stop such life-threatening stunts. The SSP (Traffic) said that bikes of one-wheelers would be impounded and heavy fine tickets will be delivered to them. No laxity will be tolerated in this regard, he added. -PNP

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Chiniot Dam to generate 80 MW cheap, eco-friendly electricity

ISLAMABAD, May 29: The Chiniot Dam located on Chenab river about 5 km from the Chiniot city would be completed by December 2022. According to detail, the gross storage of Chiniot Dam has 0.90 MAF which will generate 80 Mega Watt (274 GWh) cheap and eco-friendly electricity.

The project was executed by Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA). The government would be provided Rs 50 million under public sector development programme (PSDP) whereas Rs 96.330 million to be provided by WAPDA from its own resources.

The feasibility study of Chiniot Dam project was carried out by WAPDA and completed in 2019. The PC-II proforma for Detailed Engineering Design has been submitted to Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) for consideration in forthcoming DDWP meeting. The DDWP has approved the PC-II proforma subject to certain conditions. -NNI



Special Awards are being given to the staff of School of Nursing, Kharadar General Hospital, Karachi for their long services during an oath taking ceremony on Sunday.

CDA satisfied with Orange line metro bus passenger load

ISLAMABAD, May 29: CDA team satisfied on average daily ridership on Orange Line Metro bus route. During a meeting at CDA HQ, data regarding average ridership on Orange Line Metrobus route was analyzed.

Average daily passenger load for 15 buses has been 11,464 per day. So per trip 30 passengers per bus. It was further apprized that

by Average daily usage criterion, faiz Ahmed faiz junction for orange and red line was busiest with 1,746 passengers per day where as police foundation mauve area stop was least used. Furthermore, highest number of passenger on any day was 16,000 plus on 23rd May. It was observed that with passage of time the ridership is getting stronger on this route.

The capital development authority management observed that it was matter of great satisfaction that large number of people are utilising this facility. It was further hoped that with the launch of green line and blue line shortly the connectivity among the various areas of capital will increase and the number of ridership will increase further. The management expressed their hope that not only this would reduce traffic congestion but would also help in reducing air pollution in the city.

It is pertinent to mention here that Buses are likely to reach Islamabad from Karachi by end of this week, in first phase apart from buses for orange line, buses for blue and green line are also reaching Islamabad. -PR

India-Bangladesh train services resume after over 2 years

NEW DELHI, May 29: Passenger train services between India and Bangladesh resumed Sunday after a gap of over two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said.

The service resumed with the flagging off of a Bandhan Express train from Kolkata station in India's West Bengal, which will run two days a week. The train services between Kolkata and Khulna of Bangladesh have been suspended since March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

People on both sides of the border were reportedly excited about the resumption of the train services, which are fully booked for the next few days. The Maitree Express, linking Kolkata and Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, is also scheduled to resume services.

The Mitali Express, which is the third India-Bangladesh train after the Bandhan Express and the Maitree Express, will start operation on June 1. The service, linking New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal and Dhaka, was virtually inaugurated in March 2021. -DNA

AIOU conducts the first board meeting for History Chair

ISLAMABAD, May 29: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has set up a chair "Creating Archives of Intelligentsia of Pakistan" recently. Vice Chancellor, AIOU Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum highlighted the salient objectives of newly established Chair on History. He said AIOU has set up a Chair to record and preserve the Oral History on multidisciplinary topics to reconnect our future generation with our history to enhance the pace of ideological and intellectual development.

The first meeting of the Board of Management for this chair was held yesterday. Prof. Dr. Samina Awan who held this chair elaborated convened the meeting. Senior Advisor (PMU) Mohammad Rafique Tahir, Convenor, Iqbal Chair, Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Hasan Raza, former DGRS, Inamullah Sheikh, and Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid participated the meeting. Prof. Dr. Iftekhar Haider Malik from Oxford, UK, Prof. Dr. Zahid Munir Amir from Punjab University Lahore, and Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran from Beaconhouse National University, Lahore attended online. Prof. Hail Tokar of Istanbul Turkey a Board member could not attend due to his travel schedule.

Members strategised the long term targets for the Chair including the topics for interviews, an international conference on the Silk Road, along with short term goals of frequent seminars on Oral History at Karachi, Lahore, Quetta and Peshawar regional campuses of AIOU.

A plan of action devised for holding interviews in twin cities in first phase and later across the country. Discussion held on conducting Oral History workshops for teachers working in discipline of History from all over the country and identifying research topics for the appointment of research scholars.

Introducing the foreign members of the Board of Management at Prof. Awan said that Members of the Board have extensive experience of working on Pakistani Chairs abroad such as Egypt, Cambridge, Oxford and Istanbul and eminent Scholars of Islam, Pakistan and History of the region.

She resolved that their expertise will support AIOU team to achieve the targets. She added an "Online Oral History Archive" will be established under the umbrella of the Centre of Excellence as envisioned by the worthy leadership of AIOU. -PR

Azerbaijan, U.S. become strong partners in promoting European energy security: Blinken



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said that Azerbaijan and U.S. become strong partners in promoting European energy security, Azernews reports, citing the U.S. Department of State. He made the remarks in his statement on the occasion of the Independence Day of Azerbaijan. "On behalf of the United States of America, I wish the people of Azerbaijan a happy Independence Day.

This year, we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Azerbaijan. In the three

decades since Azerbaijan's independence from the Soviet Union, we have become strong partners in promoting European energy security, combating transnational threats, and advancing bilateral trade and investment. We deeply value Azerbaijan's contributions to the global fight against terrorism and illicit trade networks, as well as your support for Ukraine, particularly your humanitarian assistance.

The United States is proud to continue to expand our relationship not only through strong economic

linkages, but also through our people-to-people ties. Thousands of Azerbaijani and American citizens have worked and studied together and had the opportunity to innovate, collaborate, and learn from each other. We look forward to seeing thousands more follow in the years ahead. We also urge steps toward democratic development, with reforms that protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms provided in Azerbaijan's constitution. We are committed to promoting a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous future for Azerbaijan and the South Caucasus region, and we stand ready to help by engaging bilaterally and with like-minded partners, including to help the region find a long-term comprehensive peace. During this challenging period of global uncertainty, the United States once more reaffirms its commitment to supporting Azerbaijan's independence and sovereignty, as well as the rights and freedoms of the Azerbaijani people." - **KABAR**

Fourth day of TEKNOFEST starts in Baku

The last, fourth, day of the TEKNOFEST Azerbaijan Aerospace and Technology Festival has started in Baku, Trend reports. During today, the festival is expected to award teams and participants of the festival, a number of entertainment programs for both adults and children, air shows, flyboard shows, etc. Representatives of aviation, space and technology companies will continue to present their products at TEKNOFEST.

TEKNOFEST International Aviation, Space and Technology Festival is being held in Azerbaijan from May 26 through May 29.

TEKNOFEST in Baku is held by the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan. At the same time, the TEKNOFEST production office operates in Baku. The full staff of the office consists of Azerbaijani specialists. The event has been held annually since 2018, with the joint organization of the Turkish Technology Team Foundation, which is managed by the Turkish Ministry of Industry and Technology and the technical director of Baykar Makina, in partnership with more than 60 Turkish state institutions, universities and private companies.

The goal is to popularize such areas as aviation, space industry and digital economy, to encourage entrepreneurship in these areas, to identify the knowledge and skills of young engineers through competitions organized within the framework of the festival, as well as to present national technologies to the general public. - **AZER NEWS**



President Sadyr Zhaparov receives SCO Secretary General Zhang Ming

President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov received Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Zhang Ming. According to the press service of the head of state, an exchange of views took place on priority areas of interaction within the framework of the SCO, further development of cooperation between the member countries of the Organization in the field of ensuring regional security, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

Sadyr Zhaparov noted with satisfaction that over 21 years of its activity, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has taken a worthy place among authoritative international and regional organizations, has become an important factor in ensuring security and sustainable development of interstate relations.

The head of state noted that Kyrgyzstan attaches exceptional importance to its participation in the SCO and confirms the need to further deepen cooperation between the member states of the Organization in all areas of interaction.

He stressed that the development of trade, economic, transport and logistics ties between the countries of the "SCO family" is seen as an essential area of ??SCO activity.

"The Kyrgyz Republic stands for the creation of effective financial mechanisms, in particular, by opening the SCO Development Bank and the SCO Development Fund (Special Account) in

order to implement economic projects. This is especially relevant in the current difficult global geopolitical processes," the head of state said.

Regarding cooperation in the transport sector and the implementation of joint infrastructure projects, Sadyr Zhaparov noted that the practical implementation of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway construction project can be a significant step towards the full disclosure of the region's transit potential and will connect not only our states, but also many countries and regions of the entire Eurasian continent. The head of state also stressed that in order to strengthen cultural and humanitarian ties between the countries of the Organization, on the initiative of Kyrgyzstan, the SCO Cultural and Integration Center was established in Bishkek.

At the same time, Sadyr Zhaparov noted that Kyrgyzstan fully supports the initiatives of Chinese President Xi Jinping, announced by him at the meetings of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO member states.

In turn, the SCO Secretary General stressed that the Kyrgyz Republic, as one of the founder countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, put forward a large number of initiatives and made a significant contribution to the development of cooperation between the SCO countries. - **KABAR**

Tajikistan, Uzbekistan discuss development of economic cooperation

Tajikistan's Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Zavki Zavkizoda, met with Uzbekistan's Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade, Laziz Kudratov, to discuss strengthening economic cooperation, Trend reports via the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan.

During the meeting, the parties considered the coordination of the draft protocol of the 9th meeting of the Tajik-Uzbek intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation, the implementation of the previous protocol and preparations for the next meeting.

The parties also discussed the issues of attracting additional investments to the national economy, creating joint ventures in the free economic zones of Tajikistan, as well as strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of investment, industry, energy, transport and agriculture. Zavkizoda also noted that thanks to the wise policy of the leaders of the two countries, the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, relations between the two countries have reached a new level. - **KABAR**

Kazakhstan President calls on EAEU to speed up work with third countries



Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev called on EAEU to speed up work on concluding free-trade agreements with the third countries on Friday, Kazinform correspondent reports. In his address to the meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council in a virtual format, President Tokayev said it is high time for the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) to speed up the negotiation process and conclude free-trade agreements with the third countries, namely Indonesia, India, as well as Mongolia.

The Kazakh leader stressed that in such challenging times the expansion and deepening of economic cooperation with the third countries and integration alliances is gaining enormous relevance, reminding that it is one of the priorities of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in the Union. He went on to urge the EAEU member states to start discussing specific projects and initiatives. Among those are negotiations of a free trade with Indonesia, talks with India and a free-trade agreement with Mongolia. - **KABAR**

Turkmenistan to Upgrade Its Serdar Cotton-Spinning Factory

Turkmenistan will reconstruct the Serdar cotton-spinning factory in its northern province of Dashoguz and modernize its production machinery. Chary Gyljov, the Deputy Chairman of the Turkmen Government, overseeing the country's trade and textile complex, reported to President Serdar Berdimuhamedov on the factory's reconstruction during the off-site cabinet meeting in Dashoguz province on Thursday.

Gyljov said the Ministry of Textile Industry held an international tender to this end and studied the received proposals, the country's official media reports. The reconstruction and new equipment of the factory will result in the increase of its production capacity, improvement of the quality of its products, increase of exports and creation of new jobs, according to the Vice-Premier. - **BUSINESS TURKMENISTAN**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ISSUES Meeting of Heads of Ministries, Deptt of SCO Member States held in Tashkent

On May 27, 2022, the Third Meeting of Heads of Ministries and Departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States responsible for Environmental Protection Issues was held in Tashkent under the chairmanship of the Uzbek side.

The Meeting was attended in a hybrid format by heads and representatives of ministries and departments of the SCO Member States responsible for environmental issues (Republic of India, Republic of Kazakhstan, People's Republic of China, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan) and the SCO Secretariat.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Narzullo Obolmuradov, Chairman of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection.

At the beginning of the Meeting, the heads of delegations made reports on the state and prospects for the development of cooperation in the field of environmental protection of the SCO Member



States. The sides exchanged views on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Concept of Cooperation of the SCO Member States in the Field of Environmental Protection for the period 2022-2024, approved at the SCO Summit on September 17, 2021 in Dushanbe.

The parties approved the Program of Joint Creation of the SCO Platform for

the Exchange of Environmental Information and recommended its approval.

The dates and venue of the next, Fourth Meeting of the Heads of ministries and departments of the SCO Member States responsible for Environmental Issues in 2023 will be agreed additionally through the SCO Secretariat. - **NHT Report**

Shavkat Mirziyoyev takes part in online summit of EAEU

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in a meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council as the head of the observer state at the organization.

The event, held in the form of a video-conference chaired by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, was also attended by President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, President of the Republic of Cuba - observer country to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Miguel Bermudez and Chairman of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mikhail Myasnikov. The agenda of the meeting included issues of further development of mutually beneficial cooperation and deepening of integration processes in the EAEU space, including practical interaction in the fields of economy, trade, industry, transport and other areas. At the beginning of his speech, the President of Uzbekistan noted the active chairmanship of Kyrgyzstan in the EAEU, which contributes to the deepening of multifaceted cooperation within the organization.



It was emphasized that the negative consequences of the pandemic have been mitigated by joint efforts and positive dynamics are being ensured in trade and economic cooperation between our countries. Thus, the trade turnover of Uzbekistan with the EAEU countries in 2021 increased by 30 percent, and since the beginning of this year it has grown by another 33 percent. The annual growth rate of attracted investments from the EAEU countries is about 25 percent.

Noting the rapid changes taking place in the world and crisis phenomena that have become a serious challenge to the stability of our countries, the head of Uzbekistan outlined the most urgent tasks that require joint solutions.

The President of our country called for the further elimination of technical barriers and the recognition of certification in mutual trade between Uzbekistan and the EAEU countries, which will greatly simplify the access of goods to our mar-

kets.

The special relevance of expanding agro-industrial cooperation through the joint production of crops and food products was emphasized. In order to increase its effectiveness, it was proposed to develop an agricultural cooperation program that provides for the intensification of interregional contacts.

The leader of Uzbekistan drew attention to the need to further develop alternative transport corridors and strengthen transport connectivity in the southern and eastern directions. In this regard, the importance of the early start of the practical implementation of the project for the construction of the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China railway, which will create additional opportunities for entering the markets of the Asia-Pacific region, was noted.

Readiness was expressed for cooperation in the implementation of the project for the construction of a trans-Afghan railway line from Termez to Pakistani Peshawar, which will provide the shortest route to South Asia with a market of 2 billion consumers.

The head of our state called for a more efficient use of innovative potential and the development of new forms of industrial cooperation between entrepreneurs of our countries, primarily in the field of

high technologies. The first practical step in this direction was the holding of the International Industrial Exhibition "INNOPROM. Central Asia", which was attended by over a thousand companies from the EAEU countries.

It was proposed to develop a joint "Roadmap" to stimulate cooperative ties and deepen localization in the fields of chemistry, pharmaceuticals, mechanical engineering, instrumentation, electronics and other areas. It is important to make wider use of the capabilities of research institutes and technology centers. Particular attention was paid to the need to combine efforts in the field of tourism, designed to become a natural driver of economic development, as well as to fully resume passenger transport between our countries.

The Head of our state proposed holding a forum on the development of the tourism industry in Uzbekistan with the participation of leading companies from the EAEU countries. At the end of his speech, the President reiterated the commitment of Uzbekistan to the progressive strengthening of mutually beneficial cooperation and multifaceted partnership with the Eurasian Economic Union in order to ensure sustainable development and improve prosperity in our countries. - **UZ Daily**

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Xi calls for advancing study of Chinese civilization



BEIJING -- Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, urged efforts to advance the study of Chinese civilization amid a push to enhance people's confidence in the Chinese culture.

Xi made the remarks on Friday afternoon while addressing a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on a national research program dedicated to tracing the origin of the Chinese civilization.

The long-standing and rich Chinese civilization is the foundation of contemporary Chinese culture, and a treasure trove inspiring cultural innovation, Xi noted.

He called for a better understanding of the 5,000-plus-year history of the Chinese civilization to strengthen historical awareness and cultural confidence of the Party and society in the joint pursuit of national rejuvenation.

Stressing that fine traditional Chinese culture is the root and soul of the Chinese nation, Xi said efforts should be made to adapt it to the context of a socialist society and to develop advanced socialist culture.

The Chinese civilization has been known for its openness and inclusiveness since ancient times, Xi said, urging efforts to promote the view of civilization that champions equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and mutual accommodation.

Misunderstandings between civilizations can be overcome through enhanced exchanges, clashes avoided by strengthening mutual learning, and civilization superiority replaced by the co-existence of various civilizations, Xi said.

Xi also called for respect for people in different countries exploring their own development paths.

He stressed telling the stories of the Chinese civilization well to present China as a trustworthy, loveable and admirable country, and the charm of the long-standing and rich Chinese civilization. He protection and use of cultural relics and the preservation of cultural heritage should be actively advanced, Xi also said.

He ordered cadres at all levels to provide greater policy support and create a strong social atmosphere for the preservation and development of the Chinese civilization. - **XINHUA**



Villagers and tourists transplant rice seedlings during a competition at Qihu Village of Chahe Township in Huai'an, east China's Jiangsu Province

Shanghai publishes economic recovery and revitalization plans following COVID-19 outbreak

To coordinate COVID-19 control with economic development, the municipal government of Shanghai on Sunday launched an action plan to speed up economic recovery. The 50-point package of policy items covers measures in eight sectors, mainly about reducing pressure on business, supporting and maintaining the order of reopening, stabilizing trade and investment, as well as encouraging consumption.

The action plan includes vows of greater financial relief for COVID hit industries via more tax cuts and fee reductions, including extending rent relief.

To promote full recovery, the plan said more support and services will be offered to enterprises, such as offering



subsidies and smoothing logistics. A series of measures, including subsidies, discounts, and tax cuts, will be provided to boost consumption, especially consumption of cars and home appliances, according to the plan.

Shanghai is inching back toward reopening after the latest resurgence of COVID-19 infections brought the megacity of 25 million to a standstill for about two months.

From June 1 to mid-late June, Shanghai will fully restore the normal order of production and life across the city with routine COVID-19 prevention and control measures, while strictly preventing any resurgence of COVID-19. From June 1 to mid-late June, Shanghai will fully restore the normal order of production and life across the city with routine COVID-19 prevention and control measures, while strictly preventing any resurgence of COVID-19. - **CGTN**

Beijing eases control measures as outbreak contained

Beijing has lifted some control measures as the city's latest COVID-19 outbreak has been effectively contained and the epidemic situation is showing a downward trend, said a senior official at a news conference on Saturday afternoon.

The authority will adopt different control measures in districts and regions based on their different epidemic situations starting on Sunday, said Xu Hejian, spokesman of the city government.

Residents in Fangshan and Shunyi districts can go to work normally and companies in Chaoyang and Tongzhou districts can have more employees to go to workplaces instead of working from home.

Public transportation, including buses and subways in Chaoyang, Shunyi and Fangshan, will be resumed except for the lines in locked down and controlled zones.

Shopping malls outside of the locked down and controlled zones are allowed to open while the sales and promotions that could cause crowds should continue to be suspended.

Libraries, museums, cine-



mas, galleries and other cultural and sports facilities in districts where no COVID-19 cases were reported in past seven days can resume operation with the maximum number of visitors kept under half of the full reception capacity.

Meanwhile, some control measures will be strictly continued to avoid risks of infection.

All the restaurants should continue to suspend dine-in service and students from kindergarten to senior high schools should not go back to campuses for schooling.

Beijing reported 12 new locally transmitted cases as of 3 pm on Saturday, bringing the total number of infections to 1,716 since April 22,

according to Liu Xiaofeng, deputy director of the Beijing Center for Disease Prevention and Control, at the news conference on Saturday afternoon.

"All of the new infections were reported in quarantined locations, and no cases were found from mass nucleic acid tests at community levels," Liu said.

Of all the 1,716 cases so far, Chaoyang district registered 423, the most amid the current outbreak, followed by Fangshan, which announced 413. Fengtai reported 370 and Haidian 245 during the period. As of Saturday, Beijing had seven high-risk areas for COVID-19 and 16 medium-risk areas. - **CHINA DAILY**

China-U.S. relations not zero-sum game: Chinese FM



Visiting Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Saturday that China-U.S. relations are not a zero-sum game and the U.S. should address the bilateral ties based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

In response to a recent policy speech by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who described China as "the most serious long-term challenge to the international order," Wang said there are major misconceptions in the U.S. views about the world, China and China-U.S. relations.

The world is not what the United States has described and the most pressing task facing the international community is to jointly protect human life and health, promote world economic recovery and safeguard world peace and tranquility, which calls for the establishment of a community with a shared future and for the implementation of purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, Wang said.

He stressed that the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative have won widespread recognition and support from the international community, and the U.S. obsession with "Western-centrism", "exceptionalism" and the Cold War mentality, as well as its push for the logic of hegemony and bloc politics, go against the trend of history, which will only lead to confrontation and split the world community.

The U.S. has in fact become a source of turbulence that undermines the current world order and a stumbling block hindering the democratization of international relations, Wang noted.

Stressing that China is not what the U.S. has imagined, Wang said there is a clear historical logic to China's development and revitalization that has a strong endogenous power.

The common pursuit of modernization by 1.4 billion Chinese people represents a great progress for mankind, rather than a threat or challenge to the world, Wang noted, adding that such an achievement is made under

the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China, and a result of the solidarity, diligence and hard work of the Chinese people who find the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

"Our goal is open, fair and square. It is to make life better for our people and to make a greater contribution to the world, not to replace or challenge any others," Wang said.

"We are bringing reform, opening up and win-win cooperation to a higher level. We shall become a better version of ourselves and make the world a better place," he said.

"What we want to tell the U.S. is that China-U.S. relations are not a zero-sum game conceived by the U.S. side," Wang said.

Chinese leaders have pointed out that whether China and the United States can properly handle their relationship matters the future of the world, and it is a question of the century needed to be well answered by the two countries, he said.

Before answering the question, the U.S. side should first be aware that a unipolar hegemony will find no support, group confrontation has no future, building small yards with high fences means self-isolation and backwardness, and decoupling and cutting supplies only hurt others and itself as well, Wang said.

Countries can stage fair competition with each other, and it is natural that China and the United States have some competition between them, but it should not be a destructive one, Wang said. - **XINHUA**

China leverages targeted policies to bolster property market

China has actively rolled out targeted measures such as relaxing restrictions on purchases or sales, adjusting housing provident fund policies, and lowering mortgage interest rates to better cater to the residential buying market, and boost the development of the property market.

Beset by factors such as COVID-19, an expected fall in personal income and debt default risks of certain property developers, China's real estate market has seen contractions this year.

In the first four months of the year, commercial housing sales dived 20.9 percent in terms of floor area and 29.5 percent in terms of value.

While reiterating the principle that "housing is for living in, not for speculation," a key meeting of China's top decision-makers held last month called for efforts to improve real estate policies, an important underpinning for the economy.

China's property industry,



with a size of 10 trillion yuan (about 1.48 trillion U.S. dollars), involves scores of sub-sectors across the supply chain. Official data showed that the industry's value-added output accounted for 6.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product in 2021.

At the State Council's executive meeting on Monday, the country once again stressed that city-specific policies will be adopted to meet people's basic housing needs and their wish to improve housing conditions.

As of May 25, 20 Chinese cities had relaxed restrictions on house sales, data from the China Index Academy showed. "The relaxation of sales restrictions can increase housing supply in the short term, improve the liquidity in the second-hand housing market, and further release demand for better housing conditions," said Guan Rongxue, an analyst with the Zhuge House Hunter, an online property platform. - **CGTN**

Samoa, China agree on mutually beneficial, win-win cooperation

APIA - Samoan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fiaame Naomi Mata'afa met with visiting Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi here on Saturday, with both sides reaffirming commitment to the mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation.

During their talks, Fiaame congratulated the Communist Party of China (CPC) on its centennial last year and wished the 20th National Congress of the CPC a great success.

The prime minister said that she has paid many visits to China whose development path and people-centered concept she appreciates, and expressed hope that her country can conduct exchanges with China on the experiences on economic growth and poverty alleviation.

Meanwhile, she reaffirmed Samoa's steadfast commitment to the one-China principle as well as non-interference on the Taiwan question.

The Samoa-China cooperation has reaped remarkable results in various fields, with Samoa's infrastructure effectively improved and agricultural modernization enhanced, said Fiaame.

Samoa will continue its efforts to boost the bilateral partnership featuring



mutual respect, mutual trust, mutual benefit and win-win results.

For his part, Wang congratulated the Pacific island nation on the 60th anniversary of its independence, and expressed appreciation for the development of friendship between China and Samoa over the past nearly half a century since their establishing diplomatic ties, and for Samoa having adhered to the one-China principle unswervingly and supported China safeguarding its core interests.

China has always advocated that all countries are equal regardless of their sizes and strengths, Wang said, noting that as the world's largest developing country, China has always stood on the

side of the developing countries and worked to seek justice for smaller nations, Wang said. He said developing countries need to strengthen unity amid the once-in-a-century changes.

China is willing to spare no effort in supporting developing countries, including Pacific island nations in speeding up their development and revitalization, Wang said, adding that, in doing so, China has never interfered in the internal affairs of any country, has never added political conditions, and has never sought geopolitical interests.

China is willing to achieve development and prosperity together with other developing countries and hence make the world fairer, said the Chinese foreign minister.

He said the cooperation between China and other developing countries including Pacific island nations targets no third party and seeks no exclusive rights or interests.

China has no intention of competing with other countries, and has always opposed the zero-sum game, said Wang, adding that China is willing to enhance communication with whichever country that cares for Pacific island nations, Australia and

New Zealand in particular, to conduct more trilateral cooperation, giving full play to the parties' respective advantages, and based on respecting the island nations' will. The two sides also exchanged views on climate change during the meeting.

Wang said the Chinese side has established a cooperation center for China and Pacific island countries on climate change, and that China is willing to continue to help small island countries strengthen their capacity building in tackling climate change within the framework of the South-South cooperation. Wang, in the meantime, urged developed countries to earnestly take on the historical responsibilities in emissions reduction and fulfill their obligations. The Samoan prime minister expressed her approval of Wang's remarks, and said that coping with climate change has become an important field of cooperation between Pacific island countries and China, expecting that the cooperation center between China and Pacific island countries on climate change will play an active role. The pair, after the meeting, attended a signing ceremony of documents on economic, technical and cultural cooperation. - **XINHUA**

Uzbekistan: Tourism Industry has Significant Development Potential



NHT EXCLUSIVE

THE TOURISM industry in Uzbekistan has significant development potential. It is associated both with the presence of a large number of unique natural objects, and with a rich cultural and historical heritage. On the territory of the country there are over 7,000 monuments of architecture and art from different eras and civilizations, many of which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Uzbekistan is famous for its mosques, mausoleums and structures erected on the Great Silk Road - the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean. On this road, the wealth and contact of cultures grew Uzbek cities.

In particular, Samarkand is one of the most historical and beautiful cities in Uzbekistan, where there are many historical places. One of which is Khoja Chor-Chinor, which is located in the Urgut district of the Samarkand region, 50 km southeast of the city. Khoja Chor-Chinor is an ancient plantation, this name is translated as "Four plane trees of Khoja". Chinars are trees, better known like plane trees. According to legend, it was four such trees that laid the foundation for this garden. Due to the fact that all the trees are very ancient, it is no longer possible to determine which of all the plane trees were the very first. Many people from all over Central Asia came and continue to come here for repentance and healing. People come to Chor-Chinor with their problems to search of peace, and for a piece of the wisdom of this place. Moreover, visitors are representatives of completely different faiths, regardless of their social sta-

tus. At first glance, this unusual park is just a hollow hidden by tree branches. Some plane trees are striking in their trunk diameter, and their crowns have intertwined so tightly over a large number of years that they seem inseparable. The trees are carefully guarded, on the trunk of each of them there is an information plate with the indicated approximate age. There are specimens that are already more than 1000 years old, the youngest are about 600 years old.

As you know, in these holy places there were more than 100 plane trees, which increased in volume from the inside. 15-20 students were trained inside one tree. The diameter of one plane tree is 15 meters, and the height reaches up to 35 meters. Each such tree itself rots from the inside and expands in volume. In addition, new young roots sprout inside the plane trees and make up for the losses. There is another legend that once an unscrupulous person tried to get the holy Koran hanging inside the plane tree by throwing a stone at it, but at that moment an unprecedented force from



while driving over the grave of Abu Talib Ibn Sarmast, his horse slipped. Then Amir Temur asked his courtiers what kind of place this was and heard in response that the ashes of the great holy figure were buried here. After that, Amir Temur gives an order for the improvement of that place. Not far from the Chor-Chinor complex, the old cemetery begins, but many graves of famous figures are located on the territory of the complex itself. Several dozen ancient trees feed on moisture from a water spring, a stream from which flows throughout the gar-

den. There is a pond near the spring, which pilgrims tend to visit. The fish in the pond, including the "gold" fish, are considered sacred because of the peculiarity and holiness of the place itself. The water in the spring is credited with healing properties. At the beginning of the 20th century, a mosque was built in the garden, which originally served as a madrasah. It is located on an uneven plot of land, but the slope did not prevent all the proportions of the structure from being

observed. In the Soviet years, the building was used as an orphanage, a canteen. Majestic plane trees are breathtaking in their splendor, but one tree is truly special. The roots of this tree formed a kind of cave. It is located completely underground, as if inside a tree. You can get here through a wooden carved door, the lock of which is opened by the caretaker of the garden. Inside, you can see that the walls are partially reinforced with bricks, there is a minimum of stump furniture. The capacity of the cave is about a dozen people, it is damp and cool there. It is preferable to



stay there alone or with loved ones. It is believed that the Sufis retired there to read prayers, conduct conversations and conduct classes in their school. It is also said that the Bolsheviks held their secret meetings in this tree. In confirmation of the version about the school of the Sufi order, the common name of this tree - "planet school" - testifies. The most striking thing is that the plane tree with a cave in its hollow continues to grow. The tree is easy to find near the entrance to the garden.

Local residents say that once in the 70s of the last century, they wanted to cut down the sacred plane trees, but the tractor could not move them, the trees took root so strongly. In the hot summer months in the hollow of the plane tree it is cool and fresh, and in winter it is warm.

There is one event that caused talk about the unusual place of Chor-Chinor. The stream that flows through the garden begins at a spring with a small pond. And this source beats from the middle of the stone. When geologists decided to study the groundwater of the area, they took out this stone. The next morning it turned out that without a stone, water stopped flowing into the source, and the pond dried up. The stone was returned to cut down the sacred plane trees, and the water flowed again. There is a belief that if you look at the flowing water of this spring, then only a noble person can see the image of the Kaaba in the reflection of the water. The water of this spring is considered to be curative and treats diseases of the heart, liver, skin diseases and many others. It is still unknown where and how this spring made its way out of the ground. "It is better to see once than listening hundred times". This expression is truer than ever in relation to "Chor-Chinor".

Indonesia's Presidency of G20: A Policy Review



Dr. Mehmood UI Hassan

CURRENT Indonesia's presidency of G20 has opened new window of opportunities to all the member countries and the world alike. On its part, Indonesia encourages and facilitates all countries to work together to achieve a stronger and more sustainable world recovery.

In this connection, Indonesian president Widodo signaled his government priority to advocate equitable economic growth and enhanced trade cooperation among the member countries of the G20. Youth engagement, employment, inclusive digital economy, women's empowerment and low carbon solutions that unlock climate finance should be prominent themes of its presidency of G20.

It seems that Indonesia will focus on three main pillars for its G20 2022 Presidency namely: Global Health Architecture (GHA), Sustainable Energy Transition (SET), and Digital Transformation (DT). Through these pillars, Indonesia will continue to take the lead on ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, promoting sustainable and inclusive economic development through participation and digital economy.

It hopes that G-20 Presidency will bring numerous befitting propositions to Indonesia starting from showcasing its strong economic resilience during COVID-19, projecting Indonesia's position as one of the largest world economies, with the ability to represent other developing economies, providing value addition to Indonesia's recovery in terms of economic activity as well as domestic and international public trust.

It will support and boost economic recovery activity in Indonesia, affirming Indonesia's leadership in terms of international and economic diplomacy in the region, considering Indonesia is the only G20 member among ASEAN countries, positioning Indonesia at the forefront of international focus and attention, particularly in terms of the economy and finance.

Moreover, it will highlight Indonesia's impressive achievements to the world and represent a starting point for restoring post-pandemic economic confidence at home and internationally, presenting an opportunity to introduce Indonesia's tourism sector and local products to the world, thus reviving the national economy and last but not least, recognizing of the importance of collective action and inclusive collaboration among major developed countries and emerging economies around the world has always

been the core purpose of the G20.

It seems that during its presidency of G20 Indonesia will have to develop a "flight plan" that ensures new initiatives on economic recovery, international tax and climate finance. In this regard, Indonesia has rich experience chairing Investment and Infrastructure Working Group which should be responsible for overall guidance on global macroeconomic policies, global financial imbalances, and global economic growth. Thus Indonesia's G20 presidency will be positive, productive and participatory.

Fortunately, the G20 comprises of developed and developing countries, which together account for 85 percent of the world's gross domestic product, 80 percent of global investment, 75 percent of world trade and 66 percent of the world's population. Moreover, Indonesia the only Southeast Asian member of the G20 was first invited to attend the G20 summit in 2008 in the United States. Thus Indonesian current presidency of G-20 has numerous socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic orientations.

Furthermore, Indonesia's 2022 presidency will provide the G20 with the opportunity to focus on promoting inclusive growth, while demonstrating the country's growing political influence and offering a chance to shift global attention to the region's needs.

Indonesia demonstrates its huge capacity to provide wise and visionary leadership in Southeast Asia and the world alike. G20 summit will be held in Bali in November 2022.

Rapidly changing socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic conflicting realities have further deteriorated concepts of inclusive economic development, multilateralism, multiculturalism, dialogue, and diplomacy and conflict resolution. Unending obsession of power politics have redesigned chessboard of power politics in Indo Asia Pacific, Central Asia, South Caucasus, Middle East and Africa. Hide and see sugarcoated political alliances overlapping, non-state proxies and last but not least, limited economic access and conditional partnership doctrines have become serious hurdles in the easy and smooth sailing of the Indonesia, G20 Presidency.

In this context, geopolitical clashes and disputes originating from the Ukraine-Russia war, low levels of Indonesian economic engagement with other G20 countries, and renewable energy challenges are and will be main areas of concern for Indonesian G20 Presidency during 2022.

It seems that the unending Ukraine-Russia war has placed Indonesia's presidency in a difficult position. There is widening dichotomy between its government and its people about the issue of Russia-Ukraine conflict. That is why Russian president Putin talked to its Indonesian counterpart and sought important diplomatic support. Even Ukrainian President Zelenskyy approached to Indonesia for seeking support. Moreover, Chinese president Xi called Indonesian president and discussed G20 presidency and issue of Russia-Ukraine conflict. Thus somehow, the government of Indonesia has been in

difficult situation since the start of Russia-Ukraine conflict.

On the other hand, since last year the Indonesian government has prepared an agenda focusing on fair and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this year's G20 proceedings will most likely be convened amid boiling geopolitical tensions that involve many G20 member states.

It seems that Russia-Ukraine war theater has now entered into the galleries of politics due to which there have seen growing concerns over Russia's participation at the summit which demands that the forum should isolate or expel President Vladimir Putin and other Russian representatives from the group's meetings.

So far, U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have stated that they will not sit down with Putin in the G20 meeting to be held in the month of November this year.

Unfortunately, from nowhere it has now become the most tenacious task fac-



ing Indonesia's G20 presidency, as it will intensify the political divisions within the member countries.

Furthermore, ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has badly affected the global economy, energy security and prices, food security and supply, and financial markets. It has even disturbed main agenda of G20 during 2022. It fears that if there is no peace deal between Ukraine and Russia the impact of the multidimensional sanctions on Russia could well undermine the G20's economic goals too. However, Indonesia is currently holding its wait-and-see approach, pushing for an immediate resolution to the conflict.

Undoubtedly, Indonesia's macroeconomy is growing however, its economic partnership with member countries of G20 remain relatively limited and low. Its bilateral and trilateral trade with G20 member countries remains low. It may be another challenge for Indonesia to overcome weak economic



cooperation, socio-economic integration and low trade cooperation in its current role as the leader of the G20.

It suggests that the Indonesian government should take all possible measures to further enhance its economic cooperation with G20 member countries by leveraging small-medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs. Moreover, there is an urgent need to develop numerous national strategic and infrastructure projects and further modernize various facets of Indonesia's economy as soon as possible. Thus ensuring domestic growth to help drive momentum with international G20 partners must continue to be a priority for Indonesia.

In this context, Indonesia's government should take all possible measures to overcome its relatively isolated geographical position and other practical capacities to foster cross-border trade flows, through modern transportation systems and connecting trade hubs.

Suitable transaction settlements in currencies like the U.S. dollar, lengthy custom clearance times and friendly and productive business/investment policies

should be mantra of Indonesian government. It suggests that Indonesia should use its G20 presidency to promote the use of local currency settlement (LCS) at the global level, with the aim of lowering transaction costs through direct currency settlements. A holistic and comprehensive economic road map is the need of hour to further enhance trade flows and economic cooperation with G20 member countries which could help increase Indonesian economic flows to and from other G20 partners.

Frankly speaking, Indonesian current G20 presidency offers Indonesia the opportunity to lead the G20 in sustainable energy transitions. Members of the G20 are currently divided on this transition and transformation. Many international studies indicate that the G20 is not yet united with a 1.5 Celsius pathway, leaving a significant emissions gap between advanced economies and the developing ones within the group itself. Thus Indonesia must address the chal-

lenge lying in the fact that not all G20 economies possess the same economies, knowledge, and societal demands regarding the issue of energy transition.

On its part, Indonesia has initiated a variety of projects aimed specifically at establishing renewable energy resources, including solar, wind, and hydropower. However, Indonesia's economic dependence on coal puts it in a risky position in balancing its renewable energy priorities with the imperative of economic growth. The amount of renewable energy generated by Indonesia, the world's eighth-largest carbon emitter, remains very low compared to other G20 nations, potentially affecting its credibility to lead the G20 on this issue.

It seems that successful transition towards renewables and energy transformation Indonesia may need over \$50 billion. It presents significant challenges for Indonesia's capability to scale economic growth while decreasing reliance on coal, thus affecting one of Indonesia's three primary G20 initiatives. The efforts of coal-free development must be pushed further.

Indonesia passed a carbon tax in October 2021, aiming to target its coal industry. A number of green-financing schemes have been designed to spur the country's energy transition. Thus vividly reflects Indonesia's commitment to achieve the goal of green energies. However, balancing economic growth and increased investment in renewable energy, while still reliant on coal as an economic backbone, will present Indonesia with significant challenges moving forward.

Integrated but complicated problems stemming from the Russia- Ukraine conflict, low trade flows with G20 member countries and the limitations on the nation's energy transition will pose significant challenges for Indonesia during its leadership of the G20. Having said all this Indonesia's G20 presidency does offer a chance for further growth, particularly if it mitigates these challenges through internal and external initiatives.

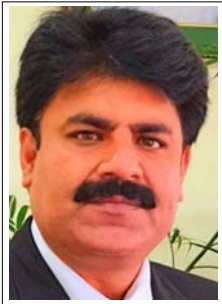
To conclude Indonesia should ensure that the historic agreement on global tax brokered by the G20 in July 2021 on profit reallocation and global minimum tax is legislated and implemented. Moreover, the finance track, sustainable finance, regulations on climate finance should also be priority. Indonesia should secure finance for green investments.

Hopefully Indonesia G20 presidency will be a game changer in the history of bilateral or multilateralism. It will further consolidate its international soft image campaign. It will further strengthen its cultural diplomacy and give a new outlook to its comprehensive and holistic commercial diplomacy.

Indonesian tourism, SMEs, micro-financing, women empowerment, social development, banking & financial sector, service sector, national trade and last but not least, middle class income trap may also have socio-economic and geopolitical stimulation from its G20 presidency.

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Importance of Information Technology for Pakistan



HAFIZ AHSAN AHMAD KHOKHAR

IN THE MODERN world, it has now become essential and important for every country to use maximum tools and methods of information technology in all areas of governance, economy, public facilitation, education and taxation. It is also important that every country now should introduce such policies and incentives which increase their digital exports and provide employment to its youth. The digi-

tization environment in the country would not only facilitate its citizens but as well would increase the capacities of both government and private sectors and can easily control the loopholes and malpractices.

As Pakistan has a population of more than 220 million, there is much need to use information technology in government, economy, exports, taxation and private sectors. The success of exports, economy and broadening of taxation has now almost completely depended upon the maximum use and expertise in information technology, which resultantly provides prosperity, progress and development in the country.

Digital technology has made a significant impact throughout the world on governance, taxation, development, economies, taxation, exports and businesses. However, Pakistan is lagging behind the real potential of IT exports and towards implementation of a digitized economy and tax system. Advances and initiatives in IT exports and for the digital economy by any

country would open new opportunities and that can contribute to increase exports and reduce risks traditionally which has been associated with the vulnerability of economy and taxation.

Due to the increased demand for information security, technology upgrading, computer repair, and internet protection in recent years, many opportunities have arisen for IT experts in Pakistan. Digital growth in Pakistan is going through a rapid evolution. The information technology sector is one of the fastest growing sectors of Pakistan contributing about 1% of GDP of Pakistan at about 3.5 billion USD. It doubled in the past four years and experts expect it to grow a further 100% in the next two to four years to \$7 billion. Pakistan performs better in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2021. It is encouraging that Pakistan rank 117th in innovation inputs higher than last

Creating a robust regulatory environment based on modern technology would be a vital step for the implemen-

tation process and for the best results for IT exports, documented economy and tax compliances. The first part would be to develop a solid tax digitization understanding and strategy of the current environment of the country with a way forward implementation strategy with a timeline in all these areas.

For achieving the objectives of digitization, legal framework for implementation of law for information technology, digitization of economy and taxation with a timeline must be designed and to be strengthened as well under a well-designed digitization system through getting the services of professional under an institution, who have the understanding of IT exports, digital economy, tax policies and knowing the implementation mechanism. By implementing these mechanisms, it would increase not only IT exports but would also help the digitized economy and taxation. It is utmost important, that until law relating to IT, digitization of economy and economy would not be implemented in letter and spirit, no

initiative of any government for increase in IT exports and broadening of tax base can succeed and yield tax results.

Proper implementation of policies towards IT export, digitization of economy and taxation with a good and effective implementation strategy is a need of time for Pakistan. It would not only provide ways for increased IT exports, documented economy, taxation, controlling the budget deficit, but would equally minimize the loopholes in governance, economy and taxation. These steps would not only increase IT exports but would minimize the burden and provide guided policies of international lenders institutions to our citizens and country. Hence it would provide good space to the government to spend money on the welfare of its citizens and for economic and social development of the country..

(The writer is Supreme Court Advocate, can be reached at his email hafizahsaan47@gmail.com)



People walk on the street flanked by Jacaranda trees in the Medina of Tunis, Tunisia

Ministry constructs VVIP airport terminal for G20 Summit in Bali

Jakarta (ANTARA) - Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR) Ministry is constructing a VVIP terminal at the I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport in Bali to facilitate access for G20 Summit guests.

The ministry continues to conduct infrastructure development in Bali to support preparedness of Indonesia Presidency for G20 Summit in November 2022, PUPR Minister Basuki Hadimuljono noted through a statement on Sunday.

The G20 is an international forum whose members comprise 19 countries and European Union. It works together to handle major issues. Indonesia is holding the presidency of the grouping this year.



The G20 Summit is a meeting attended by the entire G20 member country or government heads.

The construction of I Gusti Ngurah Rai Airport's VVIP Airport is conducted above an area owned by state-run airport operator PT Angkasa Pura I.

The project which reportedly costs Rp51 billion has been carried out since

March 14, 2022, and will get completed at the end of August 2022. The physical progress of the project currently reaches 21.94 percent.

The VVIP terminal is built by state-owned construction company PT Wijaya Karya while state-run PT Virama Karya functions as supervising consultant.

The scope of the work

comprises the construction of VVIP building, guard post building, ground water tank, pump room, fence and gate, landscape setting, drop off area, and drop on area, as well as relocation of Mechanical Electrical Plumbing (MEP) installation. The ministry's official Bobby Ali Azhari noted that I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport's VVIP terminal will become the new face of Bali and G20 Presidency.

"This is because it is the first destination that G20 Summit member country heads visit," he explained.

"I expect that the coordination between institutions can be well maintained for the sake of the operation's smoothness and accuracy," he remarked.

India withdraws warning on national biometric ID after online panic

India on Sunday withdrew a warning not to share photocopies of the national biometric identity card after the announcement caused widespread panic on social media.

The Aadhaar card, which has a unique number tied to an individual's fingerprints, face and eye scan, aims to block theft and leakage in India's welfare schemes. But critics fear it could spawn a surveillance state.

The press information bureau withdrew the warning two days after issuing it, saying the release was published in the context of an attempt to misuse an edited Aadhaar card, and was being withdrawn "in view of the possibility of the misinterpretation."

The new statement said the Aadhaar ecosystem had adequate features to protect the identity and privacy of users, and that users are only advised to exercise "normal prudence."

The Friday announcement had advised people not to share photocopies of their Aadhaar with any organization because it could be misused. "Unlicensed private entities like hotels or film halls are not permitted to collect or keep copies of Aadhaar card," the initial release read.

The warning triggered alarm on social media as screengrabs of the press release and news articles went viral, with the issue among the top 10 trending topics in India on Twitter on Sunday. - AGENCIES

North Korea moves to soften curbs amid doubts over COVID-19 counts

SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and other top officials discussed revising stringent anti-epidemic restrictions during a meeting Sunday, state media reported, as they maintained a widely disputed claim that the country's first COVID-19 outbreak is slowing.

The discussion at the North's Politburo meeting suggests it will soon relax a set of draconian curbs imposed after its admission of the omicron outbreak. The discussion at the North's Politburo meeting suggests it will soon relax a set of draconian curbs imposed after its admission of the omicron outbreak this month out of concern about its food and economic situations. Kim and other Politburo members "made a positive evaluation of the pandemic situation being controlled and improved across the country," the official Korean Central News Agency said. They also "examined the issue of effectively and quickly coordinating and enforcing the anti-epidemic regulations and guidelines given the current stable anti-epidemic situation," KCNA said.

On Sunday, North Korea reported 89,500 more patients with fever symptoms, taking the country's total to 3.4 million. It didn't say whether there were additional deaths. The country's latest death toll reported Friday was 69, setting its mortality rate at 0.002 percent, an extremely low count that no other country, including advanced economies, has reported in the fight against COVID-19. Many outside experts say North Korea is clearly understating its fatality rate to prevent any political damage to Kim at home. They say North Korea should have suffered many more deaths because its 26 million people are largely unvaccinated

against COVID-19 and it lacks the capacity to treat patients with critical conditions. Others suspect North Korea might have exaggerated its earlier fever cases to try to strengthen its internal control of its population.

Since its May 12 admission of the omicron outbreak, North Korea has only been announcing the number of patients with feverish symptoms daily, but not those with COVID-19, apparently because of a shortage of test kits to confirm coronavirus cases in large numbers.

But many outside health experts view most of the reported fever cases as COVID-19, saying North Korean authorities would know how to distinguish the symptoms from fevers caused by other prevalent infectious diseases.

The outbreak has forced North Korea to impose a nationwide lockdown, isolate all work and residential units from one another and ban region-to-region movements. The country still allows key agricultural, construction and other industrial activities, but the toughened restrictions have triggered worries about its food insecurity and a fragile economy already hit hard by pandemic-caused border shutdowns. Some observers say North Korea will likely soon declare victory over COVID-19 and credit it to Kim's leadership. Yang Un-chul, an analyst at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea, said the North's recently elevated restrictions must be dealing a serious blow to its coal, agricultural and other labor-intensive industrial sectors. - AGENCIES

Almaty - Father of Apples



MUHAMMAD ALI PASHA

Analyst/ Expert on Central Asia

SILK ROAD TRAVELERS, trading their goods and ideas across Eurasia, brought with them hitchhiking apple seeds, discarded from the choicest fruit pulled from wild trees. This early selection would eventually lead to the 7,500 varieties of apple that exist today.

It might seem strange to think that the common apple was not originally a universal fruit, but in fact it has its roots in one specific region of the world. The ancestor of the domestic apple is the Malus sieversii, which grows wild in the Tian Shan Mountains of Kazakhstan.

In the early 20th century, biologist Nikolai Vavilov first traced the apple genome back to a grove near Almaty, a small town. He visited Almaty and was astounded to find apple trees growing wild, densely entangled and unevenly spaced, a phenomenon found nowhere else in the world. The survival of the original apple is not a mere historical footnote. Experts believe that Kazakhstan's primeval forests may one day help to save the \$50 billion-a-year global apple industry.

Scientists believe the Tian Shan apple seeds were first transported out of Kazakhstan by birds and bears long

before humans ever cultivated them. By the time humans did begin to grow and trade apples, the Malus sieversii had already taken root in Syria. The Romans discovered it there, and dispersed the fruit even further around the world. When modern genome sequencing projects affirmatively linked domestic apples to Malus sieversii, Almaty and its surrounding land were officially recognized as the origin of all apples. Almaty means "father of apples," and the town touts its heritage proudly. A fountain in the center of town is apple-shaped, and vendors come out each week to sell their many varieties of domesticated apples at market.

Malus sieversii is a deciduous tree growing to 10m, with a very similar

never-cultivated trees of the Tien Shen, where a plethora of apple genes developed over several thousand years of isolation from the rest of the world's apples. Today, experts are looking for apple salvation in the forests here, which are vigorously defended by Mr. Jangaliyev, Kazakhstan's pre-eminent apple expert. "This is a unique resource for the planet," says Herb Aldwinckle, an apple expert at Cornell University, the main U.S. repository of apple knowledge. "We have found that the native apples of Kazakhstan have a wealth of disease resistance," he says.

These naturally occurring groves to be "a marvelous garden where apples and pears look down on you from the trees and beg to be eaten." I oblige, sampling the sweet and the sour, the



appearance to the domestic apple. The leaves are green and ovate and unlike other domesticated varieties the leaves go red in autumn. Flowers are 3cm in diameter and pinkish, tinged rose when in bud, the fruit is yellowish green, tinged red and up to 7cm in diameter. Apple diseases are a rarity in the

mellow and the musky, the sugary and the stringent fruit all around me.

Within this region of Kazakhstan, experts have catalogued more than fifty-six wild forms of Malus sieversii, twenty-six of which might be called the basic wild ecotypes, with the other thirty being natural or anciently semi



domesticated hybrids. That is scientific shorthand for saying that for thousands of years, forest dwellers have influenced the diversity of these "wild forests," selecting flavors, textures, and qualities that persist in self-seeding or feral trees to this day.

As the apple traveled west along the Silk Road in the hands of travelers, trees grew from dropped seeds and crossed with sour wild crabapples. The authors found that the European crabapple, Malus sylvestris contributed so extensively to the apple's genome that the modern apple is more similar to this sour crabapple than to the Kazakhstani ancestor, Malus sieversii.

The hybridization between ancient cultivated apples and M. sylvestris, followed by extensive human selection, produced larger apples that are fuller in flavor, crispier, and firmer, giving them a longer shelf life.

Experts explain, "The modern domesticated apples have higher and well-balanced sugar and organic acid contents. That is how the apple started to become a popular and favored fruit."

In most cases of fruit domestication,

the wild ancestor has tiny fruit that was shaped into its large, nutritious cultivated counterpart through centuries of selection. For example, the domesticated tomato is at least 100 times larger than its wild relatives.

"This is not quite the case for apple," expert said. "It's domestication started with a medium to large-sized fruit."

Comparing the different apple genomes, the researchers found evidence supporting two evolutionary steps contributing to apple's size increase-one before and one after domestication.

The large size of wild Malus sieversii gave it an advantage. Having already evolved to a suitable size before cultivation, it was more attractive to growers who would not need to spend much effort selecting for larger fruits.

Such a lack of size selection also means that the genes responsible for size increase still retain variability with potential for future selection. The researchers identified several size-associated genetic markers, which is great news for breeders who want to further increase the apple's girth.



Federal Minister Ayaz Sadiq and MPA Khawja Salman Rafique are meeting with CM Punjab, Hamza Shehbaz on Sunday.

Hamza Shehbaz directs officials to undertake immediate steps to resolve water problem in Cholistan on permanent basis

LAHORE, May 29:Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz summoned the government officials to the Circuit House Bahawalpur late night. Commissioner Bahawalpur, Deputy Commissioner, DPO and officials of Forest department gave a briefing to him. Additional Chief Secretary and Additional Inspector General Police of South Punjab were also present on this occasion. Hamza Shahbaz gave necessary directions with regard to resolving the water problem in Cholistan on a perma-

nent basis along with improving law and order situation in South Punjab. CM ordered to undertake emergency steps to resolve the water problem in Cholistan on a permanent basis. On the special direction of the CM, a decision was taken to launch pilot project of solar water pumps in Cholistan. Hamza Shahbaz asserted that irrigated places be identified at the earliest in order to install solar water pumps. CM ordered the quantification of wildlife, especially of birds on a scientific basis in

the LalSuhanra National Park along with making a documentary for the promotion of tourism. He directed to avail the services of male and female students from various educational institutions for attaining this purpose and ordered DG Wildlife to submit a report within 10 days in this regard. CM underscored that the major part of livelihood of the people of South Punjab depends on wildlife and tourism. Hamza Shahbaz directed Commissioner Bahawalpur to invite multi-

national companies to provide assistance to these people. DPO gave a briefing to the CM about the law and order situation in Bahawalpur and CM inquired about how many cameras are installed in the city and how many are functional. Hamza Shahbaz directed to expedite launching crackdown against the criminal elements. CM directed DPO Bahawalpur to prioritise maintaining law and order situation along with ensuring security of the citizens in the district.-PR

Israeli occupation regime has facilitated and protected unlawful raids by Israeli settlers into Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound

ISLAMABAD, May 29: Since the early hours of the morning, the Israeli occupation regime has facilitated and protected unlawful and highly incendiary raids by Israeli settlers into the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound. These raids are being facilitated ahead of the equally provocative march through the Old City, scheduled for later today.

These actions provide ample evidence that the Israeli government's actions and policies are in complete alignment with these

extreme racist elements that are fanning the flames of religious tension in Jerusalem and whose goal is the complete ethnic cleansing of the capital.

The State of Palestine holds Israel, the occupying Power, and its officials responsible for holding this provocative parade and for any explosive repercussions. As an occupying power, Israel is restricted by international law to acting only as the temporary administrator of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem

and have no rightful claim or sovereignty over any part of occupied East Jerusalem, its Old City, its Quarters, its Holy Sites, and its walls, as recognized by the international community in relevant United Nations resolutions.

The situation on the ground is highly volatile and requires immediate international intervention by all relevant actors, including the United Nations. The Palestinian people, and indeed the region, require protection from the Israeli government's hostile agenda.-PR

PTI rejects leaked audiotape of Malik Riaz and Asif Zardari

ISLAMABAD, May 29: Vice Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Sunday rejected leaked audiotape between property tycoon Malik Riaz and former president Asif Ali Zardari.

Talking to media persons, former Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that it is out of question that former prime minister Imran Khan would ask

someone to patch things up for him. These people get united just to degrade PTI Chairman, he added.

The PTI leader also criticized government for amendments in the NAB laws and alleged the new amendments were the ones they had once proposed to the PTI in an attempt to get the NRO. He told the journalists that a blanket cover had been given to all cases pertaining to money laun-

dering and asset beyond means.

The senior PTI leader said his party had decided to approach the Supreme Court to challenge the amendments along with other election-related legislation passed by the government, saying "we also urge the top court to take notice of changes to the NAB law which has made the accountability watchdog dysfunctional". - DNA

Pakistan is ...

Continued from front page helping humanity, building peace and bringing stability across the regions under the banner of the UN.

The ISPR said that several UN Secretary Generals have profusely appreciated Pakistan's contributions and even the incumbent Secretary-General António Guterres visited Pakistan and paid rich tribute to Pakistan's peacekeeping efforts.

"Performance of Pakistani peacekeepers has been acknowledged worldwide by numerous world leaders and UN leadership. In addition to Army, many Pakistani peacekeeping contingents have also included troops from FC, Rangers and Police." -DNA

Pakistani ...

Continued from front page objections to Indian water projects including Pakal Dul, Lower Kulnai, Durbuk Shyok and Nimu Chilling, read the statement.

Pakistan asked India to share data of water flows as per the provisions of the IWT following the practice in vogue since 1989. The Pakistan side emphasized the importance of early resolution of the outstanding issues in accordance with the provisions of the IWT.

Both sides agreed to make endeavours to resolve the issues, conduct tours of inspection and hold the next meeting of the commission in Pakistan at an early date.-TLTP

Elahi bashes ...

Continued from front page incumbent government is afraid of Imran Khan.

The fake rulers are practicing every illegal way to stop the long march, he added. The Speaker Punjab Assembly made it clear that nothing could stop the long march. He explained that they will not be able to cause any damage to the ongoing preparations for PTI's long march by putting up fake cases against the party's leaders and workers.

Further criticizing the PML-N led government he added that if they were not capable enough to handle the government then why even they stepped forward as the ruling body. Even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) along with the public have no trust in the temporary government.The government will drop another bomb of inflation in June, he continued saying. - DNA

MWM urges ...

Continued from front page Al-Aqsa and setting fire to the oppressed Palestinian Muslims is a betrayal of Islam.

Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri said slight flexibility for usurper Israel will weaken Pakistan's position on Kashmir too so no one can be allowed friendly relations with Israel. MWM chief Allama Raja Nasir Abbas Jafri said the US and Israel are open enemies of the Islamic world so the Pakistani government should show wisdom on the matter. -NNI

Incumbent ...

Continued from front page vowed that he will not end his struggle and jihad against the corrupt rulers. He said that two PTI workers including Ali Shah and Faisal from Lahore were martyred during the movement for independence. "I will give calls to the nationals at an appropriate time after completing the preparations."

The PTI chairman said that the Supreme Court (SC) had ruled a peaceful protest is a democratic right of everyone. He said that the nation will never forgive Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah.

He announced to approach the courts against the use of force against the PTI workers during Islamabad's long march, whereas, male police officials stormed houses and caught women. - NNI

Self- ...

Continued from front page that Imran Khan inflicted on the chest of Pakistan will be healed by Shehbaz Sharif and Nawaz Sharif," Maryam Said.

Taking a dig at PTI chairman , she further said that Imran Khan used the resources of KP for the failed march, adding that KP's people rights were also sacrificed for the failed sit-in

"Imran Khan was disappeared from Islamabad in the morning while he left the people for dying," she added.-NNI

Increased ...

Continued from front page himself & his govt. The fake story of foreign conspiracy was manufactured after all his efforts failed. His lies stand exposed."

An audio recording of an alleged telephonic conversation between PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari and property tycoon Malik Riaz was widely reported by the electronic media and shared on social media on Saturday, where the latter could be heard telling Mr Zardari that Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was desperate for a "patch-up" with him.

On the other hand, taking swipe at Imran Khan's alleged efforts to woo PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari in order to save his then government, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah in a rejoinder to former interior minister Sheikh Rashid said that it was ironic that the 'Boss' was begging for his government and the 'Peon' was hurling threats.

Replying to Sh Rashid's taunt that the present coalition government of 11 parties could not be united if Imran left the political arena, Sana retorted that he had been assigned the duty by a conglomerate of 11 parties to deal with the "Evil Political Spirits".

"Now try come to Islamabad again. If you come next week, you will not be allowed to go home on 'someone' else's request" Sana warned Rashid. Taking a dig at former interior minister, Sana said that the 'bloody march monger' ran away from Islamabad in a most inglorious way. He said those who brought 'tsunami of inflation' wanted to do politics on it now in order to save themselves from the wrath of the people. Those who were hurling threats got indulged in vile begging and pleading while leaving other people's scions on the roads without any help. - NNI

1 killed, 16 ...

Continued from front page while in Kohlu Municipal Committee Ward No. 1 Family Polling Station 4 people were injured in a scuffle, Loralai area Kali Zangiwal polling One person was injured in a scuffle between activists of political parties at the station, sources added.-TLTP

Bilawal ...

Continued from front page would discuss matters related to bilateral relations, and the promotion of trade between the two countries during the meetings. It is pertinent to mention here that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will be visiting Turkey next week, embarking on his first visit to Ankara after assuming office last month. "The prime minister would be visiting Turkey next week, and we would be sharing with you more details containing elements, specific elements and engagements envisaged during this visit," FO spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said in response to a question during his weekly press briefing. - NNI

Afghanistan ready to set up joint Chamber of Commerce with Iran

TEHRAN, May 29: Officials of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment have declared their country's readiness to open an Iran-Afghanistan joint chamber of commerce. The two countries decided to establish the joint chamber of commerce several years ago, but it has not been opened so far. According to avapress.com, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) issued a statement on Friday, announcing that an Afghan delegation held talks with Iran's executive board of the joint chamber of commerce and investment in order to coordinate mutual sessions

in this respect.

Khan Jan Alokozay, Senior Vice-Chairman of ACCI, described Iran as a great trade partner for Afghanistan, calling for more coordination to remove obstacles on the way of trade exchanges in border areas. The Afghan official also went on to say that creation of the joint chamber of commerce and investment is a necessity to expand bilateral ties.

For his part, chairman of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment Shafiqhollah Ateei referred to expansion of trade exchanges between Afghanistan and Iran, calling for removal of obstacles on

the way of mutual trade, emphasizing on exchange of trade delegations, promoting exhibitions and joint investments.

Ateei further underlined that his country is ready to create a joint chamber of commerce with Iran. The Iranian delegation present in the meeting underscored the need for development of trade and investment between the two neighboring states.

It is worth mentioning that joint Iran-Afghanistan chamber of commerce has been active for years, but this chamber has not been yet opened in Afghanistan after many years. -DNA

Russia and Kazakhstan to purchase Afghan onion

KABUL, May 29: The Afghanistan Chamber of Agriculture and Livestock (ACAL) said that Kazakhstan and Russia have shown interest in purchasing Afghan onions.

ACAL said that several Afghan trucks loaded with onions are headed to the borders bound for Central Asian States. "Fortunately, we were able to have good exports to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and from there

to Russia.

This year also the markets in Russia need onions," said Mirwais Haji Zada, head of the ACAL. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock said it has new plans for the export of Afghan agriculture products. "Now, the countries who wants to import products from Afghanistan and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock have set up a process to con-

trol the exports to prevent a crisis in the country but also to bring good income for the farmers," said Musbahuddin Mustaeen, a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

The farmers called on the government to provide markets for their products. "We want the government to find a good market for our products so we can have good sales," said Rahmullah, a farmer. -TLTP

Iran's Zahedan to host 9th Iran-Pakistan JCBT from today

QUETTA, May 29: The 9th Joint Committee on Border Trade (JCBT) meeting between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is scheduled to be held in Zahedan on May 30-31, 2022.

Consul General of Iran in Pakistan's Quetta told Iranian News Agency IRNA on Sunday that removing barriers hindering bilateral trade is on the agenda of the 9th Joint Committee on Border Trade meeting between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Hassan Darvishvand added that removing obstacles to trade cooperation between the two countries is the main agenda of the upcoming Joint Committee on Border Trade meeting between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Zahedan.

Consul General of Iran in Pakistan's Quetta in his remarks said that both sides are supposed to discuss cooperation in transportation, free trade agreements, the construction of border markets, and other issues affecting bilateral

trade.

He added that the officials of Zahedan and Quetta Chambers of Commerce will discuss a wide range of border issues and trade ties at the presence of Iranian and Pakistani customs officials and other relevant issues.

Regarding the traffic of Iranian trucks on the borders of the two countries and some issues facing Iranian drivers, Darvishvand said that Pakistani diplomatic missions in Iran are trying to change the method of issuing visas from labels to electronic and online. -NNI

Factually, export-sector never given any subsidy nor tariff concessions: Bilwani

ISLAMABAD, May 29: Govt. is responsible to provide level-playing field and energy tariffs at par with regional competing countries in order to reduce cost of manufacturing to compete globally sustain and enhance exports;

IMF be informed that special tariffs & DLTL are not subsidies but export-policy decisions crucial for global competitiveness as industry is actually burdened with cross-subsidy given to other sectors. Any unwise decision will destroy exports and decline foreign exchange.

Government has never provided any subsidy or concessional tariffs to

export-sector and as such these terms are misleading. In fact through its policy measures, the Government is responsible to provide level-playing field to export-industries through special tariffs of energy to actually bringing at par with regional competing countries.

The actual energy utility tariffs are high in the country owing to provide subsidy to various other sectors by cross-subsidizing the industries which has burdened the export industries as well as import-substitute industries with high cost of manufacturing. Thus to make the export-industry viable to compete in region and globally, the Government

introduced and implemented special energy tariff for "Five Export Oriented Sectors".

How can the export-industries of Pakistan shall compete in global markets and become viable when the regional competitors are comparatively more viable in terms of low cost of manufacturing and utility tariffs as compared with Pakistan? Hence, it is unavoidable in the national interest that Government must continue its export enhancement policy decision to provide level-playing field to export-industries with existing special energy tariff at par with regional competitor countries. - DNA

Expert calls for more Pak-China cooperation in fertilizer sector

BEIJING, May 29: China and Pakistan can explore more cooperation to ensure the supply of fertilizers to the farmers for various crops in Pakistan, reported China Economic Net (CEN).

At the beginning of this year, the Pakistani government approved the import of 50,000 tonnes of urea from China on immediate basis, at a price lower than the current international level. Besides import and export trade, the two countries can explore more cooperation in fertilizer.

S Li Guang, Secretary-General of China Phosphate and Compound Fertilizer Industry

Association told CEN, "The type and dosage of fertilizers used should be set according to local conditions and crop characteristics. Farmers should not only know the amount of fertilizer to be used, but also understand why they should use it that way." The saying "no pains, no gains" is not for applying fertilizer, and the overuse of fertilizer will bring about resource waste and environmental damage.

Reasonable use of fertilizer can reduce cost and decrease waste for farmers, achieving "twice the result with half the effort". Besides, improving planting methods can save the

amount of fertilizer to be used on a unit area too. Intercropping is a good choice.

"This is strawberry-onion intercropping. In the late stage of strawberry planting, onion seedlings are sowed. Onion can secrete some bactericidal substances during its growth, which has the best effect on improving the soil conditions for strawberries.

In addition, potassium fertilizer will also be used for strawberries to improve the sweetness of strawberry fruit. Ordinary onions are spicy, but the intercropped onions are sweetened by absorbing the fertilizer for strawberries. -PNP

Industrial raw material not included in import ban: Miftah Ismail

ISLAMABAD, May 29: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has said that the government has not issued a ban on any industrial raw material and the ban only extends to luxury and non-essential goods.

The finance minister in a tweet on Sunday clarified claims made by a citizen that the import bans include raw materials used to make sanitary pads, saying there is "no ban on sanitary pads or diapers or the raw materials" used in their manufacture.

A media report stated that

the banned imported items may include the raw material used in manufacturing sanitary napkins and despite this essential item being manufactured inland, the manufacturers may stop production due to the unavailability of the raw material.

However, Miftah rubbished the news, saying there is no restriction on importing industrial raw materials or sanitary pads and diapers which are "obviously" essential goods. He also said that an official clarification will be made on

Monday.

On May 18, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif gave the go-ahead to a temporary ban on the imports of around three-dozen goods -- essential and luxury items -- but refused to slap regulatory duties to curb imports.

As a result, representatives of the different importers, distributors and retailer organisations expressed concern over the ban on imports and called on the government to introduce a fuel management plan, which can save \$240 million per annum. - TLTP



SPORTS



Shan close to getting selected in white-ball squads: Mohammad Wasim



Chief selector Mohammad Wasim has revealed that opening batter Shan Masood is close to getting selected for the white-ball squads in the future.

The 32-year-old is part of the Test squad as the third opener but his form across formats has stirred a debate to include him in all three formats.

Masood is currently leading Derbyshire Falcons in T20 Blast while he was the top scorer for them in the County Championship with 844 runs before the T20 competition started. "Shan Masood isn't far away from the Pakistan team. He is a part of the red-ball squad as third opener, and he's close to the white-ball squads," said Wasim [via Cricket Baaz with Waheed Khan].

"Our problem is that we have a top-heavy lineup in white-ball cricket. Our next consideration is perhaps giving him a chance at another position [white ball] and I've

been in touch with Shan about that.

Wasim opined Masood could be tried in the middle order slot but there was a lack of evidence behind this idea. "You want a player to play at his usual number in an ideal situation. However, because of how Shan is performing and how we're struggling in the middle order, there is a chance that he could fit there in the future. But we lack evidence to support this idea.

"We haven't seen Shan play that role previously, so can we try this experiment at the international level? Ideally, we wait for him to perform in some domestic tournament or league in the middle order to have some evidence for it.

"I have been in touch with him about this, and he's on board with the idea. It's something under consideration," he concluded.

Remember, Masood is not part of the ODI squad scheduled to play against the West Indies next month.

Fans allowed for Covid delayed CSL

BEIJING: Fans will be allowed in when the coronavirus-delayed Chinese Super League season kicks off on Friday despite the country's strict Covid controls, state media reported.

The season will finally see action three months later than usual in three neutral cities, as China sticks to a strict zero-Covid strategy that has meant tens of millions of people have been locked down in cities such as business hub Shanghai.

Analysts had expected the Chinese Super League (CSL) season to begin in empty stadiums, but organisers said spectators will be allowed at the opening match when defending champions Shandong Taishan play Zhejiang in the southern city of Haikou on June 3.

"We hope to bring more confidence to the sports industry through our efforts," Xinhua news agency reported Saturday citing CSL chairman Liu Jun.

"During such special circumstances, the opening of the CSL is of great significance to the whole football industry."



Liu said local authorities in the three host cities, the other two are Dalian on China's east coast and Meizhou in the south – have "made great efforts" to ensure that the games are not interrupted by virus outbreaks.

Players and staff from the CSL clubs were quarantined for three weeks in their hotels before being allowed to enter each city's virus-secure bubble, Chinese media reported.

"Organisers also expect that the local governments of the three host cities will open up important matches to fans," Xinhua said, without saying how many fans would be allowed.

The CSL kicks off with 18 clubs this season, but without Chongqing Liangjiang who this month folded because of massive debt exacerbated by the pandemic.

The demise of Chongqing, where Jordi Cruyff was in charge in 2018-2019, dealt another blow to the fast-fading ambitions of China's football-fan president Xi Jinping.

It was the latest of succession of Chinese clubs synonymous with lavish spending to collapse in recent years, including 2020 CSL champions Jiangsu Suning.

Despite successfully holding the Winter Olympics in a Beijing closed bubble in February, China this month pulled out of hosting the Olympics-sized Asian Games in Hangzhou later this year.

The country then quit as hosts of football's Asian Cup next year after spending billions of dollars to build eight new stadiums and revamp two others for the tournament.



"Imad is struck in fitness, performance issues, Nawaz is better option right now," says Wasim

■ Pakistan and West Indies are scheduled to play three ODIs on June 8, 10, and 12 in Rawalpindi

KARACHI: Pakistan team's chief selector Mohammad Wasim shared reason behind dropping all-rounder Imad Wasim.

In his latest statement, Wasim pointed out performance and fitness

issues with the 33-years-old cricketer.

"Imad's performance in recent past wasn't up to the mark. He also has fitness issues which is why he is suffering," he said.

"Currently, we have high fitness standards in the

team. And, it is visible in Nawaz's performance," he added.

Meanwhile, Wasim preferred Nawaz over Imad. "Nawaz is better option right now, looking at his performance. His fitness and performance is going

good currently," he praised Nawaz who got selected in 16-men squad for home ODI series against West Indies.

Pakistan and West Indies are scheduled to play three ODIs on June 8, 10, and 12 in Rawalpindi.

FRENCH OPEN

Swiatek racks up 31st straight win

PARIS: World number one Iga Swiatek was the only top 10 women's seed left standing at the French Open on Saturday as Casper Ruud and Holger Rune gave Roland Garros a rare Nordic twist with landmark performances.

Swiatek, the 2020 champion, dropped serve three times against 95th-ranked Danka Kovinic of Montenegro before sealing a 6-3, 7-5 third round victory, her 31st successive win.

"I wanted to play really aggressively but sometimes I felt I was hitting with too much power and it was hard

to control," said the 20-year-old Pole.

Swiatek's winning streak is the best since Serena Williams's 34 successive victories in 2013.

She next faces Chinese teenager Zheng Qinwen who made the last 16 on her debut when French veteran Alize Cornet, playing in her 61st consecutive Grand Slam, retired with a leg injury, trailing 6-0, 3-0.

Having stunned 2018 champion Simona Halep in the second round, Zheng becomes only the fourth Chinese woman to make the fourth round in Paris where

compatriot Li Na captured her landmark Slam title in 2011. "I always knew I had the level to do well, now I just want to keep going," said the 19-year-old Zheng, ranked at 74. Cornet, the last Frenchwoman in the draw, was booed off by the Court Philippe Chatrier crowd. "It hurt more than my injury," she said. Spain's Paula Badosa, who made the quarter-finals in 2021, retired due to a calf injury when she was trailing Russia's Veronika Kudermetova 6-3, 2-1. Aryna Sabalenka, the seventh seed, slipped to a 4-6, 6-1, 6-0 defeat against

Italy's Camila Giorgi. The exits of Badosa and Sabalenka meant that for the first time in the Open era only one top 10 seed has survived to the fourth round.

In stark contrast, nine of the top 10 men's seeds have made the second week. Eighth-seeded Casper Ruud became the first Norwegian man to reach the last 16 with a 6-2, 6-7 (3/7), 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 win over Italy's Lorenzo Sonego. Ruud hit 39 winners and goes on to face Poland's Hubert Hurkacz, a Wimbledon semi-finalist last year who is also in the last 16 in Paris for the first time.

Atherton makes bold selection call for England

England have just one Test victory to their name over the last 12 months and need to get some momentum quickly under their new captain and coach to stay in contention for next year's WTC Final

has provided a few hints into the selection conundrum faced with vital World Test Championship points up for grabs.

England have just one Test victory to their name over the last 12 months and need to get some momentum quickly under their new captain and coach to stay in contention for next year's WTC Final.

Stokes has already indicated veteran duo James Anderson and Stuart Broad are likely to win a recall during the three-match series against the Kiwis, while the new Test skipper has said he will bat at No.6 and former captain Joe Root will revert to his more favoured position at four. Ollie Pope and Jonny Bairstow appear the two most likely to win spots in England's top six, but Atherton thinks England should take a chance and select Brook.

Brook has 840 runs to his name for Yorkshire from nine innings at this year's



County Championships and Atherton said this week's first Test against New Zealand at Lord's is the perfect time for the 23-year-old to be blooded.

"I'd have to pick him (Brook) ahead of Bairstow at No.5, just because of the form he is in. His first-class form has been exceptional," Atherton told Sky Sports.

England Test coach McCullum open to Buttler recall



England's new Test coach Brendon McCullum has hinted at a possible return to red-ball duty for Jos Buttler following a blistering run-spree in the Indian Premier League. Wicketkeeper-batsman Buttler was dropped after a lacklustre return during England's woeful 4-0 Ashes series loss in Australia. Despite being one of the world's best white-ball run-scorers, the 31-year-old averages a modest 31.94 in Test cricket. And there was no place for Buttler in England's squad for next week's opening Test against McCullum's native New Zealand at Lord's, with Ben Foakes and Jonny Bairstow selected ahead of what will be the new coach's first game in charge. Buttler, however, has been in spectacular form for the Rajasthan Royals in the IPL, powering the team into Sunday's final of the Twenty20 franchise competition on the back of four centuries in 16 games, with an average of 58.85 and a stunning strike rate of 151.47.

McCullum, who saw Buttler's brilliance in the IPL firsthand as coach of the Kolkata Knight Riders, is clearly intrigued by the possibility of getting more out of a player who, for all his undoubted talent, has so far managed just two centuries in exactly 100 Test innings. "Jos is one of those players you look at instantly and think how could he be so dominant in one form of the game and not quite have found his feet, other than a few fleeting performances, in Test cricket?," said former New Zealand captain McCullum, himself renowned as an attacking batsman.

Implacable self-belief carries Real Madrid to Champions League glory

THE GUARDIAN

In every walk of life, there are people whose greatest gift is being the most confident person in the room. They succeed and you can never quite work out why. What is it they actually do? Is it anything beyond just looking the part? Real Madrid have just won the Champions League for the 14th time.

It can't just be luck. There has to be more to it than that. And yet in every game in the knockout phase of this Champions League, against Paris Saint-Germain, against Chelsea, against Manchester City, they have had fewer shots than their opponents. On Saturday, Liverpool had 24 shots to Madrid's four. The only difference between the final and what had gone before was that this time there was no point at which Liverpool apparently had the game won, and Karim Benzema didn't score.

But Liverpool did suffer that bizarre syndrome that seems to afflict all of Madrid's opponents at some point when they run into that implacable self-belief and suddenly misplace the capacity to perform the simplest tasks. Experienced players were transformed into starstruck teenagers bumping into their hero and finding themselves unable to do anything other than stare at their feet and blurt out random



high-pitched squawks.

Passes are misplaced, crosses overhit, dangerous forwards weirdly ignored. Defenders and goalkeepers who have been solid all season end up lying down in the box as the ball ricochets between them and only a VAR decision that nobody seemed able to explain rules out an opening goal.

Liverpool may point out that Sadio Mané hit the post, that Thibaut Courtois

was forced into two superb saves, that they had the chances. But there was never really a sense that they would equalise. The rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone in injury time was less a rousing call to one last surge than a mournful hymn of defiance.

Those two saves were a large part of it, the sort of stops that sap belief. For the first, Courtois charged across his goal and hurled himself at Mohamed Salah's feet as

he attempted to lift the ball over his shin. There was pace, aggression and reading of the game. The second came after Salah had fashioned a chance for himself from very little.

He bore down on a goal that seemed almost to grow before the majesty of his first touch, he opened his body, angled his foot, prepared to score the sort of goal that defined his form before Christmas. And then, from nowhere, there was Courtois' green-clad arm thrusting up to push the ball away. The way three teammates leapt upon the Belgian was indication of just what an exceptional save it had been.

That Courtois has been, alongside Benzema, probably Madrid's best player says a lot for how their season has gone. At the very last he was there, claiming a cross from the left in a crowded box and giving it one last punt downfield. Luka Modric ran straight to him at the final whistle and he was soon engulfed. For the modern elite, goalkeepers may occasionally be the heroes in one-off games but it's unusual for them to be quite so central over the course of a season.

But this has not been a normal season for Madrid. They have survived by their nerve, by their capacity to produce moments of brilliance when they have needed them. The way Courtois has saved them again and again is in part a measure of his own excellence, but also of the fact

that this is not a Madrid that can control games. They have needed Benzema to convert an absurd proportion of his chances, they have needed Modric to conjure magical passes again and again, and they have benefited from Vinicius's growing danger running in behind the opposing full-back.

Perhaps if you have enough great players still just about firing, that is enough. Modric's outside of the boot pass to Benzema to equalise against Chelsea at the Bernabéu is the defining moment of their campaign because it required such virtuosity at such a vital time. Stars are ageing and Kylian Mbappé, who had seemed Madrid's future for so long, will not be arriving any time soon. There is rebuilding to be done, but the essence of Madrid, that sense of belief, remains as strong as ever.

And so in an era when most managers espouse a philosophy, when we talk of grand tactical schema and the dominance of Pep Guardiola's juego de posición and Jürgen Klopp's gegenpressing, the first manager to win the Champions League four times is Carlo Ancelotti, who is as mutable and pragmatic as they come. He has only ever won five league titles in his career and last season ended for him with a 5-0 defeat for Everton at Manchester City. Plans? Who needs them? Not Madrid, not yet.