



Islamabad POST

Monday, August 08, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

Blinken kicks off Africa tour to counter Russian influence

Detailed News On Page-08

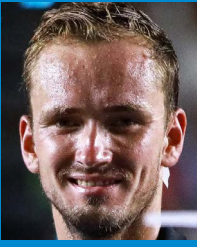
African Union condemns Israeli 'attacks'

Detailed News On Page-07



Medvedev downs Norrie to end title drought

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Taiwan is Chinese territory

DNA

BEIJING: Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that Taiwan is not part of the United States but Chinese territory, in the latest diplomatic invective against US policy since a visit to Taiwan by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The United States has been engaging in "sophistry" on the Taiwan question, and China's actions on Taiwan have been just, appropriate and legal, as well as being aimed at safeguarding the country's sacred sovereignty and territorial integrity, Wang said during a visit to Bangladesh. Taiwan's defense ministry said it had detected 66 Chinese air force planes and 14 Chinese warships conducting activities in and around the Taiwan Strait on Sunday. The Chinese military will from now on conduct "regular" drills on the eastern side of the median line of the Strait, Chinese state television reported, citing a commentator.

FIA summons PTI's Imran Ismail

DNA

KARACHI: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Sunday summoned senior PTI leader and former Sindh governor Imran Ismail in a case related to prohibited funding against his party. Following the ECP's judgment that ruled PTI received funding from prohibited sources, the FIA launched a country-wide inquiry into the case. Earlier, the FIA summoned PTI leaders Asad Qaiser, Mian Mahmood-ur-Rashid, and 11 others to address questions during the probe with a total of six inquiries opened concurrently in major cities across the country, including federal capital Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and Karachi. Imran Ismail has been summoned by the agency on August 15.

Holiday Notice

The office of Daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on the eve of Ashura on August 08 and 09 therefore there will be no newspaper on August 09 and 10. - Editor

Inside...

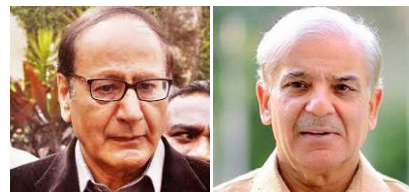
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Anti-Army posts

PM slams 'horrific' campaign

PML-Q President Ch Shujaat Hussain also condemned the vilification campaign against the Army

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Taking exception to malicious campaign on social media ridiculing the sacrifices of country's Shuhda, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has termed it horrifying while lamenting that the self-righteous political narratives are poisoning the minds of the youth and weaponising the hate speech. PML-Q President Ch Shujaat Hussain also condemned the vilification campaign against

Continued on Page 06

Khan trying to divert attention

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Lashing out at the PTI, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday claimed that Imran Khan will suffer defeat during the upcoming by-elections in all the nine National Assembly constituencies that fell vacant after the NA speaker accepted the resignations of the concerned

Continued on Page 06

ECP's verdict implemented as per law



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb Sunday said implementation on the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) prohibited funding case was underway. "The decision in the PTI's foreign funding case has been given, which is being implemented as per law," she said in a news statement while reacting to PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry's comments on social media. She said the PTI had been declared a "foreign aided" party under the Political Parties Order 2002. Imran Khan had submitted false affidavit with ECP five times as per the decision. The PTI sought 51 adjournments, changed nine lawyers, and filed 11 petitions with the court regarding the foreign funding case, the minister observed. She said, "all doors are closed for a foreign agent and foreign aided party in the law." The minister said the

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Plan to counter 'fascism' to be unveiled on 13th

Khan says Pakistan is facing Yazidiyat (fascism) today in the form of rule by a cabal of crooks & their handlers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has said that every era has its Yazid and Pakistan is facing Yazidiyat these days while announcing that he will unveil his plan to counter fascism in his Haqeeqa Azadi Jalsa in Islamabad on Aug 13. Imran on Sunday posted a tweet on his Twitter handle saying: "People of Kufa, despite knowing our beloved Prophet (PBUH)'s Grandson was on the path of truth, did not come to help out of fear of Yazid & allowed the greatest tragedy of Islam to happen. Every era has its Yazids. Pakistan is facing Yazidiyat (fascism) today in the form of rule by a cabal of crooks & their handlers brought to power through US regime change conspiracy. Will our ppl bow down before this conspiracy in fear or, as a nation, face up to the challenge? On 13 Aug at our Haqeeqa Azadi jalsa I will announce our plan to counter this fascism." PTI leader Farrukh Habib on Saturday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would hold a public rally at Parade Ground Islamabad on August 13 as a demonstration of the "public's power", against the government. It is pertinent to mention here that the PTI is

Continued on Page 06

Fawad questions FIA's summons

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday questioned the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) summons received by party leaders, saying they were not in power in the time period when they purportedly received prohibited funding. Addressing a press conference earlier, the former federal information minister asked "in what capacity are the party members getting summoned by the FIA." According to Chaudhry, those summoned were not public office holders in 2011-12. He, however, said the party is cooperating with the FIA in spite of that. A number of PTI leaders, including Imran Ismail, Mahmoodur Rasheed, Asad Qaiser

Continued on Page 06

Pak rejects India's anti-OIC remarks

FO says it is 'astounding to see an unabashed practitioner of 'Hindutva' accuse others of 'communal agenda'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday slammed India for accusing the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) of "bigotry" or "communal agenda". "Pakistan categorically rejects the ludicrous comments and fallacious claims made by the spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) criticising the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its statement regarding India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5 2019. India's hubris in this regard is deplorable," said Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad. The spokesperson said it was "astounding to see an unabashed

Continued on Page 06

IIOJK: India bans Muharram processions

DNA

SRINAGAR: Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) witnessed a continuation of widespread violations of fundamental human rights on Sunday as processions remained banned on 8 Muharram. In a continuous violation of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Muslims of IIOJK are being prevented from performing religious rituals since 1989. The curfew-like restrictions are imposed in

Continued on Page 06

Israeli strikes on Gaza 'illegal': UN

At least 31 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and 260 injured since Friday; talks under way to broker ceasefire

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: The United Nations special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories says Israel's air raids on the besieged Gaza Strip "not only are illegal but irresponsible", calling for a diplomatic solution to the latest bout of violence, which began on Friday when Israel launched air attacks on Gaza City. "The situation in Gaza is on the verge of a humanitarian crisis," Francesca Albanese said. "The only way to secure the wellness of Palestinians wherever they are is to lift the siege and allow aid to enter." Meanwhile, talks were under way to end the latest violence between Israeli occupation forces

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan strongly condemns Israeli aggression

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the storming of the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israeli settlers under the protection of Israeli occupying forces. This provocative action has blatantly violated the sanctity of the Qibla-e-Awal and hurt the sentiments of Muslims across the world. Such incidents are flagrant violations of international law, international norms and

Continued on Page 06

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Briefs

Mobile phone service to be partially closed

PESHAWAR: Mobile phone services will remain partially closed on 9th and 10th of Muharram in Peshawar, an official of the Police told media men during the 8th of Muharram procession wherein huge contingent of Police led the routes here on Sunday in City. He said, in view of security concerns, it has been decided to keep mobile phones switched off like every year in order to ensure security to the Muharram processions coming out from various localities by joining the main procession in Cantonment on 9th of Muharram and in City of 10th of Muharram. The mourning procession will return to its Imambarah through its traditional routes and end for which special arrangements are being made for the security of the procession. Markets and bazaars have been closed in routes of the processions till 10th of Muharram due to the procession in interior city and heavy police force have been deployed on the procession routes. - APP

BRT services to be closed on 9th, 10th Muharram

PESHAWAR: The BRT services would remain closed on the 9th and 10th Muharram while the district administration of Kohat has imposed a ban on pillion riding in view of the security of Muharram. Spokesman of the BRT has confirmed the closing of the BRT service during the 9th and 10th of Muharram. The citizens of Kohat are requested to cooperate in view of the present situation. - APP

One dies, four injured in AJK tourist jeeps' pile-up

AJK: A tourist died and four others were injured in a pile-up involving four jeeps that were on their way back from Chitta Khata lake in Shouner valley, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Sunday. According to AJK tourist police, the deceased was identified as Hammad Tahir of Daska, Sialkot. The tourists who had sustained injuries in the accident were shifted to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital where they were given first aid. - APP

PIAF asks govt to protect trade, industry

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Association Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol has said the trade and industry had to be kept solvent and protected from default for which prudent measures would have to be taken, such as slashing of imports along with strict monitoring of the central bank of forex companies to help stabilize the rupee, as the country's total liquid foreign exchange reserves declined by \$206 million during last week due to external debt servicing. PIAF Chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol pointed out that the strategy of curbing imports was not growth-friendly, as the PIAF does not believe in the import substitution model and is in favour of export expansion. This is where we should plan to focus our efforts to take this forward for sustained economic growth. He said that our tax to GDP percentage is very low at 9.2 percent. We have to do better in order to achieve economic stability but we will undertake reforms in a gradual and orderly fashion in this regard. - DNA

CPO reviews security arrangements of 7th Muharram procession

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari on Sunday visited and reviewed security arrangements of the main procession of 07 Muharram ul Harram which was taken out from Sadiqabad. Along with the police officers, scholars, members of peace committee and officials of law enforcement were also present on the occasion. During the visit, CPO Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari gave instructions to the concerned officials to remain vigilant on Muharram duty. CPO directed senior officers should check duty from time to time and brief the officials on duty. Rawalpindi Police was taking all measures to maintain law and order during Muharram, he added. He said that code of conduct must be implemented to ensure the security during Muharram. CPO made it clear that it is prime duty of police to protect the lives and properties of people. - APP

Chinese company helps flood-affected people in GB

The statement said that the backfilling of the irrigation canal foundation work is still underway, and the project personnel will continue to pay more attention to the disaster management and will cooperate with the local authorities and people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese Company has helped the flood-affected people in northern areas of Pakistan. CEC Hydropower Seventh Bureau Pakistan Basha Dam and Tangir Hydropower Project Teams responded promptly to the news of the devastating flood and remained at the frontline of rescue and relief efforts to fight the disaster together alongside Pakistani brothers, a company's statement said on Sunday. On July 30, a flash flood broke out in the Tangir District of Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan due to heavy rainfall, resulting in damage to farmland and destruction of roads and canals, which has seriously affected the lives of the local residents. On July 31, after surveying the flood-hit area, the project team formulated an immediate plan and deployed Tangir Hydropower Station construction personnel and excavator equipment to the affected areas to participate in rescue and relief work, according to the statement. The workers were also involved in clearing the collapsed infrastructure, dredging the wrecked roads, eliminating hidden hazards and refilling the foundations of the irrigation canal to protect the lives and property of local people. After two days of construction work, the project personnel succeeded in unblocking and rebuilding the collapsed roads and communications/transportation has been restored in the affected areas. The statement said that the backfilling of the irrigation canal foundation work is still underway, and the project personnel will continue to pay more attention to the disaster management and will cooperate with the local authorities and people.



Foreign funding received by Imran proven: Talal Ch

FAISALABAD: Former state minister and central leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Muhammad Talal Chaudhry has said it has been proven now that Imran Khan received funding from American, Israeli and Indian citizens. Addressing a press conference along with PML-N leader and Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information & Broadcasting Chaudhry Muhammad Shahbaz Babar here on Sunday, he said Fawad Chaudhry claimed that no one could punish Imran Khan. "If he is above the law," Talal asked and added that it was impossible that a cycle-snatcher was sent to jail, but a person receiving dollars from abroad illegally was allowed to go Scot free. He claimed that Imran Khan had run his election campaign with the prohibited funding. Talal said Imran Khan was a terrified person and he could not bring any revolution. He said Imran Khan had claimed on record that he would not get any dictation after becoming prime minister, but then he admitted that "I was directed to appoint the chief election commissioner". He said Imran Khan had double standard: on the one hand, he was protesting against America, and on the other getting benefits from US nationals and government. Responding to a question, he said that a JIT (Joint investigation team) in Model Town case had already been constituted. To another query, he said the PDM (Pakistan Democratic Movement) would announce the date for fresh election in the country. - APP

Armed forces guardians of Pak frontiers: Defence Minister

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that Imran Khan and his party should be careful while talking of the Pakistan armed forces, which are guardians of the country's frontiers. Talking to the media here on Saturday, he said the nation is proud of their sacrifices. He said the military officers were martyred in a helicopter crash during relief operations in Lasbela but it was regrettable that some people had launched a negative campaign on the social media. He said the nefarious campaign against the

defence institutions is commendable. "Those who blame the institutions are working on the enemy agenda," he added. Replying to a question, he said it was a responsibility of the law-enforcement agencies to take action against such people. "As per my point of view, those who protect the integrity of Pakistan were insulted through such a negative campaign," he said. The defence minister said that there used to be tolerance in politics, but what kind of society had become it now that people were running campaigns against the

martyred soldiers. "Do not insult the sacrifices of those who gave their lives for the country and the nation," he warned. The minister said "nobody should destroy your tradition and culture of tolerance". He said a person was blaming institutions after losing power. "These institutions are the protectors of our borders, skies and waters," he added. The minister said those who had tweeted or posted on the social media were regularly supported financially by some elements. "There can be differences in a society, in a family, but using

vulgar language on the social media is not our social and political traditions," he added. He said that in the past 75 years, people's representatives got power many times, many elections had a question mark, many elections were managed, many were sponsored, but the political parties never steep so low and never exhibited such moral degradation. He said Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali would be remembered in the history of Balochistan with respect as he had established a relationship with the Baloch and Pash-tun people. - APP

Maulana Hanif Jalandari calls on CM

LAHORE: Secretary General Wafaq-ul-Madaras-ul-Arabia Pakistan Maulana Muhammad Hanif Jalandari called on Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi, here on Sunday. Maulana Muhammad Hanif Jalandari, during the meeting, appreciated the exemplary step of the Chief Minister for including the clause of the Khatm-e-Nabuwat affidavit in the marriage certificate. The chief minister said that directions had been issued to the marriage registrar to provide new Khatm-e-Nabuwat affidavit forms, adding that strict action would be taken against those refusing to give new forms. The CM revealed that one month imprisonment and fine could be awarded to the marriage registrar for not using the new marriage form. Parvez Elahi lauded the role of religious scholars for promoting religious tolerance on Youm-e-Ashur, saying that the Punjab government appreciated the exemplary cooperation of the religious scholars from all schools of thought. The CM stated that the law and order situation improved in the province due to the cooperation of the religious scholars and the steps being taken by the government. Maulana Hanif Jalandari acknowledged praiseworthy step of the Punjab government and termed it a great service to the religion. "Your step in this regard is highly appreciated which will always be remembered", he said. He added that the Punjab government under the able leadership of the CM took excellent steps for the promotion of religious tolerance and harmony across the province. Hafiz Ammar Yasir and Hamesh Khan were also present on the occasion. - APP

Barrister Saif condemns attack on MPA Liaqat

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Information and Public Relation Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif on Sunday condemned attack on PTT's MPA Malik Liaqat Ali in Dir Lower. In a condemnation message, Barrister Saif said that the Chief Minister has taken notice of the incident and directed police chief to arrest the attackers. Barrister Saif said that such cowardice attack cannot repulse their courageous. He said that those involved in the incident would be brought to justice soon. He prayed to Allah Almighty for the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude and for early recovery of the injured persons. - APP

Lodhran Police arrest five dacoits

These accused used to commit robbery, robberies, snatching of motorcycles and theft of motorcycles in Sadar Circle for the past few months

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHARAN: Lodhran police arrested five dangerous dacoit gangs and recovered seven million rupees in cash and three million rupees worth of stolen property. DPO Abdul Rauf Under the supervision of DPO Lodhran Abdul Rauf babar Qaisrani, the Model Police City Lodhran and Sadar Lodhran police arrested five gangs of inter-district robbery, banditry and motorcycle snatching/stealing and arrested 15 accused by using the departmental powers against the criminal elements, taken into custody. These accused used to commit



robbery, robberies, snatching of motorcycles and theft of motorcycles in Sadar Circle for the past few months. After the arrest of these accused, dozens of cases of robbery, burglary, snatching a motorcycle and theft have been traced. From which stolen goods worth more than ten million rupees and nine motorcycles have also been recovered. For the past few months, the city police has traced the gang of inter-district robbery and banditry that has been carrying out incidents in Lodhran police station and its suburbs and arrested 4 suspects. Many people were also set on fire. The accused used to deprive the citizens of their valuables and cash at gunpoint.

PIAF asks govt to protect trade, industry

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Association Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol has said the trade and industry had to be kept solvent and protected from default for which prudent measures would have to be taken, such as slashing of imports along with strict monitoring of the central bank of forex companies to help stabilize the rupee, as the country's total liquid foreign exchange reserves declined by \$206 million during last week due to external debt servicing. PIAF Chairman Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol pointed out that the strategy of curbing imports was not growth-friendly, as the PIAF does not believe in the import substitution model and is in favour of export expansion. This is where we should plan to focus our efforts to take this forward for sustained economic growth. He said that our tax to GDP percentage is very low at 9.2 percent. We have to do better in order to achieve economic stability but we will undertake reforms in a gradual and orderly fashion in this regard. - DNA

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تمہیں وطن کی ہیوائیں سلام کہتی ہیں

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میجر جنرل امجد حنیف شہید
بریگیڈیئر محمد خالد شہید
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National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

Aug 01/ CHINA	Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND	National Day
Aug 01/ LEBANON	Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SYRIA	Armed Forces Day
Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO	National Day
Aug 09/ SINGAPORE	National Day
Aug 15/ DPR KOREA	Independence Day
Aug 15/ INDIA	Independence Day
Aug 15/ POLAND	Armed Forces Day
Aug 17/ INDONESIA	Independence Day
Aug 24/ UKRAINE	Independence Day
Aug 25/ URUGUAY	Independence Day
Aug 30/ TURKEY	Armed Forces Day
Aug 31/ KYRGYZ	Independence Day
Aug 31/ MALAYSIA	National Day



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Performance of Rotary in Pak remarkable: RI President

Jennifer Jones, president of Rotary International, says that Rotary is working in more than 200 countries of the world, its 1.4m members are constantly striving to improve the lives of their communities and the people of the country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Visiting President of Rotary International Jennifer Jones said that Rotary is focusing and working with local partners across the globe in seven areas in line with the UN's sustainable goals. She briefed a select group of media persons on the contribution of Rotary International in human development sector across the country. Director of Rotary International Mohammad Faiz Kidwai, Trustee of Rotary Foundation Aziz Memon, District Governor Adnan Rohaila and Media Coordinator Imran Gaznavi was also present on this occasion. Jennifer Jones, president of Rotary International, said that Rotary is working in more than 200 countries of the world, its 1.4 million members are constantly striving to improve the lives of their communities and the people of the country. "In Pakistan, We have projects on sanitation, clean drinking water, basic education and literacy, maternal and child health care, peace development, economic development, women empowerment and environment", she added. Citing an example of one of the projects, she said that in Karachi they inaugurated water filtration plant operate by a female and also visited basic educational schools. Such kind of projects, she said were sustainable with the involvement of local females. They (females) also felt ownership and empowerment. She said this kind of project was a hallmark for sustainable human development. She said it is constantly trying to improve people's lifestyle and economic situation through welfare projects. Rotary has rendered valuable services in Pakistan, now it is time to start new welfare projects with new commitment from the platform of Rotary in Pakistan. Rotary has exemplary contributed towards eradication of polio from the world. Rotary's PolioPlus



investment in Pakistan for polio eradication is US\$353.8 million and overall it's global contribution has been around US\$2.5 billion. Rotary is committed to keep contributing until the world becomes polio free. RI President said that Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. She said Rotary is dedicated to causes that build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world. She emphasized that all over the world are involved to undertake projects in the 7 areas of focus which includes peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and

hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; community economic development and environmental sustainability & climate change. Appreciating the remarkable performance of Rotary in Pakistan on the occasion of natural disasters she said that it is earthquake situation or flood disaster, Rotary has always stepped forward and played a full role in providing immediate relief to the victims and their rehabilitation. Rotary Pakistan has distributed around 25000 shelter boxes / tents donated by Rotary in UK. RI President said "Rotary Jo Goth" was the best project for the rehabilitation of the victims of earthquake in Pakistan, in which 160 houses alongwith a sustainable infrastructure was built and given to the underprivileged and homeless victims with ownership rights. She also appreciated Rotary's role towards Total Literacy and Quality Education where almost each of the 500 clubs in Paki-

stan are involved to eliminate illiteracy from Pakistan. She was also appreciative of the 2500 congenital heart surgeries jointly undertaken for children in Pakistan and India. There is a need for many more such projects in the country. Rotary International should continue to support in this regard. The project of artificial limbs under Rotary in Pakistan is also performing significant services. Under this project, disabled people are enabled to play an active role in the society. Similarly, Rotary is also doing significant services in the field of education. On the eradication of polio, she expressed hope that soon Pakistan will achieve the status of a polio-free country. She said the world health organization had task given to nations that polio must be eradicated by end of 2023, but unfortunately, 14 cases in a day in Pakistan and Afghanistan was reported and they know how to deal it and treat it.

Drive for removal of wild growth in full swing

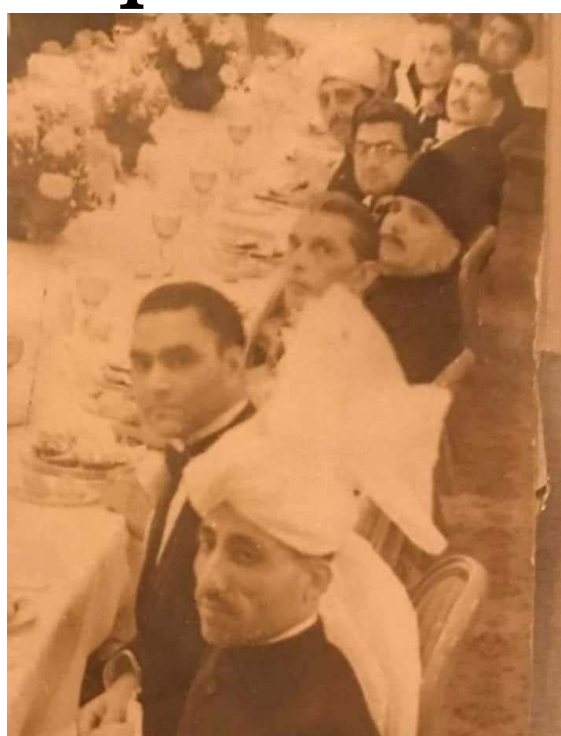
ISLAMABAD: The environment wing of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has started removing wild growth and grass, which has grown as a result of recent rains. The wild bushes and shrubs not only disturb the natural beauty of Islamabad but also provide potential breeding sites for the growth of dengue larva, so these were being removed on priority and no laxity will be tolerated in that regard. Director General Environment Irfan Niazi told APP. He said during the first phase the CDA teams were removing grass and bushes on main roads, adding that the residential areas and streets would be cleaned at the end. Labour and special grass cutting machines were being used to accomplish the task, he added. In that regard, special teams were formed, and their performance was being monitored on a daily basis. To a query, he said the plantation drive was also underway and thousands of saplings of local plant species were planted in coordination with the climate change ministry and non-governmental organizations. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A view of construction work of underpass and fly-over at 6th avenue during development work in the city. - APP

Alvi shares historical picture of Quaid-e-Azam, Allama Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday shared a historical and rare picture of the Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal, as the nation is all set to celebrate the 75th Independence Day. On his Twitter handle, the president said that probably, it might be the only picture with two most important personalities of the history of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Muhammad Iqbal. The one dreamt while the other translated it into reality, he added. He further observed that Pakistanis possessed the potential as they had sacrificed and stressed that they must rise to fulfill (the ideals of these great leaders). "75th Independence Day is near & we will celebrate. What a great sight, see below. Probably the only picture of Allama & Quaid, the giants of the history of Pakistan together. One dreamt & the other established. We Pakistanis, have potential, have sacrificed & must rise to fulfill," he posted a tweet along with the historic picture of the two great leaders of the sub-continent. According to different accounts, the picture dated back to 1932 when the two leaders attended a conference (probably Third Round Conference). Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the greatest thinker, poet and prominent leader of Muslims in the Indo-Pak sub-continent had dreamt of a separate homeland for the Muslims of India, while Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah spearheaded a relentless struggle to realize this dream with the creation of Pakistan. - APP



Report presented on street children in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: A Task Force on Street Children approved by Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat presented its study report to the Federal Ombudsman for implementation. Taking cognizance of the exploitation of children in terms of their involvement in labour and beggary, Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi had directed a study titled "Inquiry into the Plight of Street Children in ICT - Challenges and Way Forward". The research sets out priorities and gives evidence-based recommendations to the key stakeholders. The research was conducted by Syeda Vigar, a Nisa Hashmi, Advisor Grievance Commissioner for Children and her team. This is the first ever empirical study focusing on street children in ICT. The Task Force conducted 506 in-depth interviews including 443 street children, 44 community members including parents of street children and 19 officials of LEAs and service providers. The team devised a mechanism for the maximum utilization of the resources for the protection, welfare and development of street children. The research revealed that child labour and beggary to some extent is an outcome of extreme poverty, homelessness abandonment of children, etc., and predominately a lucrative family business of some communities and begging rings. The compelling factors for them to work beg include low income in 83 percent cases, followed by 90 percent illness and disability of parent(s) while in 1 percent case it was drug addiction of parent and guardian. The team also reported that there is no Child Court in ICT and only one Model Police Station has a desk for children. The report stated that street children were picked up by the police, dropped at Edhi Centre and CPI but these centers have no capacity to accommodate these street children there, they release them in the evening. - APP

Kashmiris raising voice against fascism

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation Mushal Hussein Mullick has said Kashmiris at every forum are raising voice against fascism of Modi and BJP being carried out in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Talking to APP, she said people of held valley were forced to live under such a condition where they could not even breathe freely. Mushal said that the resolution of United Nations (UN) gave Kashmiris right to their self-determination. The Kashmiri people had already rejected revocation of articles 370 and 35-A adding she said the Modi regime had imposed countless sanctions and restrictions in the valley under the draconian Public Safety Act. She said Indian government, on permanent basis, was silencing the indigenous freedom movement of Kashmiris using all unfair and unlawful means. - APP

CTP issued traffic plan for Ashura Day

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) have finalised all the arrangements to maintain traffic flow on Ashura Day. In a statement issued here on Sunday, as many as 1000 traffic police personnel will be on duty on the occasion of Ashura Day. Chief Traffic Officer Naveed Ishaq said that traffic will be maintained for mourning processions. On the 10th of Muharram, all types of traffic will be closed from Committee Chowk towards Iqbal Road, he added. DAV Chowk will be completely diverted from where all traffic entry towards College Road will be closed. Traffic entry will be restricted from DAV College Chowk to Fawara Chowk when the mourning procession reaches Naya Mohalla. A diversion has been set up at Mashriq Hotel, City Saddar Road and the traffic will be diverted back towards Sadar and Mohanpura. Traffic will not be allowed from Cinema Chowk to Kashmiri Bazaar on Ashura Day. There will be a diversion on Shah Allah Ditta Road from where the traffic will be directed towards Dhok Dalal, TB Hospital, Pirwadhi and Asghar Mall. Traffic will be diverted to Bani Chowk and Link Road by placing a diversion near Bakery Chowk. Diversion has been put in place at Hamilton Chowk and Banswala Chowk, dingi Khoi and traffic will not be allowed at Jama Masjid, he said. The traffic coming towards the old Imambargah will be completely blocked by putting a diversion at Pir Chauha Chowk. On the occasion of the procession from Satellite Town, there will be a diversion on both sides of Imam Bargah Yadgar Hussaini. - APP

WKAF uses trucks messages to highlight abuses

ISLAMABAD: Trucks carrying digital advertising to highlight the gross human rights abuses committed against Kashmiri people by the Indian army in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), rolled on the main boulevards, shopping malls and city intersections across Washington DC, United States. The World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF), used these digital advertising trucks in connection with the observance of 'Yom-e-Istehsal' to highlight Indian illegal and unilateral steps of August 2019 over IIOJK. 'Hold India accountable for war crimes, Kashmir under siege: knocking at world conscience, stop demographic terrorism in Kashmir, India stop state terrorism in Kashmir, end Indian colonization in Kashmir and implement UN resolution on Kashmir,' were the messages displayed on these trucks. - APP

Briefs

Imran to be held accountable: Uzma Bukhari

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan and his accomplices would have to surrender themselves before the law of the land as their threats to institutions were doomed to fail. Uzma Bukhari, a senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) said this while speaking to media on Sunday. She said Imran Khan should be held accountable for embezzling donation's funds. She also urged the government to take immediate action as Pakistani political parties were not ready to tolerate Imran Khan, who devoured the money received from prohibited sources and used that money for destabilising the country, sabotaging China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and harming Kashmir cause. She said Imran had also deceived overseas Pakistanis as he was caught red handed in utilising donation money for creating chaos and anarchy in the country.

"Imran must be ashamed of himself when his provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa accepted American aid, including 34 keys of donated vehicles from the US ambassador in Pakistan the other day. Likewise, a burn centre and over 20 more projects were being executed by the US government in PTI ruled province. Several new projects were also being launched in the province in collaboration with the US.

"This has exposed Imran Khan's so called anti American narrative, who feels no qualm in saying "Absolutely Not" to receiving dollars by brazenly ignoring his misleading regime change narrative," she added. She said despite extraneous efforts, Imran had failed to bring proof against PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PMLN's Vice President Maryam Nawaz. - APP

43 booked for dengue SoP violation

WAH CANTT: The local administration, during a crackdown launched against violators of dengue standing order procedures (SoP), booked 43 violators while 70 premises were sealed on detection of dengue larvae. Deputy district officer health Dr Sara Qadeer told newsmen here on Sunday that during the anti-dengue drive, dengue larvae was found at 125 different commercial areas especially junkyard, tyre shops and block factories subsequently fine worth Rs 1,18,000 was imposed on the owners where no arrangements was made as per the SOPs.

She added that larvae was detected in 1080 houses in different localities of twin cities of Taxila and Wah Cantt and subsequently dengue indoor residual spray had been done at 4671 different houses of the area. - APP

IRSA releases 246,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 246,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 303,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1540.31 feet, which was 142.31 feet higher than its dead level 1398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 165,100 cusecs and outflow as 136,800 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1162.50 feet, which was 112.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 38,200 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 97,700, 124,200 and 350,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 41,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 32,100 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

Bidding on Aug 16 to restore Gwadar operational depth

"The GPA has invited firms or contractors having sufficient experience in the relevant field, financially sound and suitably qualified in maintenance dredging of navigation channel in accordance with prescribed tender documents" he added

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To restore Gwadar Port's operational depth, more than six companies including Chinese enterprises have come forward as their final applications have been submitted for the official bidding to be opened on August 16. Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Project Director (Maintenance of Dredging) Mr Nadeem told Gwadar Pro that the bidding process aims to launch a de-silting operation allowing ships to float well. "Out of more than six firms including Chinese enterprises, a Belgium-based company has also submitted the application," he added. The total cost of dredging, he said,

will be determined as per cubic meter considering the scale of operation and size of the area to be cleared from siltation. On a query, he said that around Rs. 1 billion has already been allocated for the dredging process in current budget 2022-23. "The Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) has invited firms or contractors having sufficient experience in the relevant field, financially sound and suitably qualified in maintenance dredging of the navigation channel in accordance with prescribed tender documents" he added. GPA Director Marine Operation Capt Gull Muhammad also told Gwadar Pro that expenditure of dredging process will be hinging on many factors including dollar fluctuation, fuel cost and labour charges.

He dispelled the impression that Gwadar port functionality to deal with ships has been badly hampered. He admitted the fact that Gwadar Port lost its 14.5 metre natural operational depth but clarified that the depth has not been depleted to 11.4 metre as claimed. "Within two weeks, Gwadar port handled a ship with a draught of 11.6 metres easily" he added. He further mentioned that the last time dredging operation got underway in 2015. China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) official said that undoubtedly, no desilting activity has taken place in the last 7 years. However, it would be an overstatement to claim that the depth of the port has shrunk to mere 11.4 meters from 14.5

meters and subsequently faded away its capacity to handle mother vessels. Indeed, he said that the port continues to berth and process mega-vessels, though with lesser frequency. Recently, two bulk carriers, Bao Quan with a draught of 11.6 meters and Teera Bhum with 10.9 meters draught and a deadweight tonnage of 24,238 tons efficiently berthed at Gwadar port. Gwadar International Terminal Limited's (GITL) Terminal official said that since 2015 COPHC came into action, Gwadar Port has hosted and handled more than "366" ships and vessels. By the end of March, current year, Teera Bhum, a feeder service of COSCO liner, with 12.4 meters of draught berthed alongside, he added.

AIOU commences admission in merit-based programs

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has commenced admissions in merit-based programs offered in the first phase of autumn 2022 semester including BS, MBA, MS/MPhil and PhD. The deadline for the submission of admission application form is August 22, 2022.

According to admission department, prospectuses and admission forms for these programs are available online on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk) and admission can only be applied via online mode. Online admission procedure is presented in the prospectuses in detail. Admissions to BS, 1.5 and 2.5 year MBA (New Scheme) programs will be granted purely on merit basis whereas the candidates will appear in entry test to qualify for admission in Commonwealth of Learning (COL) MBA/MPA, MS/ MPhil and PhD. These entry tests will be conducted in university's academic complex from August 26-31, 2022. First and second merit lists will be displayed on the university website on September 5 and September 12 respectively. On the other hand, deadline for depositing fee for first and second merit lists will be September 9 and September 16 respectively. Transparency in the entire admission procedures will be strictly ensured on the special directives of VC, AIOU, Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A beautiful view of clouds hovering over the Margalla Hills in Federal Capital. - APP

PTI to hold power show in Islamabad on Aug 14

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to hold power show in Islamabad on August 14. The decision was taken in the party's political committee meeting. According to sources privy to the decisions taken by the party during a meeting headed by Imran Khan today, all party organizations have been directed to make arrangements for holding Independence Day gatherings. "A major show of power will be held in Islamabad on August 14 to mark Independence Day," they said. During the public meeting, PTI chairman Imran Khan

will give the government an ultimatum to hold the new elections. Imran Khan directed the party leaders to make preparations for holding public meetings. The meeting also approved to challenge the prohibited funding case at the earliest. The participants also discussed political situation and reviewed the legal aspects regarding the by-elections in nine constituencies. The meeting was briefed about the legal strategy regarding cases and resignations. It is pertinent to mention here that the PTI is trying to up the ante against the incumbent government, demanding them to hold early elections in the country. The party held a long

March, Azadi March, towards Islamabad on May 25, which faced stiff resistance from PML-N-led federal government from entering into the capital. However, it remained successful in entering the capital, only to be canceled later by the PTI Chairman Imran Khan who termed that he canceled it to avoid confrontation and announced that he would return to the capital again. The party has since then gained political ground after it secured victory on 15 seats vacated by its dissident MPs and was able to grab the slot of the chief minister for its candidate Parvez Elahi, who was declared successful after a decision from the apex court.

CTP launch drive against tinted glasses vehicles

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) launched drive against tinted glasses vehicles, keeping in view to ensure security during Muharram. Following the orders of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Naveed Irshad, Inspector Kamran Siddique took action against black paper and no number plate vehicles. A total 37 challan tickets were issued without number plate vehicles whereas 20 challan tickets were issued on the black glasses vehicles. Chief Traffic Officer appreciated the traffic incharge and team of Mehrabad for his good work. The purpose of the operation was to ensure law and order during Muharram, he added. - APP

Pakistan sees consistent drop in Covid-19 cases

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's coronavirus cases have consistently registered a downward trend over the last five days, data from the National Institute of Health (NIH) showed Sunday morning. The country has posted zero COVID-19 deaths for the last two days. The last coronavirus-related deaths were reported on August 5 when two patients succumbed to the disease. The total COVID-19 deaths stand at 30,505, according to the NIH data. The country reported 644 infections out of a total 22,126 tests conducted during the last 24 hours, according to the NIH data. The country's positivity rate has come down to 2.81%. With the new infections, the total number of cases reported in the country currently stands at 1,558,557 since the pandemic started in 2020. A day earlier, the country reported 673 cases, while the daily count was 750 a day before that on Friday (August 5). Despite the lower daily count, the tally of the confirmed cases in the country has surged to 9,399 - the highest in the last two weeks, according to the data. The last time the active case count grew past 10,000 was on July 16 when the number of cases stood at 10,003. However, 164 patients are still being treated in intensive-care units (ICU) of different hospitals in the country, said the NIH. - DNA

Business community condemns smearing campaign against Army

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's United Business Group Sunday strongly condemning the smearing campaign against military helicopter crash at Lasbella, Quetta and expressed unflinching solidarity with valiant armed forces of Pakistan. The Federal Core Committee of the UBG with Shahzad Ali Malik in chair held a meeting today and took stock of the situation arising out of propaganda against helicopter crash. He said entire business community across the country vehemently condemned the malicious campaign hatched by unscrupulous elements having vested interests. He said patriotic business community will thwart the nefarious designs of disgruntled elements bent upon to achieve their ulterior motives to please their masters. He said business community and military is always on one page to safeguard the frontiers from external aggression and protect the sovereignty, integrity and solidarity with iron hand. Later UBG condoled the martyrdom "Shahadat" of our beloved Pakistan Military Officers and Jawan, Commander 12 Corps, Lt Gen Sarfaraz Ali, DG Coast Guards, Maj Gen Amjad Hanif, Brig Muhammad Khalid, Major Saeed Ahmed, Major Mohammad Talha Manan, and Naik Mudassar Fayyaz and prayed to Allah to rest their departed souls in internal peace and grant courage to bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude and equanimity. The committee while paying tribute to the martyres 'services for the nation', expressed that these officers were selflessly engaged in relief operations disregarding the danger posed to their personal lives and working only for the sake of alleviation of the sufferings of the flood victims in Baluchistan. - APP

Chancellor Riphah University visits the Diabetes Centre



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes Centre (TDC) Islamabad was visited by Chancellor Riphah International University Mr Hassan Muhammad Khan and Lt

Gen (Rtd) Ashraf Saleem. On arrival, management of this hospital including Chairman Dr. Asjad Hameed and CEO Mr. Tahir M. Abbasi received and greeted them with a warm welcome. The guests were given a visit to various departments and services en-

gaged in treatment. They appreciated the management's vision, treatment and the efficiency of related services and treatment procedures. Officials of TDC and Riphah International University later agreed on an agenda to materialize the matter of cooperation

Normalcy returns to all major rivers except Indus: FFC

Catchment areas of Rivers Ravi, Jhelum and Chenab may receive heavy downpour, which may cause rise in water level significantly during the forecasted period

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that normalcy returned to all main rivers including Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej and Kabul except for River Indus which is flowing in "Medium Flood" in Guddu-Sukkur reach. According to daily FFC report on Sunday, the combined live storage of the Tarbela, Mangla & Chashma is 7.837 MAF (i.e. 58.22% of the total 13.461 MAF). According to Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore, yesterday's monsoon low over Northwestern Bay of Bengal (India) remained stationary, however it has become well marked and is likely to become more marked. Trough of Westerly Wave continues to prevail over Northeastern Afghanistan and adjoining areas with Seasonal Low lying over Northwestern Balochistan. Mild moist

currents both from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal continue to penetrate into upper parts of the country up to 4000 feet. Scattered thunderstorm/rain of Moderate Intensity is expected over the upper catchment of River Indus, during the next 24 hours. Isolated scattered thunderstorm/rain may also occur over Punjab (Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Lahore, D.G. Khan & Bahawalpur Divisions), Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Eastern Balochistan and over the upper catchments of Rivers Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi & Sutlej during the same period. Monsoon activity is likely to become vigorous during August 10-14 over Sindh, Balochistan including D.G. Khan division, it will also affect the upper half of the country and rest of the Southern Punjab but with rel-

atively less intensity from 10th to 13th of August. Heavy Rains may generate Urban Flooding in Islamabad, Punjab (Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Lahore & Gujranwala) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Peshawar, Nowshera & Mardan Divisions) from August 10-13. Flash flooding is expected in local Nullahs of Islamabad, Punjab (Rawalpindi, Shakargar, Sialkot, Narowal) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Abbottabad, Mansehra, Dir, Karak, Lakki Marwat, & Bannu) and Kashmir from August 10-13. Heavy rains may develop urban flooding in Sindh (Karachi, Thatta, Badin, Hyderabad, Dadu, Jamshoro, Sukkur, Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad & Mirpurkhas) from August 11-14. Flash flooding may also occur in Balochistan (Qilla Saifullah, Loralai, Barkhan, Kohlu, Mosa Khel, Sherani, Sibbi, Bolan,

Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbella, Awaran, Turbat, Panjgur, Pasni, Jiwani, Ormara, & Gwadar) including Hill Torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan from during the said period. Catchment areas of Rivers Ravi, Jhelum and Chenab may receive heavy downpour, which may cause rise in water level significantly during the forecasted period. All related organizations, particularly PDMA, related DDMAs, SDMA, AJ&K, District Administrations and local field formations of concerned Irrigation Departments are strictly advised to remain fully alert & vigilant, take timely actions on warnings issued by the concerned organizations to ensure safety of low lying area communities, public & private property besides irrigation, drainage & flood protection infrastructure etc. - APP

Hazara police chalks out security plan

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Police Hazara division Mirwais Niaz Sunday said that Moharram is a special month in terms of security and we have issued an elaborated security plan regarding Moharram 2022, particularly for 11th Moharram Hazara police is on high alert. He expressed these views while issuing instructions to District Police Officers (DPO) of all 8 districts of the Hazara division. The DIG further said that like every year we have chalked out an elaborated security plan for Moharram 2022 and deputed more than 4000 policemen in three important districts of the region including Abbottabad, Haripur and Mansehra. Giving the details of the police force deployed in the region Mirwais Niaz said that besides the DPOs of concerned districts, police officers and policemen from other districts were also deputed to maintain law and order during the Moharram. He said that District police, CTD, Elite Force, Rapid Response Force (RRF), Traffic Police, Special Branch, Bomb Disposal Unit, District Security Branch and Lady Commandos would be deputed to tackle any untoward situation in district Abbottabad, Haripur and Mansehra during the holy month of Moharram. Mirwais Niaz said that we have also installed Close Circuit TV (CCTV) Cameras on the procession routes and Majalis areas, body-worn cameras, and Drone cameras would be used for air surveillance while the security of the region is on high alert and police have established district and regional control room. - APP

Arrangements finalized for 'Ashura'

RAWALPINDI: All the arrangements have been finalized to observe 'Ashura' with religious fervor and reverence to commemorate the supreme sacrifices rendered by Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his companions for the cause of Islam while over 6000 cops would guard 64 mourning processions and 113 majalis of the district. The district administration and law enforcers have finalized all necessary arrangements to facilitate the mourners. Rawalpindi District Police, City Traffic Police (CTP), Rescue-1122 Rawalpindi and other departments concerned have finalized all the arrangements for 'Youm-e-Ashura', to be observed on Tuesday. Six main processions of Zuljanah, Alam and Tazia would be taken out on Ashura from different areas of the city. All the processions would culminate at 10:00 p.m. at Imambargah Qadimi. Clerics and religious scholars would highlight the teachings of Imam Hussain (RA) and various aspects of the tragedy. According to City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari, the Police had finalized elaborate security arrangements for peaceful passage of 'Ashura' and avoid any untoward incident. Special security arrangements were finalized for Muharram ul Harram in the district as it's a sensitive area, he said adding, three-layer security cover would be provided particularly to the main Muharram processions with special arrangements ensuring rooftop duty and deployment of Quick Response Force (QRF). - APP

Police arrest 6 for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted six accused for possessing illegal weapons. According to a police spokesman, Chakri, City and Wah Cantt police held Waheed Ullah, Muhammad Husnain, Muhammad Zahid, Attique, Muhammad Usman and Usama Ali on recovery of a Kalashnikov, two 30 bore pistols, ammunition and a dagger. Separate cases have been arrested against all the accused while further investigations are under process, he added. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against lawbreakers. - APP

Accelerating global heating

The scientists behind a new database of more than 400 extreme weather attribution studies have performed an essential service. This piece of work, drawing together every study of this type, ought to galvanise a greater sense of urgency around policymaking and campaigning. It shows that intense heatwaves, hurricanes, droughts and floods have all been made far more likely by greenhouse gas emissions, which trap the sun's heat and put more energy into weather systems. And it spells out the alarming unpredictability as well as the extent of global heating's consequences. Until the early 2000s, when the first attribution studies were published, it was harder to link CO2 in the atmosphere with global heating's tangible effects. Thanks to a growing body of research, now we know. The record-breaking "heat dome" over north-western Canada and the US last summer would have been almost impossible without human-caused climate change. The same is true of heatwaves across the northern hemisphere in 2018, and in Asia in 2016. "Beauty is truth, truth beauty," wrote the poet John Keats just over 200 years ago. When it comes to climate, truth can feel closer to terror these days. But scientists and leaders, including the UN secretary general, António Guterres, the former UN climate chief, Christiana Figueres, and the Cop26 president, Alok Sharma, are right to insist that the reality must be faced. Indeed, this is the only way to avoid the most catastrophic and tragic outcomes. In a new book, *Hothouse Earth*, Prof Bill McGuire argues that we have reached a stage when minimising dangers should be regarded as "climate appeasement".

Like the historical responsibility for carbon emissions, attitudes and experiences in the present crisis are unevenly and unjustly shared out. Billions of people around the world, and above all in the global south, are caught up day-to-day in a struggle for survival. With this year's Cop27 in Egypt fast approaching, western governments must follow through on their pledges of climate finance to enable a green transition in the developing world. The purpose of attribution science is not simply to warn the world about what is happening, but to aid preparations for what has not happened yet. The most alarming global trend, apart from still-rising emissions that mean we are on course for 2.5C of heating, is the unexpected speed with which it is already causing chaos. Given what we now know about the impact of 1C of warming, it is no exaggeration to say that this trajectory is not only suicidal but murderous. But alternatives exist, and insisting on this point has never been more important. Ms Figueres, who delivered the Paris agreement, called this week for a "sprint toward the light". The alarming findings of attribution scientists can give rise to desperation – but must not be allowed to extinguish determination and hope.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 13

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Reckless and provocative visit

It would be interesting to know what Nancy Pelosi thinks she achieved by visiting Taiwan last week. She may say her hosts were buoyed by this very visible show of support from a high-ranking American politician – and this is true, up to a point. She may also claim that she stood up for Taiwanese and global democracy against the oppressive authoritarianism typified by China's unelected Communist party rulers. Yet pleased as she undoubtedly was to receive the personal backing of the speaker of the US House of Representatives, Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, has good reason to worry that her flying visit has set back the cause to which both are committed – bolstering and fortifying Taiwan's de facto independence. There are many ways to stand up for democracy. Gratuitously provoking a far stronger adversary for little or no substantive gain is not necessarily the best. In making the trip, Pelosi ignored President Joe Biden's wishes and Pentagon advice. Her actions also appear to have alarmed and embarrassed South Korea and Japan (and predictably goaded North Korea). Pelosi has an important role at home. She evidently feels passionately about China. But she does not run US foreign policy. She admits she was not seeking to change the status quo. So, again, what does she think she achieved?

For its part, China missed a diplomatic open goal. It could have stuck to verbally criticising the visit as destabilising and unhelpful to cross-strait relations. But as usual under would-be president-for-life Xi Jinping, it went over the top. The unprecedented military bullying of Taiwan in recent days is deplorable and dangerous. It also makes China look foolish. Like a big baby, Xi threw a giant tantrum. He, too, should explain what he thinks such behaviour achieves. Pelosi aside, Beijing did much to bring this crisis on itself. Its sovereign claim to Taiwan is disputed in international law. Polls show most islanders identify as Taiwanese and reject mainland rule. Yet in recent years, Xi has schemed to isolate Taipei and cranked up military pressure. His evisceration of Hong Kong's democracy and aggressive South China Sea expansionism destroyed trust. Biden, meanwhile, has created uncertainty about US intentions. It has never guaranteed Taiwan's security yet repeated presidential mis-statements have given the opposite impression, raising questions over whether the US still adheres to its "one China policy". Influential voices in Washington who see China as a threat and a rival say the time for "strategic ambiguity" on Taiwan is over, since US-China conflict is probably inevitable. This prediction is unduly pessimistic. But Pelosi should have recognised that an insecure Xi could not afford to ignore what nationalist opinion deemed an egregious affront. The sea blockade, air incursions and live-fire missile launches became a rehearsal for invasion. Sanctions imposed by Beijing may permanently damage US ties. The mood tangibly shifted last week. Military conflict moved a significant step closer.

Message of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA)

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The desired freedom of Islam liberates man and leads to his progress and greatness. In this way, it frees man from the obstacles that prevent him from progressing towards perfection. Selfish and oppressive governments are also considered an obstacle to human progress and greatness and the liberation of the people from the domination of such governments is one of the goals of Islam

Throughout history, political and social movements have carried messages and ideas that are usually limited to a specific time, place, and situation. But the uprising of Imam Hussain (R.A.) and Karbala has brought an everlasting message to the entire humanity. The thoughts of this glorious and unique uprising are shining like a bright light for mankind which shows the way to prosperity in life and salvation in future. Islam emphasizes on freedom. Imam Hussain (RA) emphasized in his statements that the reason for his uprising was to re-

ceive the higher teachings of Islam and the true practice of his grandfather Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his descendants. The teachings of Islam are centered on social supervision in the community, the call for good, and the avoidance of corruption and selfishness. During his journey from Medina to Mecca and then to Karbala, Imam Hussein worked to revive religious teachings.

The Imam reminded the people that neither a Muslim nor a non-Muslim should bow before any domination or oppression. Indeed, this is considered one of the most important principles of the Imam's life. According to Imam Hussain (RA), man has status and dignity and his high human value should never be diminished. In the eyes of Islam, human beings always enjoy high dignity and respect. For this reason, Imam Hussain (RA) does not accept the trampling of the dignity and honor of the people by the corrupt government of the moderate Yazid bin Muawiyah. All Muslim scholars emphasize the greatness of man and say that a true believer is subject only to God. Hazrat Ali (RA) says: "Do not be a servant of anyone because God has set you free." Of course, one should not think that the desired freedom of Islam is the freedom of animals that has been promoted by the liberal democracies of the West. In Western liberal thoughts, since man and his freedom are the axis of everything, one can do everything for one's own interests, even when moral and human values are crushed. But freedom in Islam is not uncontrollable. This freedom is expressed within the framework of higher religious teachings and values, which is a guarantee

of human respect and protection of his interests. The desired freedom of Islam liberates man and leads to his progress and greatness. In this way, it frees man from the obstacles that prevent him from progressing towards perfection. Selfish and oppressive governments are also considered an obstacle to human progress and greatness and the liberation of the people from the domination of such governments is one of the goals of Islam. Imam Hussein (RA), therefore, defended freedom by insisting that the community should be led by a pious leader and that any evil or selfish person, no matter how clever

er or obvious, may be masked as a politician. Imam confronted despot Yazid for his incompetency. This issue was so important to the Imam Hussain (RA) that although he could have saved himself by compromising with Yazid's tyrannical rule but he stood up for Islam and Muslims and sacrificed his life and the lives of his loved ones. Thus, the movement of Imam Hussain (RA) was not limited to his time. It is for all ages and all places. Imam Hussain (RA) said in no uncertain terms: I did not stand for rebellion but for the betterment of the Ummah of my grandfather Muhammad (peace be upon him). The disallowed of oppression and the campaign against it have a special place in the thoughts of Imam Hussain (RA). In the eyes of the Imam (RA), one should not bow before oppression. In the Qur'an, God has repeatedly condemned the oppressors and warned them of God's punishment. Opposition to oppression and rebellion is not limited to local sovereignty, but the aggression of a foreign country and the occupation of the country by foreigners is a double oppression that no one can remain indifferent to. According to Imam Hussain (RA), any kind of oppression should be opposed. In Surah An-Nisa', part of verse 141, the Qur'an says: "And Allah will by no means guide the disbelievers against the believers."

Thus, not only military domination but also the economic and cultural domination of the infidels over the Muslims is unacceptable and unacceptable. In this way, Maktab-e-Islam and Imam Hussain (RA) teach Muslims not to be subject to colonialism and foreign occupation, and to fight the aggressive occupiers. Now in the Islamic world, Ashura focuses on the guiding principles of the liberation of the insurgency. In some Islamic states, people have lost their freedom under authoritarian regimes, and in others such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine under American and Zionist rule. Under such circumstances, following Imam Hussein's teachings on freedom, fighting oppression and protecting human dignity and honor can lead Muslims to true freedom from local dictatorship and foreign occupation. One of the other lessons of the Karbala uprising is that one must know one's enemy correctly in order to find the right way to counter it. Imam Hussein's statements and letters show that he knew his enemy Yazid and his followers well and was fully aware of their nefarious intentions. For this reason, the Imam's movement was not a blind rebellion that ended with his martyrdom. It was an eternal movement that affected all generations to come.

Why great power focus is increasingly on Africa

Andrew Hammond

The administration is framing the initiative as a way to promote shared US-Africa prosperity. Yet it is also designed, in part, to counter China in the region, with former Trump National Security Adviser John Bolton publicly acknowledging that China and Russia "interfered with US military operations and posed a significant threat to US national security interests" on the continent

Much attention this coming week will be focused on US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Africa, where he will unveil Washington's new regional strategy. However, the US is far from the only major power seeking to raise its profile on the continent, whose fortunes, along with those of its 1.2 billion population, are on an upward trajectory. Take the example of Europe, where the war in Ukraine is putting new economic importance around

its engagement with Africa. This is especially so in the area of energy, given the urgent need to diversify away from Russian fossil fuels. The International Energy Agency estimates Africa could replace as much as one-fifth of Russian gas exports to Europe by 2030. European-based energy firms are reportedly considering projects worth at least \$100 billion on the continent, including in South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania. Namibia alone could provide around half-a-million barrels per day in new oil production, following promising exploratory drills in recent months. This energy diplomacy underlines how much the Ukraine conflict has turbocharged the priority that the EU had already begun to place on Africa. This was showcased last year with the launch of the "Global Gateway" project, widely seen as a counterpart to China's mammoth Belt and Road Initiative.

The EU-Africa summit last February mobilized up to 300 billion (\$305 billion) for public and private infrastructure around the world by 2027. Half of this is intended for Africa – focused on renewable energy, reducing the risk of natural disasters, digital connectivity, transport, vaccine production and education – with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proclaiming the EU-27 to be the continent's "most reliable" global partner. What the EU wants, in the words of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell, is an "equal partnership" based around "a new, integrated strategy for and with Africa." Brussels wants to encourage Africa as a champion of the EU's rules-based, multilateral approach to world order, seeing the EU as a counterweight on the continent to other prominent world powers, such as China, with the "power politics" they are perceived to offer. While the European pivot is being spearheaded by Brussels, individual nations are also doubling down on their engagement with the continent, with French

President Emmanuel Macron visiting recently and last year hosting the first France-Africa summit of his presidency.

Outside the EU, the UK is another European power with renewed focus on Africa. For the UK, the continent has assumed new importance as London seeks to consolidate ties with key non-EU nations following Brexit. Meanwhile, other great nations are stepping up their serenading of the continent, too. Only last month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov went to the region after growing criticism there of Moscow preventing Ukraine from exporting its agricultural produce via the Black Sea. Lavrov and Russian President Vladimir Putin are keen to revive the Soviet Union's former influence on the continent. To this end, Putin hosted the first-ever Africa-Russia summit in Sochi in 2019, with a second planned for 2023, to try to entrench Moscow's foothold there. Russia's increasingly close ally China is also showing great interest, aiming to better connect its Belt and Road Initiative with the continent's development. Beijing's top leadership – the president, premier and foreign minister – have reportedly made around 80 visits to over 40 different African countries during the past decade. Beijing is also a frequent host of China-Africa summits. In this context, US President Joe Biden's team is seeking to ramp up American engagement with Africa. The new US strategy, which Blinken is kicking off, seeks deeper partnership with the continent aimed at substantially increasing two-way trade and investment focused on sectors such as energy and climate, health and digital technology. The administration is framing the initiative as a way to promote shared US-Africa prosperity. Yet it is also designed, in part, to counter China in the region, with former Trump National Security Adviser John Bolton publicly acknowledging that China and Russia "interfered with US military operations and posed a significant threat to US national security interests" on the continent. This shows that while the upsurge of attention to Africa by Western powers and China largely reflects economic calculations, broader political considerations are also in play. From the new EU initiatives in the region to Brexit and the great power game underway between Washington, Moscow and Beijing, interest in the continent is likely to grow.

Courtesy: Arab news

UK's choice of a new leader – and why it matters

Alistair Burt

There has been even less mention of climate change, despite record UK temperatures recently. Whatever focus there has been is directed at the economic costs of "net zero" to a public about to face further crippling energy price increases from October. Protecting the public from this, rather than future generations from catastrophe, has the popular mood at present

The rest of the world might be forgiven for paying little attention to yet another change of Conservative prime minister in the UK. It is hardly rare – this will be the third such event since 2016 to be handled internally by the party in power rather than by the electorate. But it still matters. The UK sits on key international forums in a world that is never still and waits for no new leadership with any patience. Our constitution gives great power to a prime minister, but crucially only with the backing of Cabinet and Parliament, as Boris Johnson has just learned. The personality and convictions of the premier effectively drive, or hamper, the machinery of the UK, so who that person is matters. We are now two weeks into the contest between the last two standing for the role – former Chancellor Rishi Sunak and current Foreign Secretary Liz Truss. Polling suggests Truss leads the 160,000-member electorate, but with wildly different figures. Two polls at the time of writing vary, with one suggesting a 34-point lead and the other a margin of just five points. Meanwhile, a more selective poll of elected Conservative officials a few days ago suggested only a single-point difference. But what the last two weeks have suggested is a consistent lead for the foreign secretary, and as ballot papers are now landing with the membership, who leads at present is significant since members tend to vote early. The contest is a minority sport – less than 1 percent of the UK population will choose the country's next leader. This electorate has also moved politically to the right in recent years. Truss' robust advocacy of this cause, and her good fortune in being the minister responsible for signing new post-Brexit trade deals internationally, was noticed by her backers in Parliament, who now include the most prominent supporters of Brexit. An ability to adopt a new position with vigor, and be convincing, is not a trait to be underestimated in politics. Sunak, the competent and serious-minded former chancellor, appears damned by the qualities that gave him the majority of MPs' votes. He is branded as the continuity candidate of an establishment that many members appear to associate not with Johnson, but with some dead Civil Service or Treasury hand preventing the country fulfilling its potential. And this may be key, for the untold story of the unseating of Johnson is that the UK leader was toppled not by a parliamentary coup or his own misjudgments, but was steadily weakened by consistent attacks from powerful former backers that his government had become "unConservative." The need for state intervention to combat the pandemic, and for taxation to rise, was taken as an indication that the "small state," low-tax, free market ideal beloved of right-wing think tanks, party donors and the media was not coming to pass. Attacks on what was perceived as weakness toward the EU, and a failure to realize the opportunities of Brexit steadily weakened Johnson's base. Those competing for the premiership will need little reminding of the importance of such support – a changed economy and national outlook may well be the result of such capture. There has been little discussion of foreign affairs, which has not been much of a divisive issue in the UK recently, owing to a unanimity of approach on Ukraine. However, each candidate is trying to suggest that they are more alert to the threats from Russia and, particularly, China.

Protecting the public from this, rather than future generations from catastrophe, has the popular mood at present. A general election in due course might see a different approach. Such leadership contests are never easy to call, and mistakes will continue to be made by both candidates. It is not over till it is over, but UK commentators suggest foreign capitals should more likely be reviewing Truss' CV and political commentaries than those of Rishi Sunak.

Courtesy: Arab news

Briefs

PM slams...

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the Army. Taking to his Twitter handle, Prime Minister Shehbaz wrote on Sunday: "The social media campaign belittling & ridiculing the sacrifices of our martyrs was horrifying. This is what self-righteous political narratives do: they poison the minds of the youth & weaponise hate speech. Which way are we headed? The moment calls for a deep reflection." Meanwhile, eulogizing the efforts of Pakistan Army in every hour of trial, PML-Q President Ch Shujaat Hussain has said that the entire nation mourns the loss of Army men's lives in the Lasbela tragedy while urging politicians to put their political interests on the back burner and support Army. In his statement on Sunday, Ch Shujaat said that the Army had served the nation in every calamity and hour of trial. It has played a significant role in the restoration of peace and security and the elimination of terrorism from the country, he added. The PML-Q leader stated that the entire nation was grieved over the martyrdom of the Shuhda of Lasbela tragedy. He called upon the politicians to leave their political expediencies behind and foiled the propaganda campaign against the Armed Forces. He asked them to fully support the Army. He was of the view that everything could be tolerated but propaganda against Army could not be allowed. On the other hand, PPP leader Senator Saleem Mandviwalla has demanded a probe into the social media campaign against Pakistan Army. He said that one political party continued its propaganda against the Pak Army which was condemnable.

Khan trying...

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PTI MNAs. Terming PTI's back-to-back public gatherings across the country "political stunts", Rana Sanaullah said that Imran Khan was trying to divert attention from his theft. ISLAMABAD: Lashing out at the PTI, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday claimed that Imran Khan will suffer defeat during the upcoming by-elections in all the nine National Assembly constituencies that fell vacant after the NA speaker accepted the resignations of the concerned PTI MNAs. Terming PTI's back-to-back public gatherings across the country "political stunts", Rana Sanaullah said that Imran Khan was trying to divert attention from his theft.

Plan to...

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trying to overcome the incumbent government, demanding them to hold early elections in the country. The party has already given a one-month deadline to the federal government to hold general elections in the country.

Fawad...

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and Seema Zia, were summoned by the FIA after the agency constituted a five-member team to administer inquiry teams of its respective zones that are looking into the prohibited funding case. Chaudhry furthered that the party would also be probing into the cases that were filed against its members and workers following the 'Azadi March'. He went on to say that "if the PTI is cooperating with the FIA, then the party is expecting the same from them," adding that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Ataulah Tarar should also be summoned.

ECP's...

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PTI was needed to submit reply in the ECP where it failed to justify a single rupee of the funds received in the bank account. There was no need of any response now, she added. "The lies, fraud and drama of a foreign agent and foreign aided party must end," she remarked. She said Imran Khan made false case of 20kg heroine on Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah as he was afraid of him. Imran Khan, out of his fear for Rana Sanaullah, whisked away from Islamabad on May 25 and hid in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the minister added.



ISLAMABAD: A Golfing was organized for Col Hashim Defence Advisor Malaysia (in the red shirt) by Brg. Gen Fazal Defence Advisor High Commission of Bangladesh. - DNA

Ten Sri Lankans missing from Commonwealth Games

The nine athletes and a manager vanished after completing their events, the Sri Lankan official said

SPORTS DESK

COLOMBO: Ten members of crisis-hit Sri Lanka's Commonwealth Games contingent in Birmingham have disappeared in a suspected attempt to remain in Britain, a top sports official told AFP on Sunday. The nine athletes and a manager vanished after completing their events, the Sri Lankan official said, requesting anonymity. Three of them - judoka Chamila Dilani, her manager Asela de Silva, and wrestler Shanith Chathuranga - had disappeared last week.

That prompted a police complaint by the

Sri Lankan officials. "Since then, another seven have vanished," the official said, without identifying them. "We suspect they want to remain in the UK, possibly to get employment." The 160-strong Sri Lankan contingent's management possessed the passports of all members to ensure they returned home. That failed to deter some from leaving. British police located the first three that disappeared, but as they had not violated local laws and held visas valid for six months, no action

was taken, the Sri Lankan official told AFP. "In fact, the police got us to return the passports that we were holding as a deterrent against defections," the official said. "The police have not told us about their whereabouts." Britain's West Midlands police force, which covers Birmingham, said it was looking into reports of six Sri Lankans going missing from the Games, and said "enquiries continue to ensure they are safe and well". The force declined to comment further, including on the claim of there being 10 missing people in total, and the

UK interior ministry also refused to comment. Sri Lanka had won one silver and three bronze medals at the Games as of Sunday evening. Sri Lankan athletes have been reported missing from international events in the past. In October last year, Sri Lanka's wrestling manager abandoned his team and disappeared in Oslo during a world championship tournament. During the 2014 Asian Games in South Korea, two Sri Lankan athletes made a run for it and were not found. And in 2004, when Sri Lanka did not even have a national handball team, a 23-member group pretending to represent the country conned their way to a tournament in Germany and disappeared.

Amnesty regrets 'distress' caused by report

AGENCIES

KYIV: Amnesty International apologised on Sunday for "distress and anger" caused by a report accusing Ukraine of endangering civilians which infuriated President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and triggered the resignation of its Kyiv office head. The rights group published the report on Thursday saying the presence of Ukrainian troops in residential areas heightened risks to civilians during Russia's invasion.

"Amnesty International deeply regrets the distress and anger that our press release on the Ukrainian military's fighting tactics has caused," it said in an email to Reuters. "Amnesty International's priority in this and in any conflict is ensuring that civilians are protected. Indeed, this was our sole objective when

releasing this latest piece of research. While we fully stand by our findings, we regret the pain caused." Zelenskyy accused the group of trying to shift responsibility from Russian aggression, while Amnesty's Ukraine head Oksana Pokalchuk quit saying the report was a propaganda gift for Moscow. Ukrainian officials say they try to evacuate civilians from front-line areas. Russia, which denies targeting civilians, has not commented on the rights report.

Amnesty said it had found Ukrainian forces next to civilian residences in 19 towns and villages it visited, exposing them to risk of incoming Russian fire. "This does not mean that Amnesty holds Ukrainian forces responsible for violations committed by Russian forces, nor that Ukrainian military is not taking adequate precautions elsewhere in the country," it said.



'MAN United must let Ronaldo leave'

MONITORING DESK

LONDON: Former Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney believes that the club must let Cristiano Ronaldo leave if they are to build a successful team for the future under new manager Erik ten Hag. The 37-year-old Ronaldo, who resigned for United from Juventus last season, reportedly wants a move away from Old Trafford after the team's failure to qualify for the Champions League. "I think United should let Cristiano Ronaldo go. It's not that Ronaldo can't play in a Ten Hag team. He can play in any team," Rooney, who now manages Major League Soccer side DC United, wrote in a column for the Times newspaper.

"Ronny will always score you goals. But my personal view is that United aren't ready to challenge for the title now, so the aim has to be to build a team that can win the league in the next three to four years, and you have to plan for that." Ronaldo netted 24 times in all competitions last season, emerging as one of the few bright sparks

in an otherwise forgettable campaign for United that saw them finish sixth. Ten Hag this week said he was happy to have a "top striker" like Ronaldo in the squad and looking forward to working with him. Rooney, who is United's all-time leading scorer, added he had established a clear playing style at his former club. "I couldn't work out what they were trying to do in terms of game plan, or see any patterns of play," Rooney said of last season. "I think one of the big things you'll see from Ten Hag is him really trying to put his stamp on the playing identity." United kick off their Premier League campaign at home to Brighton & Hove Albion later on Sunday.

and Palestinian people, which has killed at least 31 Palestinians since Friday. Palestinian parties and Israeli occupation forces are reported to have agreed a truce brokered by Egypt, but officially talks are still in progress. Israel has characterised the assault as a "preemptive" act of self-defence against the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group and said its operation could last a week. Albanese blasted the United States for saying that it believed Israel had the right to defend itself. "Israel cannot claim that it's defending itself in this conflict," Albanese said. At least 31 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and 260 injured since Friday. No serious casualties had been reported on the Israeli side as of Sunday, as the Iron Dome defence system shot down 97 percent of missiles launched from the besieged strip, according to its military. "Protection is something I demanded in Palestine, and that's not me alone. It is necessary ... to protect civilian lives," Albanese said. "[Israel] cannot be defending itself from civilians since 1967." The special rapporteur, who is an independent expert responsible for monitoring human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories and referring them to the UN, called on the international body to ascertain whether international law had been breached in Gaza and ensure accountability.

Pak rejects...

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practitioner of 'Hindutva' accuse others of 'bigotry' or 'communal agenda'. "Equally appalling is the audacity of an established serial violator of human rights and purveyor of state-terrorism, pointing accusing fingers towards others," said FO. It reminded New Delhi that OIC is the largest multilateral forum of Islamic countries that is the voice of over 1.7 billion Muslims, adding that the "OIC has always been vocal in support of the legitimate rights of the Kashmiri people" in face of India's seven-decades long illegal occupation and unabated oppression. "Jammu and Kashmir was never a part of India, and never will be. It is an internationally recognised 'disputed' territory between Pakistan and India that has been under forcible and illegal Indian occupation since 1947," said the spokesperson. "While perpetuating its tyranny and injustice, India will not succeed in misleading the international community by claiming 'socio-economic growth and development' in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). No amount of repetition would turn a falsehood into truth," said the FO. Pakistan added that in the interest of justice, durable peace and security in South Asia, New Delhi must honour its commitment to Kashmiris and the world community by implementing the United Nations Security Council's resolutions.

IIOJK: India bans...

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Srinagar and other cities to stop the processions while internet service has also been suspended. Last year, dozens of Kashmiris had been detained and journalists had also been subjected to baton charge in the occupied territory. On the occasion, Pakistan had strongly condemned the use of tear gas shells and the firing of warning shots on Muslims taking part in a peaceful Muharram procession. Earlier this week, the people of Hyderabad had expressed solidarity and support for the people of IIOJK by taking out rallies and condemning India's brutal suppression of innocent Kashmiris.

Israeli...

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and Palestinian people, which has killed at least 31 Palestinians since Friday. Palestinian parties and Israeli occupation forces are reported to have agreed a truce brokered by Egypt, but officially talks are still in progress. Israel has characterised the assault as a "preemptive" act of self-defence against the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group and said its operation could last a week. Albanese blasted the United States for saying that it believed Israel had the right to defend itself. "Israel cannot claim that it's defending itself in this conflict," Albanese said. At least 31 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and 260 injured since Friday. No serious casualties had been reported on the Israeli side as of Sunday, as the Iron Dome defence system shot down 97 percent of missiles launched from the besieged strip, according to its military. "Protection is something I demanded in Palestine, and that's not me alone. It is necessary ... to protect civilian lives," Albanese said. "[Israel] cannot be defending itself from civilians since 1967." The special rapporteur, who is an independent expert responsible for monitoring human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories and referring them to the UN, called on the international body to ascertain whether international law had been breached in Gaza and ensure accountability.

Pakistan...

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practices. Any attempt to change the historical and legal status of Al-Aqsa Mosque must stop. Pakistan calls upon the international community to take urgent action to put an end to the Israeli aggression and violations, which continue to fuel violence, tension and instability in the region.

Medvedev downs Norrie to end title drought

NEWS DESK

LOS CABOS: World number one Daniil Medvedev ended his losing run in finals with a 7-5 6-0 win over Britain's Cameron Norrie on Saturday to lift the title in Los Cabos, Mexico, and ramp up preparations for his U.S. Open title defence. A ban on Russian players at Wimbledon due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine forced Medvedev to miss the grasscourt major and he arrived in Mexico for the ATP 250 event for his first tournament since June. Most of Medvedev's success over the years have come on hardcourts and he did not lose a set this week en route to his first title of the season. "Every match was very good, but the final is always special," Medvedev said. "In the final you play the best player of this week, so it's always a high-level match and I'm really happy that I managed to show some good level, some good shots in such an important match." The Russian came into the contest against last year's champion Norrie, ranked 12th

in the world, having lost five straight finals dating back to last year's Paris Masters in November. After that the 26-year-old was also defeated in the championship match of last year's ATP Finals. He then went down in the final of the Australian Open at the beginning of 2022 before losing championship matches on grass in the Netherlands and Germany. Medvedev needed treatment in the 11th game on Saturday as he scraped his hand on the court and drew blood while hitting a ball, shortly after left-handed Norrie had saved two set points to level the match at 5-5 in the opening set. The Russian, who won his maiden Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows last year, went up a gear from there on, winning the next eight games to seal the contest. "It was not easy. Cam is an amazing player, so it was really intense," Medvedev said. "When you play against Cam, you know that you have to fight for every point. 'Actually bleeding helped me I think a little bit so I could hold my nerve a little bit more. Since then I just managed to play good and it was enough today.'"



Briefs

Superpowers eye co-op with Ankara on drones: Endogen

DNA

ANKARA: Some superpowers in the world are looking to make "joint investments" with Türkiye in unmanned aerial vehicles, the country's president said on Saturday. "We spoke of this with (Russian President Vladimir) Putin yesterday. We also spoke in Tehran. Now, there are superpowers in the world that want to make joint investments with us in this field as well," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said at an event in the northwestern province of Kocaeli. Erdogan added that Turkish-made drones, including Bayraktar TB2 armed drones, were in demand among countries. Previously, Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said that during a meeting last month in the Iranian capital Tehran, Putin conveyed to Erdogan a request to purchase the Bayraktar-type drones. "The whole world now accepts the capabilities of our armed drones, which have proven themselves on the battlefield, to rewrite the doctrines of war," he added. Today, when "unmanned combat aerial vehicles" are mentioned, Türkiye is the first country to come to mind, said the president. "Türkiye, which once imported even the most basic defense needs, today sells billions of dollars of advanced technology products to many countries," Erdogan added.

Colombia's first-ever leftist president sworn in

BOGOTA: Ex-guerrilla and former mayor Gustavo Petro will be sworn in Sunday as Colombia's first-ever leftist president, with plans for profound reforms in a country beset by economic inequality and drug violence. The former senator, 62, takes over from the deeply unpopular Ivan Duque for a four-year term during which he will enjoy support from a left-leaning majority in Congress. Petro's hard-fought victory in June elections brought Colombia, long ruled by a conservative elite, into an expanding left-wing fold in Latin America that could be consolidated in October with a likely victory for Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Brazil. At a ceremony in Bogota on the eve of his inauguration, Petro said his government would aim to "bring to Colombia what it has not had for centuries, which is tranquility and peace." "Here begins a government that will fight for environmental justice," he added. - APP

African Union condemns Israeli 'attacks'

NAIROBI: The chairman of the African Union commission on Sunday condemned Israeli "air strike attacks" in the Gaza Strip as violence escalates in the troubled region, with 31 Palestinians reported dead. "Moussa Faki Mahamat strongly condemns the continued air strike attacks by Israel on Gaza that have martyred more than 30 Palestinian civilians, including 6 children," an AU statement said. The "targeting of civilians and the continued illegal occupation by Israeli security forces of the Occupied Territories, are in stark violation of international law, and complicate the search for a just and lasting solution", the statement said. The recent fighting is the worst in Gaza since a war last year devastated the impoverished coastal territory, home to some 2.3 million Palestinians, and forced Israelis to seek shelter from rockets. The relationship with Israel is a rare point of contention for the AU, a body that values consensus, with powerful member states, notably South Africa, loudly protesting a decision by Faki last year to accept Israel's accreditation to the bloc as an observer. In its statement on Sunday, the AU reiterated its support for "the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for an independent and sovereign State" with East Jerusalem as its capital. - APP

Israel agrees to Egypt proposed Gaza truce

Egypt's President has said officials were talking with both sides "around clock"

AGENCIES

GAZA: Israel on Sunday agreed to an Egyptian-proposed truce with Palestinian militants in Gaza after three days of intense conflict, an Egyptian source said, as Islamic Jihad reported talks toward a ceasefire were under way. The negotiations raise hopes that Egypt could help broker a deal to end the worst fighting in Gaza since an 11-day war last year devastated the impoverished coastal territory, home to some 2.3 million Palestinians. Since Friday, Israel has carried out heavy aerial and artillery bombardment of Islamic Jihad positions in Gaza, with the militants firing hundreds of rockets in retaliation. At least 31 Palestinians have been killed including six children, and 275 people have been wounded since Friday, health authorities

said in the enclave where several buildings were reduced to rubble. Two Israelis have been wounded by shrapnel, and others forced to shelter from a barrage of rockets fired from Gaza. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has said officials were talking with both sides "around the clock" to ease the violence. A security source in Cairo said that Israel "has accepted" a ceasefire, adding that Cairo was waiting for the Palestinian response.

A source from Islamic Jihad said that "discussions are under way at the highest levels towards calm", but warned that "the resistance will not stop if the occupation's (Israel) aggression and crimes do not stop". On Sunday, Islamic Jihad - an Iran-backed group designated as a terrorist organisation by several Western nations - extended their barrage to fire two rockets

Palestine condemns brutal Israeli assault on innocent people

RAMALLAH: The State of Palestine condemns the Israeli occupation's premeditated assault on the Palestinian people in Gaza. It stresses that Israel's continued aggression, including its recent assault on Gaza and the continued illegal siege of the Strip, is in flagrant and grave breach of every tenet of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, and United Nations resolutions. The Ministry calls on the international community, in particular the Security Council and High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to take immediate action to bring a halt to this Israeli military aggression against the defenseless Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to save human lives. The absence of international accountability continues to encourage Israel, the colonial occupying Power, to persist in carrying out serious international crimes against the Palestinian people, trampling on their human rights and causing widespread death, injury and wanton destruction. The Security Council's paralysis in particular and familiar to provide protection has led Israel to believe that it has the green light to kill Palestinians, including children, at will and that it can perpetrate its crimes without any consequence. - DNA

targeting Jerusalem, but they were shot down by the army. The Israeli army has said the entire "senior leadership of the military wing of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza has been neutralised". Muhammad Abu Salmiya, director general of the Shifa hospital in Gaza City, said doctors were treating wounded people in a "very bad condition", warning of dire shortages of drugs and fuel to run power generators. "Every minute we receive injured people," he said, earlier on Sunday. In Gaza, run by the Islamist group Hamas, the health ministry said 31 people had been killed. But Israel said it had "irrefutable" evidence that a stray rocket fired by Islamic Jihad was responsible for the deaths of several children in Gaza's northern Jabalia area on Saturday. It was not immediately clear how many children were

killed there, but an AFP photographer saw six dead bodies at the local hospital including three minors. "We came running to the place and found body parts lying on the ground ... they were torn-apart children," said Muhammad Abu Sadaa, describing the devastation in Jabalia. The army said it had struck 139 Islamic Jihad positions, with the militants firing over 600 rockets and mortars, but with more than a hundred of those projectiles falling short inside Gaza. Amid the high tensions, Jews in Israel-annexed east Jerusalem marked the Tisha Be'av fasting day on Sunday at the Al Aqsa mosque compound, known in Judaism as the Temple Mount. Some Palestinians shouted "God is greatest" in response, and an AFP photographer was briefly detained by Israeli police, but commemorations passed off without major incident.

Indonesia among best countries for pandemic handling

ANTARA

CIREBON: Indonesia is one of the best countries in terms of handling the COVID-19 pandemic, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto said. Hartarto who is also chief of the Committee for COVID-19 Handling and National Economic Recovery (KPCPDEN) made the remarks while attending an event marking the anniversary of Pondok Buntet Islamic boarding school senior figures' death in Cirebon, West Java Province, on Saturday night. The minister said he dared to attend the event now that the COVID-19 pandemic situation could be brought under control, he said his presence at the event suggested that the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country has improved although the weekly transmission cases have crossed five thousand. However, compared to other countries, the weekly transmission cases can relatively be controlled and that the health protocols must continuously be implemented, he said. "Now the situation is very different. Although five thousand people are infected per week the figure is relatively lower compared to other countries," he said. He said the COVID-19 vaccination coverage rate is also very good because 420 million vaccines have been administered to the people. In fact, the vaccination coverage rate has reached 90 percent for the first doses, 80 percent for the second doses and 30 percent for the third or booster doses.

S. Korea's Covid cases above 100,000 for 6th day

DNA

SEOUL: South Korea's new COVID-19 cases exceeded 100,000 for the sixth straight day on Sunday as infections stayed high amid the spread of a highly contagious omicron variant and increased movement encouraged by eased social curbs and summer vacation, YONHAP reports. The country added 105,507 new COVID-19 infections, including 484 from overseas, bringing the total caseload to 20,489,128, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said. This marked the sixth straight day that daily cases hovered above 100,000 since the number jumped to 111,758 on Tuesday from the previous day's 44,654. It also was the highest number since April 10 for Sunday when fewer tests are usually conducted than weekdays. The latest infections were, however, slightly down from 110,666 reported Saturday. The number of deaths caused by COVID-19 was 27, down from the previous day's 45. It raised the total death toll to 25,263, with the fatality rate standing at 0.12 percent.

German diplomat in Brazil arrested

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian police said they arrested a German diplomat Saturday for allegedly killing his husband at their home in an upscale Rio de Janeiro neighborhood, then attempting to cover up the crime. Uwe Herbert Hahn, a German consul, told authorities his husband, Belgian national Walter Henri Maximilien Biot, had taken ill Friday night, collapsing and fatally hitting his head, police said. However, analysis of the body and the couple's apartment in the beach neighborhood of Ipanema found Biot had been severely beaten, they said. "The version of events given by the consul, that the victim suffered a fall, is incompatible with the conclusions of the forensic report," officer Camilla Lourenco said in comments posted on social media by Rio de Janeiro's 14th police precinct. "It found various bruises, including on the torso, compatible with injuries inflicted by stomping, as well as lesions compatible with an attack with a cylindrical instrument," she added. "The cadaver is screaming out the circumstances of its death." - APP

Nuclear-free world is possible

NEW YORK: Nuclear weapons will continue to pose a risk to humanity unless countries fully adhere to the treaty that prohibits their testing, a senior UN official has said. At a news briefing at UN Headquarters in New York, Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the body that oversees the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), said that the treaty which opened for signature 25 years ago, has yet to enter into force because it requires ratification by a "handful" of key countries that have nuclear capabilities. "Once in force, the CTBT will serve as an essential element of a nuclear weapons-free world. In order to achieve this world, we all aspire to, a universal and effectively verifiable prohibition on nuclear testing is a fundamental necessity," he said. - APP



CAMBODIA: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari holding talks with the Foreign Minister of Thailand, on the sidelines of the ASEAN meet. - DNA

Pelosi's visit aims to delay Taiwan reunification with Chinese mainland

Ironically, the US govt and its establishment still believe in the one-China principle and honour three communiqués signed between two sides in past

ISLAMABAD: Pelosi's visit, a planned move to maintain the strategic status quo of Taiwan and tactically delay its reunification with the Chinese mainland for some 5-8 years, says report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. According to Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, Executive Director of The Center for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS), despite China's strong messages and integrated diplomatic efforts to convince the US to stay away from its internal affairs, the US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi did not alter her plans and paid a visit to China's Taiwan region and consequently infuriated China and its leadership. Ironically, the US government and its establishment still believe in the one-China principle and honour the three communiqués signed between the two sides in the past. But why Pelosi launched the so-called "Taiwan Independence Project"? The answer is not simple but seemingly it is a planned move to maintain the strategic status quo of Taiwan and tactically delay its

reunification with the Chinese mainland. It is a diplomatic coup which has created unbearable heat and uneasiness between the two sides. Nancy Pelosi left behind a great crisis, born out of mistrust, hypocrisy, and conspiratorial attitude of the hawks sitting in the Joe Biden administration. They have been persuaded to re-activate the "US Military Complex Theory (UMCT)" to earn more money out of military misadventures and deadly conflicts in the Indo-Pacific region. The UMCT has great validity and relevancy in the case of Taiwan, not the least because right now the US macro-economy is at its lowest ebb and has entered into recession. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Foundation (SIPRI), the US spends around US\$ 1.5 trillion on military purposes annually, not just in its 'Defense' department, but all of its departments taken together. In April, the institute reported that, "US military spending amounted to US\$ 801 billion in 2021, which is the highest in the world." - DNA

India reports 18,738 Covid cases

NEW DELHI: India reported 18,738 new cases of COVID-19 during the past 24 hours, taking the total tally to 44,145,732 in the country, according to federal health ministry data released on Sunday morning. The cases reported on Sunday marked a decrease in comparison to the daily caseload of Saturday 19,406. With the reporting of fresh cases, India's active caseload currently stands at 134,933. The country also logged 40 related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the overall death toll to 526,689 since the beginning of the pandemic, the ministry said. The daily positivity rate stands at 5.02 percent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 4.63 percent, the ministry data showed. The ministry said so far 43,484,110 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals, of whom 18,558 were discharged during the past 24 hours. - APP

Pakistan firmly supports one-China principle: Ambassador Haque

BEIJING: Pakistan firmly believes in the one-China principle, supports China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and will continue to extend full support to its iron brother China, on issues concerning its core national interest, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said. Responding to question of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's provocative visit to Taiwan and regarding China's countermeasures, he told Global Times in an interview that within the bounds of international law, every country has the right to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. In the same vein, Pakistan supports all efforts of the Chinese government in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, he said. He also emphasized the importance of upholding the principles of the UN charter, international law and bilateral agreements. Inter-state relations should be based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs, he said. Pelosi arrived in China's Taiwan island on Tuesday night in disregard of China's strong opposition and serious representations. The visit is seen as a serious violation of the one-China principle. On Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry announced eight countermeasures in response. The ambassador said, As 'iron brothers' and 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners,' Pakistan and China have always stood shoulder-to-shoulder with each other through many challenges. I would like to emphasize here that Pakistan would continue to extend full support to its 'iron brother' China on the issues of its core national interest, he said. According to the ambassador, the current global geo-political situation remains tense as the world is already grappling with multi-faceted challenges. - APP

EU lawmakers urge Pak-India dialogue on Kashmir

We believe that the European Union and its member states can play a crucial role in helping address this deadlock, especially in context of the resumption in late June of negotiations between India and EU for a comprehensive free trade agreement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As many as 14 members of the European Parliament have written a letter to the EU Commission president and vice president showing grave concern over the human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir while condemning the Aug 5, 2019 action of the Indian government seeing it a despicable military means to deal with the crisis. In their letter, the EU parliamentarians have called upon the Indian government to stop perpetrating atrocities on Kashmiris. The letter read: "We, undersigned members of the European Parliament, are writing to you in order to bring your attention to the continued grave, and systematic human rights violations of the

Kashmiri people due to the unresolved dispute over the status of the region. "Due to the continued tensions, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been subject to intolerable suppression of their freedom and fundamental rights over the past seven decades, as it is shown by the accounts of many human rights organisations and the reports of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. "Since the enactment of Citizenship Amendment Act on 05 August 2019, however, it appears more evident that India has abandoned any political approach to the insurgency in Kashmir and is managing the crisis with almost exclusively military means. "As per Amnesty International Report of 2021, indeed, since the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in 2019, the Indian

authorities have arrested many human rights defenders including journalists and activists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, India's primary counter-terrorism law. At least 36 journalists have faced interrogation, raids, threats, or physical assault for their reporting until now. According to Access Now, people in Jammu and Kashmir faced at least 85 internet shutdowns in 2021 - one of the highest in the world. "Despite the Indian government claim that its decisions would put an end to militancy in the region and that there has been a significant improvement in the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmiris are increasingly alienated from the Indian state, with more and more youth joining insurgent group... "Moreover, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act legislation

that officially tasks the Indian security forces with protecting civilians, upholding national security and combatting violence by armed groups has historically been abused, with security force personnel committing many grave human rights violations which have gone unpunished. The failure to address these abuses have violated the rights of the victims to justice and remedy, which is enshrined in the Constitution of India and the international human rights law. "Against this backdrop, we have also witnessed some positive development in the past few years. In February 2021, India and Pakistan recommitted to the 2003 ceasefire after holding back-channel talks. However, while back-channel talks are encouraging, and were welcomed by the EU High Representative, the ceasefire accord alone will not bring about long-term sta-

bility, especially in the absence of proper diplomatic ties. "Kashmir is internationally recognised as one of the most militarized zones in the world and a tremendously dangerous conflict flash point between two nuclear powers. We believe that we should look at this region with great concern and avoid at all costs an escalation of the conflict by strengthening our dialogue with India. Pakistan and the representatives of Kashmir in order to recover the dimension of dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy in the resolution of the conflict. "We believe that the European Union and its member states can play a crucial role in helping address this deadlock, especially in the context of the resumption in late June of negotiations between India and the European Union for a comprehensive free trade agreement.

Briefs

PM Shehbaz thanks UAE President for investment in Pakistan

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday thanked President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan for investment of his country in Pakistan. In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, "Grateful to my brother His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan @Mohamed Bin Zayed for the investment that the UAE is going to make in various sectors of Pakistan." "Both brotherly countries are very keen to further strengthen their multifaceted relationship," the PM added.

Covid-19 lockdown strands tourists on Hawaii

SANYA: More than 80,000 tourists have been left stranded in a popular resort in China after a coronavirus outbreak sparked a lockdown. Authorities cancelled all flights and trains from Sanya, known as "China's Hawaii", on Saturday, a day after 263 positive cases were confirmed. Travellers must now present five negative PCR tests over seven days before being allowed to leave. China is the only major economy to still follow a "zero Covid" policy. The country has recorded fewer than 15,000 deaths since the pandemic began, according to Johns Hopkins University. However, there have been concerns about the impact of the strict rules, including mass testing and local lockdowns, on the economy. - APP

CM approves Ehsaas Ration Programme

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Sunday accorded a principal approval to launch Ehsaas Ration Subsidy Programme and decided to grant Rs 1500 monthly income to the poor people instead of giving them Rs 1000. Under the Ehsaas Ration Subsidy Programme the impoverished people will be given flour, pulses and ghee at a subsidised rate. The CM directed to constitute a Ministerial Steering Committee for the implementation of the Ehsaas Ration Subsidy Programme. The Steering Committee will be headed by Dr. Sania Nishtar. The CM disclosed that a working group will also be constituted with regard to the Ehsaas Ration Subsidy Programme, adding that an effective monitoring system will be formulated with regard to the implementation of the Ehsaas Ration Subsidy Programme. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Guests posing for a picture on the occasion of dinner hosted by Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey for the outgoing First Counsellor Yves Manville at the French Residence. - DNA

ASEAN regional integration to help in global development

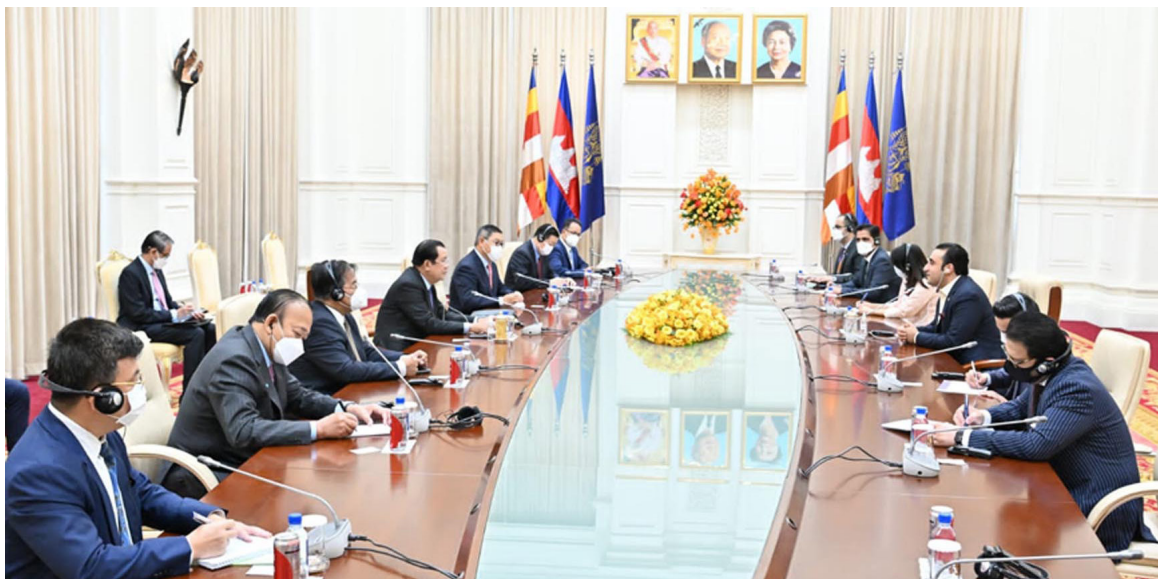
SPECIAL CORRESPONDANT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman ASEAN Committee Islamabad (ACI) Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong on Sunday said that regional integration of ASEAN countries is not only essential for the economic prosperity of the ASEAN region but also important for global economic linkages and connectivity. In the same month, the foundation of ASEAN was laid on August 8, 1967, he said. The 55th anniversary of this month will be made with the determination that ASEAN will play its full role for economic prosperity, trade integration to promote peace and harmony with the other regions of the world, Chairman Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEANs) Committee Islamabad (ACI) and

Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, Nguyen Tien Phong on Sunday told media. The Ambassador economic and trade liberalization, multilateralism, credibility, global connectivity, economic stability, youth empowerment, maritime security, political stability, and regional to regional connectivity are part of ASEAN's regional economic vision. While in interview with APP on 55th Anniversary of ASEAN was established in August 8, 1967, he said that ASEAN reaffirmed its belief that regionalism and multilateralism are important principles and frameworks of cooperation, and that their strength and value lie in their inclusivity, rules-based nature, and emphasis on mutual benefit and respect. Meanwhile he informed that the 55th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) was held on August 3, 2022 in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia. The Meeting was chaired by Cambodia under the theme "ASEAN A.C.T.: Addressing Challenges Together." He said that in the meeting ASEAN reaffirmed commitment to address its common challenges and to sustain the momentum of ASEAN's community-building efforts with a strong sense of togetherness. ASEAN also discussed the need to further strengthen engagement and cooperation with Dialogue Partners and external partners, including through existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, and the importance of ASEAN Centrality, credibility and relevance in maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in the regional and global endeavours amidst uncertainty and rapid changes in Southeast Asia and beyond.

The ASEAN underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN's unity and Centrality in its community-building efforts and engagement with external partners, in promoting peace, security and stability as well as in enhancing regional resilience in response to common and emerging challenges, he said. The ASEAN countries also shown its shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

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PHNOM PENH: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets with Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen at his palace. - DNA

Russia, Ukraine trade blame for nuclear plant strike

MOSCOW: Moscow and Kyiv on Sunday blamed each other for a new strike on the Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant, where recent fighting sparked a UN warning of a potential nuclear disaster. Zaporizhzhia - Europe's largest atomic power complex that was occupied by Russia early in its offensive - has in recent days been the scene of military strikes that have damaged several structures, forcing the shutdown of a reactor. With Russia and Ukraine blaming each other for the attacks, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) warned on Saturday of "the very real risk of a nuclear disaster". On Sunday, Russian occupation authorities in Enerгодар city where plant is located said that overnight "the Ukrainian army carried out an attack with a cluster bomb fired from an Uragan rocket launcher." - APP

Blinken kicks off Africa tour to counter Russian influence

JOHANNESBURG: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken landed in South Africa on Sunday, kicking off a three-nation African visit as Washington scales up diplomacy to counter Russian influence on the continent. His visit comes after an extensive tour of Africa by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov late last month. South Africa, a leader in the developing world, has remained neutral in the Ukraine war, refusing to join

Western calls to condemn Moscow, which had opposed apartheid before the end of white minority rule in 1994. Blinken will hold talks on Monday with South African counterpart Naledi Pandor and also make a policy announcement on the US government's new Africa strategy, Pretoria said in a statement. The two will "discuss ongoing and recent developments relating to the global geopolitical situation," it said. The US State Department last month said African countries were "geostrategic players and critical partners on the most pressing issues of our day, from promoting an open and stable international system, to tackling the effects of climate change, food insecurity and global pandemics". The African powerhouse, which wields great diplomatic influence beyond the continent, belongs to a group of emerging economies called BRICS. In June, Russian President Vladimir Putin urged BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - to cooperate in the face of "selfish actions" from the West. For Fonthek Akum, head of the Pretoria-based think-tank Institute for Security Studies, Blinken's visit will help the US understand the southern African country's position. It will also aim "to bring South Africa further into the Western fold", Akum told AFP. - APP

Iran censures world's silence on Israeli assault

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has sharply criticized the latest Israeli regime's deadly airstrikes in Gaza, saying the international community's inaction and silence about the illegal entity's crimes against the Palestinians is "regrettable". Nasser Kan'ani made the remarks in a post on his Twitter account on Sunday as Israeli jets continue to shell the coastal enclave for the third day, leaving 34 dead and more than 200 wounded. Attaching to his tweet several photos of the victims of the latest Israeli aggression against the Palestinians he wrote that "These are examples of the Zionist apartheid regime targets in its recent attacks on Gaza. The silence of the international community and human rights advocates against the crimes of the Zionists in Gaza is deplorable and regrettable." "Interestingly, the US State Department has reaffirmed its "full support" for Israel's right to defend itself," he stated. - APP

Four more grain ships leave Ukraine

DNA

KYIV: Four more ships carrying grain and sunflower oil have left Ukraine ports via a safe maritime corridor. Millions of tonnes of grain have been stuck in Ukraine due to Russian blockades, leading to shortages and higher food prices in other countries. But last week the first ship left Ukraine's ports since February. The latest ships to set sail are bound for Turkey where they'll be inspected as part of a deal reached with Russia and the United Nations. They left on Sunday from the ports of Odesa and Chornomorsk, and will all travel through the Bosphorus strait. After the inspections, two are then scheduled to dock in Turkey, while the others are headed for Italy and China. Another empty ship arrived in Chornomorsk on Sunday afternoon, ready to be loaded with grain for export. Under a deal brokered by Turkey and the UN last month, Russia agreed not to target ships which were in transit, while Ukraine said it would guide vessels through mined waters. The deal, set to last 120 days, can be renewed if both sides agree. The complex arrangement seems to be working, at least for now. The success of this deal, a rare diplomatic breakthrough in this five-month-old conflict, is vital for Ukraine - and the rest of the world. Twenty million tonnes of grain are stuck in the country, as a result of the blockade imposed by Russia on Ukrainian ports. If the deal holds, Ukraine expects to export up to three million tonnes of grain per month.

CM orders to improve traffic flow in Murree

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Sunday ordered to improve traffic flow in Murree and gave directions to the commissioner and the regional police officer Rawalpindi in this regard. According to handout issued here, the CM directed chief traffic officer (CTO) Rawalpindi to reach Murree forthwith and further directed to undertake all necessary steps to maintain traffic flow in Murree. He directed the administration and the traffic officials to jointly ensure implementation on the traffic management plan. The CM directed the senior police and the administrative officers to improve traffic arrangements by themselves remaining present in the field. He ordered not to give permission to the excess vehicles to enter into Murree. The CM directed to regulate the movement of tourists through an effective traffic management plan, saying that the tourists should be provided best facilities by doing excellent traffic management. - APP

Chinese, Taiwanese warships eye each other ahead of end of drills

BEIJING: Chinese and Taiwanese warships played high-seas "cat and mouse" on Sunday, hours before the scheduled end of four days of unprecedented Chinese military exercises launched in reaction to a visit to Taiwan by the US house speaker. Nancy Pelosi's visit last week to the self-ruled island infuriated China, which responded with test launches of ballistic missiles over the island's capital for the first time and the cutting of communication links with the United States. Some 10 warships each from China and Taiwan sailed at close quarters in the Taiwan Strait, with some Chinese vessels crossing the median line, an unofficial buffer separating the two sides, according to a person with knowledge of the matter, AFP reported. The island's defense ministry said in a release multiple Chinese military ships, aircraft, and drones were simulating attacks on the island and its navy. It said it had sent aircraft and ships to react "appropriately". As Chinese forces "pressed" the line, as they did on Saturday, the Taiwan side stayed close to monitor and, where possible, deny the Chinese the ability to cross. "The two sides are showing restraint, the person said, describing the maneuvers as high seas "cat and mouse". "One side tries to cross, and the other

stands in the way and forces them to a more disadvantaged position and eventually return to the other side." Taiwan said its shore-based anti-ship missiles and its Patriot surface-to-air-missiles were on stand-by. The Chinese exercises, centered on six locations around the island, began on Thursday and are scheduled to last until midday on Sunday. China's military said on Saturday it was conducting sea and air joint exercises north, southwest and east of Taiwan with a focus on testing land-strike and sea-assault capabilities. The United States called the exercises an escalation. "These activities are a significant escalation in China's efforts to change the status quo. They are provocative, irresponsible and raise the risk of miscalculation," a White House spokesperson said. "They are also at odds with our long-standing goal of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, which is what the world expects." China halted communication through various channels with the United States as part of its response to Pelosi's visit, including between military theater commands and on climate change. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken accused China of taking "irresponsible" steps and moving away from prioritizing peaceful resolution towards the use of force. - Agencies

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