



# Islamabad POST

Friday, May 26, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**France at risk from 'uncivilising' violence: Macron**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Spanish PM faces key test in regional elections**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Djokovic eyes Grand Slam record at Paris**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Briefs

**Police fail to arrest Elahi**

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: The police on Thursday returned "empty-handed" from former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central President Parvez Elahi's residence in Lahore's Gulberg area where they conducted raid to arrest him on corruption charges, his lawyer confirmed. The development came after an anti-corruption court earlier today discarded his interim bail over his failure to appear before the court citing health issues. His arrest is required in the Rs70 million corruption case related to the embezzlement of development funds allocated for the Gujrat district.

The anti-corruption court judge declared that his medical certificate bogus which claimed that Elahi had been experiencing chest pain.

**PTI leader Ejaz Ch rearrested**

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Additional Secretary General Senator Ejaz Chaudhry was rearrested from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail Thursday, shortly after his release. He was released on the order of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), which had declared his arrest under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Ordinance (MPO) as illegal. As his family waited outside the jail for his release, the PTI senator was rearrested after exiting from the back gate and taken away by security officials in a private vehicle.

**AI use need of hour: IT Minister**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque said Artificial Intelligence (AI) use and its promotion in the country is the need of the hour. In a statement regarding the introduction of first National Artificial Intelligence Policy in Pakistan, he said that Pakistan has to progress in multiple fields in order to move alongside the digital world.

## Monuments' desecration

# Nation will neither forget nor forgive

The Army Chief said: "What happened on May 9 is very sad and condemnable. Nothing can nullify the sacrifices of those martyrs who have been granted eternal life by Allah Almighty."

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday said the nation would neither forgive nor forget those who desecrated the memorials of martyrs and undermined their dignity and such behaviour would not be tolerated. The Army Chief made these remarks while addressing the families of the martyrs during his visit to the Police Lines here in connection with Pakistan Martyrs' Reverence Day (Youm-e-Takreem-e-Shuhada-e-Pakistan), an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The main event was held at the General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir as the chief guest. During the ceremony, rich tributes were paid to the martyrs and prominent personalities laid flowers at the martyrs' monument. Those who attended the ceremony included former army chief Gen (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa, former chairman joint chiefs of staff committee Gen (ret'd) Nadeem Raza, Pakistan cricket team captain Babar Azam, Mufi Muneeb ur Rehman and other members of the society. Apart from this, numerous events featuring Quran recitation and prayers have been organised across the country. Moreover, several commemorative ceremonies will be held at the martyrs' memorials as well.

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**President, PM pay tributes to martyrs**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has said that the entire nation was proud of its valiant martyrs who displayed the spirit of patriotism and fearlessness in testing times throughout history. "The nation owes to the heroism and sacrifices offered by the jawans (soldiers) and officers of our armed forces, including Pakistan Army, rangers, air force, navy, police, and other security institutions that made Pakistan's defence impregnable," a press release issued by President Secretariat Press Wing stated. The president acknowledged the armed forces' services for crushing the menace of terrorism and assisting the fellow countrymen during natural calamities and pandemic. "Let us pledge on this day that we will never forget our valiant martyrs

Continued on Page 06

# Negative forces will become active if polls delayed: CJP

The CJP's remarks came during a hearing of the review petition filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial said on Thursday that a delay in elections will allow "negative forces" to swing into action and "play tricks" on the country. The CJP's remarks came during a hearing of the review petition filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against the apex court's decision to conduct polls in Punjab on May 14.

The bench that heard the plea included Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Ijazul Ahsan; this is the same bench that issued the directive on April 4. Following the bench's order, the electoral watchdog had informed the apex court that it could not conduct elections owing to security concerns and a paucity of funds. It then filed a review petition, stating that appointing a date for elections is not the Supreme Court's mandate. The hearing of the review petition began with more

Continued on Page 06

**Larger bench constituted against Leaks commission**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial has formed a five-judge larger bench led by himself to take up petitions against the formation of a judicial inquiry commission probing the audio leaks allegedly involving current and former members of the superior judiciary and their family members. Apart from the chief justice, the five-man bench includes Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Justice Shahid Waheed.

Continued on Page 06



PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the building of Radio Pakistan, which was burnt during May 09 incidents. - DNA

**Membership of Kayani, Mazari others terminated**

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Thursday terminated the basic membership of central leadership members who recently defected from the party. The decision comes as a response to the departure of several prominent figures within the party. Among those who have left the core committee WhatsApp group are Aamir Kayani, Amin Aslam, Shireen Mazari, and Asad Umar, while Fawad Chaudhary has been removed from the core committee group altogether. To reinforce this decision, the names of these core committee members were expunged from the PTI's official roster. Furthermore, instructions have been issued to both the central and provincial leadership of PTI, directing them to remove individuals who have abandoned the party from various groups.

**'Undeclared martial law'**

# Imran urges SC to take notice of unlawful steps

Urges CJP to protect Murad Saeed's life

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has filed a constitutional petition in the Supreme Court against the imposition of Article 245 across the country except Sindh and on-going crackdown on the party workers in the wake of May 9 riots. The Federation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other ruling alliance leaders including Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Asif Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto and Maulana Fazlur Rehman have been made respondents in the petition filed through advocate Hamid Khan. Referring to the deployment of army troops in aid of civil authorities, the PTI chief implored the court to declare the imposition of Article 245 invalid and barred the authorities from arresting party workers and leaders who are allegedly involved in ransacking

Continued on Page 06

**Hundreds of PTI leaders placed on no-fly list**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Over 600 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and former assembly members including chairman Imran Khan's name have been added to the no-fly list. According to the sources within the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA), the names of the PTI leaders and its party chief have been added for their involvement in the May 9 violence and desecration of martyrs' monuments. The names have been added to the FIA's Provisional

Continued on Page 06

**Pak rejects hosting of G-20 moot in Srinagar**

Holding the G-20 meeting in a disputed territory is a betrayal of the people of IIOJK

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan categorically rejects India's move to host the meeting of the G-20 Tourism Working Group in Srinagar on 22-24 May 2023. Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory. The dispute has remained on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council

Continued on Page 06

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OIC affirms Palestine's sovereignty over al-Quds - Page 07

Africa full of potential to play vital role at global level - Page 08

## INDEPENDENCE DAY OF AZERBAIJAN



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanvir Hussain, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Zahid Khan and others cutting cake to celebrate the Independence Day of Azerbaijan, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. - DNA



## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### MAY

May 03/Poland
National Day
May 06/Bulgaria
Armed Forces Day
May 06/UAE
Armed Forces Day
May 07/Kazakhstan
Armed Forces Day
May 08/Czech Republic
National Day
May 09/European Union
National Day
May 17/Norway
Constitution Day
May 21/Hungary
Armed Forces Day
May 22/Yemen Republic
Re-unification Day (National Day)
May 24/Eritrea
National Day
May 25/Argentina
National Day
May 25/Lebanon
Liberation and Resistance Day
May 28/Azerbaijan
Republic Day
May 28/Ethiopia
National Day



### Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949
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### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



### Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange.9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



### Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
DhQ Hospital.....9270907-11
CHT.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



### Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480
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ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira tastes Tunisian cuisines at the Tunisian staff on the occasion of the Africa Day celebrations.—DNA

## Saudi ambassador commends 'Road to Makkah' project

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, in a significant development, has praised the 'Road to Makkah' project as a remarkable initiative that had brought immense relief to the intending pilgrims. The ambassador expressed his gratitude to King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman for launching this highly efficient facility. The project aimed at enhancing the ease and comfort of intending pilgrims from seven countries, namely Pakistan, Morocco, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, and Ivory Coast, he added. Highlighting the meticulous management of the project, the ambassador revealed that it was closely supervised by Saudi Minister for Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud. He further announced that this year alone, 26,000 pilgrims would benefit from the service provided at the Islamabad International Airport. Notably, the



immigration process would be completed in Islamabad, saving valuable waiting time at the Saudi airports, he maintained. Expressing optimism, Ambassador Al-Malki also shared his hopes for the ex-

pansion of this exceptional facility to other major cities in Pakistan, including Lahore and Karachi, by next year adding that such an expansion would further streamline the journey of intending pilgrims and contribute to their overall experience. Praying for the stability and prosperity of Pakistan, the ambassador conveyed his belief that the nation would rise to become a global leader in the coming years as these words of encouragement further solidify the strong bond between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. In a related development, Saudi Press Attaché Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi took to Twitter to share a video clip showcasing the dedicated staff members of the 'Road to Makkah' project from Saudi Arabia. The clip highlighted the team leader's instructions to greet intending pilgrims with warm smiles and gentle hospitality. Stressing the importance of performing

their duties with honesty and devotion, the team leader emphasized that their selfless service to the intending pilgrims would be rewarded by the Almighty. The arrival of intending pilgrims at the Islamabad International Airport has been marked by a heartwarming gesture: a warm welcome and the presentation of garlands. This kind and affectionate reception from the Saudi staff members has multiplied the love and admiration for Saudi Arabia in the hearts of the pilgrims embarking on their spiritual journey. The 'Road to Makkah' project has undoubtedly emerged as a game-changer, offering a streamlined and comfortable experience to the intending pilgrims. With its successful implementation and plans for future expansion, it stands as a testament to the strong commitment of Saudi Arabia to facilitate and support the spiritual journey of Muslims worldwide. —Agencies

## Participants call for combating financial crime

ISLAMABAD: Participants in an event organized by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) Pakistan Private Limited highlighted the urgency of combating financial crime and emphasized the collective responsibility of all stakeholders to strengthen the integrity of Pakistan's financial systems. The main objective of an event titled "Pakistan Assemble- United Against Financial Crime" organized to raise awareness and foster collaboration among key stakeholders in the fight against financial crime. The event served as a platform to emphasize the significance and sensitivity of compliance and risk management in the ongoing battle against financial crime. The discussions centred

around the critical role of compliance and risk management in detecting and preventing financial crime, including money laundering, fraud, corruption, and terrorist financing. Participants also explored the importance of data-driven decision-making, the use of advanced analytics and artificial intelligence, and the implementation of robust compliance frameworks said a news release received here. The event witnessed an overwhelming response from distinguished executives, industry experts, government officials, and representatives from various organizations. Attendees gathered to share insights, exchange best practices, and address the challenges posed by financial crime, aiming to

strengthen the collective defense against illicit activities. Niran Rehman, Chief Business Officer at Dun & Bradstreet Pakistan Private Limited, expressed his gratitude for the remarkable turnout and participation. He said, "We are delighted to have successfully organized the 'Pakistan Assemble- United Against Financial Crime' event and to have gathered such an esteemed group of individuals who share our commitment to combating financial crime. It was a privilege to facilitate meaningful discussions and explore innovative strategies to protect our financial systems." The event featured keynote speeches by prominent industry leaders who provided valuable insights

into the latest trends, regulatory developments, and emerging compliance and risk management technologies. Panel discussions, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities fostered engagement and collaboration among attendees. Dun & Bradstreet, a leading global provider of business decisioning data and analytics, enables companies worldwide to improve their business performance. Dun & Bradstreet's solutions and business intelligence generate insights that empower customers to accelerate revenue, lower costs, mitigate risk, and transform their businesses. Since 1841, companies of every size have relied on Dun & Bradstreet to help them manage risk and reveal opportunity.—Agencies

## Nation determined to guard dignity, respect of martyrs

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Thursday paid rich tribute to sacrifices rendered by martyrs of the Pakistan Army who sacrificed their lives for defending the motherland. "The whole nation stands with Pakistan Army like an unbreakable mountain and would continue to guard the dignity and respect of our Martyrs till last breath" he expressed while visiting the mausoleum of Shaheed Captain Raja Muhammad Sarwar, Nishan-e-Haider in connection with Youm-e-Takreem Shuhada-e-Pakistan' in Singhori Village Gujjar Khan Rawalpindi. After laying a wreath of flowers at the mausoleum of Shaheed Captain Raja Muhammad Sarwar, he strongly condemned the conspiracy to malign Pakistan Army. He said that all rioters and culprits involved in any state and anti-Army activities would be dealt with the iron hand. He also said, "What these conspirators committed would be ever condemned by this nation which is united against such heinous anti-state activities." "The 9th May would be remembered as the darkest day in the annals of Pakistani politics" he added. Later on, Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf also visited mesoleum of Sawar Muhammad Hussain Shaheed Nishan-e-Haider and offered Fateh. While talking to the media, he said, "The nation will never forgive planners, abettors and perpetrators of 9th May vandalism." In a reply to the question asked by a media representative, he said, "Brave son of Gujjar Khan soil always prove their faithfulness with this country by sacrificing their lives." He also vehemently condemned vandalism at the mesoleums of martyrs and said.—APP

## Domestic employees, tenants' registration in full swing

ISLAMABAD: The police campaign titled "Knock the Door" was in full swing to register the tenants as well as domestic servants. According to the police spokesman on Thursday, teams of Islamabad police were conducting door-to-door visits to ensure their registration. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) visited 276 houses in the Karachi company police area during the last 24 hours and registered 139 houses. "The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident by maintaining law and order in the federal capital." The spokesman said that this exercise would help to keep a vigilant eye on miscreants and suspects.—APP

## Kundi welcomes PTI MP in PPP

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday welcomed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Dr Haider Ali for joining Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Kundi in a press conference here while observing the Youm-e-Takreem Shuhada-e-Pakistan (Day of Honouring the Martyrs of Pakistan) said, "We stand with the families of the Shuhada." "I on behalf of the party and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former president Asif Ali Zardari welcome Ali to the party which top priority is to give respect to everyone. PPP workers have always stood with their leaders through thick and thin," he said. Commenting on dialogues with PTI, he said, "If we look at Former President Asif Ali Zardari's previous interviews, he has always said that PTI is not a political party." "Imran Khan is not a political leader but a sportsman. PTI will fall through its weight only and we can see it today," he quoted Zardari as saying. "When an assassination attempt was made on Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in Karachi at Karsaz the very next day she was visiting the homes of PPP leaders to inquire about their health. This is the true identity of a leader," he said. Kundi said PTI was just restricted to Zaman Park and their leaders were nowhere to be seen now. "The way forward to the political crisis is free and fair elections. PPP's stance has been loud and clear that whichever party gets the highest polls should run the country. All institutions in the country should remain within their constitutional limits and work," he said. He said even how tough the times were, PPP had never thought of defaming or damaging any organ of the state or institution in the country. "Zardari spent 4,915 days in prison, Faryal Talpur 187 days, Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah 765 and the list goes on from Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz etc. On the other hand, PTI leaders cannot even stand a day in prisons," he said.—APP

### MAY 2023

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# Construction along GT Road halts pedestrian bridge access

The traffic police authority should appoint permanent wardens for the convenience of patients, the elderly, students and the general public to avoid any untoward incident, he added

ISLAMABAD: The widening of the Grand Trunk Road, famously G.T. Road, near Al-Shifa Eye Trust, has halted pedestrians' access to the overhead bridge, causing problems for children, women and the elderly especially patients visiting the healthcare facility. Tariq Mahmood, a local resident near Al-Shifa Eye Trust Hospital told APP that late Lieutenant General (R) Jahan Dad Khan had constructed a well-designed overhead bridge in 1988 for the local masses and the patients visiting one of the largest charity hospitals of the division. He added that the bridge was used by local residents and hospital patients as an efficient facility to cross one of the busiest highways to reach their destinations along the G.T. Road. Tariq said now that the

NHA was widening the road, and the bridge was temporarily closed to pedestrians resulting in huge difficulty for children, the elderly and hospital patients to cross the road. "The vehicles pass at high speed, which can cause a major accident. We demand the NHA to put barriers on the construction site to reduce the speed of vehicles to avoid serious accidents." The traffic police authority should appoint permanent wardens for the convenience of patients, the elderly, students and the general public to avoid any untoward incident, he added. Shaista Khan, another resident said the road had huge vehicular traffic, mostly in rush hour, that was putting the pedestrians vulnerable to

road accidents. She said the NHA and City Traffic Police should jointly manage the road and pedestrians to contain risks of accidents. Khan said the development and construction were important but public convenience and safety were also necessary, especially that of children and senior citizens. The authorities concerned should take this matter into their consideration, she added. When contacted the NHA Director of Maintenance, Zafar Hayat Lak said the issue was of serious nature and he had sought a report from the relevant officer to brief on the matter and also recommend necessary measures to address the problem and facilitate the masses. —APP



ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Ministry of Law & Justice, Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, and UNICEF Pakistan came together in a momentous collaboration to successfully launch the "Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Rules, 2022.—DNA

## 'Nation stands shoulder-to-shoulder with armed forces'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N senior leaders on Thursday paid rich tribute to the martyrs who laid their lives while protecting the motherland and reiterated their commitment that the entire nation stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan forces. "We salute to our forces who laid down their lives defending our motherland", on the eve of Yume-e-Takreem Shuhada-e-Pakistan PML-N leader Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh said while talking to PTV news channel. He said the sacrifices of martyrs and the services of Ghazis were the armed forces' valuable asset and capital of pride for the country. Meanwhile, Salma Bhutt PML-N leader added that the Pakistan Army as an institution always remembered every person associated with it and their families and its relationship as a family was a proud and exemplary one. The armed forces of Pakistan have played a remarkable role and every segment of life including the army, police and law enforcement agencies have rendered invaluable sacrifices. PML-N leaders regretted that the incidents of May 9 were intolerable and unpardonable as the monuments and statues of the martyrs of armed forces and law enforcement agencies were vandalized.—DNA

## Pakistan becoming an industrial graveyard

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Thursday said Pakistan has become a heaven for the property sector investors. The present policies are transforming the country into a graveyard for industries therefore capital should be directed towards the industrial sector in the upcoming budget, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that Pakistan can never progress unless the investors continue to prefer non-productive sectors over productive sectors. Continued patronage of the property sector will gradually shrink the industrial sector and will bankrupt the country, he said, adding that profits in the non-pro-

ductive sectors should be reduced to save industries from closure. The business leader said that Pakistan is at the forefront in spending more of its income among all the countries in the region that's why its economy is in the worst condition and the whole world is sure that it will soon bankrupt. Until a few decades ago, the economy of Pakistan was better than all the countries in the region, but now the situation has become the opposite and no country or institution is ready to give credit to a sinking country, he added. He said that Pakistan will have to increase its competitiveness to compete in the international market by increasing industrial efficiency, bringing in foreign investment and foreign technology, and modernizing the financial sector. Government should sell

failed state-owned enterprises or make them profitable, ensure upgradation in the public and private sectors and address the core problems. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the global economic conditions are changing rapidly and the use of technology is also increasing, but we are far behind in this sector. India started deregulation after Pakistan, but the goal of their policymakers was the national interest, while our policymakers were engaged in the pursuit of personal interests which resulted in harm instead of benefit. He said that the people are dying of hunger, the risk of default is looming, and the funds approved for development schemes are being cut, but the parliamentarians are being given Rs111 billion in the name of development schemes which is surprising.

## Briefs

### AIOU confirms BA, B.Ed admissions

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has completed the process of admission confirmation for BA



(Associate Degree) and B.Ed programs offered in Semester Spring 2023. AIOU has informed the students about the admission confirmation through mobile SMS. Students can also check their admission status at <https://fmbp.aiou.edu.pk/application/index.php>, a press release on Thursday said. Students who have applied online for admission in Semester Spring 2023 but have not yet received the admission confirmation, are directed to visit the online portal link. In case of any objection, upload the required documents by 31st May 2023. Any delay in uploading of documents will result in denial of admission which will be the sole responsibility of the candidate.—APP

## Sugar prices rising due to unabated shipments

President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Dr. Murtaza Mughal on Thursday said the price of sugar is increasing across the country due to the continuous exports. The unabated exports allowed to please sugar barons are affecting the people as it is increasing overall inflation, he said. Till April, two hundred and twelve thousand tons of sugar have been exported, while this process continues without interruption during the month of May, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW. The interests of the masses have been compromised by allowing the export of sugar in such huge quantities, he added. Sugar was not

exported in the fiscal year 2022, but the current government allowed the export of sugar in the fiscal year 2023 despite the record inflation, the prices of which started increasing in the local market. In the month of February, more than 42 thousand tons of sugar were exported, in March, about 130 thousand tons of sugar were exported, while in April, more than 40 thousand tons of sugar were exported, which increased the price of sugar up to fifty rupees per kg. He informed that in the month of May, the sugar exports continued unabated, which will push up prices in the local market. Dr. Mughal said that with

an increase in the price of sugar by one rupee per kg, five billion rupees go out of the pockets of the people and into the pockets of the sugar mafia. He said that apart from the exports sugar mafia is also involved in smuggling and as a result the country is suffering heavy losses but this illicit trade will continue because many important personalities are involved in it. Dr. Mughal said that the policy of closing down industries and making millions unemployed to reduce the current account deficit is wrong, due to which the GDP is shrinking and the value of Pakistan's currency is even lower than that of Sri Lanka.—DNA

## Modi regime resorting to nefarious tactics

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has deplored that Narendra Modi-led Indian government is resorting to nefarious tactics to mislead the international community about the prevailing grim situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC in a statement issued in Srinagar said that on one hand, the Modi regime has usurped all basic rights of the people of occupied territory while on the

other, it is attempting to hide its crimes by holding events like the G20 meetings in the territory. It said the people of occupied Kashmir have been suffering immensely under the Indian military occupation and witnessing oppression and bloodshed for the last over 7 decades. The APHC said that under the prevailing circumstance, every justice-loving person in the world must become the voice of oppressed Kashmiris.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco Mohammad Karmoune presenting football to Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti at the Africa Day celebrations.—DNA

## Why ethics is important in Financial Management Services?

RAMEEZ ASIF

The provision of financial management services must include ethical behaviour. This is a set of moral standards that govern the behaviour of financial industry personnel. The value of ethics in financial management services cannot be exaggerated. It guarantees professionals are honest, ethical and open with their client's finances. The ability to maintain client and professional trust is one of the primary reasons

ethics are important in financial management services. Customers are more inclined to trust financial advisors with their money and stay in business with them if they believe they are acting ethically. Professionals who engage in unethical behaviour may find themselves the target of legal action, which can harm their reputation and cause them to suffer severe financial damages. Professionals that behave unethically could put their own needs ahead of those of their clients, which can

result in losses in money and harm to their reputation. In order to maintain expertise in financial management services, ethical standards must be adhered to. It not only protects clients' interests and helps professionals maintain their professionalism in their field, but also helps them maintain the trust of their clients. Ethical behavior is a fundamental aspect of professionalism in financial management. Ethical professionals demonstrate their com-

mitment to their work, their customers and their profession. Emphasizing ethics in financial management services encourages continuous learning, self-improvement, and the development of ethical decision-making skills. Trust between financial management service providers and their clients is increased by ethical behaviour. Clients like to cooperate with companies that uphold moral principles because it provides them peace of mind that their financial interests

are safeguarded. Financial management services are about handling private information and making decisions that directly impact clients' financial security. The protection of customer interests is made possible by ethical behavior. In order to build trust, protect clients, ensure regulatory compliance, avoid misbehaviour, encourage sustainable practices, and boost professionalism, ethics is necessary in the financial management industry.

## 10 Minutes Drive From The Monal

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## The case of Imran Riaz Khan

**L**AHORE police Deputy Inspector General (Investigation) Kamran Adil told the high court on Thursday that both the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Military Intelligence (MI) had said that anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan — whose whereabouts remain unknown since his arrest on May 11 — was not in their custody. The police official made the remarks as the Lahore High Court (LHC) resumed hearing a plea seeking the recovery of the anchorperson, who was among the individuals apprehended in the wake of protests that erupted in the country after the arrest of PTI chairman Imran Khan. Later, his lawyer told that a writ petition was filed on May 12 over the anchorperson's arrest and the LHC directed the attorney general to present him before the court the same day. But, after its orders were not followed, Sialkot police were given a 48-hour deadline to recover Imran. A first information report (FIR) pertaining to the matter was registered with Civil Lines police on May 16 on the complaint of the anchorperson's father, Muhammad Riaz. The FIR was registered against "unidentified persons" and police officials for allegedly kidnapping Imran, invoking Section 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person) of the Pakistan Penal Code. At the previous hearing, Punjab Inspector General Dr Usman Anwar had told the court that there was no trace of the journalist at any police department across the country. The LHC had subsequently directed the ministries of interior and defence to "discharge their constitutional duties to effect the recovery" of the missing anchorperson. Media freedom advocacy groups and journalists in Pakistan have demanded authorities immediately reveal the fate and whereabouts of Khan. Amnesty International also said in a separate statement the case of the missing journalist "constitutes an enforced disappearance under international human rights law." It demanded Imran Riaz Khan be immediately released. The watchdog lamented that enforced disappearance had been a "worrying trend" in Pakistan for many years and is used to punish "dissenting voices." The disappearance of Imran is a sheer violation of basic human rights. The difference in opinion can never provide the basis of extreme actions like this. The government must take real steps to bring Imran Riaz Khan into scene as it has already lost any reputation when it comes to human rights.

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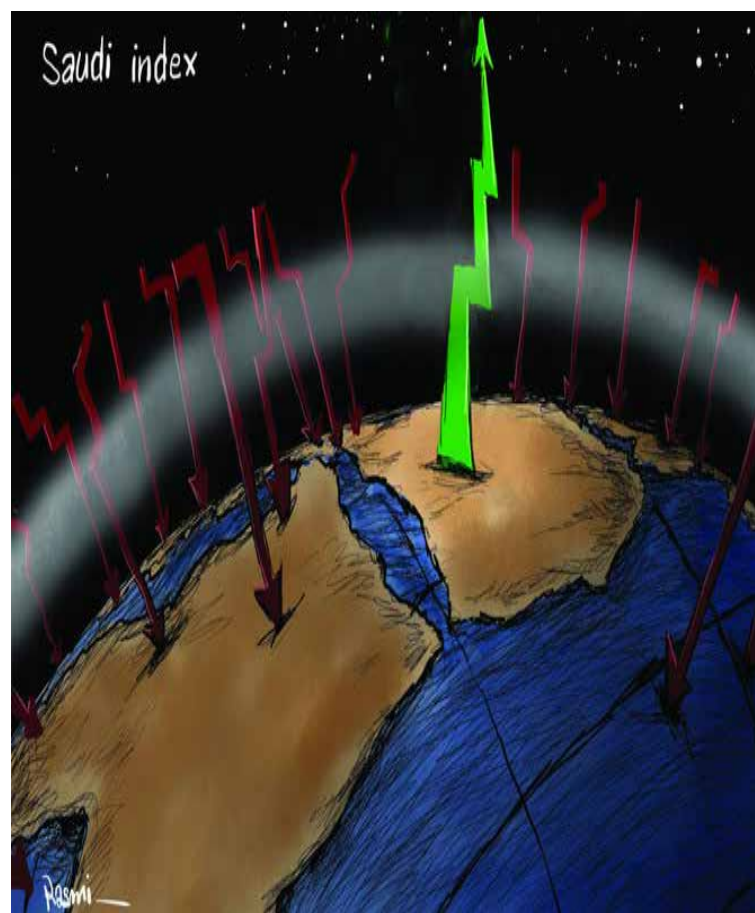
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## Escalating tech-trade offensive

**S**HORTLY after China banned the sale of some chips by US-based Micron Technology citing security concerns, politicians in Washington are seeking to escalate the technology war against the country by threatening to target an even wider range of Chinese high-tech companies. China's cyberspace regulator announced late on Sunday that the US memory chipmaker had failed its network security review and that as a result it would prevent operators of key infrastructure from buying from the company as it posed "significant security risks to China's critical information infrastructure supply chain". The decision was made after more than a month of investigation into the company's compliance with China's laws and regulations. Yet rather than advising Micron on how to mend its ways, Washington has pointed an accusing finger at China, with White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre calling the ban "not based on fact". Mike Gallagher, chair of the US House of Representatives' committee on China, on Tuesday urged the US Commerce Department to impose sanctions on Changxin Memory Technologies, China's leading maker of DRAM memory chips, in retaliation. Any possible US retaliatory measures risk exacerbating the tech-trade dispute between the world's two largest economies, and sending the already worsening bilateral ties to an even lower level. An intensified China-US technology war will also bring more uncertainties to the already fragile global supply chains. Washington has banned approvals of new telecommunications equipment from China's telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies and ZTE on the grounds they pose "an unacceptable risk" to US national security. Other Chinese companies on the blacklist are surveillance equipment maker Dahua Technology, video surveillance firm Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology and telecoms company Hytera Communications. None of the punitive actions the US has taken against the Chinese high-tech companies have been based on fact. Yet despite this, there is no respite in sight. The US is reportedly mulling an executive order to ban US investment in high-end Chinese technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G, and advanced semiconductors. China and the US both stand to gain from cooperation, and lose from confrontation. Hopefully, this will be brought home sooner rather than later to those US politicians bent on intensifying the technology war against China.

## Imran Khan dilemma

Waheed Hussain

Imran Khan is going through the same state of mind. Ego, anger and revenge are the problem of Imran Khan at this moment. He could not overcome the pain of losing power. His anger is not against the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government or United States of America (cipher drama), it's against former COAS General Bajwa and establishment. No doubt after he was removed from the government through a no confidence motion, he had succeeded in mobilizing the masses but unfortunately could not translate his popularism for political benefit. His political strategy was influenced by emotions and sentiments

**I**MHRAN was a sports hero when he won Cricket World Cup in 1992 for Pakistan, due to his mother's cancer ailment and subsequent death he established Shaukat Khanum hospital Lahore and became philanthropist. Being a cricket celebrity, his fund-raising campaigns were overcrowded in big cities. Someone gave him the idea of launching a political party and leading the country. His initial manifesto, idea of Naya Pakistan (new Pakistan) and Tabdelee (the change) were attractive slogans as many in the country were not that happy with the PPP and PML (N) past political management and performance. Imran was a one-Man Army from 1996 till October 2011 when his first mega public meeting at Minar-I Pakistan was arranged by special friends. The crowd at Minar I Pakistan surprised many in the country. That Jalsa (public meeting) was like an alarm for the PML (N) which always claimed Lahore as their political fort. Due to friends' intervention many electable from Punjab were forced to join PTI. Shah Mehmood, Jahangir Tareen and many stalwarts were included in the list. Some exclusive brains in the country wanted a third political force which could challenge the PPP and PML (N) in Punjab and the rest of the country. Imran Khan was the choice. Was the choice right or wrong is another debate? It's an open secret that establishment helped Imran Khan to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan in 2018. According to Imran Khan all those who helped him, and his party were patriotic, respected the constitution, believed in rule of law and lover of democracy. He praised former Army Chief General Qamar Javeed Bajwa so much so that amended the law through Parliament for extending his tenure as COAS for three years. He wanted him to continue as Army Chief with the idea that his govern-

ment was not being de-stabilized by the opposition political parties (PDM). The recorded events and developments during Khan's tenure tell that IK developed differences with General Bajwa on the issue of DG ISI posting and transfer. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan is on record saying that he knew the moment General Faiz Hameed is transferred from prime agency his government would fall. Today he is raising the slogan of Haqiqi Azadi (real independence), will Imran apologize to the nation and his supporters that whatever help he had been seeking from the "powers to be" (establishment) for past 11 years he should not had enjoyed. The problem with our all-political leaders was that if media, judiciary and established serve their interest they call them fair and independent, however, when they are left to survive on their own strength they start blaming, accusing and sometime abusing. Imran Khan is going through the same state of mind. Ego, anger and revenge are the problem of Imran Khan at this moment. He could not overcome the pain of losing power. His anger is not against the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government or United States of America (cipher drama), it's against former COAS General Bajwa and establishment. No doubt after he was removed from the government through a no confidence motion, he had succeeded in mobilizing the masses but unfortunately could not translate his popularism for political benefit. His political strategy was influenced by emotions and sentiments. He should have had a more pragmatic and sensible approach countering the political opponents (PDM), instead he turned all his guns towards Rawalpindi. This was bad advice if he had got the one from somewhere. He launched a war not

only against a retired individual but against the present leadership of the security and defense institution. This was a politically suicidal approach. Imran's speeches and bad choice of words in the public gatherings and media further polluted the environment. The elections in the two provinces and independent investigation of murder attempt on his life were fair demands but the method adopted by Imran were questionable. And finally, the 9th May was a disaster not only for Imran Khan but for the whole nation. No patriotic or sensible person could support the attacks on the military installations and monuments of the Shuhadas (martyrs), those who had laid their lives for the security and defense of Pakistan. The families of the Shuhadas were shocked by this heinous crime. When a leader calls himself a red line sends a video message that if he is arrested what the workers would have to do. There was a problem. Peaceful protest is the right of every political party and citizen under the constitution but burning state institutions and private property was not accepted in any civilized world. Khan has miscalculated the situation. He is in trouble and so are his party leaders and workers. Many PTI leaders, former ministers and parliamentarians have left the party while many more are planning to jump the ship. Naturally this will not finish the PTI but for the time being it will have great challenge in the upcoming elections. Khan will keep on blaming the establishment, he should also take some responsibility for the present muddied situation. As far as cases are concerned the same NAB that he was blamed for using against his opponents has filed a case against him if he has not done anything unlawful he would be cleared like present PDM leadership.

## Not your grandfather's cold war

Rabah Arezki

The US and its allies are arguing that outsourcing production in key industries to China and maintaining a high level of technological integration with Chinese companies are threatening national security. That is why they have started moving such production to other countries which may not provide the best conditions for it from an economic standpoint but which are nevertheless perceived as more politically dependable. Small and middle countries are, thus, being rewarded with investment and trade or even aid for helping with this process of "decoupling"....

**A**S tensions between China and the United States are escalating, there is much talk among scholars and commentators about a new Cold War between the two powers. US officials have also indicated that they are thinking of relations with Beijing in those terms. Yet, the situation in global politics and economy today is quite different from the post-World War II era, when the Soviet Union and the US faced off. Back then, countries were stuck between a rock and a hard place and had to choose a side. Of course, there was the non-aligned movement, which promoted decolonisation and sought to stave off an escalation into a nuclear war between the USSR and the US, but many of the members of the movement still had to choose a camp to join. What sphere of influence a country would fall into was determined not only by ideology and the interests of political leaders, but also by threats and coercion coming from the great powers. Indeed, throughout the Cold War, Washington and Moscow backed a series of coups and insurgencies in Africa, Latin America and Asia, trying to sway countries into their spheres of influence. Today, the ability of superpowers to instigate regime change with impunity is considerably more limited. That is because they risk an immediate and massive backlash from global public opinion, which is amplified by technological interconnectedness and social media. Furthermore, China, unlike the Soviet Union, is not just a strategic rival to the US, but also an economic one. This means countries caught in the middle of the China-US rivalry will be able to "bargain" not just on defence but also on economic terms. Globalisation also makes the choice of exclusive alignment much more costly. Today, choosing a side would mean turning one's back on economic gains from investment and trade with the other camp. That is why it is unlikely that history will repeat itself and deliver a cold war similar to the one in the previous century. The tensions between the US and China are playing out in a different way in the global arena today. Alignment, for example, is not exclusive, as states try to engage with one power in one sphere and with the rival in another. This means that the process of de-globalisation which some observers have warned about is unlikely to dominate in the coming years.

Instead, what we are likely to see is re-globalisation. That is, globalisation is taking a new path that is defined by global interconnectedness due to technological advances and which is no longer solely driven by the pursuit of efficiency in trade and investment. In other words, the process which in the past created global supply chains and entangled great powers and smaller countries into tight trade relations is changing to reflect new global realities. Tensions between the US and China and their attempts to isolate each other economically are influencing trade and investment decisions. Superpowers now have new considerations in approaching trade relations, such as the security of supply and rewards for partner countries. The US and its allies are arguing that outsourcing production in key industries to China and maintaining a high level of technological integration with Chinese companies are threatening national security. That is why they have started moving such production to other countries which may not provide the best conditions for it from an economic standpoint but which are nevertheless perceived as more politically dependable. Small and middle countries are, thus, being rewarded with investment and trade or even aid for helping with this process of "decoupling" — or "derisking", as European Union Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen recently called it. Instead of just offering lower taxes to foreign corporations and reducing the cost of doing business, smaller countries can now take advantage of these new geopolitical rents from the great powers, which have to spend much more political and economic capital to create new allies and keep old ones. Countries at the forefront of that re-globalisation include large emerging markets, exporters of fossil fuels and critical materials for the energy transition and digitalisation, and countries in geostrategic locations. Large emerging markets such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico and Turkey are flirting with both superpowers and making the most of their multi-layered relationships. Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia, have long been exclusive allies of the US which was backstopping their security in exchange for energy supply. That exclusive relationship is shifting, not least, because the US has become energy independent. China, which has become a major importer of oil from Saudi Arabia and other

Gulf countries, is gaining influence in the region. Gulf countries are now courted by the two superpowers and that allows them to get political and economic favours from them more easily. In Africa, countries, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have long been open to large investment projects in infrastructure and mining from China. Today, the US and its European allies are also engaging the DRC, trying to pull it closer with promises of vast export markets for its raw materials, major investments and development of their electric vehicle battery value chains. By contrast, the Solomon Islands, which is located in the South Pacific, an area of a traditionally strong military presence by the US and its allies, has recently re-balanced its relationship in favour of China. The island nation not only granted Beijing major infrastructure projects to develop, including ports, but it also signed a new security pact with it, which could pave the way for a Chinese military base on its territory, considerably expanding its reach in the region. While some nations may benefit from China-US tensions, the world as a whole is likely to suffer. This is because re-globalisation will undoubtedly lead to a loss in economic efficiency and potentially exacerbate poverty. Trade and investment flows overall are likely to decrease, undermining the economies of many developing countries. This would curb wealth and job creation and affect millions of households. Furthermore, re-globalisation will not mitigate the risks associated with the growing tensions between the US and China. The conflict in Ukraine, which some see as a proxy war between the US and China, and tensions over Taiwan reflect the dangers of their rivalry. The temptation of the two superpowers to weaken each other by provoking regional conflicts could heighten the risk of direct military confrontation. In this respect, the new cold war resembles the old one, with the shadow of a global war and nuclear annihilation looming large. Lessons from history must be learned and the US and China need to establish effective mechanisms of de-escalation. Dialogue and trust building between the two superpowers could limit the economic and geopolitical fallout of their clash for the rest of the world.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Briefs

## Nation will neither forget nor forgive

FROM PAGE 01  
After the ceremony, the army chief met the school students and children of martyrs present on the occasion. He said that Pakistan Army was the heir of all children of martyrs. Thanks to the eternal sacrifices of the martyrs, army's relationship with them was ideal and eternal, he added. He pledged on behalf of the armed forces that the army would stand on their side always. Later, the Army Chief addressed the families of the police martyrs along with the officers and jawans of the Islamabad Capital Territory Police. The Army Chief said: "What happened on May 9 is very sad and condemnable. Nothing can nullify the sacrifices of those martyrs who have been granted eternal life by Allah Almighty." He added that Pakistan Army, Police and law enforcement agencies were like the symbol of the state and a lead wall which does not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the dignity of the country.

## President, PM pay tributes...

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and reiterate our commitment to always honour them and express our undying love for these brave sons and daughters of the nation," the statement added. Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz Sharif urged the people, especially the children, to visit monuments and graves of martyrs and shower flowers on them as a sign of affection and respect. He said Pakistan should show the world that it is a nation that holds its martyrs in veneration and affection. He said that martyrs reverence day was being observed to pay glowing tribute to the heroes and express unflinching solidarity with their families. In a detailed tweet, the prime minister regretted and condemned the May 9 violence and desecration of martyrs' monuments, saying that the incidents gave the enemy a reason to celebrate.

## Imran urges SC to take notice...

From Page 01  
state installations following Khan's arrest on May 9. The petition has also requested the apex court to stop the trial of civilians accused of attacking defence installations in military courts, terming it violation of fundamental rights. Khan also accused Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam of creating rifts between PTI and military by "propagating" that the latter wanted to appoint army chief of his choice. Moreover, the petition also prayed the SC to take action against "forced separation" of PTI leaders as many leaders including Fawad Chaudhry, Shireen Mazaris and others parted ways with Khan over May 9 riots. It further asked the apex court to hold "impartial judicial inquiry into events leading up to the horrendous and gory events of May 9, 2023".

## Larger bench...

FROM PAGE 01  
The bench will commence hearing the petitions on Friday, May 26, 2023 at 11:00 AM. Last week, the federal government had formed the judicial commission to probe into over half-a-dozen leaked audio clips allegedly involving some current and former members of the superior judiciary and their family members to determine their "veracity" and "impact on the independence of the judiciary". The three-man judicial commission is led by Supreme Court senior puisne judge Qazi Faez Isa and comprises Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan and Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq.

## Last of the 'Big Three'

## Novak Djokovic eyes Grand Slam record at French Open

"He's the player to beat on this surface, no doubt," Djokovic said in Rome  
Swiatek braced for tougher path

PARIS: Novak Djokovic enters the French Open amid a run of indifferent claycourt form but few would be surprised to see Serbian great hoist the Musketeers' Trophy for a third time. With Rafa Nadal sidelined with injury, Djokovic has the chance to move past the Spaniard in the Grand Slam race and take a record 23rd major title, which would strengthen his case in the GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) debate. Even with Nadal absent, Djokovic will have another Spaniard on his mind in the form of 20-year-old Carlos Alcaraz, a young man in a hurry to forge his own path to greatness. The U.S. Open champion is narrowly favoured by bookmakers over Djokovic to win the French Open and the Serb rates him highly. "He's the player to beat on this surface, no doubt," Djokovic said in Rome. Despite winning at Roland Garros two years ago and in 2016, Djokovic has never been Djokovic's favourite surface, its pace and variation less suited to his attacking game. His build-up has been clouded by an elbow injury which he said was bothering him before he



withdrew from the Madrid tournament. His return at Rome ended in the quarter-finals with defeat by Holger Rune, the Danish wunderkind who also upset him on a Paris hard court last year. Having long stalled the rise of the next generation of men's tennis in concert with the other members of the 'Big Three' - Nadal and Roger Federer - Djokovic conceded their time had come. "A new generation is here already," he said after his Rome defeat. At 36, and having seen Nadal's struggles, Djokovic may feel time is against him. However, the Grand Slam aura remains. Apart from Nadal, the only player that has beaten him at the majors since 2020 is Russian Daniil Medvedev at the 2021 U.S. Open final. His former coach Boris Becker believes it would be foolish to write him off. "As long as he's healthy, and as he wants to play, always going to be one of the favourites to win a Grand Slam," the German told The Guardian. Even when neither 100% fit nor healthy, Djokovic's hunger for success and incredible mental strength are generally enough to pull him through. - Agencies

PARIS: Poland's Iga Swiatek dispensed any notion that she is primarily a clay-court specialist when she claimed her third Grand Slam title by winning last year's U.S. Open. But there is no disputing the red dirt is the perfect companion to her multi-faceted game and even less debate that Roland Garros remains her favourite playground. Swiatek, who turns 22 during the first week of the French Open, will be the favourite for a third title in four years in Paris, although she might face some stiffer opposition this year than 12 months ago when she was simply unstoppable. She dropped only one set in the Paris fortnight in 2022, reclaiming the title that launched her career into the stratosphere in 2020 when she arrived unseeded but ended up becoming Poland's first Grand Slam singles champion. Swiatek crushed Coco Gauff in last year's final, part of a 37-match winning streak that eventually ended at Wimbledon. This season has not exactly been shoddy by comparison, after all she has won two titles; on hard courts in Qatar and on clay in Stuttgart and reached two other finals.

But her rivals have clearly stepped up to the plate. Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina overpowered Swiatek in the India Wells semi-final while Australian Open winner Aryna Sabalenka beat Swiatek on clay in the Madrid final, albeit in faster conditions than are usually found in Paris. Swiatek has also been troubled by a right thigh injury that flared up in Rome where she retired during the third set of a quarter-final scrap with Rybakina. She has given optimistic updates on that injury and will be desperate to be firing on all cylinders in Paris. Organisers and fans alike will certainly hope so, because Swiatek in full flow on clay is quite a spectacle. Blessed with one of the most destructive forehands in the women's game (think German great Steffi Graf's but with more spin), Swiatek is also a master tactician who appears to have umpteen solutions to any puzzle on a clay court. Her mental fortitude is also proven, with Warsaw native Swiatek able to thrive under pressure, a result of her work with sports psychologist Daria Abramowicz. - Agencies

## Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders spar in front of Putin

"Azerbaijan, unfortunately, has blocked this corridor," Pashinyan said at a round-table meeting of the Eurasian Economic Council in Moscow

THE leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia argued openly in front of Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday in exchanges that underlined the extent of their differences over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. At a meeting in Moscow, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan raised the issue of the Lachin corridor, the road which links Armenia to the Armenian-populated enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh inside Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani activists in mid-December began obstructing the road, which Pashinyan noted should be under the control of Russian peacekeepers, and Baku subsequently erected a checkpoint along it. "Azerbaijan, unfortunately, has

blocked this corridor," Pashinyan said at a round-table meeting of the Eurasian Economic Council in Moscow. Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev responded: "Azerbaijan did not block any corridor... There is no need to use this platform for unfounded accusations." The two leaders continued arguing for several minutes before Putin closed off the conversation, noting that the topic was sensitive. He was due to host three-way talks with Aliyev and Pashinyan later. "We will now have the opportunity, as we agreed, to talk about everything calmly in a businesslike manner in a trilateral format, and I hope to reach some agreements that will put the situation not only between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but also in the region,

on the path of constructive development," Putin said. "I can assure you that everyone here has an interest in this, absolutely everyone." Armenia and Azerbaijan have been at loggerheads for three decades, fighting two wars over Nagorno-Karabakh. In recent months, both sides have expressed increasing willingness to sign a permanent peace agreement, even as regular skirmishes have continued. Minutes before the testy exchanges with Pashinyan, Aliyev had said there were "serious grounds for the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition of territorial integrity and sovereignty." - Agencies

## Asia Cup: ACC gives green signal to hybrid model

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has given the green signal to Najam Sethi's hybrid model for this year's Asia Cup. According to the hybrid model presented to the ACC by Najam Sethi following the early stalemate, Pakistan will host four to six matches of the Asia Cup. At the same time, India will play its matches on a neutral venue that also hosts other matches. A source in the ACC has confirmed to The News from India that the Asian body has accepted the hybrid model proposed by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Chairman Sethi in principle and without putting any extra conditions. There was no condition set on Pakistan's participation in the October World Cup to be held in India, which still depends on the Pakistan government's approval. "The ACC has accepted Najam's Sethi hybrid model proposal to host the Asia Cup allotted to Pakistan. According to this hybrid model, Pakistan will host four to six matches at the venue (within Pakistan) to be decided later while India will play its matches on a neutral venue," the source said. "The ACC is expected to officially announce the decision within the next few weeks. According to Sethi's model, India's matches will be played on a neutral venue which will be decided by the ACC member countries with mutual coordination. However, even in deciding on a neutral venue, the financial aspect will be kept at the top." - DNA

## Hundreds of PTI leaders placed on no-fly list

FROM PAGE 01  
National Identification List (PNIL) to prevent them from going abroad, added the sources. Moreover, the former prime minister's wife Bushra Bibi's name has also been added to the list. Apart from that, the list includes Murad Saeed, Maleeka Bokhari, Fawad Chaudhry, Hamad Azhar, Yasim Suri, Asad Qaiser, Yasmin Rashid and Mian Aslam Iqbal. The sources further claimed that some of the PTI leaders and office bearers tried leaving the country in the last three days, however, they were stopped at the airports. In a bid to stop them from leaving the country, their names were sent by the police, the counter-terrorism department (CTD), and intelligence agencies. Thousands of party workers and leaders were arrested during the crackdown on the PTI since May 9 for the party's alleged involvement in the riots that claimed at least 8 lives and injured dozens of others. Several party leaders and lawmakers - including Shireen Mazaris, Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry, Aamir Mehmood Kiani, Malik Amin Aslam, Mahmood Moulvi, Aftab Siddiqui, Fayyazul Hassan Chohan among others - have publicly denounced the attacks on the state installations and announced leaving the former ruling party since the May 9 vandalism.

## Negative forces will become...

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arguments from the ECP lawyer which irritated CJP Bandial. "Tell us what your main point is," he asked. Swati responded: "Supreme Court Rules cannot curtail constitutional powers." Noting his point, Justice Ahsan instructed him to proceed. "The full court has ruled in several cases that the scope of the review is not limited," Swati then contended. On this point Justice Akhtar reiterated that if Swati's argument was accepted, "the Supreme Court Rules will become null and void." "At times, even Parliament's power to legislate is also limited," the ECP counsel submitted. The bench then directed Swati's attention to the role of the interim government. The ECP lawyer said that family members of caretaker cabinet cannot participate in elections. "In order to maintain transparency in elections, this ban was added to the Constitution." Justice Ahsan then inquired: "If a provincial assembly is dissolved in six months, will the caretaker government remain for 4 and a half years? Will we wait for the dissolution of the National Assembly for 4 and a half years?" Swati confirmed, saying that the caretaker government would work in the respective province for 4 and a half years.

## Pak rejects hosting...

FROM PAGE 01  
for over seven decades. In that backdrop, India hosted this Meeting in IIOJK in complete disregard of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, principles of the UN Charter and international law. Holding the G-20 meeting in a disputed territory is a betrayal of the people of IIOJK. For the last seven decades, they have been waiting for the international community to pay attention to their plight and to bring an end to the occupation and human rights violations. Tourism and development cannot be promoted by holding the local population hostage and denying them their rights and freedoms. By holding the G-20 meeting in Srinagar, India cannot hide the reality of its illegal occupation of IIOJK and oppression of the Kashmiri people. India's facade of normalcy in Kashmir is met by the harsh reality that IIOJK remains one of the most militarized zones on the planet. The extreme security measures, arbitrary arrests and harassment of the local population around the Srinagar meeting refute the claims of normalcy in the colonized territory.

## Chelsea's struggles are a warning sign

LONDON: Chelsea's struggles should serve as a warning for Manchester United before their takeover, says boss Erik ten Hag. Chelsea were taken over by Todd Boehly last summer and have spent more than £600m in two transfer windows. However, the 12th-placed Blues have endured a torrid season and are guaranteed to record their lowest points total in the Premier League era. "You have to do the right things," said Ten Hag, whose United side face Chelsea on Thursday at Old Trafford. The Glazer family announced in November they were considering selling United as they "explore strategic alternatives". Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani and Sir Jim Ratcliffe's Ineos Group are the two main parties looking to buy the Old Trafford club. Dutchman Ten Hag added: "You can have money but you have to do it and spend it in a smart way and you need to have a strategy behind it - otherwise the money doesn't work. In this moment a centralisation of good players, of the best managers, also the money, is all here in the UK. That makes a great competition but also a tough and a hard competition. I think there are many more teams in the Premier League who are really strong." Figures in March showed United owed £969.6m through a combination of gross debt, bank borrowings and outstanding transfer fees with associated payments. Figures by Transfermarkt show United have a net spend of 405m euros (£352.24m) in the last three seasons. It included purchases such as midfielder Donny van de Beek and forward Jadon Sancho, who have struggled since their moves from Ajax and Borussia Dortmund. "I think we are in a good direction but also we can also learn from this season," added Ten Hag, whose side need one point from their remaining two games to clinch a Champions League place for next season. - Agencies

## Norrie reaches Lyon semi but Draper knocked out

LYON: British number one Cameron Norrie reached his third successive semi-final at the clay-court Lyon Open but compatriot Jack Draper was knocked out. Defending champion Norrie regained focus after a mid-match slump to beat Sebastian Baez 6-2 6-6 1-1. "I tried to reset and come out with a lot of energy," Norrie said. The 27-year-old now faces Argentine fourth seed Francisco Cerundolo, who came back from a set and a break down to beat Draper 4-6 6-4 6-3. Norrie's progress in Lyon is a boost for British hopes on clay before the start of the French Open on Sunday, with a much-reduced contingent from the nation competing at the Grand Slam. This was Norrie's 13th win in 14 matches in Lyon, having reached the final in 2021 before claiming the title last year. "It was a solid match," Norrie said in his on-court interview. "It's the perfect kind of match I need before the French Open to get a lot of long points in the legs, running a lot and having to defend a lot." Norrie's continuation of his success at the venue provides a timely confidence boost after early exits on clay in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid in re-

cent weeks, and a tetchy encounter with Serbia's Novak Djokovic in an Italian Open last week. Norrie will be leading the British challenge at the French Open, but is now one of nation to be draw after Kyle Edmund withdrew on Thursday with a wrist injury. Norrie is Dan Evans and Jack Draper in the main draw for the men's singles at Roland Garros, but there are no British women in the singles for the first time since 2009. - Agencies



## Inter Milan retain Italian Cup crown

Nicolas Gonzalez gave Fiorentina an early lead, but Martinez quickly equalised before volleying in the winner just before halftime. This triumph marked Inter's ninth Italian Cup title, tying them with Roma and leaving only Juventus with more trophies in competition

MILAN: Inter Milan successfully defended their Italian Cup title with a 2-1 comeback victory against Fiorentina. Lautaro Martinez was the hero of the match, scoring both goals for Inter. Nicolas Gonzalez gave Fiorentina an early lead, but Martinez quickly equalised before volleying in the winner just before halftime. This triumph marked Inter's ninth Italian Cup title, tying them with Roma and leaving only Juventus with more trophies in the competition. Martinez expressed his joy at winning another trophy with the club and emphasised the team's desire to continue their winning streak. Fiorentina, despite their loss, can still end the season with silverware as they have reached the final of the Europa Conference League. Their coach, Vincenzo Italiano, urged the team to recharge their batteries and focus on winning the upcoming final against West Ham. Inter, on the other hand, will be preparing for the Champions



League final against Manchester City. The article highlighted the importance of Martinez's performances in big matches, as he had previously scored crucial goals against Benfica and AC Milan to secure Inter's place in the Champions League final. Martinez's impact has been significant throughout the season, contributing to Inter's success in various competitions. He currently holds a career-best record of 27 goals across all competitions and has played in every single one of Inter's 54 matches this season. The Argentine forward's consistent performances have made him a key player for both club and country, as he also played a crucial role in Argentina's World Cup victory. The match itself was eventful, with Fiorentina taking an early lead through Gonzalez's goal. However, Martinez quickly turned the tide in Inter's favor with two impressive finishes. His 100th goal for Inter came from a well-placed through ball by Marcelo Brozovic, while his second goal showcased his acrobatic ability as he volleyed in a pass from Nicolo Barella.



## Briefs

### India's opp. to boycott parliament inauguration

DNA

NEW DELHI: On Sunday, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a new parliament building in capital New Delhi - a decision that has led to at least 19 opposition parties announcing their plans to boycott the event. In a joint statement, the national and regional parties on Wednesday said India's President Droupadi Murmu should open the new parliament and have accused Modi of sidelining the country's first tribal head of state. India's president is an indirectly elected, non-party executive with only ceremonial powers, but is considered the country's first citizen and is the highest constitutional authority. "Prime Minister Modi's decision to inaugurate the new parliament building by himself, completely sidelining President Murmu, is not only a grave insult but a direct assault on our democracy which demands a commensurate response," the statement issued by the opposition parties said. "When the soul of democracy has been sucked out from the parliament, we find no value in a new building. We announce our collective decision to boycott the inauguration," it added.

### One dead in fresh violence in India's Manipur

NEWS DESK

MANIPUR: One person was shot dead and houses were set on fire as fresh ethnic violence erupted in India's restive northeastern state of Manipur, officials said Thursday. Manipur has been on the boil after an explosion of inter-ethnic violence this month killed at least 70 people and left tens of thousands displaced. Some 2,000 houses were also burned down across the state that borders Myanmar. The violence was sparked by anger among the Kuki tribal group at the prospect of the majority Meitei community being given guaranteed quotas of government jobs and other perks in a form of affirmative action. This also stoked long-held fears among the Kuki that the Meitei might also be allowed to acquire land in areas currently reserved for them and other tribal groups. The military has deployed thousands of troops to the state, where curfews have been imposed and the internet cut for several weeks. An indefinite curfew was reimposed on Wednesday in the flashpoint Bishnupur district after suspected militants fired at a group of people, fatally wounding one person.

### Durrani pays glowing tributes to martyrs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Paying glowing tribute to martyrs of the country, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Dr. Iftikhar Durrani said that the death of a martyr was life of the nation because the nation survived due to these martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the state and country. In a special video message of regarding martyrs on Thursday, Dr. Iftikhar Durrani said that indeed, a martyr was alive because of his sacrifice the nation and the state were alive. He said that this was the story of the eternal and everlasting sacrifices of martyrs, which had been going on since independence of this country. However, Dr. Iftikhar Durrani stated that not only civilian law enforcement but citizens of this country have also rendered matchless sacrifices in the war against terrorism. He went on to say: "Owing to these huge sacrifices, we won the war against terrorism." "I salute all these martyrs, their families and children who sacrificed their lives to bring normalcy to the country."

# Africa full of potential to play vital role at global level

Sohail Mahmood added that this Africa Day was an important occasion to acknowledge the significance of "Engage Africa" policy as part of Pakistan commitment to comprehensively upgrade its partnership with African countries, both on the bilateral and Continental plane

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira Thursday said that Africa with full of opportunities and potential, would play an increasingly important role at the global level in coming years. He was speaking at a special event organized by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) to celebrate "Africa Day 2023", said a news release. Kaira said that Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy was a testament to its commitment to strengthening its relations with African nations in myriad field. The policy is encouraging trade and investment between Pakistan and African countries, he added. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to the engage Africa policy, he stated, "We must overcome any challenges and keep moving forward towards greater progress."

The other speakers on the occasion were Dean of African Corps/Ambassador of Morocco, Mohammad Karmoune; Additional Secretary Africa Javed Ahmad Umerani; Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood and Director CAMEA Amina Khan. The Heads of African Missions in Pakistan and Heads of Pakistan Missions in Africa also spoke on the occasion. Academics and members of the business community and students participated in the celebratory event. Stalls exhibiting African products were also set up by the African Missions in Islamabad.

Director General ISSI Sohail Mahmood, in his welcome remarks, said that Pakistan's relations with Africa were long-standing, marked by warmth, cordiality, mutual respect and close cooperation. Africa, with its vast natural resources, young population and untapped potential had emerged as a land of immense opportunities, he expressed. He said that the continent was experiencing rapid economic growth and technological advancement, adding the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has multiplied those possibilities and it is no wonder that Africa is called the 'Continent of the Future'. Sohail Mahmood added that this Africa Day was an important occasion to acknowledge the significance of "Engage Africa" policy as part of Pakistan commitment to comprehensively upgrade its partnership with African countries, both on the bilateral and Continental plane. On the occasion, Amina Khan said every year, CAMEA at ISSI commemorates 'Africa Day'. This served as a testament to ISSI's unwavering commitment to foster closer relations between Pakistan and the African Continent, she said. She added that Pakistan had established and strengthened diplomatic missions across the Continent to facilitate meaningful dialogue and promote cooperation in diverse areas of mutual interest. The economic cooperation formed a vital pillar of Pakistan's engagement with Africa and therefore recognized the tremendous potential for trade and investment between the two sides, she added. Dean of the African Corps Ambassador Mohammed Kar-



roune, while expressing his views, said that Africa was now building its single market to facilitate trade among states parties to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and with the rest of the world. He further said that the African Union had made the 'Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area implementation' its main theme for the year 2023 to increase the attractiveness of the African market for trade and investment, though a number of critical protocols were yet to be negotiated, finalized and implemented. Javed Ahmad Umerani, Additional Secretary (Africa) at the Foreign Office, underlined

that Africa Day served as a significant reminder of the historic struggles and aspirations of the African people in their journey towards independence, self-determination and unity, which Pakistan had fully supported. Pakistan and Africa shared bonds that went beyond geographical proximity and these historical bonds had been reemphasized with the introduction of the 'Engage Africa' policy by Pakistan, which had become an important part of the country's foreign policy agenda, he added. The event concluded with the launch of a special Issue of ISSI's PIVOT magazine titled 'Engaging Africa.'

## Ron DeSantis 2024 launch hit by Twitter tech glitch

WEB DESK

FLORIDA: Ron DeSantis's long-awaited entry into the 2024 race for the White House was hit by technical glitches after a Twitter livestream malfunctioned. It meant the Florida governor's bid for the Republican presidential nomination got under way 20 minutes late. He went on to use the event to champion his conservative credentials, his anti-lockdown stance and education reforms. "I am running for president of the United States to lead our great American comeback," he said. The Florida governor is viewed as former President Donald Trump's chief rival to be their party's candidate in the 2024 general election. Mr DeSantis is a relative newcomer in US politics, having first been elected to the House of Representatives in 2012. Just six years later in 2018 - after a failed bid to become a senator - he was elected governor of Florida. He has overseen the enactment of high-profile laws that make it easier to own a gun, restrict sex and gender identity education in schools, and curtail abortion access. He has claimed that this "Florida Blueprint" can act as a guide for federal policies, one that would move the US in a sharply conservative direction. He joins a growing list of contenders seeking to unseat Mr Trump, who leads the Republican field by more than 30 points in national opinion polls. By the time Wednesday evening's Twitter talk had begun in earnest, hundreds of thousands of Twitter users had left the platform. Since Mr Musk took the reins at Twitter in October, he has laid off thousands of employees, including engineers responsible for the site's operations and technical troubleshooting. Mr DeSantis's team worked quickly to spin the technical stumbles, writing on Twitter that the announcement had broken "the internet with so much excitement", and posting a link to the campaign website. His press secretary Bryan Griffin claimed the online event had raised \$1m (£808,000) in an hour. At one point, the Twitter event drew more than 600,000 listeners, according to Reuters news agency figures, but by its conclusion, there were fewer than 300,000.

## Khartoum: Fresh clashes threaten ceasefire

The ceasefire deal comes after five weeks of intensive warfare in Khartoum

KHARTOUM: Clashes between rival military factions broke out on Wednesday in Sudan's capital, residents said, threatening to shatter a fragile cease-fire designed to allow for the delivery of aid and lay the ground for a more lasting truce. The cease-fire deal, which is being monitored by Saudi Arabia and the United States as well as the warring parties, comes after five weeks of intensive warfare in the capital Khartoum and outbursts of violence in other areas of the country, including the western region of Darfur. The fighting pits Sudan's army against the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and has escalated a humanitarian crisis, forcing over 1.3 million people to flee their homes and threatening to destabilize the wider region. The cease-fire had brought a relative lull in fighting in

Khartoum on Tuesday, although little sign of a rapid scale-up in humanitarian relief. Witnesses reported clashes in several areas of the capital on Wednesday afternoon. West of central Khartoum columns of black smoke could be seen rising into the air, and there was shelling near an army camp in southern Khartoum, they said. In Bahri, one of the three cities around the confluence of the Blue Nile and White Nile rivers that make up Sudan's greater capital, the sound of clashes and artillery fire could be heard. Witnesses in Omdurman, the third city, reported that an army fighter plane had been shot down, and videos posted on social media appeared to show the incident. The footage could not immediately be verified. Earlier, residents reported artillery fire near the Wadi Sayidna military base on the outskirts of Omdurman. - Agencies

## China to rescue Pak as IMF hopes fade: UK paper

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is now looking towards its all-weather friend China in order to avert the risk of a possible default as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) continues to monitor developments before approving the loan tranche - pending for several months. While contemplating ways to meet other repay-

ment deadlines as the country has about \$3.7 billion in overseas debt due this month and in June against its current foreign exchange reserves of just \$4.3 billion. Islamabad - according to Financial Times - is hoping China will rollover more than \$2 billion in debt due next month. Beijing had committed to help the country

meet two crucial debt repayments in June worth \$2.3 billion by providing fresh funds immediately after Pakistan makes the payments, two senior officials told the UK publication. The officials said: "The refinancing of the commercial loans worth \$1.3 billion and a Chinese government loan of \$1 billion would help Pakistan avert immediate default." It should be noted that China earlier this year already rolled over some loans to Pakistan and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang also reiterated Beijing's financial support for the country on a visit to Pakistan earlier this month. The Chinese government did not respond to a request for comment on the latest developments. - APP

## Ex-PTI MPA among 16 handed over to army for trial

"They are found guilty of offences Under Sections 3,7 and 9 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 read with Section 2(1)(d) and 59(4) of Pakistan Army Act, 1952, exclusively triable by Military Court, to the acceptance of which learned DPG did not raise any objection and forwarded the request for appropriate orders."

DNA

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court on Thursday allowed the handover of 16 suspects, involved in the ransacking and vandalising of Jinnah House, to the commanding officer so they can be tried under the army laws, as the country tightens the noose on the perpetrators of May 9 mayhem. Enraged by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's arrest, party supporters pillaged government and military installations on

May 9. To contain the violence, the government called in the army and announced to try the protesters under army laws. A large number of PTI workers and leaders were arrested in a countrywide crackdown. In the order issued today, ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan accepted the request of the army officer who had sought the custody of the vandals presently confined in Camp Jail, Lahore. They were named in two separate cases filed in connection with the attack on Corps Commander House also known as Jinnah House. The accused include Amar Zohaib,

Ali Iftikhar, Ali Raza, Muhammad Arsalan, Muhammad Umair, Muhammad Raheem, Zia-ur-Rehman, Waqas Ali, Raees Ahmad, Faisal Irshad, Muhammad Bilal Hussain, Faheem Haider, Arzam Jumaid, ex-PTI MPA Mian Muhammad Akram Usman, Muhammad Hashir Khan, and Hassan Shakir. "In view of the request made by Irfan Athar, Commanding Officer/Military Officer, duly forwarded by the prosecution as the case of above mentioned accused is exclusively triable by a military court, therefore, while accepting the request

of Commanding Officer u/s 549(3) Cr.P.C, read with Rule 7(f) of Criminal Procedure (Military Offenders) Rules 1970, Superintendent, Camp Jail, Lahore is directed to hand over the custody of above said accused to Commanding Officer for further proceedings in accordance with the law," the order said. "They are found guilty of offences Under Sections 3,7 and 9 of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 read with Section 2(1)(d) and 59(4) of Pakistan Army Act, 1952, exclusively triable by Military Court, to the acceptance of which learned DPG

did not raise any objection and forwarded the request for appropriate orders." Meanwhile, Amnesty International strongly opposed Pakistan authorities' decision of handing over civilian to military courts for trial and called upon the authorities concerned to immediately reverse the decision. In a statement, the organisation highlighted that "the right to a fair trial is a constitutional right and an obligation under Pakistan's international human rights commitments".

## Saudi Arabia restores diplomatic ties with Canada

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry announced on Wednesday that it is restoring diplomatic relations with Canada. The decision comes after a discussion between Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Bangkok in November last year. The desire of both sides to restore relations was based on mutual respect and common interests, the ministry said.

The move seeks to restore relations to how they were before a diplomatic rift, in which Riyadh felt that Ottawa was interfering in the Kingdom's internal affairs, damaged ties between the nations in 2018. The Canadian foreign ministry said that Jean-Philippe Linteau would be the new ambassador to the Kingdom. Linteau was most recently the consul general of Canada in Dubai. The Saudi foreign ministry statement did not mention who the Kingdom's ambassador to Ottawa would be.

The spat led to Riyadh recalling its ambassador and expelling Ottawa's envoy to the Kingdom. Additionally, Saudi Arabia froze new investment in Canada, halted a scholarship program to the North American country, and ended all flights to Canada by national carrier Saudia.

## Spanish PM faces key test in regional elections

MADRID: Spain votes Sunday in local and regional polls which will test Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's chances of remaining in power after a general election later this year. In office since 2018, the stakes are high for Sanchez, whose party governs the eurozone's fourth-largest economy in coalition with the far-left Podemos. Of the 12 regions voting on Sunday, 10 are governed by the Socialists either alone or as part of a coalition.

These regional governments have been crucial allies for Sanchez, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic when he relied on them to impose restrictions on social life. But the votes could mark "a turn to the right" whose magnitude could define the next general election, which has to be held by the end of the year, said Pablo Simon, a political science professor at Madrid's Carlos III University. The main opposition conservative Popular Party (PP) - which has for months topped opinion polls - has framed Sunday's elections as a referendum on Sanchez. "It is only by voting that we can start to turn the page on 'Sanchismo,'" PP head Alberto Nunez Feijoo said Tuesday, using a derogatory expression for Sanchez's policies. - APP

## Japan scrambles jets after Russian planes spotted

DNA

TOKYO: Japan scrambled fighter jets after spotting Russian "intelligence-gathering" aircraft off its coasts along the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Japan on Thursday, the country's defence ministry has said. One Russian aircraft travelled from Japan's north down along part of its west coast, while the other took a similar route along the opposite coast and returned the same way, the Joint Staff office run under the defence ministry said in a brief statement. "In response, fighters of the Air Self-Defence Force's Northern Air Force and other units were scrambled," it added. There was no further information on the incident, which comes days after Japan hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the summit of Group of Seven (G7) - a grouping of rich nations - in Hiroshima city. Japan has joined Western allies in sanctioning Moscow over its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, and has warned of the threat posed by Russia.