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Macron urges Europe to develop own air defense systems

Detailed News On Page-07

Germany urges China to lean harder on Russia

Detailed News On Page-07



Joselu delighted at dream return to Madrid

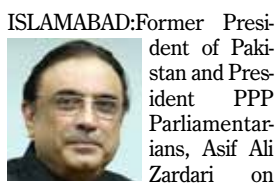
Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Zardari pays tribute to Benazir

STAFF REPORT



ISLAMABAD: Former President of Pakistan and President PPP Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari on the occasion of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's birth anniversary falling on 21 June in a message to the nation has said that the PPP should be steadfast on the philosophy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto must fulfil her dreams. President Zardari said that the aim of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's politics was to end the darkness of ignorance from the country. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto struggled throughout her life to liberate people from social and economic exploitation.

Abbasi says no differences with Nawaz

DNA



LONDON: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has resigned from the party's post in January and he is not a party official now. He said this while talking to media persons in London on Monday after meeting with PML-N Supremo Nawaz Sharif. The former premier said that he has no differences with PML-N or Nawaz Sharif. He said that when he change the leadership, it was not possible for him to stay in any position of the party.

Complaints of pilgrims resolved

NEWS DESK



MAKKAH: Minister for Religious and Interfaith Harmony Senator Talha Mahmood says nearly all of the 15,000 registered complaints of the pilgrims have been resolved under his supervision that were directly referred to him through the complaint portal. In a video message, he mentioned that after the conclusion of Hajj, he would personally address complaints concerning private Hajj group organizers.

Imran faces non-bailable arrest warrant

Arrest warrants also issued for PTI leaders Hammad Azhar, Mian Aslam Iqbal and others

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Tuesday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and other party leaders. The non-bailable arrest warrants were also issued for PTI leaders Hammad Azhar, Mian Aslam Iqbal and others. The court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant at the request of the investigating officer. The cases against the accused were registered in the Naseerabad and Model Town police stations of Lahore for torching the container and attacking Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) office in the provincial capital. Dozens of cases ranging from terrorism to corruption have been registered against the deposed prime minister since being ousted from power via a no-trust motion in April last year. Other party leaders including the party chief were also booked under terrorism charges following riots sparked by the arrest of the former PM in the Al-Qadir Trust case on May 9. During the nearly three-day-long violent protests, PTI supporters allegedly attacked and torched state installations, leaving at least eight dead and dozens others injured. Following the violent protests, several PTI leaders and founding members including Shireen Mazari, Fawad Chaudhry, Imran Ismail, Ali Zaidi, Aamir Mehmood Kiani and others parted their

Continued on Page 06

Asad Umar, Qureshi's bail petitions rejected

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi and party quitter Asad Umar escaped from H8 Kuchehri Court in Islamabad on Tuesday after being denied bail in the May 9 arson case. A district and sessions court heard the bail applications of Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Asad Qaiser and Asad Umar in a case filed at Tarnol police station. Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra, while announcing a reserved judgment on the petitions, dismissed the bail pleas of Asad Umar, Asad Qaiser and Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umar managed to evade arrest when the bail was rejected and immediately the two leaders escaped from Kuchehri in the same car. A video of their escape has surfaced on social media in which it could be seen that the two leaders hurriedly got into the car and left immediately.

Greece shipwreck

Probe to complete within a week: Rana

It would also identify loopholes and lapses in Pakistan's legal mechanism

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah promised on Tuesday that the investigation into the Greece boat tragedy would be completed within a week as authorities arrested two more traffickers allegedly involved in human smuggling. Last week, an Italy-bound fishing trawler reportedly carrying at least 800 people - including hundreds of Pakistanis - capsized off Greece. Only 104 people are known to have survived and the chance of finding more survivors was seen as virtually nil. Foreign media confirmed that the death toll of the tragedy has reached 81 after three more bodies were fished out of the sea. As the news of the tragedy unfolded, Pakistan observed a mourning day on Monday and the Interior Ministry said special legislation would be passed to

Continued on Page 06

FM talks to Greek counterpart

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that he had a useful telephonic conversation with his Greek counterpart Vassilis Kaskarelis and discussed the tragic boat disaster off the coast of Greece. During a telephonic conversation, the foreign ministers discussed the tragic boat disaster off the coast of Greece, Bilawal Bhutto posted on his Twitter handle. "[We] agreed to closely

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, Sweden partner to enable safe restoration efforts



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan, in collaboration with Business Sweden - the Swedish Trade & Invest Council, hosted a report launch event titled "Rebuild for a Resilient Pakistan." The event aimed to raise awareness about the ongoing recovery efforts in Pakistan following the devastating floods in 2022 and emphasized the need for long-term, sustainable solutions. The report highlighted the potential for cooperation between Team Sweden and Pakistan in various key areas, including capacity building, energy transition, communi-

ty infrastructure, transport and housing, as well as hazard monitoring and prediction. During the event, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, Henrik Persson, expressed Sweden's commitment to supporting the Pakistani people and government in their recovery process. He emphasized the importance of rebuilding basic infrastructure and highlighted Sweden's ability to provide significant sustainable solutions in various vital sectors. Ambassador Persson also emphasized the willingness of the private sector to contribute and cooperate to create favorable conditions for growth and prosperity in Pakistan.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan signed an agreement for Unit 5 of Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (C-5). Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Ms. Pang Chunxue chargéé d'affaires China, Shen Yanfeng, Vice President of China National Nuclear Corporation witnessed the signing ceremony. - DNA

Dreaded terrorist linked with TTP killed

According to intelligence reports, he was administered poison

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An important terrorist associated with Jamaat Al-Ahrar and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Taliban has been killed in Pakistan. Terrorist commander Sarbakaf Mohmand died under mysterious circumstances. According to sources, the internal differences between the two terrorist organizations - Al-Ahrar and TTP - resulted in the death of Sarbakaf. A few days ago, a news was doing rounds on social media that Sarbakaf was poisoned to death. Lately, Sarbakaf Mehmood had been proclaiming himself the substitute of Noor Wali Mehsood. According to intelligence reports, he was administered poison by Mufti Noor Wali Mehsood group. It has been believed that Noor Wali Mehsood was behind the murder of another Al-Ahrar commander Abdul Wali some time back. Sarbakaf was member of the Al-Ahrar which was later merged into the TTP. But the merger could not even remove the differences between the two proscribed terrorist outfits mainly due to division of territory for kidnapping and exploitation of children. Sarbakaf had been involved in the terrorist activities for a long time. He was the mastermind of several terrorist attacks in Pakistan including Peshawar police blast.

Continued on Page 06

Pak, China ink MoU to build new unit of Chashma Power Plant

Signing of MoU to further cement economic cooperation: PM

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to build a new unit of the 1,200 MW Chashma-5 (C-5) nuclear power project. Wang Yongge, president of the China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas Ltd (CNOS) and Muhammad Saedur Rehman from the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) signed the agreement for unit 5 of the power plant. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was also present on the occasion alongside Chinese Charge d' Affaires Pang Chunxue. "It is a great occasion and a great moment between two great friends, China and Pakistan," the premier said while addressing the ceremony, adding that the power project was a "great step forward" for economic cooperation between the two countries. The premier said that he had inaugurated the K-3 nuclear power project in Karachi a few months ago and today an agreement had been signed for the C-5 project. "Hopefully, we will kickstart it without further delay," he said. He noted that investment from China, to the tune of \$4.8 billion, had sent a message "loud and clear" that Pakistan was a place where Chinese

Continued on Page 06

PM, Army Chief discuss economic, security issues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting between Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir was held on Tuesday. PM Shehbaz Sharif and the Army Chief discussed the security and economic situation of the country in the meeting. The channel reported that COAS General Asim Munir gave a briefing to the PM on the internal and external security situation of the country. The channel report further said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed confidence in the security briefing of the Army Chief. Separately, PM Shehbaz also chaired an important meeting on the economic investment plan in which COAS General Asim Munir also participated. Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah,

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

Strengthening Iran ties key to Border & Energy Security - Page 02

Performance of construction sector is example for others - Page 03

President stresses economic diplomacy to boost trade - Page 04

The politics of climate change: Analyzing policy approaches and global cooperation - Page 05

Seth-led PCB Management Committee dissolved - Page 06

Finland swears in new right-wing coalition govt - Page 07

Pak-IMF talks collapse as agreement expires on 30th - Page 08

WHO donates medicines to KP health dept

PESHAWAR: Dr. Palitha Mahipala, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Pakistan, Tuesday visited the Director General Health Services (DGHS) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and inaugurated the organization's camp office located within the DGHS premises, emphasizing the importance of close coordination between WHO and the health department. In a significant gesture of support, Dr. Mahipala handed over essential medicines worth Rs 60 million to Dr. Shaukat Ali, the Director General of Health Department in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. DG Health, Dr. Shaukat Ali, expressed his gratitude for the generous contribution from WHO, recognizing the critical role it would play in addressing healthcare needs in the region. The donated medicines from WHO Pakistan include Artemether, Primaquine, Glucan time injections (46,500 quantity), Malaria kits PF/PV, and other essential medicines. —DNA

Kundi takes notice of public complaints about BISP payments

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday took notice of the public complaints regarding recent payments of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). In a statement, the minister said an inquiry was being conducted against Bank Al-Falah to probe its links down and other system issues on payment centers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said the poor people were facing difficulties due to non payment of their stipend, adding, the high ups of the bank were contacted in that regard. The BISP secretary was investigating the matter of non-payment of stipend to women for two days, he mentioned. Faisal Kundi said the strict action would be taken against the bank involved in this negligence. —APP

Heat wave predicted in southern, central parts of KP

PESHAWAR: The Met Office on Tuesday predicted heat wave like conditions in southern and central parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa till June 24 with day temperature likely to remain 03 to 05C above the normal. However occasional dust, thunderstorm with rain, wind and thunderstorm is likely to occur over isolated places in Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Torghar, Kohistan, Shangla, Swat, Buner and Upper Dir districts in evening and night while dust raising gusty winds are likely to occur in plain areas during the period. It said that due to rise in temperature power and water demand would increase in the coming days and farmers were advised to manage the watering of crops accordingly. —APP

PRCS Chairman calls on Ambassador of Germany

Ambassador Alfred Grannas praised the exceptional services of PRCS during natural disasters and emergencies, specifically acknowledging their recent humanitarian assistance to flood-affected families

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari held a meeting with the Ambassador of Germany to Pakistan, H. E. Alfred Grannas here on Tuesday. H.E. Alfred Grannas warmly welcomed Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari to the German Embassy. Both the dignitaries engaged in discussions encompassing various topics, including bilateral relations and the importance of strengthening cooperation for the betterment of humanity. During the meeting, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari provided a comprehensive overview of the programs and initiatives of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, specifically regarding rescue, relief, rehabilitation, and



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates Margalla Avenue.—DNA

Strengthening Iran ties key to Border & Energy Security

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Defence, chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, convened a meeting today to address important issues pertaining to national security and the well-being of the citizens. Senators Walid Iqbal, Hidayat Ullah, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Dr Zaqqa Suharwardy Taimur, Engr Rukhsana Zuberi, Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan and Mover; ex-Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan attended the meeting. Secretary Ministry of Defence Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood Uz Zaman HI(M), Additional Secretary Ministry of Defence, Major General Khurram and DG, Military Lands & Cantonments, Major General Tariq, and CEO Rawalpindi Cantonment, also participated. The meeting commenced with Fateha offered for the souls who lost their lives in the Greece boat tragedy. The Committee extended their heartfelt condolences to the

bereaved families and expressed solidarity with them during this difficult time. The meeting discussed in detail the unauthorized commercial activities in Westridge, Rawalpindi Cantt. The Director General Military Lands and Cantonments (ML&C) delivered a detailed presentation, highlighting the steps taken to address the issue. He informed the committee that the department has been actively combating illegal activities and commercialization. However, due to a Supreme Court order issued on 5th January 2022, the ML&C has been restrained from taking action against school premises. The DG ML&C assured the committee that once the Cantonment Board (Amendment) Act 2023 is passed by the Parliament, stringent measures, including heavy fines and property sealing, will be implemented to ensure compliance with the directions. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed assured the petitioner that he would expedite the

process in the Senate, aiming for the prompt enactment of the act to resolve the long-standing concerns of the residents. Following a comprehensive discussion, the Chair disposed of the matter, after ensuring the satisfaction of the petitioner. The Committee was also briefed on counter-terrorism operations conducted by the Pakistan Army in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as the security situation on the borders with Iran and Afghanistan. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed commended the recent meeting between the Pakistan Prime Minister and the President of Iran at the Pak-Iran border, considering it a positive step forward in strengthening ties between the two nations. He also welcomed the recent high-level visits to Iran by senior Pakistan security and diplomatic officials, which would yield positive results for peace, border security and economic connectivity. Senator Mushahid

termed close ties with Iran as pivotal for Pakistan's border and energy security. The Committee also discussed in detail the security situation on the Pak-Afghan border and expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the government towards ensuring peace on the border. They also underlined the need for a proactive and consistent CT strategy that should focus on a pro-people approach with no quarter or compromise with any terrorist group. The members of the Defence Committee expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Defence for their comprehensive and candid briefings and continuous support and underlined the commitment to safeguarding national security, addressing public concerns, and fostering harmonious relations with neighboring countries. The Committee will continue to monitor the progress made on these issues and take appropriate actions to ensure the well-being and security of the Pakistani people. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed condemned the recent brutal murder

of Haji Sher Muhammad, a grandson of the legendary Faqir of Ipi, in North Waziristan, and the arrest of Ali Wazir, MNA. Senator Mushahid Hussain concurred with the views of Senator Mushtaq, saying that the arrest of Ali Wazir at this time would be detrimental to security of the borderlands while it was also a violation of the law passed by Parliament that explicitly stated that 'no member of parliament should be arrested without Speaker's permission'. He called for the release of Ali Wazir. He also hailed the Faqir of Ipi as a famous anti-imperialist freedom fighter. The Chairman of the Defence Committee referred these two issues to the Senate Human Rights Committee, whose Chairman, Senator Walid Iqbal, readily agreed to put it on the HR Committee's agenda for consideration. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair. Secretary of the Senate Defence Committee, Major (r) Hasnain Haider, was also present on the occasion.

OGRA takes swift action against violations in LPG industry

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a proactive move to ensure compliance with safety standards and regulations in the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) industry, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) Enforcement Department, under the instructions of Chairman Masroor Khan, conducted inspections on a number of LPG plants in collaboration with the local authority. During the inspections, a concerning discovery was made at one particular LPG plant, which was found to be in violation of OGRA guidelines and compromising safety measures. The inspection revealed that the LPG plant, whose licensee is responsible for adhering to OGRA's stringent guidelines, was engaged in the filling of gas in sub-standard cylinders, blatantly disregarding safety protocols that are in place to protect the public and ensure the safe handling of LPG. Furthermore, it was discovered that cylinders belonging to other reputable companies, including PSO, were being illegally filled at this plant, posing a serious risk to consumers. Immediately upon uncovering these violations, the plant in question was promptly sealed by OGRA to prevent any further non-compliant activities and to protect the welfare of the public. OGRA has initiated legal proceedings against the licensee of the plant, ensuring that the responsible party will be held accountable for their actions. Imran Ghaznavi, the spokesman for OGRA, emphasized the importance of maintaining the highest standards of safety and compliance within the LPG industry. He stated, "OGRA remains committed to safeguarding the interests of consumers and ensuring their well-being. We will not tolerate any compromise on safety standards, and those found violating the regulations.

CJ PHC pays maiden visit to district court Khyber

PESHAWAR: Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court on Tuesday visited District Courts Khyber. It was a historical maiden visit of a female Chief Justice to a merged district. During her

visit, she inaugurated the extension of sub-jail Barra, the project of rehabilitation of Courts and allied facilities at District Courts, Jamrud and lastly, sub-Jail Jamrud was thoroughly visited. At Barra,

her ladyship was warmly received by the District and Sessions Judge, Inspector General of prisons, Deputy commissioner, DPO and XEN C&W. After inaugurating the extension block of

Sub Jail Barra, the District and Sessions Judge in his welcome remarks felicitated her ladyship for becoming the voice of the voiceless and savior of the neglected section in the justice system. The extension of sub-jail Barra was termed a "blessing" by the inmates who previously were living in pigeonholes and had no access even to sunlight.—APP

KP Minister inspects pace of work on irrigation sector projects

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Irrigation Minister Haji Fazl Elahi visited Warsak Left Bank System in district Khyber and inspected the pace of work on ongoing projects and related Kabul Canal Head and the Warsak system on the right bank of Kabul River. Chief Engineer (South) Engineer Yasin Khan, and Superintending Engineer Peshawar Engineer Baatur Zaman Khan were also present along with the Provincial Irrigation Minister. Executive Engineer Peshawar Canal Division Peshawar Engineer Saifullah Khan and Executive Engineer Warsak Canal

Division Peshawar Engineer Mamreez Khan along with their staff gave a detailed briefing to the Provincial Irrigation Minister. The minister appreciated the progress of work with the operation/maintenance of infrastructure. While giving instructions, he said that the good work should be continued and the quality should be given full attention so that the Irrigation Department and the public can get the benefits. Haji Fazl Elahi, in a briefing about the rehabilitation and reconstruction project of Warsak lift Bank Canal, was told that 78 percent of the project has been completed.—APP



RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Karakoram International University sign MoU. The agreement was signed by Vice Chancellor Karakoram International University Professor Dr. Ataulah Shah and President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saqib Rafiq. —DNA

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE

- June 02/Italy
National/ Independence Day
- June 04/Finland
Armed Forces Day
- June 06/Sweden
National Day
- June 10/Portugal
Portugal Day (National Day)
- June 10/Jordan
Arab Revolution & Army Day
- June 11/United Kingdom
Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth
- June 12/Philippines
Independence Day
- June 12/Russian Federation
Day of Sovereignty of the Russian
- June 13/Zambia
Armed Forces day
- June 17/Iceland
National Day
- June 18/Seychells
National Day
- June 25/Croatia
National Day
- June 25/Mozambique
National Day
- June 26/Azerbaijan
Army Day

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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
Cantt Hospital..9270907-11
DHQ.....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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Performance of construction sector is example for others

He said that the government and the industry should work together to ensure that all the raw materials are sourced in Pakistan and that the industry depends less on imports

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the construction sector in Pakistan has performed excellent services for the last two decades. While this sector has supported the government in providing basic needs like housing to the people, it has also created sustainable employment opportunities for millions of people. Gulberg Green Islamabad made his name on the basis of excellent location, infrastructure and timely delivery. I congratulate the new body on its victory in Gulberg Estate Agents Association elections. Their victory is a reflection of the confidence of all members. He expressed these views on the occasion of his visit to Gulberg Islamabad yesterday. President Islamabad Chamber along with the delegation congratulated the entire body including President Najeeb Elahi Malik, General Secretary Naveed Malik on the victory in the State Agents Association elections and expressed the hope that the newly elected body will serve the interests of society and citizens. President Islamabad Chamber said that the construction sector is developing rapidly. This sector has benefited the government, industry and common man. By removing the difficulties faced by the construction industry, the government can not only get more revenue but also meet the annual



housing requirement which is increasing with each passing year. He said that the government and the industry should work together to ensure that all the raw materials are sourced in Pakistan and that the industry depends less on imports. The government cannot meet the basic housing needs of such a more than 24 crores population without the support of the private sector. He said that the acceptance Gulberg Green Islamabad has received is proof of how sincere each and every person associated with the society is in their

cause. The society has set new goals in the construction sector in Pakistan, all the famous domestic brands are present in this society. D.Watson has also opened its branch here to serve the citizens. On this occasion, Vice President Chamber Engineer Azhar Islam said that Gulberg Green is one of the most important societies of Islamabad. I congratulate the newly elected body on behalf of the Chamber and the entire business community on their victory. The newly elected president of Gulberg State Agents Association Najeeb Elahi Malik said that I am

grateful to the president of Islamabad Chamber and the entire business community with whose support we got this victory, the trust that our people have shown in us. We will work day and night to fulfill this, the society has got this position with the joint efforts of state agents and administration. Former President FPCCI Zubair Malik said that construction will increase in the coming years due to the development of construction sector and increase in demand. In this way, other industries related to the construction sector will also develop. Secretary

General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that people have expressed their confidence in the body that won the State Agents Association elections. I hope that the newly elected body will play an active role in solving the problems of the traders in collaboration with the chamber. President Islamabad State Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mehmood said that the construction sector is of key importance in the development and stability of the country's economy. With the development of the construction sector, 40 industries related to it will get a boost while creating ample employment opportunities. Newly elected Secretary General Gulberg Green State Agents Association Naveed Malik said that state agents play an important role in the development and reputation of any society. We have already voted on the basis of performance and will keep our performance in front of the people. Former ICCI president Ijaz Abbasi said that such a beautiful society, its construction and settlement is not possible without estate agents. I congratulate the newly elected body for its brilliant performance and overwhelming victory. Secretary General Islamabad Estate Agents Association Chaudhry Zahid Rafique said that our organization stands with the newly elected body, we have solved problems together before and this process will continue in the future.

First bin of concrete pouring completed at T5 Tarbe

DNA

TARBELA: After the completion of the excavation, Tarbela 5th Extension Project has entered a new construction stage by completing the first bin of concrete pouring at the project's tailwater box culverts.

The project team meticulously organized constructions and continued improving technologies, fostering an enabling environment for the first bin of concrete pouring," POWERCHINA said in a statement on Monday, adding that the completion of the concrete pouring of tailwater box culverts indicates the smooth transition of the project from excavation to the concrete pouring of the main body, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. On May 6, 2021, POWERCHINA signed a contract for civil works of the 1410 MW Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project with the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA). The project is scheduled to start electricity generation by July 2025 with an annual supply of 1.81-billion-unit low-cost and clean electricity to the National Grid.

'Youth programmes vital'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed promoting entrepreneurship and innovation to help the country come out of financial constraints. "I have long been convinced that for Pakistan to break out of the economic straitjacket, it is vital to promote programs that aim at nurturing entrepreneurship and innovation in areas that are critical to our socio-economic development," he wrote on Twitter. PM Sharif expressed his "unwavering faith" in the competence and capability of our talented youth to break the glass ceiling.—DNA

Pak philanthropist uplifting communities

ISLAMABAD: Shakeel Ahmad Meer, the visionary British Pakistani founder of MW, a leading investment group, has emerged as a philanthropic icon due to his steadfast dedication to education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, environmental conservation, and social welfare. Dubai-based Meer inspires positive change, utilizing resources to uplift and champion meaningful causes in communities. By providing mentoring, guidance, and investment opportunities, he empowers young entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into reality, fostering an environment of innovation and growth. The success story of Shakeel Ahmad Meer, serves as a source of inspiration for the next generation of entrepreneurs in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a region renowned for its thriving business landscape. Meer's visionary approach has made him a shining example for those aspiring to leave their mark in the business world. Meer's philanthropy and leadership style have made him an iconic figure, going beyond financial success. He believes in using his wealth to create positive change, exemplifying the importance of making a meaningful difference in society. From humble beginnings to trailblazing in the UAE business community, Shakeel Ahmad Meer's extraordinary journey resonates with dreamers and go-getters. Talking to APP, he said his remarkable success is a testament to the boundless opportunities that await those who embrace unwavering determination and pursue their ambitions with tenacity. Meer's accomplishments extend beyond financial success, as he has also paved the way for others to thrive. His diverse portfolio, ranging from real estate to entertainment ventures, showcases his astute ability to identify opportunities and effectively navigate shifting market dynamic. However, Meer's commitment to nurturing young talent is what truly sets him apart. Through his various endeavors, he actively inspires and supports the next generation of business leaders. Meer's own journey from being an aspiring entrepreneur to a successful entrepreneur is a source of hope for countless aspiring entrepreneurs.—APP

Beef export to China to drive related industrial development

ISLAMABAD: "The export of Pakistani beef to China is expected to increase Pakistan's foreign exchange income and drive the development of Pakistan's related industries including breeding and processing," said Dr. Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Commissioner of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. He was commenting on the great benefit of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) granting Pakistani heated beef access to the Chinese market, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. According to Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-23, the cattle stock of Pakistan in FY 2022-23 is estimated to be 55.5 million, buffalo stock is estimated to be 45 million and beef production is projected to reach 2.54 million tons. During the same period, Pakistan's export of meat and meat preparation is expected to reach \$302 million with a quantity of 69,072 tons. These figures show that Pakistan has huge potential to be tapped in the export of meat and its products, including beef. In recent years, China's beef imports have shown rapid growth driven by the upgraded consumption of Chinese residents. Due to its proximity to China, the logistics and transportation costs of Pakistan's beef to be exported can be reduced considerably. Dr. Gu pointed out that heat-treated beef is expected to open up segmented markets such as snacks and pre-made dishes. To promote more exports of Pakistani beef to China, Dr. Gu pointed out the need to speed up the construction of foot-and-mouth disease-free zones in Pakistan. Although Pakistan's animal husbandry sector is not underdeveloped, it still needs advanced technologies for industrial upgrading and extension of the industrial chain. "China has rich experience in forage cultivation, cattle breeding, cattle farm construction and management, waste treatment and utilization.—DNA

PM donates 4 transport vans for orphan children at Pak Sweet Homes

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday donated four transport vans for the children residing at Pakistan Sweet Homes (PSH) orphanage. The prime minister handed over the keys of the vans worth Rs 62 million to Chairperson PSH Zamurad Khan. Talking to students of PSH Cadet

College, the prime minister urged them to work hard and focus on learning contemporary knowledge. Terming the students the "real future of the country", he said the youth could positively contribute towards the development of their homeland. He advised them to explore the fields of medicine, engineering, sci-

entific research, agriculture, and information technology. PM Sharif lauded Zamurad Khan for his tireless efforts in the upbringing of the orphan children at Pakistan Sweet Homes. The prime minister along with students took a ride in the transport van. The children raised slogans of Pakistan Zindabad (Long

Live Pakistan). Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was also present. The Pakistan Sweet Home was started as a project of Bait-ul-Mal in 2009 when a single child from Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was handed over to Zamurad Khan. Since then, the Pakistan Sweet Home family has grown to its five centers across the country.—APP



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia Mohammad Azhar bin Mazlan taking interest in various local products during an exhibition on Tuesday. —DNA

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Briefs

Smart PV devotes to withstand extreme weather in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Smart PV devoted to withstand extreme weather in Pakistan. To solve the power crisis that has seriously affected industrial production and residents' lives and optimize the country's power supply system that heavily relies on fossil fuels, Pakistan is cooperating with Chinese industry leaders under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to seek solutions. "Huawei takes advantage of digital technology to integrate existing digital technology with photovoltaic, energy storage, cloud and AI technologies, providing FusionSolar smart storage solutions, which are applicable to five major scenarios: smart solar storage generators, string energy storage systems, industrial and commercial PV solutions, residential PV solutions and micro-grid solutions, all of which can effectively reduce the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) of PV plants throughout the life cycle and make green power more accessible," a staff of smart PV department, Huawei, told Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Huawei's smart PV business has entered the Pakistani market for nearly 10 years. From 2013, more than hundreds of megawatts of PV systems have been delivered in Pakistan, covering shopping malls, hospitals, cement factories, textile factories and other industrial, commercial and household scenarios, among.

RCB sets up cattle market at Bhatta Chowk

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has set up grand cattle market at Bhatta Chowk to facilitate the citizens to purchase sacrificial animals for Eid ul Azha. According to RCB spokesman, the board had finalized all the arrangements and awarded the contract to establish the city's largest cattle market at Bhatta Chowk at the intersection of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad for Rs89.5 million. The board had also made arrangements to prevent the sale of sacrificial animals in residential areas, he said and informed the cattle market would remain.—APP

President stresses economic diplomacy to boost trade

The president also urged the envoys to highlight the atrocities and human rights violations being committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as well as persecution of minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday underscored the need to focus on economic and trade diplomacy to enhance the country's exports. He added that increasing exports and foreign investment could help Pakistan overcome its economic challenges. The President expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Denmark and High-Commissioner-designate to Rwanda, who separately called on him, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Talking to Ambassador-designate to Denmark, Shoaib Sarwar, the President urged him to especially focus on economic diplomacy initiatives to boost the country's exports. He highlighted that the dairy and agriculture sector were important areas where Danish companies could be invited to invest in Pakistan. He said that Information Technology was also another important area



for enhanced cooperation where Pakistan's tech companies could offer services and solutions to Danish companies. He also asked

the newly-appointed envoy to work towards inviting more wind power companies from Denmark to invest in Pakistan's energy

sector, besides further expanding collaborations in the renewable energy sector. He expressed the hope that recent exchange

at the ministerial level would further strengthen the mutually beneficial ties between the two countries. Talking to Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Rwanda, Naeem Ullah Khan, the President highlighted that Pakistan attached great importance to its bilateral ties with Rwanda and both countries enjoyed cordial relations. He stated that there was great potential for cooperation in agriculture, food security and human resource development, which should be fully tapped. He asked the envoy to further improve trade and commercial relations by facilitating importers and exporters, besides reaching out to Rwandan businessmen to explore the Pakistani market. The president also urged the envoys to highlight the atrocities and human rights violations being committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as well as persecution of minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians.

India urged to shun brutal policies

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), APHC leaders and parties have urged India to shun its anti-Kashmir policies and take sincere steps for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute through talks. APHC leaders Davinder Singh Bhel, Narender Singh Khalsa, Shahid Saleem, Muhammad Aqib, Jammu Kashmir Pirpanchal Freedom Movement and Jammu Kashmir Awami Party in their separate statements issued in Jammu said the oppression was meant to weaken the people of Jammu and Kashmir politically and economically, a Kashmir media service reported. They said that the Kashmiris' struggle for securing their right to self-determination could not be suppressed through India's intransigence and brutal policies. They maintained that India should take a cue from Pakistan's unflinching support to the Kashmir cause and seriously engage for the settlement of Kashmir dispute to end uncertainty in the region. The statements also paid glowing tributes to prominent Islamic scholar, Dr Qazi Nisar Ahmad on his 29th martyrdom anniversary. They said that during the ongoing movement a large number of people, including Hurriyat leaders, religious scholars, academicians and youth had rendered their lives for the Kashmir cause. These sacrifices are precious assets of the liberation movement, they added. The leaders urged the human rights organizations to take note of the plight of illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists languishing in various jails in India and the occupied territory.

POL import bill shrinks by 21.84% in 11 months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The imports of the overall petroleum group contracted by 21.84 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of the petroleum group during July-May (2022-23) stood at \$ 15,382.307 million as against the imports of \$ 19,679.473 million during the same period of last year, according to PBS data. Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 32.67 percent, from \$ 10,022.564 million last year to \$ 6,748.197 million during the period under review.

Pakistan has no choice except to postpone debt payments

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Tuesday said that Pakistan has no option but to seek respite from debt repayment. If China, Saudi Arabia and other friendly countries do not give a few years' time to repay the loans, the country will be bankrupt in a few months, he said. Shahid Rashid Butt said in

a statement issued here today that the politicians want loans from the IMF to save the country from default, but at the same time they are also making continuous accusations against it. The IMF program does not seem to be restored in any way, and it will expire in ten days as the lender has asked Pakistan to manage six billion dollars, which could not be done. IMF is also unhappy over Pakistan's interference in the currency market and the budget is not accord-

ing to their wishes. Many international and local experts believe that no effort has been made to solve the economic crisis in the budget, but pressing problems have been avoided by temporary measures, which is worsening the situation, he said. The business leader said that there was an urgent need to deal with the dangerous economic situation effectively; but it was not done because political objectives were more important to the politicians

than the economy of the country. Now, Pakistan needs urgent debt restructuring efforts to improve the economic situation and recover the confidence of the business community, which is rapidly going down. At present, we have four billion dollars in the country's treasury, while almost two billion dollars are to be repaid on a monthly basis, which will be impossible without getting new loans or restructuring old loans.

Around 9000 retailers register under POS

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Tuesday said around 9000 retailers have registered under the FBR, Point of Sale System (POS) to achieve the goal of automation and digitalization in the tax process. Director General Automation Abdul Wahid said this during the inauguration session of the 3-day workshop titled "Digitalization of Taxes in Pakistan" jointly organized by FBR and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP). Abdul Wahid said steps are being taken to digitalize the country's tax system in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). He highlighted that the track and trace system has been fully implemented in major tax sectors including cigarettes, sugar and fertilizer, adding that in the cement sector, the system will also be fully implemented in the coming 2 months. Meanwhile, Member Administration and Human Resources FBR, Syed Nadeem Rizvi has appreciated the commitment and dedication of the Economic Affairs Officer of UNESCAP, Alberto Isgut for supporting FBR by identifying relevant and highly qualified resource persons to speak on different topics. He said that the transformation of the taxation process from a paper base to a digital board is very important for the documentation of Pakistan's economy. "FBR keeping global trends as a part of the journey of digitalization by launching four key projects which included track and trace system, point of sale system, digital invoicing and data analysis, and Synchronized Withholding Administration and Payment Software (SWAPS)", he added. He said that FBR has established the Directorate General of Digital initiative in the drive to consolidate all the digital initiatives under one umbrella. Syed Nadeem Rizvi said that during 3 days workshop speakers would share their experiences with participants as to how their countries practice Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools for increasing tax revenues. A senior official of FBR said by learning from different experiences, FBR aims to build capacity within FBR to not only effectively implement these programs but also to further improve our daily infrastructure and contribute to the sustainable economic growth and development of Pakistan. He also appreciated the efforts of the Directorate General of Digital initiative for actively engaging with UNESCAP members and other participants to make this conference a reality.

Chinese car maker stays optimistic

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Public data from the Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association showed an 80% year-on-year decline in sales of locally assembled new light vehicles, amounting to only 4,463 units in April 2023. Consequently, cumulative sales for the year dropped by 66.5%, reaching a mere 30,753 units. Scanning the headlines of news articles available online, terms such as "shutdown" and "halt" dominate the discourse on

Pakistan's automotive industry. "Starting this year, Pakistan has encountered unprecedented challenges, not only in the automotive industry but across various sectors. Many import-dependent industries and manufacturing sectors are grappling with production shutdowns and halts—a phenomenon that has become a normality," explained Shi Qingke, the vice president of Great Wall Motors. "We have also encountered car parts shortages, similar to most of other automotive companies. However, the problem has

been considerably mitigated, and we have no issues with the supply chain." Shi stated with confidence. Last year on September 1st, in an event held in Lahore, Great Wall Motors (GWM)'s first factory in Pakistan has officially commenced production, with an annual production capacity of 20,000 units. Adding to the excitement, on November 17th, the GWM Haval H6 HEV made its official debut in Lahore. This news sent shockwaves through the industry as it signifies several groundbreaking achievements

10 mounds unhealthy meat recovered

ISLAMABAD: In Pakpattan, the team of Livestock Department raided and recovered 10 mounds of unhealthy meat. According to the details, Dr. Syed Ali Amar, Veterinary officer of livestock Department in Pakpattan Sharif district of Punjab province, along with the Special Branch, conducted a raid in Mush-taq Nagar area of Tehsil Arifwala and recovered the unhealthy meat of a dead (pet) animal weighing ten mounds. A person named Ramzan was carrying this unhealthy meat in pick-up vehicle which was to be supplied to Lahore and Sahiwal districts.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Photo Journalist of Online International News Network Sultan Bashir receiving best performance awards from Adviser to Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam, on his best coverage of "Sakafti Mela" at Lok Versa.—Online

Smart PV devotes to withstand extreme weather in Pakistan

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ISLAMABAD: Smart PV devoted to withstand extreme weather in Pakistan. To solve the power crisis that has seriously affected industrial production and residents' lives and optimize the country's power supply system that heavily relies on fossil fuels, Pakistan is cooperating with Chinese industry leaders under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to seek solutions. "Huawei takes advantage of digital technology to integrate existing digital technology with photovoltaic, energy storage, cloud and AI technologies, providing FusionSolar smart storage solutions, which are applicable to five major scenarios: smart solar storage generators, string energy storage

systems, industrial and commercial PV solutions, residential PV solutions and micro-grid solutions, all of which can effectively reduce the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) of PV plants throughout the life cycle and make green power more accessible," a staff


of smart PV department, Huawei, told Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Huawei's smart PV business has entered the Pakistani market for nearly 10 years. From 2013, more than hundreds of megawatts of PV systems have been delivered in Pakistan, covering shopping malls,

hospitals, cement factories, textile factories and other industrial, commercial and household scenarios, among which the largest single project is the Scatec & Nizam Sukkur 150MW project that currently being delivered and expected to be connected.





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NATO divisions cast into stark relief

NATO member countries are expected to inaugurate a new leader at the organization's July 11-12 summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, to succeed its current Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, whose term has already been extended twice since it expired last year. But a third extension seems unavoidable as the 31 members of the military alliance are apparently unable to agree on who should succeed him. Despite his repeated claim that he would not pursue another extension, the incumbent NATO chief has also left the option open. A former prime minister of Norway, Stoltenberg has been instrumental in maneuvering a unified, forceful NATO approach to the Russian special military operation in Ukraine. His continued presence at the NATO helm would therefore be conducive to both policy continuity and the transatlantic alliance's image of unity, as he has been a faithful repeater of Washington's line. However, Stoltenberg won't stay forever, and NATO cannot get around the internal divisions undermining its functionality. The failure to build a consensus on his successor is the tip of that huge iceberg pestering NATO. Media in the United Kingdom have reported French President Emmanuel Macron is trying to prevent Ben Wallace, the UK defense minister, from getting Stoltenberg's job, on the grounds that someone from an EU member, which the UK no longer is, should assume the role. Although this might just be the UK media's typical anti-EU stance. There are reports elsewhere that some countries are cool to the idea of a third NATO chief in a row from a Nordic country, though Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, whom many favor as a possible candidate, has ruled it out. When it comes to membership expansion, that Türkiye has so far refused to ratify Sweden's admission after finally giving the green light to Finland is another sign of discord among NATO members. Türkiye has accused Sweden of harboring "terrorists" from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party. Even on imperative security concerns, which have been significantly amplified by the conflict in Ukraine, NATO members are at odds, with some calling for European autonomy in security affairs. In a follow-up to his recent appeal for the EU to not act as a pawn of the United States, President Macron on Monday urged European countries to seek more independence on airspace defense and reduce their reliance on the United States. His government believes the German-led European air defense integration program is overly dependent on US and Israeli technologies. And, in spite of the general consensus on a greater NATO presence in the "Indo-Pacific", it may be even more difficult for its members to agree on exactly how far NATO should go in expanding its reach into the region. This will be another important subject of discussion at its July summit.

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Cold War mentality

Canadian ambassador to China Jennifer May was right when she said in an interview with CTV's Question Period on Sunday that China and Canada are not adversaries. But it is absurd for her to believe that China has interfered in Canadian elections. She described the relations between the two countries as being "complex, multi-faceted and very important". True, this bilateral relationship is important as bilateral trade and exchanges in a wide range of areas are of concern to the interests of the two peoples. But how should the adjectives "complex, multi-faceted" be interpreted in the context of China's alleged interference in Canadian elections, China's expulsion of a Canadian diplomat and China's Taiwan question? Bilateral relations would be much simpler should the Canadian government adopt an independent diplomatic policy of its own rather than just following in Washington's footsteps. Just as a spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry said, China has always followed a non-interference foreign policy, and opposes any country interfering in the internal affairs of any other country. China has not interfered in Canada's elections and will never do so, the spokesperson said. It is Cold War mentality that has propelled Canadian politicians to make an issue out of nothing. The allegation of Chinese interference in Canadian elections is nothing but an ideologically motivated smear. With regard to the expulsion of diplomats, it is Canada that first provoked China by expelling China's diplomat. And the Taiwan question is China's internal affair, not Canada's. In whatever way the reunification of the island with the motherland is realized, it is the country's internal affair. The ambassador is partly right when she said that the countries are partners in some areas, and competitors in others. Both countries could be partners in a much wider range of areas should Canadian politicians formulate diplomatic policies that focus on the interests of the peoples of both countries rather than blindly following the lead of those in Washington. Preoccupied with ideological conflict, Canadian politicians fail to realize that the world is becoming increasingly pluralistic, and a multipolar foreign policy is the way to contribute to world peace and development. Their clinging to a Cold War mentality will only do a disservice to the concerted efforts of the international community in responding to common challenges facing humanity such as the environmental and ecological crises and poverty. If they unburdened themselves of this mentality, Canadian politicians would find it much easier to view China objectively. That would enable Canada to develop good relations with China, benefiting both peoples.

The politics of climate change: Analyzing policy approaches and global cooperation

Sabah Aslam

Policy Approaches to Climate Change Mitigation: Mitigation strategies primarily focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to minimize the extent of climate change. In the context of the Third World, including Pakistan, mitigation involves transitioning to clean energy sources, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable land use practices, and implementing regulations to limit emissions. The Paris Agreement, signed by nearly all countries, including Pakistan, in 2015, exemplifies the global

Introduction: Climate change is a critical issue that poses extensive challenges to the environment, economy, and human well-being. This problem requires a collective effort from governments, organizations, and individuals worldwide. However, in the context of the Third World, including Pakistan, the politics surrounding climate change often complicate the formulation of effective policies and hinder global cooperation. This article aims to explore the various policy approaches and analyze the politics involved in addressing climate change, emphasizing the importance of global cooperation in finding sustainable solutions.

Policy Approaches to Climate Change Mitigation: Mitigation strategies primarily focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to minimize the extent of climate change. In the context of the Third World, including Pakistan, mitigation involves transitioning to clean energy sources, improving energy efficiency, promoting sustainable land use practices, and implementing regulations to limit emissions. The Paris Agreement, signed by nearly all countries, including Pakistan, in 2015, exemplifies the global recognition of the need for mitigation efforts. It establishes a comprehensive international framework with the objective of preventing severe climate change, which involves placing a cap on global warming well below 2°C and actively striving to limit it to 1.5°C. Adaptation: Adaptation strategies aim to enhance resilience and minimize the negative impacts of climate change. In the Third World, adaptation involves investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, implementing early warning systems, developing drought-resistant crops, and enhancing coastal protection measures. Adaptation policies play a crucial role in ensuring that communities can withstand and recover from the effects of climate change, particularly in vulnerable regions. International Cooperation: Climate change is a global problem that transcends national boundaries. International cooperation is particularly vital for the Third World countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other regional states to effectively address climate change. Collaborative efforts encompass sharing knowledge, technology, and financial

resources among countries, fostering climate-related research and development, and establishing global frameworks to coordinate efforts and hold nations accountable. Developing countries rely on the support of developed nations to navigate the challenges posed by climate change. The Politics of Climate Change in the Third World National Interests and Competing Priorities: The politics of climate change in the Third World, often revolve around competing national interests and priorities. Some countries in the Third World, possess significant fossil fuel reserves and may be hesitant to adopt aggressive climate policies due to economic considerations. Striking a balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability becomes a challenging task, leading to differing policy approaches and conflicts during international negotiations. Political Will and Leadership: The level of political will and leadership within a country plays a pivotal role in climate policy. Governments in the Third World, with strong leadership and a commitment to climate action, are more likely to implement ambitious policies, engage in international climate agreements, and drive change at the national level. Conversely, political instability and short-term political considerations can impede progress in climate policy. Disparities in Responsibility and Capability: Climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts often face disparities in responsibility and capability among nations. Historically, developed countries have contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions, while developing countries, such as Pakistan, often bear the brunt of climate impacts. This divide can create tensions during negotiations, with developing countries seeking financial and technological support from wealthier nations to address the challenges posed by climate change. Public Opinion and Special Interest Groups: The politics of climate change in the Third World, especially in Pakistan, are heavily influenced by public opinion and the role of special interest groups. Public awareness and concern about climate change can shape political agendas and mobilize support for climate action. However, special interest groups, such as those associated with fuel industries, may exert influence to protect their economic inter-

ests, potentially hindering progress toward comprehensive climate policies.

Importance of Global Cooperation in the Third World Shared Responsibility: Climate change necessitates collective action and shared responsibility. No single country, can single-handedly solve the problem. Global cooperation is crucial to address the unequal distribution of emissions and the varied capacity for mitigation and adaptation. Collaborative efforts enable burden-sharing, promote equity, and create a more sustainable future for all nations, particularly those in the Third World.

Technology and Knowledge Transfer: Global cooperation facilitates the transfer of technology and knowledge between nations. Developed countries can provide financial and technological resources to support developing nations, in their climate change efforts. Sharing best practices and research findings enables innovation and accelerates the development and implementation of effective climate solutions worldwide, particularly in the Third World.

Building Trust and Solidarity: Climate change negotiations can be contentious, with countries pursuing their individual interests. However, global cooperation builds trust and solidarity among nations, including those in the Third World. By fostering dialogue and collaboration, nations can work together to overcome barriers, address common challenges, and strive for mutually beneficial outcomes in the fight against climate change. Ms. Sabah Aslam is the Founder and Executive Director of IICR. She is security analyst and Human Rights Activist. She served as research fellow at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad. She also served as professional trainer at CDA Training Academy. She regularly writes for national & international print media. She has served as visiting Lecturer at Quaid i Azam University and National University of Modern Languages. She has presented papers and have participated in many national and international conferences and workshops & seminars in Pakistan and abroad. She is EUVP Alumni. She is working with Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Affairs, Government of Pakistan as Advisor on Research and Kashmir Youth Ambassadors program.

PML(N) hinges on an appeal and a review

Qamar Bashir

Article 185, which establishes the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, states, "The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide appeals from judgments, decrees, final orders, and sentences of a High Court." Whereas article 189 establishes the finality of the supreme court's decision in an unambiguous manner. It states, "Any decision of the Supreme Court that decides a legal question or is based on or articulates a legal principle shall be binding on all other courts in Pakistan." The supreme court stated in SMC No.1/2023, etc

PML(N) has made the fully exonerated return of Nawaz Sharif a prerequisite for agreeing to conduct elections on time; otherwise, it has threatened to do everything in its power to delay the elections until the condition is met. While exploring all possible avenues to accomplish this objective, the government is primarily focused on finding a legal solution to this complicated problem. In a last-ditch effort, it has enacted the Supreme Court Practices and Procedure Act 2023 and amended the Election Act, 2017. First was suspended prior to its conception and the 2nd is likely to suffer the same fate sooner or later. Ironically, the president signed it and made it a law, despite the fact that it was subjudice before the Supreme Court. It appears that the President erred in his judgment as he was not supposed to sign it until the court had rendered a final decision or lifted the stay. However, it is beyond the scope of this article to delve into what the president can and cannot do in greater detail. Constitutionally, the passing of the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act was invalid as the supreme court cannot hear appeals against its own decisions, but it can hear appeals against the decisions of its subordinate courts, including provincial high courts.

Article 185, which establishes the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, states, "The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide appeals from judgments, decrees, final orders, and sentences of a High Court." Whereas article 189 establishes the finality of the supreme court's decision in an unambiguous manner. It states, "Any decision of the Supreme Court that decides a legal question or is based on or articulates a legal principle shall be binding on all other courts in Pakistan." The supreme court stated in SMC No.1/2023, etc., that "this jurisdiction of the Court is special and exceptional, because in the exercise of it, the Court acts as the first and final arbitrator, leaving a party aggrieved by the Court's decision with no recourse to a higher court."

The Supreme Court is the court of last resort because it is the nation's highest court, its decisions are binding on all subordinate courts, and there is no higher court to which one can appeal. If the Supreme Court could reverse its own decisions, there would be no certainty in the law, and individuals would be unaware of what the law is. In 2018, while arguing before the Supreme Court, a senior advocate urged the court to amend its rules to grant litigants the right to appeal its decisions under Article 184(3) of the Constitution. The chief justice responded, "Lawmakers may use their authority to amend this constitutional provision," adding, "The court will later determine whether or not the legislature has the authority to amend Article

184(3)." In fact, courts vigorously defend the independence of the judiciary, as evidenced by the majority opinion of the Supreme Court in the 21st Amendment case, in which the court ruled that the highest court can review constitutional amendments to determine if they conflict with the independence of the judiciary.

The court disregarded even the numerous resolutions passed by the Pakistan Bar Council to amend Article 184(3) to ensure equitable trial and due process of law in light of Article 10-A of the Constitution. Former law minister Dr. Farogh Nasim, for example, vehemently opposed the right of appeal against apex rulings by courts in its decision under Article 184(3) of the Constitution. The crux of the arguments presented to the Supreme Court of Pakistan during the hearing on the challenged act was whether the new law's intent and purpose was to pursue an appeal or a review. However, the defense also knew that if it yielded in favor of review, the case would be lost even before it was argued due to the limited scope of the review, and if it agreed in favor of appeal, it would require a constitutional amendment that even if passed, would again be subject to judicial review if it encroached upon the independence of the judiciary. In contrast to the right of appeal, the supreme court of Pakistan has the power of review, as stated in article 188 of the constitution: "The Supreme Court shall have the power, subject to the provisions of any Act of [Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament)] and of any rules made by the Supreme Court, to review any judgment pronounced or any order made by it. In accordance with Supreme Court Practice and procedure rules, the review petition must be filed within 30 days of the date of the Supreme Court's judgment or order. However, unlike an appeal, which entails a rehearing of the case in its entirety, the review has a limited scope and is typically limited to errors apparent on the face of the record or the discovery of new and significant evidence that was unavailable during the original proceedings.

In its ruling on CIVIL REVIEW PETITION NO.296 of 2020, the supreme court stated: "Subject to the law and the practice of the Court, the Court may review its judgment or order in a civil proceeding on the basis of an obvious error in the record." A review can only succeed if it has a material effect on the result of the case, i.e., if it changes the outcome of the case. This test was outlined by the Supreme Court in Abdul Ghaffar-Abdul Rehman vs. Asghar Ali (PLD 1998 SC 363) at paragraph 17 and has been followed ever since. A substantial irregularity in a judgment is insufficient to convince this Court to reverse its prior decision. This criterion makes it abundantly clear that a unanimous and majority judgment of the Court can be challenged only if correction in these judgments can truly change the outcome/result of

a case. However, there is a silver lining: the 30-day limit has not been set by the constitutions, so it is subject to amendment by the parliament or the supreme judicial council as a matter of practice and procedure. Realizing the futility of the impugned law, the government realigned its legal course and this time chose to make an amendment in the Election Act 2017 to make another backdoor attempt to bring Nawaz Sharif and Jehangir Tareen back in action. The impugned amendment made in Section 232 (Qualifications and Disqualifications) of the Election Act, 2017 says, ". "Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act, any other law for the time being in force and judgment, order or decree of any court, including the Supreme Court and a high court, the disqualification of a person to be elected, chosen or to remain as a member of the Parliament or provincial assembly under paragraph (f) of clause (1) of Article 62 of the Constitution shall be for a period not exceeding five years from the declaration of the court of law in that regard and such declaration shall be subject to the due process of law," but perhaps while in their desperation to find a solution the government overlooked that parliament cannot overturn or modified a past decision of the supreme court as being the highest court in the nation, the Supreme Court's decisions are final and binding on all other courts and parties. The only means to reverse a Supreme Court ruling is through a constitutional amendment, which requires the approval of two-thirds of both houses of Parliament and ratification by a majority of provinces. This is not only constitutional, but also necessary for the stability and orderliness of society.

Though Parliament in its right can introduce new laws or amend existing laws to modify the legal framework or provide a legislative response to the issues raised in the court's decision, it must still adhere to the Constitution of Pakistan. If the Supreme Court determines that a law or amendment made in the existing law was unconstitutional, it has the authority to declare it null and invalid therefore before proceeding to amend the constitution, the Parliament must also know that its legislative authority is restrained by the Supreme Court's authority to interpret the constitution and invalidate laws that are inconsistent with it. It is only a matter of time before the amendment in the Election Act is challenged before the supreme court, as being in conflict with the applicable provisions of the constitution and struck down. The best course of action, in this challenging scenario, for the government is to employ all of its resources to ensure that no one challenges the amendment and that the supreme court does not take suo moto of this constitutional anomaly, which is a remote possibility but worth attempting given that the call for elections is in the air and the legendary wind is also blowing in favor of holding elections on time.

—The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC

Briefs

Pakistan, Sweden partner to enable safe restoration efforts

FROM PAGE 01

Emil Akander, Vice President of South and South-east Asia at Business Sweden, emphasized Sweden's expertise in innovation, sustainability, and co-creation, making it well-suited to support projects and programs for resilient recovery in Pakistan.

He highlighted areas such as agriculture, energy, and disaster prevention technologies as key areas of focus for cooperation between Swedish and Pakistani companies.

The report showcased Swedish companies already operating in Pakistan, including Ericsson, Hitachi Energy, TalkPool, and Tetra Pak. These companies presented their ongoing projects and solutions being implemented in Pakistan, ranging from telecommunications to energy and sustainable packaging.

The Swedish-Pakistani Business Community has actively participated in relief efforts, focusing on initiatives related to water accessibility and employment opportunities. In addition to recovery projects, Swedish companies are also engaged in mega-projects aimed at ensuring a future-proof energy supply for Pakistan through innovative solutions.

The report launch event featured keynote speeches, interactive discussions, and valuable networking opportunities. It brought together government officials, dignitaries, business leaders, media representatives, and individuals from various sectors.

The event emphasized the shared vision of Sweden and Pakistan in creating a more resilient Pakistan for the future. It highlighted the potential for collaboration between Swedish and Pakistani companies, showcasing the skills, technologies, and willingness to address the challenges and opportunities in both countries.

Overall, the event and the "Rebuild for a Resilient Pakistan" report served as a platform to promote sustainable restoration efforts, raise awareness about the current situation in Pakistan, and foster a stronger partnership between Sweden and Pakistan for a better future.

FROM PAGE 01

companies and investors continued to show their trust. "Our friendship is higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the deepest ocean, sweeter than sugar and honey, and stronger than iron and steel," he said, adding that the Chinese president had described the relationship between the two sides as one of "iron brothers".

He said that Pakistan had met all the terms and conditions of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) ninth review, yet the process faced "inordinate delay".

"We thought this would be done two months ago, three months ago but there has been inordinate delay... China, once again, came to our help and rescue. This is friendship. A friend in need is a friend indeed." He said that apart from China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, had also been helping Pakistan.

"But at this point and time, at this juncture, Chinese financial support has been outstanding," he said, adding that was at a loss of words to express his gratitude.

"We are deeply obliged to President Xi Jinping, to the Chinese leadership and to the Chinese finance minister," he said, as he also recognised the efforts of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his team.



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider received the Pakistani team who participated at UBS Pankration World Cup "Unity Cup", held in Belarus, securing overall third position. Ambassador lauded their performances. – DNA

Sethi-led PCB Management Committee dissolved

PM nominates two members for PCB's BoG. The nominations are former PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf and ASC, Mustafa Ramday

DNA

KARACHI: The Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination confirmed on Tuesday that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee, led by Najam Sethi, has been dissolved. The ministry also said that all the affairs of the PCB have been handed over to the Election Commissioner Ahmed Shehzad Farooq Rana. Rana's appointment was made by the PCB's Patron-in-Chief and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in accordance with Article 29 of the PCB Constitution 2014, in February earlier this year. In December last year, PM Sharif appointed a 14-member committee to reinforce the 2014 constitution, bringing back departmental cricket.

Initially, 120 days were given to the committee to restore the 2014 constitution. However, a two-month extension was given to Sethi and company which ended today. Earlier today, the premier also nominated Zaka Ashraf, who is likely to become the new PCB chairman, and Mustafa Ramday for inclusion in the PCB Board of Governors (BoG). With the nomination of Ashraf and Ramday, the BoG's 10 members have been completed. Apart from aforementioned duo, four representatives each from cricket associations and departments are also part of the BoG. After the nominations from the PM, the chief election commissioner will announce



the schedule for the election, which is likely to take place this week, of the PCB chairman. Meanwhile, Sethi confirmed that he is no longer in the race to become the PCB chairman. Sethi, who is currently the chairman of the PCB Management Committee, shared the update in a tweet on Tuesday. The 75-year-old said that he doesn't want to be a "bone of contention" between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan Peoples Party Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari.

The composition of BoG is as follows:

- Two PCB Patron nominees
- Four regional representatives i.e. Pe-

shawar, Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi

- Four department/service organisation representatives i.e. Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL), Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Pakistan Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and Khan Research Laboratory (KRL)

Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, in his capacity as the Patron of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), exercised his authority according to the 2014 constitution by making two nominations for the PCB's Board of Governors. The nominations are former

PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf and Advocate of Supreme Court, Mustafa Ramday. However, prior to the nominations, Najam Sethi, who currently serves as the chairman of the PCB Management Committee, announced his withdrawal from the race to become the chairman of the PCB. Sethi conveyed this decision through a tweet, expressing his desire to avoid becoming a source of conflict between former Pakistan President, Asif Zardari, and Shehbaz Sharif. He emphasized that the instability and uncertainty caused by such conflicts would not be beneficial for the PCB.

Earlier, Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari, the Federal Minister for Inter-provincial Coordination (IPC), reiterated that Zaka Ashraf, with the support of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), would be the next chairman of the PCB. Mazari indicated that there would be no further extension for the management committee, which was initially given 120 days to fulfill its mandate of restoring the 2014 constitution and revive departmental cricket. A four-week extension had been granted to Sethi and his team, which is set to expire on June 20.

Zaka Ashraf had previously served as the PCB chairman during the last PPP government, and it appears that the party's senior leadership once again desires their candidate to lead the PCB.

Pak, China ink MoU to build new unit of Chashma Power Plant

FROM PAGE 01

companies and investors continued to show their trust. "Our friendship is higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the deepest ocean, sweeter than sugar and honey, and stronger than iron and steel," he said, adding that the Chinese president had described the relationship between the two sides as one of "iron brothers".

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Schedule announced for Pak Test tour to Sri Lanka

LAHORE: Pakistan will return to Galle - where they recorded the highest-ever chase for the venue last year - for the first of the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka next month. The first Test will commence at the Galle International Cricket Stadium on 16 July and the two teams will then travel to Colombo for the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club from 24 till 28 July. For what is Pakistan's first assignment in the 2023-25 cycle of the ICC World Test Championship, the Babar Azam's side will arrive in Sri Lanka on 9 July and play a two-day warm-up game on 11 and 12 July before they head south for the first Test. The venue for the warm-up fixture will be confirmed closer to time. Pakistan last toured Sri Lanka in July 2022 and that two-match Test series resulted in 1-1. Pakistan scaled the target of 342 to register the best run chase at the ground and win the first Test by four wickets. The hosts pounced back in the second Test to level the series with a 246-run win. Pakistan last played a Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo in 2014. They have played six Tests at the ground, winning one, losing one, and the other four matches ended in draw.

Itinerary of Pakistan's tour of Sri Lanka:

9 July - Pakistan land in Colombo, 11 and 12 July - Warm-up game
16-20 July - First Test at Galle International Cricket Stadium
24-28 July - Second Test at Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo

Pakistan squad: Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (vc & wk), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Huraifa, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi and Shan Masood

Player support personnel: Rehman-ul-Haq (team manager), Grant Bradburn (head coach), Andrew Pottick (batting coach), Morne Morkel (bowling coach), Aftab Khan (fielding coach), Abdul Rehman (assistant coach), Drikus Saaiman (strength and conditioning coach), Cliffe Deacon (physiotherapist), Ahsan Iftikhar Nagi (media and digital content manager), Lt Col Usman Anwari (Retd) (security manager), Talha Ejaz (analyst) and Malang Ali (masseur). – DNA

Anett Kontaveit will retire after Wimbledon

PARIS: The former second-ranked women's tennis player Anett Kontaveit announced on Tuesday that she would be retiring in July after Wimbledon because of a back injury. "Today I am announcing that I am ending my career as a competitive athlete," the 27-year-old Estonian posted on Instagram. "After several doctor's visits and consultations with my medical team, I have been advised that I have lumbar disc degeneration in my back. This does not allow for full-scale training or continued competition. Therefore, it is impossible to continue at the top level in such a highly competitive field," she wrote Kontaveit, ranked 79th in the world, reached the WTA's No. 2 ranking in June 2022. – Agencies

Joselu delight at 'dream' return to Real Madrid

MADRID: Spanish international Jose Luis Mato, known as Joselu, said Tuesday it was a "dream" come true to return to Real Madrid, 11 years after he left. "I've been dreaming of this moment since the day I left, I'm very excited," Joselu, 33, told a press conference in the Spanish capital. The forward has scored three goals in four appearances for his country and arrives from Espanyol on a year-long loan with option to buy to help Madrid reinforce a depleted attack. Karim Benzema, Eden Hazard, Marco Asensio and Mariano Diaz have left, leaving room for major reinforcements. "We all know Karim's level at this club, but I'm here to do a different job," he said. "I'm going to give my all for this club, it's the club of my life, when you step onto the pitch, especially at the Bernabeu, you want to score goals." Joselu is the club's fourth signing after midfielder Jude Bellingham, defender Fran Garcia and the return of Brahim Diaz. The journeyman striker, who has played for 10 clubs in Spain, Germany and England, previously played for the Real Madrid B team and has one La Liga appearance for Real Blancos, in the 2010-11 season, without managing to break into the first team. This season Joselu finished as La Liga's third top goalscorer with 16 goals despite Espanyol's relegation, earning him a call up to the national team squad for the Nations League final four. – Agencies

Imran faces non-bailable arrest warrant

FROM PAGE 01

ways with the party while many blaming the party chief's policies for the violence. Hundreds of PTI leaders and workers were also arrested after the authorities launched a crackdown to detain the suspects involved in the vandalism.

PM, Army Chief discuss...

FROM PAGE 01

and ministers including Khurshid Shah, Aminul Haq, and Tariq Cheema also participated in the meeting. According to the sources, the meeting made a detailed consultation on the investment plan and the PM emphasised investment in IT, petroleum and agriculture sectors as a priority as GCC countries will invest in these three sectors. The meeting was also briefed that foreign investors will invest in these sectors on half return basis.

Probe to complete within...

FROM PAGE 01

prosecute those involved in human smuggling as the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) cracked down on traffickers across the country. The press quoted the interior minister as saying that the government would take strict action against human traffickers and a committee had been formed to probe the incident.

"The investigation committee will present its report in a week after which further action will be taken by the federal government," he said, elaborating that the panel would ascertain facts pertaining to the Greece boat tragedy.

It would also identify loopholes and lapses in Pakistan's legal mechanism, that had exposed precious human lives to the "vagaries of human trafficking in this particular case and past incidents". "The government will also review short-term and long-term legislation to curb the issue besides envisaging laws for imposing penalties on the people responsible for such kinds of incidents," the minister added.

Separately, in a statement issued today, an FIA spokesperson said the agency's Anti-Human Trafficking Circle in Gujranwala had apprehended an "agent" involved in the boat tragedy. He said the captured suspect, identified as agent Azmat Ali, had received a sum of Rs1.7 million for facilitating the victims' illegal journey to Europe, adding that a case had been registered against him and further investigation was underway. The agency also said that raids were being conducted to arrest other suspects. Earlier, the Punjab police said in a statement that a "key suspect" involved in the Greece shipwreck had been arrested.

FM talks to Greek counterpart

FROM PAGE 01

work together to facilitate Pakistanis in distress and for the identification and repatriation of retrieved bodies," FM Bilawal wrote. Last week, an Italy-bound fishing trawler reportedly carrying at least 800 people - including hundreds of Pakistanis - capsized off Greece. Only 104 people are known to have survived and the chance of finding more survivors was seen as virtually nil.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed authorities concerned to hold an inquiry into the human trafficking that led to the tragic incident of migrants shipwreck near Greece with several Pakistani nationals onboard.

Dreaded terrorist linked with TTP killed

FROM PAGE 01

He was spreading toxic anti-Pakistan propaganda on social media in the name of Ghazi Media Network. In his area, Sarbakf was considered to be a symbol of lies and terror.

Bangladesh knock Pak out of Women's Emerging Asia Cup

Rabeya, on other hand, carried her bat all the way through with a cautious 20-ball 10

MONG KOK: Bangladesh A edged Pakistan A by six runs in the rain-affected semi-final of the ongoing ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 and qualified for the final. Opting to bat first in the second semi-final of the Women's Emerging Asia Cup, which was reduced to nine overs per side due to rain interruption, Bangladesh A put on a decent show with the bat as they set Pakistan to chase 60 runs. Pakistan A captain Fatima Sana and spinner Anosha Nasir ran through the Bangladesh top-order as they joined forces to book half of their batting lineup inside three overs before a run out in the next over saw Bangladesh A slipping to 16/6. With the side in heaps of trouble, Rabeya Khan and Nahida Akter anchored Bangladesh A batting charge as the duo added 37 runs for the seventh wicket. Nahid Kucera was the core contributor to the crucial stand as she scored a brisk 21 off 16 deliveries, laced up with three boundaries and a six, before falling to Tuba

Hassan in the final over. Rabeya Khan, on the other hand, carried her bat all the way through with a cautious 20-ball 10. Fatima Sana led the bowling attack for Pakistan A with 3/10, followed by Anosha Nasir's

2/6 while Tuba Hassan could pick up a wicket. Set to chase a modest 60 in the Women's Emerging Asia Cup semi-final, Pakistan A could only accumulate 53/4 in the allotted nine overs as their batters remained a touch

too slow in pursuit of the mounting required run rate. Opening batter Eymen Fatima top-scored for Pakistan A with a calculated 15-ball 18 with the help of two boundaries and a six, followed by her partner Shawaal Zulfikar, who scored 11 off 15. Fatima Sana was the other valuable contributor in the run-chase with an unbeaten 10 off eight deliveries but fell short of steering her side to glory and into the final. Rabeya Khan was the star for Bangladesh A with the ball too as she picked up two wickets for just 13 runs while Nahida Akter and Marufa Akter made one scalp each. It is worth mentioning here that the first semi-final of the Women's Emerging Asia Cup between India and Sri Lanka was again washed out due to persistent rain here. Meanwhile, India A who had a superior group stage position advanced to the final of the Women's Emerging Asia Cup and will lock horns with Bangladesh A for silverware on Wednesday. – Agencies



Briefs

France to shut down climate NGO

PARIS: The French government said Tuesday that it would soon shut down an activist climate group over a series of recent demonstrations including one that led to fierce clashes with police over a controversial irrigation project.

Government spokesman Olivier Veran accused the Uprisings of the Earth (SLT) coalition of encouraging violence at protests in March near Sainte-Soline in western France over irrigation. "You don't dissolve an association because of its ideas. You dissolve it because there is violence or a risk for public safety," Veran told CNews television. SLT has vowed to fight the shutdown order, saying on its website: "You cannot dissolve a movement. You cannot dissolve a revolt."

Veran said SLT "whipped up violence at Sainte-Soline by inviting rioters, who came from across Europe with metal bars and petanque balls to try and kill police officers." "The climate question does not justify throwing rocks at police in a field," he said. SLT is a coalition of several activist associations, which was also behind a recent protest against a sand quarry in western France where protesters tore up fields and equipment at a farm. The group was also one of several organisers of a banned demonstration at the weekend against a new rail link between the eastern city of Lyon and Turin in Italy.—APP

China imports of Russian oil highest since Ukraine war

BEIJING: Chinese imports of Russian oil last month hit their highest level since Moscow's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, customs data showed Tuesday, as Beijing offers an economic lifeline to an increasingly isolated Kremlin.

China is Russia's largest economic partner, with trade between them reaching a record \$190 billion last year. In May, China imported 9.71 million tonnes of oil from Russia, Beijing said, more than double the amount from February 2022. The figures reflect a broader deepening of economic ties between the countries, with overall trade in May soaring to levels not seen since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

They also occur in the context of China's rebounding economy, following the end of strict zero-Covid measures late last year that had bitten into energy demand. During a summit in March, Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin pledged to boost trade to \$200 billion in 2023 as they hailed their "no limits" partnership.—DNA

EU preparing \$55 billion bailout for Kiev

LONDON: The European Commission wants member states to cough up 50 billion (\$55 billion) to bankroll the Ukrainian government, so it can pay wages and pensions, and commence reconstruction projects, sources cited by Bloomberg have said. The terms of the proposed bailout are subject to change pending an official announcement on Tuesday, the outlet reported on Tuesday. The package will be financed by direct contributions from member states, as opposed to borrowing from the market. The aid will be provided in the form of grants, concessional loans and guarantees rather than some "burdensome reconstruction instrument," the outlet said, adding that the money would be provided between 2024 and 2027. The Ukrainian budget has been receiving cash injections from Western sponsors to keep it running. Washington and its allies have pledged to help Kiev "for as long as it takes" to defeat Russia, including through the provision of non-military support. The US alone provided \$26.4 billion in budgetary aid between January 2022 and February 2023, according to the Council.—APP

Finland swears in new right-wing coalition govt

The two junior partners in the coalition are the Christian Democrats and the Swedish People's Party of Finland

FOREIGN DESK

HELSINKI: Finland swore in a new coalition government on Tuesday that is seen as the most right-wing in the Nordic country's modern history. The 19-member Cabinet of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo, the leader of the conservative National Coalition Party, was approved by the Eduskunta legislature, after which President Sauli Niinistö appointed it. Following lengthy talks over seven weeks, the NCP, which won the most seats in the April 2 general election, announced a deal last Friday with three other parties to form a governing coalition that includes the far-right euro-skeptic Finns Party, which follows a largely nationalist and anti-immigration agenda.

The two junior partners in the coalition are the Christian Democrats and the Swedish People's Party of

Finland. Due to the dominance of the two senior coalition partners, which are conservative and populist, Finnish media describe Orpo's government as "national conservative" in nature. Political analysts say the new Cabinet is Finland's most right-wing government since World War II. Orpo, a 53-year-old veteran politician, is a former finance and interior minister and has headed the NCP, Finland's main conservative party, since 2016.

Other key NCP ministers include Elina Valtonen as Finland's second female foreign minister and NCP vice chair Antti Häkkinen as defense minister. Häkkinen's post is particularly significant since Finland became NATO's 31st member in April and the country of 5.5 million that neighbors Russia is in the process of integrating its military systems and infrastructure into the alliance. The populist Finns Party,



runner-up in the parliamentary election, has the important finance minister portfolio, held by party leader Riikka Purra, and the interior and justice minister posts.

Orpo's Cabinet is set to carry out major social policy and labor reforms and budget cuts over the next four years. Among other things, it seeks to substantially decrease Finland's govern-

ment debt and is taking a hard stance on immigration, including tightening the requirements for residence permits and citizenship. Where Finland's new Interior Minister Mari Rantanen of the Finns Party has declared her ministry will perform a u-turn on the nation's immigration and refugee policies during her term in office. Speaking on Yle TV1's breakfast show Aamu TV on Tuesday morn-

ing, Rantanen said that Finland's policy towards newcomers has been the most lax among the Nordic countries in recent years. "We will tighten all the conditions to come to Finland, to stay here and to be in Finland," Rantanen said, adding that other Nordic nations have also changed their policies on immigration. One key change included in the incoming coalition's government programme is plans to return more failed asylum seekers to their country of origin. Rantanen said that this number has fallen sharply every year since 2015.

The new government also aims to ensure that Finland takes in as few asylum seekers as possible — halving the quota from this year's level of 1,050 to about 500 per year. Outside of the exceptional Covid-pandemic era, Finland has usually received about 5,000 asylum applications in recent years. Rantanen cited the

example of Sweden during her appearance on Aamu TV, describing the Swedish immigration policy as a "total failure." "We have to react here to what we have seen in Sweden. We are trying to act in a way that will ensure there is no economic or security threat to Finland," she said. Although the current government plans to reduce the number of asylum seekers allowed into the country, Rantanen said there will be no explicit religious conditions for those applying. For example, Christians persecuted in their home countries and Yazidis living mainly in Iraq and Syria are welcome in Finland, she said. "There are just so many refugees, but the moral posturing of taking as many as possible doesn't make much sense," Rantanen said. She further added that this government will continue to support neighbouring regions, especially Ukraine.

US-China relations are on 'right trail': Biden

TORONTO: Relations between the US and China are on the "right trail" after Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Beijing, President Joe Biden said on Monday. During a visit to the state of California to announce millions of dollars in funding toward climate resilience efforts, Biden answered reporters' questions, saying Blinken made progress in his two-day trip, which concluded on Monday. "I think we're on the trail to making sure that we're going to be able to do both — have a safer world because America's engaging in a way that it hasn't in the past...as well as making sure that we have an economy that benefits everyone," he said. Endorsing Blinken's efforts, Biden said he did a good job. The US and China agreed to stabilize their relations and keep communication channels open to avoid an all-out conflict between the two nations. Blinken is the highest-ranking US official to visit the Chinese capital in five years. In his visit, he met with President Xi Jinping and other senior officials. Relations between the US and China deteriorated during the Trump administration over a trade war and have since remained tense due to Beijing's assertive claims over Taiwan and an alleged Chinese spy balloon over the US.—DNA

Germany's intelligence agency warns of growing extremism

BERLIN: The head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency warned on Tuesday of a growing threat of extremism, particularly from the far right, with the number of politically motivated crimes carried out by extremists reaching a record high last year. Thomas Haldenwang, who heads the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, or BfV, said that his agency had come to the "sad conclusion" that extremism of all shades is on the rise in Germany. His comments come as polls show growing support for the far-right Alternative for Germany party in recent weeks.

The party has come under scrutiny from the BfV for its links to extremists and also its ties to Russia. Of the 38,800 far-right extremists counted by the agency last year, more than 10,000 are members of the party, known by its acronym AfD. "We see a very strong current of people within this party who are opposed to our constitution," Haldenwang told The Associated Press. "We see a lot of hatred and agitation against minorities of all kinds there." Alternative for Germany first entered the national parliament in 2017, after campaigning strongly against migration in the wake of an influx of refugees to Europe during the preceding years.—Agencies

Himalayan glaciers could lose 80% of their volume

BENGALURU: Glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates across the Hindu Kush Himalayan mountain ranges and could lose up to 80% of their volume this century if greenhouse gas emissions aren't sharply reduced, according to a report. The report Tuesday from Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development warned that flash floods and avalanches would grow more likely in coming years, and that the availability of fresh water would be affected for nearly 2 billion people who live downstream of 12 rivers that originate in the mountains. Ice and snow in the Hindu Kush Himalayan ranges is an important source of water for those rivers, which flow through 16 countries in Asia and provide fresh water to 240 million people in the mountains and another 1.65 billion downstream. "The people living in these mountains who have contributed next to nothing to global warming are at high risk due to climate change," said Amina Maharjan, a migration specialist and one of the report's authors.—APP

Don't rely on the US
Macron urges Europe to develop its own air defense systems

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron called on European nations Monday to seek more independence on airspace defense and advocated against relying too much on the U.S., a long-divisive issue that takes on new urgency because of Russia's war in Ukraine. Macron made his case for Europeans building their own airspace protection strategy in the closing speech of a conference in Paris gathering defense ministers and other representatives of 20 European countries. The talks included anti-drone combat and ballistic missile defense, French organizers said, noting that Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has shown the importance and effectiveness of such equipment. Nuclear weapons deterrence was also on the agenda. "We need to know what the threat situation is... And then, what are we, Europeans, able to produce? And what do we then need to buy?" Macron

said. He warned against purchasing immediately "what's on the shelves." Among nations who took part in the meeting were Germany, the U.K. and Sweden as well as Ukraine's neighbors Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. Representatives of NATO and the European Union also attended. Macron pushed for European defense equipment manufacturers to build independent military systems and relocate production on the continent. He also called for enhanced European standards. "Why do we still need to buy American too often? Because Americans have standardized much more than we have, and they themselves have federal agencies that provide massive subsidies to their manufacturers," he said. The one-day meeting took place on the sidelines of the Paris Air Show, the world's largest event focusing on aviation and space industry that opened Monday.

France has been openly critical of German-led plans for improved European air defense capabilities. The so-called European Sky Shield project, launched at the end of last year, is made up of 17 European nations including the U.K. — but not France. It's meant to be integrated within NATO air and missile defense systems. The French government believes the project doesn't adequately preserve European sovereignty, because it's expected to be largely based on U.S. and Israeli industry. German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius attended the Paris meeting. "With the European Sky Shield Initiative, we are bringing together European states to jointly increase protection against ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said at a news conference earlier Monday in Berlin with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. The German-led plan is

expected to feature the Israeli Arrow 3 system and build on existing U.S. Patriot missile capabilities. Scholz made no reference to Paris' objections to the initiative. Defense has been a recurrent bone of contention between the two countries, with France complaining that Germany wasn't doing enough in the area for years — until the war in Ukraine led Berlin to announce a major boost to military spending. Macron said Monday that the Mamba anti-missile system developed together by France and Italy "is now deployed and operational in Ukraine, protecting key installations and lives." The delivery of the system to Kiev was announced by Paris and Rome in February. "It really is Europe protecting Europe," Macron said. The Mamba system is part of NATO's integrated air and missile defense. With the help of Western weapons and growing experience, Ukraine's air defense systems have made great strides since the war started last year, saving infrastructure and lives.—APP

UK reaffirms support for Sweden's NATO membership

LONDON: The British government on Monday expressed its "unwavering commitment" to collaborate with Sweden to ensure the successful finalization of its NATO membership ahead of the military alliance's July summit in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. The statement came after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak met with his Swedish counterpart Ulf Kristersson in London. The leaders discussed the strong friendship between the UK and Sweden, including in defense, security, trade and technology. Following their meeting, a joint statement was issued emphasizing the importance of Sweden's accession, with the UK asserting that the country's inclusion will not only fortify NATO but also enhance Euro-Atlantic security. "Sweden is strongly aligned with NATO principles and values, has years of experience training and operating with Allies, including the UK, and will bring a modern and well-trained military into the Alliance," it said. The two countries also expressed their condemnation of "Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine." "We reiterate our support for Ukraine's sovereignty and its territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. We are leaders in the provision of support to Ukraine: military, humanitarian, economic, and legal." The two countries also said they viewed China "as a systemic challenge." They called on China "not to provide material assistance to Russia or Russian proxies in Russia's illegal war in Ukraine." In the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, Sweden is looking to join NATO. However, Türkiye, a NATO member for more than 70 years, has blocked the Nordic country's bid, expressing concerns, especially over the presence of the PKK terrorist organization in Sweden. Earlier this year, Türkiye ratified Finland's NATO bid, but is holding back Sweden's bid. NATO leaders will meet in Vilnius on July 11-12 and the alliance's members are expected to step up support to Ukraine for the long haul and further strengthen deterrence and defense.—DNA

Taliban govt dismisses UN report on women

KABUL: The interim Taliban administration on Tuesday slammed UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan Richard Bennett for his latest report on the situation of women and girls in the country, calling it propaganda that did not reflect reality. "The United Nations and some Western Institutions and Governments are spreading propaganda against the Islamic Emirate," Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement. Describing Bennett's report as "propaganda that does not reflect reality," the Taliban official on Twitter said, "Islamic laws are under implementation in Afghanistan, objecting to them is a problem with Islam." The UN special rapporteur on Afghanistan on Monday expressed grave concerns over the "systematic and institutionalized discrimination" faced by women and girls under Taliban rule, calling it gender "apartheid."—APP



ISLAMABAD: Mir Shai Mazar Baloch, Director General (Coord/PDU), Senate attending the meeting between senate Parliamentary Development Unit (PDU) and the team of Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), at Parliament House.—DNA

Germany prods China on Ukraine war

BERLIN: Germany's chancellor pressed China to lean harder on Russia over its war in Ukraine on Tuesday, while leaders from both countries pledged to work together to combat climate change as two of the world's biggest carbon dioxide emitters. Chancellor Olaf Scholz and about half of his Cabinet hosted a delegation led by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, making his first foreign trip since becoming China's No. 2 official in March, as the two nations held high-level government consultations for the seventh time. The meeting in Berlin comes a day after Chinese President Xi Jinping met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, indicating an effort by Beijing to reach out to the West and improve frosty relations. Germany is keen to maintain good ties with China, its biggest trading partner, despite wariness

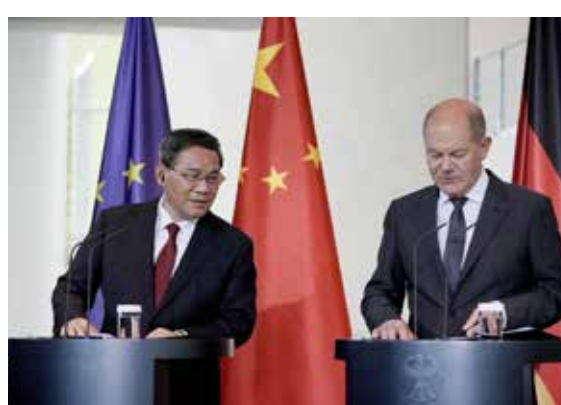
over Beijing's growing assertiveness and refusal to criticize the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Germany's recently published national security strategy describes China as "a partner, competitor and systemic rival." Scholz prodded the Chinese delegation to do more to persuade Russia to end the war in Ukraine. "I appealed again to the Chinese government to exert its influence even more strongly on Russia in this war," he said, standing alongside Li. "As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, China carries a very special duty here." "It is important that China continues not to deliver weapons to the aggressor, Russia," Scholz said, adding that he is "thankful" that China continues to make clear there must be no threat to use nuclear weapons. Li didn't respond directly or mention Ukraine

in his statement. The two leaders took no questions. Germany and China agreed at Tuesday's meeting to set up a "climate and transformation dialogue" to find ways to make industrial processes more climate-friendly and speed up the transition to renewable energy sources. Scholz pointed to extreme weather events such as droughts in China and floods in Germany to illustrate the importance of

action. "As major emitters of CO₂, Germany and China bear particular responsibility in the fight against climate change," he told reporters. "We will face this responsibility together." Li said that "dealing with climate change should become an important field of cooperation for both sides." The Chinese premier emphasized trade and economic issues in his comments. "Deglobalization is flaring

up again and the global economy is lacking growth dynamics," he said, according to an interpreter. He added that "China places great value on the development of relations with Germany and Europe." After visiting the European Union's biggest economy, Li travels to France — the second-biggest — where he will attend the "Summit for a New Global Financing Pact," which is being held at French President Emmanuel Macron's initiative. Scholz has said he wants to avoid over-reliance on Chinese trade and diversify Germany's supply of key goods — an approach he calls "derisking." He said he reassured Li that "we have no interest in an economic decoupling from China." The position was echoed last month by the Group of Seven leading industrial powers. He noted that "access to the Chinese

market and fair competition conditions for German and other foreign companies in China remain a challenge, on which we are pushing for concrete improvements." As Scholz and Li met, German security officials warned of the continued danger posed by Chinese espionage. A report by the BfV domestic intelligence agency, published Tuesday, notes that China's Ministry of State Security is actively trying to obtain information on areas of political, economic and scientific interest to Beijing, as well as on Chinese dissidents in Germany. Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said the country is also examining the potential risks from the use of telecommunications equipment made by Chinese company Huawei in Germany's 5G networks. "This inquiry will be completed in the summer and then we will provide an assessment," she said.—Agencies



Briefs

Court grants bail to Pervaiz Elahi

DNA

LAHORE: A special anti-terrorism court in Lahore has approved the post-arrest bail of PTI Central President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in a case pertaining to making illegal appointments. The court on Tuesday accepted the bail application of former Punjab chief minister and former Punjab Assembly secretary coordination Rai Mumtaz in illegal recruitments case in lieu of surety bonds of Rs1 million each. Special Judge Anti-Corruption Ali Raza Awan read out the verdict he had reserved earlier. Lahore Bar President Rana Intezar represented Pervaiz in the case. While giving his arguments, Special Prosecutor Abdus Samad from Anti-Corruption Establishment said that the former chief minister and others had given grade-17 jobs to 12 candidates in the Punjab Assembly despite the fact that they had failed to pass the written test. "There are clear proofs that the record and the documents had been tampered with," he said, and added, "The candidate securing just eight marks was accommodated while the one getting 58 marks was overlooked."

Titanic tourist sub missing for third day

DNA

NEW YORK: A submersible taking wealthy tourists to visit the site of the Titanic wreckage in deep waters off the coast of Canada was missing for a third day on Tuesday, as U.S. and Canadian ships and planes swept a huge area trying to find the vessel. One pilot and four passengers were on board the submersible that went missing on Sunday, the U.S. Coast Guard said, adding the vessel could stay underwater for up to 96 hours, although it was unclear if it had resurfaced but was unable to communicate. U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral John Mauger in television interviews on Tuesday said rescuers continued their efforts overnight and were expanding their search into deeper waters, telling NBC News that authorities were prioritizing the area where the vessel was operating. "As we continue on with this search ... we've been working through the night with a broad group of partners to bring all capabilities to bear looking on both the surface and now expanding to a subsurface in the area," he told CNN. Those aboard the submersible, the highlight of a tourist expedition that costs \$250,000 per person, included British billionaire Hamish Harding and Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood with his son Suleman.

IHC reserves verdict on Fawad's petition

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday reserved its judgment on maintainability of a petition challenging show-cause notice of ECP to former minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case moved by Fawad Chaudhry through his lawyer Faisal Fareed Chaudhry Advocate. At the outset of hearing, the lawyer adopted the stance that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had no authority to serve such notice. He said that a case was registered against his client on the complaint of ECP and the trial court had fixed a date to frame charges against him. He said that Fawad Chaudhry had been in jail for seven days in this matter, adding that the same proceeding could not be initiated at two forums. The ECP had not served notices to his client as per law as these were issued with the signature of secretary ECP. - APP

ARMED FORCES DAY OF AZERBAIJAN CELEBRATED



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov, Defence Attache Col. Mehman Novruzov and other cutting cake to celebrate 105th Anniversary of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces Day. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. Azerbaijan ambassador and the defence attaché delivered speeches and highlighted the significance of the event. Detailed coverage shall be published in tomorrow's edition of Daily Islamabad POST. - DNA

Pak-IMF talks collapse as agreement expires on 30th

Ishaq Dar has been of the opinion that the depreciation of rupee is the main reason behind Pakistan's economic woes and this stance is nothing new as he has always been a staunch advocate of strong currency

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The ongoing talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have failed, meaning that the country would no more get any money from the world's top lender as the current programme expires on the 30th of this month. Although the finance ministry tried to convince the IMF by explaining Pakistan's position on different reservations and conditions, the process led by Finance Minister Ishaq failed to produce the desired results. The news will certainly further fuel the speculations that Pakistan would default in the coming months as many experts and global institutions have already been warning about the possibility. However, the government thinks otherwise and there are reports of "Plan B" already being activated amid the likely scenario of failing to get the IMF deal done. Earlier, it was reported that Pakistan was not on agenda of the scheduled IMF Executive Board meetings this month, which start from June 20 (Tuesday) to June 29 with a gap on weekend. But there was still a remote possibility of including Pakistan on agenda if the ninth review is completed successfully. It is the steady addition of new conditions and

PM to attend summit on financial institutions

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is set to embark on an official visit to France to attend a Paris summit this week, the Foreign Office announced on Tuesday. He is undertaking an official visit to France to participate in the New Global Financing Pact Summit being held in Paris from June 22-23 at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron, the statement added. "The summit affords an opportunity for the leaders to discuss the contours of a new global architecture capable of meeting the challenges of financing sustainable development, environment, energy transition and climate change agenda," read the communique. In the run-up to other important international events and conferences during the next two years, the summit aims to define the principles and steps required for a comprehensive reform of the international financial system, and pave the way for a more balanced and fair partnership between the North and the South, the FO said. - DNA

the latest reservations expressed on the next year's budget that have delayed the approval since Nov 2022 despite regular contacts between two sides. The country has been awaiting the IMF's final approval of the pending 9th review under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme which will expire on June 30 without the disbursement of the remaining \$2.6 billion out of a total of \$6.5 billion. Hence, there hasn't been any possibility of making any progress on the 10th review. Among other things, Pakistan has been accused of controlling the rupee exchange rate artificially and not reversing subsidies - the two issues about which Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is very much clear. Dar has been of the opinion that the depreciation of rupee is the main reason behind Pakistan's economic woes and this stance is nothing new as he has always been a staunch advocate of strong currency. On the issue of subsidies, not only Dar but also the entire PML-N leadership - barring a few exceptions like Miftah Ismail and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi - thinks that they can further burden the people who are already hit hard by unprecedentedly high inflation due to currency depreciation and jacked up interest rate - the two policies dictated by the IMF.

2 soldiers martyred in N. Waziristan



DNA

RAWALPINDI: On 20 June 2023, an improvised explosive device exploded in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District. Resultantly, Sepoy Gul Rauf (age 29 years, resident of District Lakkhi Marwat) and Sepoy Abid Ullah (age 23 years, resident of District Karak) embraced shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Armed Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

New UK initiative will boost trade with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS) has now entered into effect, providing tariff reductions and simpler terms of trade to Pakistan and 64 other countries. The new scheme has replaced the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) and will help drive business between the UK and developing countries, reducing the need for aid. UK Minister for International Trade Nigel Huddleston launched the scheme on Monday, during a visit to Ethiopia's largest industrial business park, Bole Lemi. Under the DCTS, Pakistan has retained its enhanced preferences status and will continue to benefit from duty-free exports to the UK on 94% of goods exported. It will also remove tariffs on over 156 additional products, and simplify some seasonal tariffs. Total trade (goods and services) between the UK and Pakistan each year currently stands at £4.4 billion. It is expected that £120 million in tariffs will be saved on exports to the UK under the scheme. Pakistan and other DCTS countries will be supported to participate in the international trading system through the UK's Trade Centre of Excellence, which will provide specialist support to fully participate in the global trading system. - DNA

US urges China military dialogue despite rebuff to Blinken

BEIJING: The United States on Tuesday pressed its call for military communication channels with China and signalled concern over reports that China plans a military training facility in Cuba following Secretary of State Antony Blinken's trip to Beijing over the weekend. Establishing military-to-military communications is essential to reduce frictions between the two global powers, Sarah Beran, White House National Security Council senior director for China and Taiwan Affairs, told reporters in a briefing about the trip. "This is an absolutely critical way for us to manage competition, crisis communication, ensure that there is no miscommunication or misperception about each other's intentions," Beran said. "We remain willing and able at all levels to meet and call on China to respond appropriately to that." Blinken said on Tuesday that the United States would have "deep concerns" about Chinese military activities in Cuba, after the Wall Street Journal reported that Beijing was planning a new training facility there. Blinken told a press conference in London that he had made those concerns clear to his Chinese counterparts. "This is something we're going to be monitoring very, very closely and we've been very clear about that. And we will protect our homeland, we will protect our interests," Blinken added. - Agencies

US Envoy visits Gomal Zam Dam



DNA

PESHAWAR: US Ambassador Donald Blome visited the multi-purpose Gomal Zam Dam in the South Waziristan District of the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He was accompanied

by the Chairman of Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Lt. General (retired) Sajjad Ghani, and the Secretary of the Agriculture Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Javed Marwat. The dam is a joint project of the governments of the United States and Pakistan that has yielded remarkable

outcomes. Under the U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework, our two countries are working together to advance water management, clean energy, and climate-smart agriculture initiatives. This single project has doubled agricultural production in the region by opening 191,000 additional acres for local farmers. It has also controlled potential flood damage for over 30,000 households, dramatically increased Pakistan's national water storage capacity, and provided electricity for 20,000 homes. "We are immensely proud of our \$130 million collaboration with the Government of Pakistan on the Gomal Zam Multi-purpose Project, including the dam, irrigation infrastructure, and direct support to surrounding communities," said Ambassador Blome. Gomal Zam Dam, the third-largest water storage facility in Pakistan, after the US-funded Tarbela and Mangla Dams, is a critical piece of infrastructure in Pakistan's strategy for climate change management and overall food security.

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