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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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China hits back at Biden's 'dictator' remarks: Mao Ning

Detailed News On Page-08

EU agree on new sanctions against Russia

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Detailed News On Page-08



Asia Cup's hybrid model is injustice to Pakistan: Zaka

Detailed News On Page-06



Human trafficking needs to be crushed at all cost: Shehbaz

Questions why the criminal activities of human smuggling could not be timely stopped

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to supervise the investigation and formulate necessary legislative proposals regarding the complete prevention of human trafficking. He also directed the investigation committee regarding the Greece shipwreck incident to finalize its proceedings and present its report as soon as possible. A high-level meeting with respect to the Greece boat incident was held here under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Expressing anger over the incident, the prime minister questioned why the criminal activities of human smuggling could not be timely stopped. He asked why concrete preventive measures were not taken despite repeated

PICTURE ON PAGE 7

happenings of such kind of incidents. The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to bring all those responsible for human smuggling to justice as soon as possible. Federal Ministers Rana Sanaullah, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatimi, DG FIA, Chief Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir and other relevant high officials were present in the meeting. On June 14, a boat sank in the Mediterranean Sea near Greece, in which 104 people have been rescued alive, out of which 12 are from Pakistan. So far, a total of 79 bodies have been recovered from the sea. The meeting was told that the coordination cell established in the Ministry of Interior was working 24 hours, where families of missing persons can contact anytime. The meeting was informed that after

Continued on Page 06

PTI issues

show cause

notice to

Khattak

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan

his reported activities of

contacting party members

and inciting them to leave the party. PTI Secretary

General Omar Avub Khan on Wednesday issued him

the show cause notice and

asked him to explain his po-

sition in writing within seven

day of this notice. The noti-

fication reads, "It has come

to the notice of the party

leadership that you are

contacting party members

and inciting them to leave

the party. In view of these

reported activities, you are

hereby called to explain

yourself in writing within

Former

aviation

minister nabbed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former fed-

Wednesday in connection

with May 9 riots. Sarwar,

who served as the aviation

minister in the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf-led cabinet,

had managed to evade arrest

for over a month. He was ar-

rested in the early hours of

Wednesday from his friend's

residence. Former PTI

MNA Mansoor Hayat Khan

and former Punjab MPA

Ammar Siddique Khan, who

were with Sarwar at the time

of the raid, were also taken

into custody. According to

police, a case was registered

against Sarwar at Taxila Po-

lice Station under sections

of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

ter Ghulam Sarwar Khan

was arrest

ed from Is-

lamabad on

seven days of this notice.'

Tehreek

-Insaf (PTI)

issued show

cause notice

Khattak for

Pervez

PM arrives in Paris to attend New Global Financing **Pact Summit**

DNA

PARIS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday arrived here on an official visit to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit, on the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron. As the prime minister landed at the Paris Airport along with his delegation, he was warmly received by Pakistan's ambassador in France and diplomatic officials, besides senior French govt authorities. Federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Marriyum Aurangzeb, and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi are part of the prime minister's entourage. During the visit, the prime minister will attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit being hosted by France and participated by heads of state and delegates from over 50 countries. Prime Minister Shehbaz will also join the world leaders at the dinner reception hosted by the French president for the participating dignitaries. During the visit, the prime minister will also hold bilateral meetings with different heads of state.

Govt to complete IMF programme

Finance Minister brief the US Ambassador about talks with the fiscal body



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here on Wednesday that the government was committed to complete the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. During a meeting with Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome who called on the minister, the minister informed him about the progress on the on-going talks with IMF, according to press statement issued by finance ministry. He said Pakistan values the deep rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States on economic and trade fronts. Dar shared the economic policies and priorities of the government to address the challenging economic environment and set the

economy on the path to stability and growth. He informed the US Ambassador about the government's budgetary measures to reduce the fiscal gap in order to meet its national as well as international financial obligations. The two sides also exchanged views about areas of common interest and how the existing bilateral relations between the two countries can be enhanced further.

On the occasion, the US Ambassador expressed confidence in the policies and programmes of the government for economic sustainability and socio-economic uplift of the masses. He extended his support to further promote bilateral economic, investment and trade relations between both the countries. Dar thanked the US Ambassador and reiterated the desire of the government to further deepen bilateral trade and investment ties with the USA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif leaves for France. - DNA **Returning home** Trial by mily courts: Nawaz, seeks advice from nine-member bench party leaders Big meeting of takes up case today PML-N likely to

Apart from CJ, bench comprises Justice Isa, Justice Tariq, Justice Ijaz, Justice Mansoor, Justice Munib, Justice Yahya, Justice Mazahar and Justice Ayesha



be held soon in

London on issue

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif has sought details regarding party candidates for elections. A big meeting of the PML-N is likely to be held soon in London on the issue. The former prime minister has also sought advice from party leaders regarding a date for his return home. Mobilization of a million people to welcome Nawaz Sharif has been proposed. A majority of the PML-N leaders are in favor of Nawaz landing in Lahore. Party workers from all over the country will be assigned

Continued on Page 06

PTI President Elahi sent to jail

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi has been sent to jail on judicial remand in a money laundering case after the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) presented him before a local court. The former Punjab chief minister was arrested by FIA officials after finally getting bail in a corruption case.

Continued on Page 06

Justice Isa ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan appointed (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has formed a nine-member larger bench led by himself to take up petitions on Thursday against next CJP trial of civilians before military courts under Army Act. Apart from the chief justice.

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday approved the appointment of Justice Qazi Faez Isa as

the next Chief Justice of Pakistan. Justice Qazi Faez Isa will assume office on September 17, 2023, following the retirement of the incumbent Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial, a President House statement said. The incumbent chief justice will reach the age of superannuation on September 16, 2023, under Article 179 of the Constitution. The president, who appointed Justice Qazi Faez Isa under Article 175A (3) of the Constitution, would also administer oath

of office to him on September 17, 2023.

pensation. Its power and reach extend far Continued on Page 06

COURT REPORTER

the bench comprises Justice Qazi Faez Isa,

Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul

Ahsan, Justice Sved Mansoor Ali Shah.

Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi,

Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi

and Justice Ayesha Malik. The develop-

ment comes a day after former chief justice

Jawwad S Khawaja challenged the coalition

government's decision to hold trials of May

9 rioters in military courts, asking if civilian

institutions including the Supreme Court

can endorse "militarisation of justice". "This case is also about power flowing from

the barrel of a gun. It is about the power

of the army. The army controls business-

es and land. Historically, it has exercised

power and influence over our political dis-

Dozen feared dead as dinghy bound for Spain sinks

MADRID: At least more than 30 people are feared to have drowned in the sea Wednesday as a migrant dinghy carrying 59 people was on its way to Spain's Canary Islands, according to two organisations focused on migrants. The organisations - Walking Borders and Alarm Phone - said the dinghy was originally carrying 59 people on board. Helena Maleno, head of Spain's Walking Borders migrants charity wrote on Twitter that 39 people had drowned. Alarm Phone, which focuses on supporting rescue operations in trans-Europe said on Twitter that 35 people were missing. Earlier Wednesday, Alarm Phone reported

the boat was taking on water and three passengers were dead, adding that "we demand immediate rescue, do not let them down!" There has been no confirmation from Spain's coastguard or the Moroccan authorities regarding the total number of on board the vessel or how many might be missing. According to Reuters, the Spanish maritime rescue service said that a child had died and 24 people were rescued from the sinking dinghy in a Moroccan-led rescue operation carried out some 88 miles to the southeast of Gran Canaria island. The body of one child was recovered by the Spanish maritime rescue service and sent by helicopter to Gran Canaria, a

Continued on Page 06

Azerbaijani forces fully prepared to defend motherland

Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and Defence Attache Colonel Mehman Novruzov host grand Azerbaijani Armed Forces Day reception

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov has said Azerbaijan armed forces were fully prepared to defend their motherland adding victory in the Patriotic War unequivocally showed our forces bravery and commitment to defend its borders come what may. He made these remarks on the occasion of the 105th Anniversary of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces reception. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life attended the reception. A special musical performance by the Pakistan Army band added color to the event. Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed, Deputy Chief of Air Staff Projects was the chief guest.

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov further said, 'today we celebrate the 105th anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces. Undoubtedly, the peak of the warpath of our National Army during this period is the glorious Victory gained in the Patriotic War - Karabakh Victory. There has been no similar Victory in the centuries-old history of our nation'. The Ambassador further said, on



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov presenting a souvenir to Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed, Deputy Chief of Air Staff Projects. - DNA

June 26, 1918, by the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first regular military unit - the Combined Azerbaijan Corps - was created. The task of creating an army of 25 thousand people was set by the Government. On August 1, 1918, the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan was established.

The creation of the modern National Army started in 1991 after the restoration of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. However, those who led our country in the first years of independence could not cope with the important and responsible task of army building at that time when Armenia occupied our lands. The encroachment of the enemy on our lands was expanding more and more. Azerbaijan faced the threat of losing its independence. At such a difficult time, the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, who returned to power at the request of the people, eliminated chaos and anarchy, economic and political difficulties in the country and started the process of building a regular army. After the National Leader's return to power,

Continued on Page 06

Century-old Sukkur Barrage 6 gates' rehabilitation started

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI/SUKKUR: Following the World Bank funded project, Sindh Barrages Improvement Project (SBIP) has started the modernization and rehabilitation of six main gates among 66 on River Indus in Sindh province.

Abdul Fatah Memon, Assistant Engineer Civil of Sindh Barrages Improvement Project at Sukkur Barrage told, national and international media observers and Journalists, while the delegation visit at Sukkur barrage, he added that an old Sukkur Barrage on the River Indus has 6 main gates have been completely changed among 66 and 10 gates are permanently closed due to the rising silt and due to the flow of water issues. Memon, further told that the construction work was started during 1923 and completed in 1932 by the British government.

He said the 66 main gates on River Indus and it has seven canals four in the left and rest on the right side. He said these seven canals have around 55 small gates controlling and irrigates more than 88 lacs acres of agri-land of Sindh province. The discharge capacity of each canal will be increased due to in February 2023. World Bank funded closure of 10 gates. He further said that Sukkur Barrage is 90 years old enormous and historical construction with Landslide Bridge, that has completed its maturity (period). Under the SBIP the modernization and rehabilitation was started to maintain since 2018, after flash floods and natural hazardous. The gate number 39 was slightly cracked which was also examined

the experts and since six gates were changed by shipyard Karachi and engineering works he disclosed. He said that under package S-1, the

rehabilitation and upgradation of Sukkur Barrage was started through World Bank funding, it was awarded to China Road and Bridge company joint venture with Hubby Shinzo limited a Chinese Company and they started its work on the ground. He said that to rehabilitate and strengthen of main barrage structures and canal head regulators as well the changing of gates was prime task. He told the silt of up and down stream of Sukkur barrage will also be de-sited during the period. Accoriding to AE, told that the Rice canal would be desilted under package number S-1, while the contract work was awarded

program under SBIP led by vibrant and struggling Provincial Management Office (PMO) Mr. Ghulam Muhiuddin Mughal and Task Team leader World Bank Mr. Francios Onimus. They continued their visits and assured quality of work and completion. As per details, the contractor camp/residence was already established at the site and Project Implementation Consultant (PIC) and Mott MacDonald Ltd with Mott MacDonald Pakistan (MMP). AE Mr. Fatah Memon further told Guddu barrage gates are also changed under the bulk-head gates, while Sukkur Barrage gates will be changed through the construction of Kafr-dam.

On the occasion, the officials of irrigation and SBIP were among Feroze Ahmed Domki an XEN Sukkur Barrage, Nazir Ahmed Lashari, Resident Engineer of MMP Mott Mac Dnolad Pakistan at Sukkur Barrage, Saeed Ahmed Memon CIvil Engineer China Road Bridge Company (CRBC), Mumtaz Ghumro Assistant Engineer of Mechanical Sindh Barrages Improvement Project at PMO Project Management Office were also accompanied the delegation during visit at Sukkur Barrage.



IHC seeks registration of case against Islamabad DC

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday instructed the police to register a case against deputy commissioner (DC) Islam-abad Capital Territory (ICT) Irfan Memon and others for illegally detaining a citizen.

The court also directed police to register a case against the additional commissioner, Sub-Inspector Police Station Golra Imtiaz and a constable Nadir as per the complaint of the citizen. Justice Babar Sattar heard the case filed by a citizen Sherzada into the matter. The court remarked that how the commissioner deputy could detain a citizen forcibly in his office. The petitioner had adopted the stance that he was detained for four hours at the office of DC ICT, adding that his mobile phone was snatched and his chequebook was brought from his house. He said that he was forced to sign the fake deed and the cheque worth Rs 50 million. However, two police personnel were made as witnesses in the deed, he said. He prayed the court to issue directives for registration of a case against the said people. The court said that the conduct of the police was

citizens. After hearing arguments, the court ordered the Islamabad police to register FIR against DC Islamabad and others as per the complaint of the citizen.-APP

not as per the law and re-

marked that how the DC

ICT could set a court on

conflict of two private

Marri vows to uphold Shaheed Benazir mission

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri Wednesday said Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will always stand with the people of the country and fight against poverty, inflation and unemployment, following the mission of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Paying tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her 70th birth anniversary, Shazia Marri said, "Her contributions to the restoration of democracy in the country will be remembered forever".

Addressing a news conference along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi, the federal minister said that the PPP

have rendered great sacrifices for upholding democratic values in the country. Benazir Bhutto was not only the first women Prime Minister of the country but of the entire Muslim Ummah giving a new perspective to the country's politics. She took a number of unprecedented initiatives for empowering women including establishing Women Police Stations, and First Women Bank as well as launching the Lady Health Workers The Ghazi Barotha and

Neelum Power Projects were also launched in her tenure of electricity generation. The federal minister said that oil and gas production increased during the tenure of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto while Pakito the Thar Coal project which Shaheed Benazir Bhutto once termed as 'black gold', Shazia Marri said that the Thar coal project is now the biggest cheap source of generating electricity for the country. Being a woman, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto never considered herself weak but changed the dynamics of politics by empowering women in the country. "Shaheed Benazir Bhutto always fought for the rights of people of the country especially downtrodden segments at every forum and became the voice of the voiceless," she said. She advocated the policy of reconciliation in front of the country's political forces through the Charter of Democracy and was of the view that "Instead of fighting with each other, we have to fight with those who are against progress and de-

stan's relations with foreign countries were also significantly improved. Referring Development works being executed under Karachi Mega Project

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the development works of roads and stormwater drains are going on in various areas under the Karachi Mega Project, which will be completed as soon as possible. On visiting Allama Rashid Turabi Road, Shahrah Humayun, Shahrah Noor Jahan and Shadman Nala, he said works which were urgently needed in the city have been prioritized keeping the convenience of the citizens. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad was also with him, Project Director on this occasion briefed Mayor Karachi about details of the projects included in the mega proiect, Barrister Murtaza Wa-

hab said that Allama Rashid

Turabi Road is three and a half kilometre long. Here first the drain work is being done, after that, the road will be carpeted, this road is from Ziauddin Hospital to Landi Kotal Chowrangi and from Landi Kotal to People's Chowrangi, he said. He said that it will be carpeted from Ziauddin Hospital to People's Chowrangi. Later, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab visited Shahrah Humayun, where after the completion of the construction of the Storm water drain, the 20 km long road is now being carpeted. Barrister Murtaza Wahab, on the occasion of his visit to Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan, inspected the construction of the road from Asghar Ali Shah Chowk to Qalandria Chowk, where the work of drain is

in progress in the remaining part of the road, after which carpeting of other parts will be done.

At the end of his visit, the Mayor Karachi inspected the development works on the Shadman Nala where the accident took place last year. He said in order to secure this place in the coming rainy season directives were issued to officers that all the works should be completed at a fast speed for the convenience of the citizens and such a strategy should be adopted during the development works that the traffic on the sides should not be affected. He said that the process of continuous monitoring of the development work in the city started so that the development works in the city .-APP



Greek Shipwreck Incident

Red Crescent extends support to grief-stricken families

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Expressing deep sadness over the tragic shipwreck incident in Greece and the resulting loss of precious lives, Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari stated that the PRCS stands in solidarity with the affected families during this challenging period. The Restoring Family Link (RFL) Program of the National Society is actively

> Senate chairman address

convocation at **GIK** Institute

here Wednesday stressed

upon students to focus on innovative trends to compete in the existing scenario of science and technology and added that the culture of innovations would help us to achieve goals of progress and development. He was addressing the 27th Convocation in Ghulam Ishaq Khan (GIK) Institute of Science and Technology at Topi, district Swabi. The convocation was

attended by ambassadors, parliamentarians, education-

ists, vice-chancellors and par ents of students.-APP

Chairman

Sanjarani

PESHAWAR:

Senate, Sadiq

families. The Chairman further emphasized that the loss of valuable lives was a heart-wrenching tragedy, and he extended condolences to the bereaved families. The dedicated staff and volunteers of the Restoring Family Link program at the Pakistan Red Crescent Society are maintaining regular communication with the affected families who have sought assistance from the

tracing missing individuals, and the relevant information has been shared with the Hellenic Red Cross. Approximately 70 families affected by the incident are in continuous contact with the staff and volunteers of the Pakistan Red Crescent. These families have unfortunately lost contact with their loved ones as a result of this incident. Chairman Sar-

chological support and all To date, the Red Crescent urged all the affected fampossible assistance to these has received 35 requests for ilies who have lost contact with their family members in the incident, to reach out to the Red Crescent's helpline number, 1030, for further assistance. He reiterated the commitment of PRCS to provide ongoing support to the affected families and collaborate with relevant authorities to ensure their well-being and facilitate any necessary reunification processes



death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh.- APP

UNHCR, Government of Pakistan pay tribute to resilience of displaced people

ISLAMABAD: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and the Government of Pakistan on Wednesday marked World Refugee Day by paying tribute to the resilience and courage of people who are displaced due to conflict or persecution across the world. According to UNHCR's flagship annual report, the number of people displaced by war, persecution, violence, and human rights abuses stood at a record 108.4 million, up 19.1 million from a year earlier, which was the biggest ever increase. The trend witnessed an increase in displacement in 2023, pushing the global total to an estimated 110 million by May 2023. More than 1 in 74 people worldwide remained forcibly displaced. The number of refugees

hosted in Asia and the Pacific region rose from 4.2 million in 2021 to 6.8 million by the end of 2022, nearly 20 percent of the global total. Over 90 percent of all refugees in the region are hosted in just three countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. This year's theme is "Hope away from home". In Islamabad, government officials, heads diplomatic missions NGOs and UN agencies, partners' staff, and many refugees joined UNHCR in marking World Refugee Day. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar was the chief guest on the occasion. Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugee Mr. Abbas Khan was also present on

Speaking at the occasion, UNHCR's Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Noriko Yoshida paid rich tribute to the resilience of refugees and the generosity of host communities that provides shelter, and protection for refugees as well as giving them access to education and healthcare. "World Refugee Day is a time to recognize the generosity of host countries who have kept their borders and hearts open to people in need of protection," she said, adding Pakistan's solidarity for over four decades, is an example of commitment to protecting the rights of 1.3 million Afghan and other refugees and giving hope away from home. "We hope that Pakistan will continue to show its generosity and hospitality towards the

refugees in Pakistan," she said. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar expressed concern over the increasing numbers of displaced people across the world saying the growing number of displacements globally is adversely affecting Pakistan, which has been hosting the world's largest protracted refugee population. "Amid our own financial challenges, we have opened our doors to Afghan and other refugees, however, the international community must come forward to play their role as part of responsibility sharing," she said. Voluntary return of Afghans in safety and dignity is the preferred solution for Pakistan," she said adding continuous support should be provided to the returning

families in Afghanistan so that the return is sustainable. Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees Mr. Abbas Khan, UN Resident/ Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, Mr. Julien Harneis also spoke on the occasion. At the event, Afghan refugee children presented a cultural performance. An art exhibition and handmade products made by refugees were also put on display. In Balochistan, UNHCR arranged several activities to raise awareness about refugees. An event was organized in Quetta, which was attended by representatives from the UN, the government and other partners. Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Kakar was the chief guest at the oc-





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National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

JUNE

June 02/Itlay

National/ **Independence Day**

June 04/Finland **Armed Forces**

Day May 06/UAE

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

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Hospitals

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RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
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Shifa Internation	nal 4603666



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Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Balochistan is rich in mineral resources

The manner in which the embassy has evacuated our citizens in difficult situations is commendable. As an important country in the Islamic world, Pakistan should play a role in ending the civil war in Sudan through OIC and other international platforms

Mahnoor Ansar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ambassador to Sudan Mir Behrooz Regi has said that Balochistan is a province rich in gold, gas and mineral resources. By utilizing these resources in a better way, the destiny of Balochistan as well as Pakistan can be changed .We need to work together to improve the security situation of Pakistan and take the country on the path of development and prosperity. He expressed these views yester-

day while meeting President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on the occasion of his visit to the chamber. He said that the civil war of Sudan is causing the destruction of a very sad and important African country. Within the



and chaos in Pakistan and adopt the path of brotherhood, tolerance and dialogue, So that the country can move on the path of

development and prosperity. Speaking on the occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Balochistan is the future of Pakistan. After the completion of Gwadar Port, Pakistan will be able to gain new

importance in the entire region, this is the reason why anti-Pakistan forces are obstructing the way to bring peace and tranquility in Balochistan and Gwadar. He said that the armed forces have successfully fought these anti-national forces before and now un-

der the leadership of Army Chief General Asim Munir today. The recent successes of Pakistan's security agencies are proof that subversives and enemies of peace will not be allowed to succeed.

We expect that Pakistan will soon come out of its current economic crisis and move on to the path of development and prosperity. He said that Sudan has great importance in the African region and the civil war there is very sad.

The manner in which the embassy has evacuated our citizens in difficult situations is commendable. As an important country in the Islamic world, Pakistan should play a role in ending the civil war in Sudan through OIC and other international plat-

Success of CPEC crucial for Pak economic development

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: A Roundtable discussion on the tile of CPEC & Analysis was held in the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). It was held to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the flagship project of Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The event was attended by professionals, scholars, and academia.

The well known speakers such as Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, Shakeel Ahmad Ramay and Dr. Tahir Jamil have participated in the debate. The discussion was opened up by the Research Analyst China Program Miss Nabila Jaffer with certain critical questions to the participants. Ambassador Naghmana, who served as Pakistan's Ambassador to China noted that partnership

with China heralds back to

the period when even both of entities were not emerged. She went on to saying that Mr. Jinnah while holding an office of the All India Muslim league (AIML) sent a delegation to show the importance of China as a neighbour in the region. She also said that the idea of CPEC was not new in 2013. Its traces can be found 50 years back when the Karakoram Highway was laid. While commenting on the western criticism on the project, she noted that CPEC is the only North-South corridor of BRI. The first phase of the CPEC has done sufficiently, she added. Pakistan should own this project as it is the gift for the country. She also urged for increasing capacity for the success of second phase of CPEC which she said is more crucial to put our industrialization on track. Speaking from his experience at CPEC projects, Dr. Hassan Daud Butt noted that Pakistan is facing dire

challenges such as the rise of population and limited jobs. In his SWOT analysis, he proposed "Risk Mitigation Plan" to cope up with the challenges faced by Pakistan. He suggested that Pakistan should mitigate the threats and challenges to reap benefits from CPEC. In his presentation on critical analysis, Shakeel Ahmad Ramay opened up saying Pakistan should understand China rather than knowing it. He highlighted some key challenges related to "Chain Command", "Buck Passing", "Inefficient Proposals", "Layers of Institutions". He also noted that CPEC is facing critical challenges of "scattered work", "Security" and "Wrong Person for the Right Job". Mr. Ramay has also proposed solutions to mitigate these challenges. These include opening of the markets after the enhancement of production and reducing

consumption. He also proposed different options to achieve efficient SEZs. At the end, he added that Pakistan can face rivalry and competition from regional and extra-regional countries

regarding CPEC. Lastly, Dr. Tahir Jameel pointed out that CPEC should have economic dimension rather than the strategic one. He also noted that the Chief business of China is business. China provides a favourable environment for the investors which bring FDI to them, he added. Prof. Azhar Ahmed viewed that geopolitics are still important. Economy is a subset of politics. China first consolidated politics and then introduced economic reforms. Geopolitics are changing in favour of Pakistan he siad. We actually have opportunities. CPEC is a long term project which require consistent policies and good govern-

540 bln invoices issued through POS in one year

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Wednesday said that almost 540 billion invoices have been issued through the Point of Sale (POS) system in one year. Director General Automation Abdul Wahid said this during the 2nd day of a workshop titled "Digitalization of Taxes in Pakistan" jointly organized by FBR and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP). Addressing the participants he said that almost 50 million invoices were issued on a monthly basis. He said in order to improve and expand the system steps are being taken. FBR senior official said that the use of technology in Pakistan is less as compared to other developed countries adding that the FBR is trying to make tax and tax matters easier. He urged the private sector to put their efforts to improve the system and minimize the loopholes. "We should benefit from other countries' experiences in the digitization of the system and adopt their reforms to make the tax system easy and convenient for the people" he added. He appreciated the UNESCAP for sharing important information regarding digitalization. He said that global experts and their experiences will help us to set a new path and this is our first step towards digitalization. He further said that we are in touch with international experts and in case of any difficulty we are supported in every way. Meanwhile, the foreign experts also briefed the authorities regarding the ewithholding tax and discussed the difficulties and complications of the ewithholding tax and its implementation. The conference also discussed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve POS systems.-DNA

Hajj **Symposium** fosters culture of innovation

DNA ISLAMABAD: The 47th

Grand Hajj Symposium, organized by the Saudi

Arabia's Ministry of Hajj

and Umrah, took place

in Jeddah, under the title "Jurisprudence Facilitation in Hajj." The symposium was attended by prominent Saudi ministers including Dr. Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, minister of Hajj and Umrah; Sheikh Abdulrahman Al-Sudais, president of the General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques; Abdulfattah bin Sulaiman Mashat, deputy minister of Hajj and Umrah; and Ayed Al-Gwinm, deputy minister for Hajj affairs, in addition to a group of scholars and intellectuals from the Islamic world, and representative delegations from Muslim countries. The symposium aimed to advance the values of peace, understanding, and cooperation, and sought to establish a platform for discussing pressing and pivotal matters that could potentially impact the pilgrims' journey as they engaged in the rituals, Arab News reported. Through the event the ministry attempted to highlight the cultural and civilizational role that Saudi Arabia had played in serving Hajj pilgrims since the founding of the Kingdom. It also highlighted the most significant achievements. pioneering projects, and developments. Al-Rabiah said in his opening remarks that the symposium would allocate a special session in which senior leaders could discuss operational programs that had been prepared for the Hajj season. Four panel discussions were held at the symposium, including a session called "Service Readiness and Operational Plans: Key Enablers and Opportunities." Al-Gwinm said that there were more than 400 service packages offered by various companies, utilized by more than 1.4 million pilgrims.

NA Speaker launches Internship Program

SAIFULLAH ANSAR ISLAMABAD: National As-

sembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf said that this first ever Summer Internship Program for Young Citizen in National Assembly of Pakistan would provide an opportunity to young generation in form of a first-hand experience of legislative procedure. He further stated that democracy entails that Elected Parliamentary Representatives of people should make joint efforts to achieve prosperity. He also said that Democracy is the only effective way of governance. In addition, he stated that Pakistan is destined to progress and its young generation would lead Pakistan onto the path of progress. While emphasizing the need to bridge the gap between young generation and Parliament, he said,



"Parliament is a place where political leaders work day and night to change the fate of nation." He further said that Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto struggled and sacrificed her life for democracy. Moreover, he said that she fought bravely against forces of tyranny and continued her struggle against dictatorship till her last breath. He remarked that it was Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who gave right of vote to our young generation. The Speaker also condemned the recent vandalism and desecration of monuments dedicated to nation's Martyrs, he also emphasized on the fact that it is impossible for a nation to progress if it doesn't respect its martyrs. He stated that the onus is upon our young generation to preserve sanctity of Parliament. While addressing

the launching ceremony of the Internship Program, National Assembly Secretary Mr. Tahir Hussain warmly welcomed the Interns. He remarked "Parliament is the house of people and it is fortunate that the youth of this country are getting an opportunity to work at this prestigious institution, which will help them to understand democratic systems and the Constitution"

Olive committee reviews strategic proposal plan

ISLAMABAD; The third meeting of the steering committee on 'Olive Culture' Wednesday reviewed a strategic proposal plan and policy's recommendations for a holistic development of the Pakistani Olive Value Chain. The committee also appraised the 'Olive Cultures' outstanding achievements, work plan and budget for remaining period from June 2023 to March 2024, said a press release issued here. The project "Olive Culture-Holistic and multi-professional Mechanism for a Pakistani Olive Value Chain", is funded by the Italian Government and implemented by CIHEAM Bari with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MFSR). The meeting was chaired by the Italian Ambassador in Pakistan, Andreas Ferrarese and the Secretary, M-FSR, and attended by rep-

Ministries, provinces and the Italian Cooperation, AICS. The project is an ambitious initiative aimed at supporting Pakistan in strengthening the olive value chain. The event, which also included virtual participation from Deputy Director CIHEAM Bari, Biagio DiTerlizzi, shed light on the initiative's progress and prospects. The work plan of project will pursue the training for technicians and farmers in all the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), in managing and operating the olive processing plants,in generating Carbon sinking avenues for olive growers, creating participatory tourism olive plans with the communities' implementing Women and Youth generating income activities on value addition from olive table, in stand-

ardization, branding and

commercialization. A strategic proposal for the development of Olive Sector was also presented to the Committee, "Action Plan and Policy recommendations for a holistic development of the Pakistani Olive Value Chain" which includes the formulation of the Pakistan Olive Oil Council/ Association, as the results of a combined efforts of an Olive Stakeholder Group and CIHEAM Bari. International Coordinator Ciheam Bari, Dr. Marco Marchetti presented a comprehensive overview of the accomplishments, which encompasses a range of strategic objectives, including preliminary assessments, policy support approached through the creation of the Olive Stakeholders Group involving farmers, business representatives, women entrepreneurs, and academia.-APP

Two day learning conference starts

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training commenced a two-day Pakistan Learning Conference 2023: Building Foundations from June 21-22, 2023 in Islamabad. Gathering global educators, policymakers, and experts, this eagerly awaited conference is delving into vital topics of Early Childhood Education (ECE) and foundational learning. Speaking at the Inaugural session, Chief Guest for the occasion, Federal Minister, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Pakistan has a constitutional commitment to deliver 'free and compulsory education for all children between the ages of 5 to 16'. He added that Government intends to go beyond it as Pakistan is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 4 (SDG4) to provide 'lifelong learning opportunities for all'. He emphasized sharing knowledge and experience during the conference and pushing hard for these goals. He further said that through this event Pakistan could come closer to vision of an educated, confident Pakistani youth, supported from the moment they are born, and equipped with the foundational learning to achieve their dreams. Earlier, Secretary Education, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary welcomed the participants and said that the gathering of passionate international and national level educators, policymakers and donors at the conference was a unique opportunity to collectively work towards transforming landscape of early childhood education and foundational learning. He informed the attendees about the Human Capital Review Report and shed light on how addressing learning poverty is crucial for socio-economic progress. He further added that through the flagship initiatives of MOFEPT which include Out of School Children enrollment drive, foundational literacy through ASPIRE, establishment of classrooms in primary schools & kindergarten important steps are being taken for transforming early childhood education. He added that MOFEPT was looking forward to creating a Combined Action Plan in the Conference through synergies, collaborations and experience sharing that will positively impact.-DNA

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Briefs

PHA directed to complete renovation work

RAWALPINDI :Director General (DG) Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi, Ahmad Hasan Ranjha here on Wednesday directed the authorities to complete ongoing renovation work of all the parks in Rawalpindi and Murree before Eid-ul-Azha. The DG also instructed to repair faulty lights, swings and walking tracks as soon as possible besides improving the security of the parks. He also ordered the officers to utilize all available resources to ensure the provision of the best recreational and tourism facilities to the public in all the parks of Rawalpindi and Murree particularly on Eid ul Azha. The DG said that PHA would complete the ongoing renovation work without utilizing government funds.-APP

PIA sets to resume flight between Islamabad-Beijing

DNA ISLAMABAD: Pakistan In-

ternational Airlines (PIA), is likely to resume its com-

mercial operation between Islamabad and Beijing,

starting from August 6, with

lowest fares and extra free

baggage allowance, said PIA Country Manager in

China, Bilal Afzal on Thurs-

day. He told China Econom-

ic Net that to provide best

service, they are offering the ever-best policy for this route and all passengers can enjoy it. Besides, all students even have more discounts and baggage allowance. "We are pleased to announce that PIA is resuming flight operation to China effective 6th August 2023. Initially, we will have one weekly flight Islamabad -Beijing-Islamabad every Sunday. It will depart from Beijing at 21:15 local time", he added. He further said that they are offering the lowest fares in the market with gracious free baggage allowance of 50Kg in Economy Class and 60Kg in Economy Plus. "The oneway fare from Beijing-Islamabad is 3814 RMB and the fare for a return ticket is RMB 5685." "We are also offering a 20 percent student discount with 80Kg free baggage allowance and passengers can avail further discount if tickets are purchased online", Bilal mentioned. Muhammad Zubair, a Pakistani student at Shandong University, said that he was planning to visit Pakistan during summer vacation but worried about the high fares, "PIA can solve my difficulty by adopting the new policy. SHARKA

COMSTECH enters into MoU with the University of Nizwa

COMSTECH is the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC, was established by the Third Islamic Summit of OIC held at Makkah, Saudi Arabia in January 1981. The President of Pakistan is the Chairman of COMSTECH

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and the Chancellor of the University of Nizwa, Prof. Ahmed Al-Rawahi, signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Chancellor's office in the University of Nizwa in

Oman on Tuesday.
The officials of COMSTECH the Embassy of Pakistan in Oman, and the University of Nizwa also participated in the MoU signing ceremony. Prof. Choudhary also held a meeting with the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Nizwa. He discussed multi-lateral cooperation, reverse linkages and exchange of faculty, researchers & students. Prof. Choudhary also visited the labs and different departments of the university and appreciated the highly productive role being played by the University of Nizwa in the Middle East and the Muslim world by departing quality education.

COMSTECH and the University of Nizwa have agreed to promote and strengthen cooperation, pro-



vide a platform for collaborative activities in the relevant fields of mutual interest, and encourage mobility and cooperation such as sharing experiences and best practices, development of methodologies, and mobility of experts. Both the institutions agreed that whenever possible and mutually beneficial, they will develop and implement joint educational and scientific programs, collaborate in organizing national and international events, such as workshops, conferences, symposia, seminars, exhibitions,

training course, place students, academic and scientific personnel in a partner university. The university of Nizwa is offered membership in the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE), and registration in the OIC Technology and Innovation Portal.

Following the MoU, COMSTECH will develop a program in association with University of Nizwa, through which young researchers/ students from different OIC-LDC's particularly from Africa will be able to join and conduct research at University of Nizwa. The University of Nizwa (UoN), was established in the Sultanate of Oman in 2004 as a faculty governed not-forprofit private university. The guiding philosophy of UoN has been to provide students with a high-quality education that prepares them to contribute meaningfully to the economic, artistic and aesthetic growth of the country.

COMSTECH is the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC, was established by the Third Islamic Summit of OIC held at Makkah, Saudi Arabia in January 1981. The President of Pakistan is the Chairman of COMSTECH. The core mandate of COMSTECH is to strengthen cooperation among OIC member states in science and technology for the socio-economic development.

NHA completes

key link road

in Balochistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority

(NHA) has completed the construction of a key

link road in Balochistan to reduce distance for

Gwadar-bound traffic from Punjab and other

According to a recent statement of NHA's Mem-

ber (West Zone) Shahid Ihsanullah, the Authori-

ty has completed work on the 106-kilometre-long

Basima-Khuzdar Road (N-30), at a cost of Rs11.7

billion. Shahid Ihsanullah said that currently, both

light and heavy traffic is plying on the road and

the Prime Minister will formally inaugurate the highway soon, he said. The road is part of the Chi-

na-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative,

he said. Jawad Akhtar Khokhar, a senior official at

the CPEC Secretariat at the Ministry of Planning,

Development & Special Initiatives, told Gwadar Pro that N-30 will reduce over 100 kilometres of

distance for Gwadar-bound traffic from Punjab and

northern parts of Sindh by connecting the Hos-

hab-Sorab Highway (N-85) in Basima with the Rato-

dero-Gwadar Motorway (M-8) near Khuzdar. As per

the actual plan of CPEC's Western Route, M-8 will

connect Ratodero in Sindh with Gwadar. However,

M-8 is under construction between Hoshab and

Khuzdar; therefore, N-85 currently links Gwadar

with Punjab and Sindh. N-85 was already connect-

ed with the M-8 through Karachi-Chaman Highway

(N-25). However, the vehicles had to ply up to 150

kilometres from Basima to Sorab and then travel

Instead, the new road provides a direct link for

back 90 kilometres on N-25 to reach Khuzdar.

northern parts of the country.

Over 1.3 pilgrims arrived in **Saudi Arabia** for Hajj

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia has so far welcomed over 1.3 million pilgrims during this year's Hajj season through the Kingdom's international ports, the General Directorate of Passports announced on Wednesday. Up until Monday, 1,342,351 pilgrims have arrived in the Kingdom through air, land and sea ports, the Directorate said. It added that the number of pilgrims arriving to Saudi Arabia through its airports has reached 1,280,240 pilgrims, the number of arrivals that came through the land ports has reached 57,463 pilgrims, while the number of arrivals through sea ports has so far reached 4,648 pilgrims, Al-Arabiya news reported. Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia, will begin on June 26. It is expected that this year's pilgrimage will see about 2.6 million Muslims come together to perform the Islamic ritual for the first time since COVID-19. The Kingdom's security agencies have been working and preparing to ensure that the pilgrimage takes place in a safe and smooth

manner.—APP Experts on World Yoga Day stresses public awareness

ISLAMABAD: Health experts on the World Yoga Day here Wednesday have stressed for creating public awareness about the benefits of Yoga exercise to promote mental, emotional, and spiritual equilibrium

and emphasize balance in

our busy and modern life. A yoga expert Basit Amin talking to PTV news channel, explained that Yoga was essential for demonstrating the significance of physical and mental well-being in contemporary culture. The Day also encourages establishing a regular meditation practice to foster mental clarity and self-awareness both essential for thriving in a stress-free atmosphere, he added. He said that International Yoga Day was celebrated every year on 21 June worldwide including Pakistan to spread awareness about health and fitness. This year, the theme of the Day is 'Let's know more about International Yoga Day 2023', he said and added, Yoga is a powerful exercise method for combating stress and promoting overall well-being as through a com-

Chinese and Pakistani Universities to launch dual diploma

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (FVAS), MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, and Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College, China, held an online meeting to launch Sino-Pak dual diploma program in livestock management at FVAS. Under the dual diploma program, students will study initial two years in Pakistan and one year in Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College, according to an update by the FVAS. The two institutions had signed an MoU in February 2023 for the purpose, Gwadar Pro reported.A Faculty Ex-

change Program will also be funded in addition to online training of animal husbandry and veterinary science teachers of FVAS. Furthermore, Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College will establish modern agriculture and animal husbandry demonstration training centre at MNS University to organize trainings for Pakistani veterinary professionals, technical personnel and industrial partners. Vice Chancellor Dr Asif Ali said on the occasion that this partnership will not only benefit students but also contribute to the development of livestock industry in Pakistan. Dr Asif Raza, Dean FVAS, said that aim of the program will provide

the students with a diverse and enriching learning experience to develop their skills in livestock management and animal care in a multicultural environment. Prof. Yang Guiquan, Principal of Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College; Guo Qinghe, Deputy Director of Animal Science and Technology Institute; Jiang Xiaoxin, Dean Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine and Ma Wenjing, Dean of Int'l Cooperative Office from Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College, attended the meeting. Max Ma, Director and Executive President of Tang Pakistan was also present during the online meeting, among others.

MNAs deliberate on Senate budget commendations

ISLAMABAD: Lawmakers in the National Assembly on Wednesday deliberated on recommendations of the Upper House of the Parliament presented for incorporation in the federal budget 2023-24, suggesting measures to improve national economy, strengthen key financial sectors and provide maximum relief to the common Resuming debate on the federal budget and the Senate recommendations, Dr Sobia Aslam Soomro of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) said the past regime of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) installed landmines for the incumbent government by weakening the national economy and pushing the country towards the default-like situation. She said the present government effectively tackled all the

woes increase at Islamabad PWD Road

traffic congestion along the PWD Road leading towards Bahria town has caused severe difficulties for road commuters due to the non-implementation of park-

in the pursuit of ultimate

truth, goodness, and beau-

ing laws by numerous food outlets and shopping malls near the road. The absence of adequate police officials to ensure smooth traffic flow has only exacerbated the their frustrations and call for immediate action to address the persistent non-compliance issues. The relentless traffic congestion along this crucial roadway has reached

ing methodologies, criti-

alarming levels, primarily due to the disregard for parking regulations. Numerous vehicles, especially those near food outlets and shopping malls situated along the road, contribute to the traffic snarls. Just recently, the traffic rush along this crucial roadway escalated once again due to the opening of another food outlet. Overall, the absence of proper parking facilities and the failure to enforce parking laws have created

Unfortunately, the phrase

economic challenges.-APP

Traffic chaos, commuter

situation. As the situation

chaotic conditions-APP

Education: A Pathway to Knowledge and Empowerment



ceiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university" can be transformed into Classical and academic English as follows: Education is defined as a structured and formalized journey through which individuals acquire knowledge and understanding of various subjects. This process of learning results in the development of patterns of thought and behavior that align with the educational experiences received. According to John Dewey (1978)"In its broadest sense, education serves as the means by which a social group perpetuates itself, renews its existence, and defends its ideas." Education encompasses that which remains after one has forgotten everything learned in school. (Albert Einstein) Education cultivates a person's intellectual faculties, particularly their mind, enabling them to appreciate and engage

ty, which constitute the essence of profound joy. In essence, education is the formation of a spiritual mind within a healthy body. (ARISTOTLE) The education system assumes a crucial role in shaping the future of any nation. In the case of Pakistan, the education system has undergone several transformations over the years. This assignment aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the education system in Pakistan, including its structure, challenges, and potential solutions. The education system in Pakistan is organized into various levels: This level focuses on children aged 3 to 5, providing them with a fundamental foundation for future learning. Primary education encompasses grades 1 to 5, offering basic literacy and numeracy skills.Middle education spans grades 6 to 8, where students build upon their primary education and expand their knowledge base. Secondary education comprises grades 9 and 10, culminating in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination. Higher secondary education encompasses grades 11 and 12, leading to the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) examination. Tertiary education includes colleges and universities, offering bachelors, masters, and doctoral

Pakistan faces challenges in providing equal access to education for all citizens, particularly in rural areas. High dropout rates, gender disparity, and inadequate infrastructure hinder enrollment rates. The quality of education in Pakistan remains a concern. Outdated curricula, rote learning approaches, lack of qualified teachers, and limited resources impact the quality of instruction and learning outcomes. Gender disparity in education poses a significant challenge. Girls face cultural barriers, early marriages, and limited opportunities for higher Insufficient education. funding and mismanagement of allocated resources contribute to inadequate facilities, poorly equipped schools, and limited teacher training programs. The education system needs to prioritize technical and vocational education to address the demand for skilled labor and reduce unemployment rates. Inadequate teacher training programs and professional development opportunities hinder the ability of teachers to deliver high-quality education. The government should

allocate a higher budget for education and ensure its efficient utilization to improve infrastructure, provide necessary resources, and enhance teacher training programs. Curriculum Reforms: Regular review and updating of curricula based on modern teachcal thinking, and practical skills development can improve the quality of education. Teacher Training and Development: Comprehensive training programs for teachers should be implemented, focusing on modern teaching methods, classroom management, and subject Continuous expertise. professional development opportunities should also be provided. Addressing Gender Disparity: Initiatives should be undertaken to promote gender equality in education, including awareness campaigns, scholarships, and community engagement programs to encourage girls' education. Collaboration between educational institutions and industries can help develop skill-based programs, apprenticeships, and on-thejob training opportunities, aligning education with market needs. Encouraging collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society organizations can help improve the education system by sharing resources, expertise, and innovative approaches. The current literacy rate in Pakistan stands at 62.3 percent, implying that approximately 90 million people in the country are unable to read and write. Illiter-

acy is a major contribu-

tor to unemployment and

poverty in the country.

"education for all" has been reduced to a mere slogan, as successive governments have failed to prioritize this crucial sector. Consequently, the number of out-of-school children in the country continues to rise, currently reaching approximately 22.8 million, according to Unicef. The primary reason behind a majority of these children opting out of school at a young age is the need for family support. These children can be observed working in factories, hotels, cafeterias, auto workshops, and as domestic servants. Many of them resort to begging, which, in the given context, can be considered a profession – one that yields considerable profits. Under these circumstances, the government needs to focus on improving public sector schools nationwide to provide freeof-cost education for all. Simultaneously, steps must be taken to eliminate child labor from its roots. At the end, I thank to Re-

spected Sir Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer who has shown in my growth as a writer. His belief in my abilities and their dedication to helping me succeed has been an invaluable source of motivation. His mentorship has empowered me to explore new perspectives, challenge my own assumptions, and develop a stronger and more confident voice.

N-85 with M-8 by diverting traffic from Basima towards Khuzdar, he said, according to Gwadar Pro. bination.-APP 10 Minutes **Drive From** The Monal



Why green energy?

n an era defined by the growing urgency of combating climate change, transitioning to green and renewable energy sources has become an indisputable necessity. The consequences of our heavy reliance on fossil fuels have become increasingly evident, from rising global temperatures and extreme weather events to the irreversible loss of biodiversity. As we stand at the precipice of irreversible environmental damage, it is imperative that we recognize the vital role of green and renewable energy in shaping a sustainable future for our planet. Firstly, green and renewable energy sources offer a viable solution to mitigate climate change. The burning of fossil fuels releases vast amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, intensifying the greenhouse effect and resulting in the warming of the planet. In contrast, renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal power produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions during operation. By embracing these clean alternatives, we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint and curb the destructive impacts of climate change. Secondly, green and renewable energy sources foster energy security and independence. The availability of fossil fuels is inherently limited, and their extraction often involves geopolitical tensions and environmental risks. Transitioning to renewable energy provides a decentralized energy system, where power can be generated locally, reducing dependence on fossil fuel imports and vulnerable supply chains. Moreover, renewable energy sources are abundant and widely distributed, offering a more sustainable and resilient energy infrastructure. Additionally, the shift towards green and renewable energy sources presents a significant economic opportunity. The renewable energy sector has experienced remarkable growth in recent years, creating jobs, fostering innovation, and driving economic development. Investments in renewable energy technologies not only generate employment opportunities but also stimulate local economies, attracting investment and boosting manufacturing and research and development sectors. Embracing renewable energy presents a win-win scenario, where environmental sustainability aligns with economic prosperity. Furthermore, investing in green and renewable energy sources bolsters public health and improves the quality of life. Fossil fuel combustion contributes to air pollution, leading to respiratory diseases, cardiovascular issues, and premature deaths. By transitioning to clean energy, we can significantly reduce air pollution and its associated health risks, providing cleaner and healthier environments for communities around the world. Moreover, renewable energy projects often prioritize local participation, engaging communities in decision-making processes and creating a sense of ownership and empowerment. Critics of renewable energy often cite concerns about its intermittency and high upfront costs. However, technological advancements and innovation are rapidly addressing these challenges. Energy storage technologies, such as batteries, are becoming increasingly efficient, allowing for the storage and dispatch of electricity during periods of low renewable energy generation. Additionally, the declining costs of renewable energy technologies have made them more competitive

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Growing challenge of AI

rtificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of our time, offering immense potential for innovation and progress across various sectors. However, along with its remarkable advancements, AI also presents unprecedented challenges that must be carefully navigated. As we continue to embrace the power of AI, it is crucial to strike a balance between technological progress and addressing the ethical implications it poses to our society. One of the foremost concerns regarding AI is the potential impact on the job market. Automation driven by AI has the potential to disrupt industries and replace certain types of jobs, leading to unemployment and socioeconomic inequality. While AI can enhance productivity and create new employment opportunities, it is essential to invest in retraining and upskilling programs to ensure a smooth transition for affected workers. Governments, educational institutions, and industries must collaborate to prepare the workforce for the AI-driven future, fostering a culture of lifelong learning and adaptable skill sets. Another significant challenge lies in the ethical implications of AI. As AI systems become increasingly sophisticated, they possess the ability to make autonomous decisions that may have profound consequences. Issues such as algorithmic bias, privacy concerns, and the lack of transparency in AI decision-making processes have raised important ethical questions. It is crucial to develop robust frameworks for AI governance that prioritize fairness, transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. Regulation and policies must keep pace with technological advancements to ensure that AI is developed and deployed in a responsible and ethical manner. Additionally, AI raises concerns related to privacy and data security. AI systems rely on vast amounts of data for training and decision-making, raising questions about the ownership, storage, and usage of personal information. Protecting individuals' privacy and securing sensitive data should be a top priority. Striking the right balance between data utilization and protection requires robust legal frameworks, data anonymization techniques, and transparent consent mechanisms. It is imperative to establish clear guidelines to safeguard privacy rights and prevent misuse or unauthorized access to personal data. Moreover, there is a need for greater transparency and explainability in AI systems. As AI algorithms become increasingly complex, it becomes challenging to understand how they arrive at certain decisions. This lack of explainability raises concerns about bias, discrimination, and potential harm caused by AI systems. Researchers and developers must focus on developing AI models that can provide clear explanations for their outputs, ensuring that decision-making processes are fair and accountable. Lastly, the ethical challenges posed by AI extend to issues such as autonomous weapons and the potential for AI to be weaponized. There is an urgent need for international dialogue and cooperation to establish regulations and norms governing the use of AI in military applications. Efforts must be made to ensure that AI technologies are developed and deployed within the bounds of international humanitarian law, promoting peace and security rather than exacerbating conflicts.

Greece Tragedy: address the basic issue of unemployment

Waheed Hussain



If social, political, and economic situations remain the same, we may unfortunately experience such disasters in future too. Our rulers must change their mindset. We all must give up our egos and think about people and country. All powerful individuals and institutions should sit across the table to find

others are waiting for good news as many Pakistanis are still missing from the fishing trawler (boat) capsized in the bloody waters of Mediterranean near Greece. The pain that families of the dead and missing are passing through is unexplainable in any phraseology. Only victims and sufferers could feel the agony. The rest are gossip, accusations, and crit-The immediate reaction from the government was to blame the human traffickers and a crackdown against agents involved in the illegal business. It was an effort to give the impression that the whole problem was the agents, while the government was free from any responsibility. The Prime Minister, Interior Minister, Defense Minister, and many others issued statements to show their concern and commitment to punish the culprits. Excellent performance. But those arrested will be out of jail after a few days, either by paying money to investigative staff, or getting bail from courts. The issue would be forgotten in a few days as a new issue will come up to keep the social and conventional media including news channels-newspapers busy with the coverage. The authorities and masses will forget the tragedy and the file will be closed and business will resume as usual.

The question is very simple. How illegal travelers leave the country either through land route by crossing Baluchistan border entering Iran to Turkey and further to Greece, Italy, and Europe, (although this unfortunate fishing trawler left from Libyan town of Tobruk.) How do these, illegal immigrants leave the country by using the international airports and land borders? Could we accept this argument that without some help from the officials deployed at the border and airports, these illegal travelers depart the country? Those deployed at airports and land borders must have a role. Only a blind can say I did not see any movement or crossing. The illegal action of an individual could not be associated with the whole institute. However, people at the top must be held responsible and they should take strict action against their subordinates who allow human trafficking. Corrupt mafias and criminals are everywhere. When people can

reach European countries without legal and required

documents (passport visa etc.) it means that officials of the destination states are also involved in the crime. From a human trafficking point of view the European nations need to shoulder responsibility as well.

The most appropriate argument would be, why are young people so desperate to put their life at risk for reaching the developed, advanced, financially, economically, and politically stable countries? Why do they convince their parents and family members to sell their precious assets including residence, land, or jewelry to finance their travelling abroad? In some cases, they arrange money from friends or take loans. The reason was that Pakistan was passing through the worst kind of unemployment, Poverty, and price hike. Every increasing inflation has broken the back of the masses. People needed multiple sources of income to meet their needs. They need jobs, they need money. That's why they put their lives at risk and try to reach rich countries to make good money. There are four categories of unemployed people in Pakistan. First, those who were employed in the cotton or other factories in Faisalabad and Karachi but due to financial difficulties and increased cost of production a large number of factories have shut down. Increases in energy prices like electricity and gas are also increasing the cost of various products while at the same time reducing the margin of profits. As the rupee is depreciating against the dollar, the cost of imported raw material and machinery is adding to the cost of production. The increase in the State Bank of Pakistan policy rate, which is 21 percent highest in the history of Pakistan, is again adding to the cost of production lowering the margin of profits. So, the factory owners cut the expense by reducing the staff or in some cases totally closing their units. In the last one-year millions of workers have been left jobless. The second category of unemployed are those who were working with international business outfits or welfare organizations. The big foreign companies like automobile, Shell Pakistan and many others are moving out of Pakistan causing unemployment. The third category of unemployed is millions of fresh graduates. Suppose If there is an announcement

for a post, you may find hundreds of thousands applying for the same. These were those young graduates on whom the parents had spent millions of rupees to complete their education, get a degree and start earning to support the family. In the present circumstances there was little hope of getting a job. The fourth category of unemployed is those who were neither educated nor had any professional skill. Mostly, they are from rural areas of Pakistan. Where their families are working in the agriculture sector just making enough for two meals. As the economy is in bad condition, currency has lost its value against the US dollar, the jobless people try hard to leave the country and find good opportunities in foreign land either by legal or illegal manner. In this fight for survival mostly the youth are trapped by human smugglers and criminals to accept their offer, pay them millions, while putting their lives in danger. This is what happened to all victims of the Greece Tragedy. Due to political uncertainty and economic instability thousands of well-educated people have left the country in recent times. That we call it brain drain. Many businessmen shut down their businesses and shifted to the US, Australia, Canada, and other European countries. In the uncertain environment nobody is interested in staying in the country. In such a situation whosoever gets a chance, either legal or illegal, would prefer to move out of the country. What we need is political stability which would ensure economic stability. unfortunately the successive governments have disappointed the nation. People are in despair, see no hope in the governments, state institutions and political leadership. If social, political, and economic situations remain the same, we may unfortunately experience such disasters in future too. Our rulers must change their mindset. We all must give up our egos and think about people and country. All powerful individuals and institutions should sit across the table to find a permanent solution to the challenges we are facing today. Internal fights for petty personal gains will further harm the country. Just arresting a few individuals would not address the issue, the unemployed need a source of income.

RSF's Exile journalists map - Where is Pakistan?

Qamar Bashir

ome of us were expecting Pakistan to be at the top of the list of countries where journalists and media personnel are fleeing the country due to alleged persecution by the state. However, to my and many others' surprise, the latest mapping issued by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) makes no mention of Pakistani journalists fleeing to Europe and North America, which in our perception were migrating and fleeing in hordes. In reality, neither India nor Pakistan are experiencing an alarming exodus of journalists, but Bangladesh and Afghanistan are the only countries in South Asia that meets RSF's criteria for journalists fleeing the country due to safety and security concerns. The Exile map tracked the movements of journalists, and found that the journalists are primarily flees from nations where there was either war or fighting, or major economic, social, and law and order concerns, and as expected, the natural outflow of these journalists was towards Europe and North America. Based on data accumulated over the last five years, the exile journalists map depicts journalist migration as a global phenomenon, with journalists from all continents being found escaping to the safe havens. The countries most unfriendly to journalists were primarily from Europe (Ukraine), Africa (Sudan), and the Middle East (Syria), but there has also been recent tension and political turbulence that has fueled persecution of critical and/or independent media. The map's purpose was twofold: one was to oppose the persecution that drives journalists to flee, and the other was to assist journalists and media persons who have no choice but to seek refuge abroad to ensure their survival by involving all actors, including democratic governments and other stakeholders, in providing various services for exile journalists and assisting in the creation of the JX Fund. It also attempted to mobilize international support for exile media, whose impact extends beyond the borders of their home country in an era of globalized challenges to the provision of news and information, as well as propaganda wars.

According to the map, Russia is at the top of the list on account of forcing several hundreds of journalists to abandon the country as a punishment for not toeing the government line while objectively reporting on the motives, strategies,

and plans of war, as well as the gains and losses sustained during the conflict with Ukraine. The defiant journalists were imprisoned, and those with the fortitude, courage, and means fled to neighboring countries such as Georgia, the Baltic states, or within the European Union, particularly Poland, Germany, and France. Despite their fleeing, the majority of their media entities continue to operate remotely. For instance, the news website Bumaga continued to cover Saint Petersburg with the assistance of fleeing journalists hosted by seven countries. On the other hand Russian DOMA continued improving the media law to cater to any emerging situation. Accordingly, a bill was passed on March 4 - a major addition to the disinformation law passed in 2019 - where the posting of material about the Russian military services which was termed false and had "discredited" the military was punishable by up to 15 years in jail. In addition to this law, at least six more laws have been quickly enacted since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. And later on 22nd March, media laws were extended to Russian state bodies operating abroad. These laws prohibit "socially significant" unreliable information that does not originate from the government. such as rouble exchange rate declines, price increases, epidemics, and natural disasters as punishable offenses. Resultantly, in the past six months, more than 4,000 individuals, including journalists, have been prosecuted under this law, and 224 of them face a possible prison sentence. Even a Russian human rights organization was prosecuted for posting a link to international media outlets about Russian army atrocities in the Ukrainian city of Bucha. On April 6, another law was approved prohibiting the public depiction of "denial of the Soviet Union's humanitarian mission in the liberation of the countries of Europe' punishable by 15 days in prison. "Every Soviet soldier must always be presented as a highly moral and humanistic hero," the Mass Media Defence Centre (MMDC), a Russian human rights NGO, stated in its legal interpretation of this regulation. Another amendment in media law was made to empower the prosecutor general's office to legally suspend or restrict the registration of any media outlet (print, radio, television, or website) without the need for a court order. If a second breach occurs, the media outlet will risk indefinite extraiudicial suspension. At the same time, Russian media outlets operating in foreign countries, if shut down or penalized by the host country, the media of that country(s) will face similar action against the media of those

countries which were operating in Russia. Therefore, when Russian official television network RT was prohibited in the European Union, at least 27 media outlets of the European Union operating in Russia were shuttered or ceased operations, including the BBC, CNN, and CBC/Radio Canada. The Russian government went hard on the internet and social media at the same time and blocked nearly 7,000 websites since the war began. The second spot was taken by Afghanistan, where scores of journalists were forced to abandon the country as it fell back under Taliban control in August 2021. Since the Taliban came to power, 2021 Afghan journalists have fled the country for fear of retaliation. Despite the fact that these evacuations occurred in a volatile and changing political climate, their implementation took several months, and some journalists are still waiting to be resettled in Europe. RSF' has provided the French authorities with a list of 80 vulnerable journalists. So far, 25 journalists on this list have been permitted to travel from Afghanistan to France. The other 55 reporters are hoping to arrive soon. Nineteen of them are still in Afghanistan, while the rest are in third nations. The RSF German chapter was able to evacuate 159 journalists to Germany, the Spanish chapter was only able to rescue 18 journalists. RSF is currently enlisting Afghan Journalists who are sending distress calls in addition to providing assistance to journalists in Afghanistan and those who have fled to neighboring countries, whose security and economic situation is very precarious and who require administrative procedural support, particularly when processing visa and political asylum applications. Since August 2021, RSF has distributed 71 cash awards totaling 99.916 euros to journalists to assist them in meeting critical needs. It has also assisted with administrative procedures, particularly visa and political asylum petitions to European authorities in 81 cases. Third place was taken by Myanmar, where the military retook control in a coup in February 2021, and fourth by Hong Kong, where at least 100 journalists escaped a threeyear crackdown invoking national security laws that drove independent media like Apple Daily to cease operations. Jimmy Lai, the organization's founder, was imprisoned and many independent iournalists fled to Taiwan, the United Kingdom, or North America. The fleeing journalists' chosen destination was, as expected, the United States, Canada or western nations, whose languages they speak or where they already had relations. However, for most journalists escaping overseas, exile is a two-stage process that begins with seeking asylum in neighboring countries, such as Afghan journalists and their families fleeing to Pakistan, and then continues to other safe havens. Journalists from Syria have fled to Turkey and later to the countries.

The persecution of media in other countries and examples quoted above had made the case of Pakistan in terms of persecution of media persons dwarf but nonetheless Pakistan's media freedom status is not perfect, but it is not as terrible as in the countries mentioned by RSF in its study. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has documented the cases of at least 100 journalists who have been forced to flee Pakistan since 2010. These journalists have faced a range of threats, including physical attacks, death threats, and legal harassment. The reasons for persecution attributed by CPJ are: country's weak rule of law, which makes it difficult to prosecute those who attack journalists, government's LAE' has been accused of using journalists to silence its critics and the rise of religious extremism, which has led to an increase in threats against journalists who report on sensitive topics. The International federation of journalists ironically enlisted many cases of journalists who fled during the PTI government from 2018 to 2022 and observed that during these times, talk shows were shut down, journalists and members of the media were attacked, harassed, tortured, forced out of jobs and thrown into jail. In 2021 Reporters Without Border labeled the PTI chairman as a 'press freedom predator' while recording various cases of persecution of media persons. Saleem Safi was removed from the panel of news analysts in 2018 when he reported about the closure of the RTS system during the elections. Nusrat Javed was forced to leave his job for criticizing Imran Khan. Najam Sethi was sued for Rs10 billion after the latter shared some insights about Imran Khan's family life during a TV show. Journalist Matiullah Jan was abducted in Islamabad in broad daylight. Absar Alam was taking a walk in a park outside his residence when he was shot at by an unidentified assailant. Editor-in-Chief of Jang, The News and Geo Mir Shakil-ur-Rehman was kept in detention for months in a 34-year-old property related case. Journalist and anchor Hamid Mir was made to leave his job and was unable to return until Imran Khan was gone. Vlogger and journalist Asad Ali Toor was beaten up inside his house. Mohsin Baig was arrested by the FIA. Asma Sherazi faced intense trolling and a very

stern reaction by the PTI after writing a column

for the BBC Urdu. Talat Hussain was forced out of his job for being a critic of the PTI and the list go on and on.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), at least 18 journalists have fled Pakistan between 2018 and April 2022 for safety concerns. Of these, 13 fled in 2018, 3 fled in 2019, 2 fled in 2020, and 2 fled in 2021. Since April 2022, at least 4 journalists have fled Pakistan for safety concerns. These include Wajahat Saeed Khan, Shaheen Sehbai, Sabir Shakir, and Moeed Pirzada. A criminal and terrorism investigation was opened against freelance U.S.-based journalists Khan and Sehbai for allegedly "inciting people to attack military installations, spread terrorism, and create chaos. On 13 June, Islamabad police opened two similar criminal and terrorism investigations into Shakir, a freelance journalist based outside of Pakistan and Moeed Pirzada, U.S.based editor of the news website Global Village Space. When CIP confronted the government of Pakistan on these accounts, it reacted angrily and in a befitting response to the CJP it said, the four journalists "have not been charged solely based on their journalism activities" but are "accused of engaging in political activism and propaganda disguised as journalism." The response added "these individuals are facing charges under terrorism laws because there is substantial evidence suggesting their deliberate efforts to incite and provoke the public, not only on May 9 but also in the preceding weeks,". However, we should stop comparing ourselves with the worst examples but set our own high standards to make Pakistan's democracy a shining example where the media is respected and given the space it deserves, setting a positive precedent for other countries with similar backgrounds. Governments have an important role in ensuring that the media is a strong, responsible and vocal pillar of society. A free, fair and responsible media is essential for a healthy democracy and a prosperous and vibrant society, regardless of political philosophy or intent. Let's work together to create a thriving and responsible media ecosystem! We can start by investing in quality education and training programs to produce highly skilled and professional journalists. It's also important to ensure the safety and security of our current media professionals so they can perform their duties with peace of mind and accuracy. By doing so, we can build a healthy and prosperous democracy for all.

World / Sports



Briefs

Azerbaijani forces fully...

From Page 01 our army and people had a firm belief in Victory. At the call of Heydar Aliyev, a largescale mobilization was held, and military units were fully equipped in the country, he added. While talking about the war with Armenia the Ambassador said, the 44 days Patriotic War of 2020 which resulted in the liberation of our territories from Armenian occupation by the brave Azerbaijani Army under the leadership of Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev was written in golden letters in our history. It is no coincidence that the military operations of the Azerbaijani Army, especially the Shusha operation are studied in the leading military schools of the world today.

While talking about the bilateral relations he said, today we can see that Azerbaijan and Pakistan's bilateral relations are at a high level in all fields, including military and defense cooperation 'I would also like to mention that over the past 30 years, mutual visits have been carried out in the military and military-technical fields. I am confident that these ties will be further strengthened and deepened'. Colonel Mehman Novruzov, Azerbaijan Defence Attaché to Pakistan in his speech said the people of Azerbaijan have for centuries fought for liberty and statehood along its ancient history. Because of rich natural resources and strategic location, our motherland has always undergone pressures and military aggressions by strong states.

After regaining independence, all state attributes of Azerbaijan, including Armed Forces were restored and on May 22, 1998, with the presidential decree, June 26 was declared as the Day of Azerbaijan Armed Forces.

Since its establishment on 26 June 1918, the Azerbaijan Armed Forces have faced many security challenges and demonstrated remarkable resilience, unwavering dedication, and a strong commitment to safeguarding security and territorial

integrity of Azerbaijan. He sdaid the turning point in the history of Azerbaijan Armed Forces came in 2020 during the 44-Day Patriotic War of Azerbaijan. In response to Armenian provocations. jan launched a successful counteroffensive military campaign to retake its 20% territories, which had been under Armenian occupation

for almost 30 years. The Azerbaijan Armed Forces carried out the war of the 21stcentury and destroyed the Armenian fascism on the battlefield, thus demonstrated the strength, determination and professionalism of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces. 'The counteroffensive operation of Azerbaijan Army with the later adopted "Iron Fist" code name, made the aggressor state of Armenia, to admit its unconditional capitulation in 44 days. Azerbaijan managed to fulfil the requirements of the international law, implement on the battlefield the 4 UN Security Council resolutions that remained on paper for 27 years'.

Talking about bilateral relations he said, Azerbaijan and Pakistan enjoy strategic partnership relations which also cover the cooperation in the defense and security fields. The Azerbaijan-Pakistan military cooperation has been built on the foundations of brotherhood, shared values, and common objectives. The exchange of high-level military visits, participation in training programs, conducting joint exercises, as well as growing military technical cooperation have further deepened the military cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. This collaboration has served to enhance the capabilities and professionalism of both our armed forces, enabling us to face emerging security challenges effectively.

In 2021, Azerbaijan hosted joint special forces exercise under the code name "Three Brothers", which included participation of special forces of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Türkiye. The aim of such exercises is to enhance joint operational readiness of our armies. improve their level of interoperability and enable our countries to jointly address all kinds of regional security challenges. We are planning to continue conducting more combined joint military exercises in multilater al formats, he added.

'Asia Cup's hybrid model is injustice to Pakistan'

"Najam Sethi sahab took the right decision to not take part in PCB chairman's election. I think there were some people in the management committee who tried to mess up things for the upcoming management," he shared his views

DNA

LAHORE: Zaka Ashraf, most likely the next chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), said he was against the hybrid model for Asia Cup from the very first day. Ashraf, who served as PCB chairman during the last government of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), said hybrid model is not a win situation for Pakistan. "I had already rejected hybrid model for the Asia Cup. It is an injustice to Pakistan. It is not right to hold main matches outside Pakistan. Being the hosts, the complete event should take place at home,' he said while speaking at a local event in Islamabad today. PCB's management committee, led by Najam Sethi, had proposed hybrid model for Asia Cup after India refused to travel to Pakistan. After a lot of hiccups, the hybrid model was approved by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). According to the approved hybrid model, first four matches will be played in Pakistan before the event moves to Sri Lanka where nine matches including the final will take place. The tournament will be played from August 31 to September 17. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on Tuesday, nominated Zaka Ashraf 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 Ashraf and Ramday, four representatives each from cricket associations and departments will sit in the BoG. The chief election commissioner will now call for the election which is likely



to take place later this week. Sethi, who was appointed as the head of the PCB management committee, confirmed that he is no longer in the race to become the PCB chairman. The 75-year-old, while sharing an update in a tweet, said that he doesn't want to be a "bone of contention" between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PPP co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari. Former Test cricketer Aamir Sohail believes that Asia Cup's hybrid model is not going to work for Pakistan in the longer run.

Speaking to a local news channel, Sohail said the hybrid model means Asia Cup is gone from Pakistan. "It will be really tough for anyone who comes to power in PCB next. Management committee accepted hybrid model, it means Asia Cup is gone from Pakistan as only four matches will be held here," he said.

"This decision has also jeopardised Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan. PCB management should be careful while taking decisions," he added. The ex-cricketer also thinks that Pakistan's participation in the upcoming World Cup in India would be a tough decision. "It will be a major challenge, whether Pakistan will go for World Cup in India or not. India have let us down so many times, we need to take a strong stance against them while taking the government in the loop," he reiterated. Sohail, who sent legal notice to PCB management committee, lauded Najam Sethi for pulling himself out of the PCB chairmanship race. "Najam Sethi sahab took the right decision to not take part in PCB chairman's election. I think there were some people in the management committee who tried to mess up things for the upcoming management," he shared his views.

According to details, Sohail, who represented Pakistan in 47 Tests and 156 ODIs, had requested the chief election commissioner and Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) to restrict Sethi to call meetings and use other powers in the PCB.= The legal notice emphasised that Sethi's management committee tenure ended on June 19, hence they don't have powers to function in the PCB.

Trial by mily courts...

From Page 01 beyond its constitutional role. If not a state within a state, it is regarded as an entity distinct from the government and referred to as the 'establishment'.

"The question for our civilian institutions including this court is whether the militarization of justice will be endorsed," said a 39-page constitution petition filed through Khwaja Ahmad Hosain advocate. The former top judge asked if Pakistanis as a nation want to march backwards in time "with banners flying and drums beating to old tunes".

"Or do we see a better tomorrow with public officeholders and institutions operating within constitutionally assigned domains? It is a fundamental question that continues to plague us as a nation. The answer will shape the future," he added. He said trials of civilians in military courts do not meet international fair trial standards: the right to a public hearing is not guaranteed, there is no right to a reasoned judgment, there are no details about where trials are conducted, and even the details of the charges are kept secret.

Human trafficking...

From Page 01 the incident, a total of 10 FIRs had been registered while 15 people had been arrested, including the main accused of the incident. It was told that an organized network from different countries is involved in human trafficking.The Prime Minister directed the FIA to promptly complete the detailed investigation of the matter and to take effective measures to prevent it. The Prime Minister also directed Commissioner Guiranwala to identify the agents involved in the heinous act of human trafficking in the Gujranwala district and bring them to

justice immediately. The prime minister directed the relevant institutions to remain in constant contact with the families of the victims. He also directed the Pakistani embassy in Greece to stay in touch with the Greek authorities regarding the incident.

Dozen feared...

From Page 01

Spanish coastguard source said as Moroccan authorities are asking for their help. The coastguard later tweeted that a second body had been found by a merchant ship, the Navios Azure, without giving more details. "The dinghy had been begging for rescue in Spanish waters for more than twelve hours. Among the survivors, 24 people, 22 men. 2 women, are being transferred to Cap Boujdour," Maleno of Walking Borders wrote on Twitter. The Canary Islands – located off the coast of West Africa has turned into a central destination for migrations that want to enter the European country Spain.

Nawaz seeks...

From Page 01 the task of reaching Lahore for the reception. Nawaz Sharif, meanwhile, con-

tinues consultations with party leaders. On Tuesday, former premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi announced his resignation and stated he was no longer an official member of the PML-N.

PTI President...

From Page 01

On Tuesday, an anti-corruption court ordered the authorities to release Elahi. who had been incarcerated for almost three weeks in a case pertaining to illegal recruitments in the Punjab Assembly, on bail against a surety of Rs1 million.

However, a new case was registered against the PTI president and his son Moonis Elahi on charges of money laundering within hours of the release orders. As Elahi deliberately avoided submitting the surety bond in hopes of a protective bail in the new case from a high court this morning, he remained at the Camp Jail and was eventually apprehended by the FIA officials from the detention centre.

Pakistan faces India in highly anticipated football match



KARACHI: Sharing a cyclone is easier than sharing a football field for Pakistan and India. Biporjoy united Pakistanis and Indians in prayers and tracking the movement of the extreme cyclone. Hands were raised in prayer, hoping for no casualties on either the Gujarat or Sindh side of the Arabian Sea. The people of the two countries have more in common,

but political and diplomatic reasons make traveling and playing sports together a challenging and dramatic task. "We are still in trouble," Pakistan's head coach, Shahzad Anwar, told The Express Tribune while on the plane at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport in Mauritius. "This ordeal is not over." By the time you read this, Pakistani team would have

landed in Mumbai. They arrived in India at 1am IST, marking the beginning of another challenging journey. The team received their Indian visas on Monday, after a lengthy process reminiscent of a soap opera. On June 21, the day of the

match, the team was supposed to reach their hotel in Bangalore, the venue for the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, by 10 am. "We'll reach our destination at 10 am on the day of the match. We have to fly to Goa before flying to Bengaluru, but we have been enduring this agony for several days now," continued Shahzad, as he tried to keep the players motivated.

"The wait hindered us from giving our best against Djibouti in our last match at the Four Nation Cup friendly tournament. If I had known our visas were already issued. I would have chosen a different team and strategised differently. This friendly tournament was our opportunity to test and prepare the team for the SAFF Championship, which is our biggest regional event, and one that we have yet to win." Pakistan played three matches in Mauritius, losing 3-0 to the hosts on June 11, improving with a 1-0 win

against Kenya on June 14, and being outplayed by Djibouti 3-1 on June 17.

The team was meant to receive their Indian visas last week, but since that did not happen, they had to extend their stay in Mauritius, resulting in significant costs for Pakistan and mental strain for the team. "We were uncertain about how this would end. Were we supposed to go back from Mauritius? Despite training, we needed a lot of mental work to stay optimistic and keep the players' spirits up. We all want to play India, participate in the SAFF Championship, and seize every opportunity to play because we are in the phase of rebuilding this team," said Shahzad.

Williams, Svitolina get wildcards for Wimbledon

Boulter will be joined by compatriots Jodie Burrage, Harriet Dart, Katie Swan and Heather Watson as wildcard entries

LONDON: Wildcard entries were given to seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams and former world number three Elina Svitolina for Wimbledon, the organisers confirmed on Wednesday. Williams, 43, has won Wimbledon five times and returned to action this month after a five-month injury layoff. The American is currently ranked 697th and is participating in the Birmingham Classic, having bagged a victory against a top-50 opponent in nearly four years when she defeated Italian Camile Giorgi in the round of 32 on Monday. Meanwhile, Ukrainian Svitolina reached the French Open quarter-finals following a maternity break before being knocked out by Czech teenager Linda Fruhvirtova in Birmingham earlier this week. British number one Katie Boulter is among the other wildcard entries after winning her first Women's Tennis Association title at the Nottingham Open over the weekend. Boulter will be joined by compatriots Jodie Burrage, Harriet Dart, Katie Swan and Heather Watson as wildcard entries. In the men's tournament, Liam Broady, Jan Choinski, Arthur Fery, David Goffin, George Loffhagen and Ryan Pe-

niston were handed wildcard entries. The four outstanding wildcards - two men and two women - are yet to be announced. Earlier, Wimbledon's total prize money rose to a record 44.7 million pounds (\$56.52 million) ahead of the tennis tournament this year.

The All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) said that there has been an increase of 11.2% as compared to 2022. Winners and runners-up of the men's and women's singles finals will also see their prize money go back to previous levels in 2019, where they pouched 2.35 million pounds and 1.175 million pounds, respectively.

The prize money for winners dropped to 1.7 million pounds in 2021 before it was increased to 2 million pounds last year. The qualifying competition prize fund has also received a 14.5% increase on last year while any player losing a first-round match is assured of at least 55,000 pounds – an increase of 10% on 2022. - Agencies

"Rest senior citizens": Afridi on Sethi and Zaka

AJAM Sethi recently announced his withdrawal from the race to become the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Shortly after that, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his capacity as the Patron of PCB, exercised his authority and nominated Zaka Ashraf and Mustafa Ramday as potential candidates for the hot seat.

Upon being asked who would he select between Sethi and Ashraf, former Pakistan captain, Shahid Afridi, stated that it is high time that we should let go of the people who are rather getting old and introduce young faces instead.

"I would've rested both of these senior citizens. I wouldn't have wanted anyone above 60 or 65 years to reclaim this seat. Both of them are now quite old. They need to go, rest and count God's beads. The way I see it, we need young blood in this place, individuals who can bring in new ideas," Afridi said. Moreover, Afridi also appealed to the new chair for continuity till World Cup. He urged to let things be till the mega event happens. "I'd request whoever the new chairman is coming, please let World Cup happen, let things be the way they are at least till World Cup, and then do whatever you want because we are already short on



ISLAMABAD: A skilled person is making designs on the sacrificial camels at temporary animal market at Sector 1-15 in, as ahead of Eid-ul-Adha in Federal Capital. - Online

Barcelona close to completing Gundogan signing

"I hope he stays with us. We are still fighting for him to stay with us. He is a player we want to stay, and we will do all we can, but we know Barca want him

BARCELONA: FC Barcelona are close to completing the signing of the German midfielder Ilkay Gundogan on Wednesday. According to a journalist close to the club, Roger Torello, the Spanish club is optimistic that the deal could be completed today and there will be no complications in registering the Manchester City star. Gundogan, 32, has been on

top of the wishlist for the Catalan club as head coach Xavi Hernandez is a big admirer of the midfielder and is confident that signing him would add more quality to the squad. Gundogan's experience, versatility and most importantly a free transfer are some of the reasons why Barca are pushing for a move so hard. Earlier while talking to a

press, City's head coach Pep Guardiola made it clear that his and the club's priority is to keep their captain despite strong interest from the Spanish Club. 'We are interested in re-

newing his contract and [Barcelona] are also interested," Guardiola said at the Puma Legends golf tournament. "I hope he stays with us. We are still fighting for him to stav with us. He is a player we want to stay, and we will do all we can, but we know Barca want him.

"If Barca sign him, they will have a spectacular footballer on their hands. I am aware Xavi has called him a lot. If, in the end, he picks Barca, I will tell him he will enjoy himself." However, it seems like the German is off to

Barcelona as he is looking for a new challenge in the later part of his career. The 32-year-old led Manchester City to a historic treble last season where they also won their first-ever UEFA Champions League (UCL) title in the club's history. He also

Earlier, Xavi confirmed that his priority is to sign at least two midfielders to cover up for the departure of Sergio Busquets, who left the club after 14 years. "I need two signings in midfield. I lack an interior and with Busquets' departure, scored a brace in FA Cup we also need a pivot," Xavi said. "This has to be the prifinal against Manchester United to help his team ority." - Agencies

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Briefs

Poles sue German firms over Nazi-era damages

WARSAW: Several Polish nationals have sued two German companies for damage that their ancestors allegedly suffered at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. The plaintiffs claim that the firms are liable as they profited from cooperation with the Third Reich.

The two lawsuits were filed on Tuesday with the district court of Krakow, a Polish organization representing the claimants announced at a press conference hosted by the Polish Press Agency. One case targets the Kassel-based mechanical engineering company Henschel - a major producer of weapon components during World War II. Four grandsons of Jewish Polish entrepreneur Leopold Wellisz seek more than \$4.2 million in compensation for Henschel's takeover of the Polish firm Fablok, where he was a majority stakeholder. They also want a personal apology.

The other case was filed by the daughter of Tadeusz Sledzinski, who was a prisoner at the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. His forced labor benefited the firm IG Farben, the lawsuit said. As a successor organization, Bayer is liable for this and must pay \$400,000 in damages, the plaintiff argued.

The Polish foundation Defenders for Defenders, which represents the plaintiffs, hopes the two cases that it prepared on their behalf will help set a precedent for future litigation, the lawyers explained at the event. They differ from Warsaw's demand for compensation directly from the German government, as they are civil lawsuits against private firms which cannot claim state immunity.—DNA

Dozens of women killed in Honduras prison riot

TEGUCIGALPA: At least 41 women have been killed, some burned to death, after gang violence broke out at a prison in the Central Ameri can nation of Honduras.

Yuri Mora, a spokesman for the National Police Investigation Agency, said authorities found dozens of bodies after Tuesday's violence at the Tamara prison, nearly 50 kilometers northwest of the Honduran capital Tegucigalpa. Prison staff were cited in local press reports as saying that some of the victims had been shot and that at least seven female inmates were being treated at a Tegucigalpa hospital for gunshot and stab wounds.

President Xiomara Castro said she was shocked by what she described as a "monstrous murder" of women, which she blamed on powerful street gangs. "Solidarity with the families," she tweeted, adding that she would respond with " drastic measures."-APP

Kazakhstan, Germany forge deals worth \$1.7 B

ASTANA: The Kazakh-German Business Forum on June 20 in Astana resulted in the signing of 23 commercial agreements worth more than \$1.7 billion, reported the Kazakh Invest national company.

The forum was attended by Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Germany's President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who arrived in Kazakhstan on June 19 as part of an official visit. The parties agreed to cooperate in the processing of rare earth metals, the production of machine tools, agricultural machinery, as well as in the textile industry, fisheries and green energy. One of the major deals is a \$22 million agreement signed between Kazenergopower and Siemens to produce medium-voltage distribution devices for the Kazakh energy sector using Siemens technology.

Creada Corporation and HMS Bergbau signed a \$200 million agreement for the exploration, extraction, and processing of complex rare metal ores in eastern Kazakhstan.-Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting regarding human smuggling and the recent capsizing of a boat in the Mediterranean near Greece.-DNA

Astana conference condemn 'support' for terrorists in Syria

The guarantor countries on Wednesday held bilateral meetings and discussed developments "in the field" and Syria's immediate region

ASTANA: Turkiye, Russia, Iran and Syria on Wednesday condemned the actions of nations supporting "terrorist entities" in northeastern Syria as they assembled for Astana peace talks in Kazakhstan.

The guarantor countries reject "illegitimate self-rule initiatives" in Syria implemented under the pretext of fighting terrorism, a joint statement read.

Reiterating their resolve to combat terrorism, the sides added, "We stand against separatist agendas that threaten the national security of neighboring countries." Since Tuesday, deputy foreign ministers from Türkiye, Russia, Iran, as well as Bashar Assad's regime, have been in the Kazakh city for the 20th round of Astana talks, an initiative launched in 2017 by Türkiye, Iran and Russia to bring the warring sides in Syria together to find a permanent solution to the decade-long war. The guarantor countries

on Wednesday held bilateral meetings and discussed developments "in the field" and Syria's immediate region. A roadmap for the normalization of ties between the Damascus-based regime and Ankara was also on the agenda besides the release of hostages, missing persons, the humanitarian situation, the rebuilding of Syria, and establishment of conditions for the return of Syrian refugees.

inent topic was counterterrorism efforts in Syria, where terrorist groups, including Daesh, the PKK and the YPG, rose to prominence amid the conflict. The YPG is PKK's Syrian

States has strongly backed it under the pretext of fight- on Wednesday agreed to

ing the Daesh terror group. Thanks to U.S. help worth millions of dollars, the YPG has grown stronger in northeastern Syria. Along with the PKK, it still controls much of the war-torn country's east, making it impossible for Assad to establish territorial integrity. Since the civil war broke out, Türkiye has backed the opposition as the Bashar Assad regime frequently denounced Ankara's support

However, the most prom-

that paved the way for liberating Syria's north from PKK, YPG, as well as Daesh. Relations between the two, however, thawed after the Feb. 6 earthquakes that killed more than 56,000 people combined in both countries. Turkish officials have recently been floating the idea of cooperating with Damascus on counterterrorism efforts, as well. The guarantor countries collaborate "further" to sustainably normalize the situation in the Idlib de-escalation zone, neighboring Türkiye, and strongly rejected the "illegal seizure and transfer of oil revenue that is supposed to belong to Syria," referring to PKK/ YPG's control of oil fields in Hasakah, Raqqa and Deir el-Zour districts. The joint statement further

condemned Israel's ongoing military attacks on Syria, reiterated the sides' call for respect to international laws and dismissed Israel's decisions and steps on the matter as "null and void." Additionally, the guarantors urged for the ninth Constitutional Committee Draft Commission meeting to take place "immediately if the Syrian side is constructive about it." Expressing ing humanitarian situation

in the region in the wake

countries also emphasized on the need to ramp up humanitarian aid in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions. "The guarantor countries must provide the necessary support for the safe and voluntary return of Syrian refugees, as well," the sides said, calling on the international community to help the cause. The sides agreed to reconvene for the next round of talks in the second half of the year, but longtime host Kazakhstan seems more reluctant to uphold the tradition as it surprisingly proposed ending the process during the meeting. Kazakhstan has hosted such meetings since 2017, with varying results. One of the biggest moves announced in Astana was the partition of Syrian lation zones overseen by

different countries. But on

of the earthquakes, the

Wednesday, Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Kanat unexpectedly Tumysh called for the conclusion of trilateral talks, saying their goal had been achieved. "Syria's gradual emergence from isolation in the region could be regarded as a sign

that the Astana process

has completed its task," he told reporters. "Considering Syria's return into the Arab (nations) family, we propose officially declaring the 20th meeting under the Astana process as the final one." "We cannot say that the Astana process is over," Russian negotiator Alexander Lavrentyev said. ... But if the Kazakh side has decided that they need to be moved to a different location, we will discuss that and pick one." Russia, Türkiye and turns to host those meetings. he said.—Agencies

UK's national debt surpasses 100% of GDP

LONDON: The UK's national debt surged past 100% of its gross domestic product in May, the highest level since 1961, as government borrowing more than doubled, official figures showed on Wednesday.

As of the end of May, the UK's net debt reached a staggering £2.6 trillion (\$3.3 trillion), equivalent to approximately 100.1% of the country's economic output, the Office for National Statistics said. The last time the debt-to-GDP ratio was above 100% was March 1961. "During the coronavirus pandemic, early provisional estimates initially indicated that the debt-to-GDP ratio reached this level, prior to being revised down when stronger GDP data replaced initial forecasts," the statistical office said in a statement. Excluding the Bank of England, debt was £2.3 billion or provisionally around 89.6% of GDP. The central government net cash requirement was £17 billion in May 2023, £2.3 billion above the £14.7 billion previous forecast.-APP

Azerbaijan reports fresh shelling by American forces

BAKU: The Azerbaijani

Defense Ministry says Armenian military forces have launched a fresh round of shelling against the positions of the Azerbaijani army in the border area of the Sadarak district, amid a bout of renewed border clashes between the Caucasus arch-foes. The ministry announced in a statement late on Tuesday that its positions in the Heydarabad settlement in the Sadarak area of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic had come under small arms fire from Armenia's Vedi region across the border. It added in its statement that Armenian armed detachments also fired at Azerbaijani army positions near Susha in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. It said Azerbaijani units took "adequate" retaliatory measures. Baku and Yerevan are embroiled in a decades-long territorial dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, over which they have fought two wars. Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan though it is mostly populated by ethnic Armenians that have resisted Azerbaijani rule since a separatist war there ended in 1994. In 2020, the second Karabakh war broke out, which claimed the lives of more than 6,500 people on both sides during a six-week conflict. The war ended with a Russian-brokered ceasefire deal that saw Armenia handing over swathes of the Azerbaijani territory that it had been holding for several decades. Moscow also dispatched a thousand-strong peacekeeping contingent to the

Both sides routinely trade accusations over ceasefire violations.

Azerbaijan last month installed a checkpoint at the entry to the Lachin Corridor - the only road linking Armenia to Karabakh – in a move that Yerevan said was a "gross violation" of the 2020 ceasefire.—**DNA**

Turkiye 'neutralize' 5 PKK terrorists

ANKARA: Turkish security forces "neutralized" five PKK terrorists in the northern regions of Iraq and Syria, the National Defense Ministry said on Wednesday. Two terrorists were "neutralized" in the Operation Claw-Lock region in northern Iraq, while the three others were "neutralized" in the Operation Olive Branch region in northern Syria, said the ministry. Turkish authorities use the

term "neutralize" to imply the terrorists in question surrendered or were killed or captured. PKK terrorists have hideouts in northern Iraq, across the Turkish border, which they use to plot attacks on Türkiye.

Türkiye launched Operation Claw-Lock last year in April to target the terrorist group PKK's hideouts in the Metina, Zap and Avasin-Basyan regions of northern Iraq, located near the Turkish border.-APP

Ukraine recovery conference begins in London

LONDON: The Ukraine Conference Recovery 2023 (URC 2023) began Wednesday, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to London to help mobilize financial and political support for the country's post-war recovery. Officials from more than 60 countries and representatives of international financial institutions. the private sector and civil society are participating in the two-day event. The conference's goal is to rally international support for post-war reconstruction in Ukraine. During the opening session, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reiterated Britain's support for Kyiv, saying his country works with allies "to explore lawful routes to use Russian assets" in rebuilding Ukraine. He said that the UK will provide Ukraine with a multi-year \$3 billion package of financial support to help stabilize its economy as it continues to push back

Russian forces. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the conference via video link and said that recovery

is a global task. "We protect Ukraine, and thus we protect freedom," the president said, adding: "When we build Ukraine, we will build freedom for the country, region, continent, (and) world." For her part, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reiterated the EU's support for Ukraine. "(Russian President Vladimir) Putin shattered peace on our continent on 24 February in 2022. But he triggered also Ukraine's journey towards its dream. And it's our job and our duty to the Ukrainians who have paid the ultimate sacrifice that we ensure that this re-imagined future becomes reality. Brick by brick house by house, school by school? Together we are by Ukraine's side for the long haul," she said.

She also added that the European Commission is contributing 18 billion (\$19.6 billion) already this year, and together with other donors, they closed the Ukrainian budget gap for 2023. This financial iniection will enable Ukraine to continue essential operations, such as paying salaries, pensions, and healthcare expenses. Von der Leven also emphasized the EU's "special responsibility" toward Ukraine. "The reason is simple: When Ukrainians imagine their future, they see Europe's flag flying over their cit-"I have no doubt that Ukraine will be part of our Union," she said. For his part, US Secretary of State Blinken said that Russia is "causing Ukraine's destruction" and it "will eventually bear costs of Ukraine's reconstruction."

"In addition to our economic development humanitarian assistance, the US will continue to invest in

Ukraine's long-term efforts to strengthen good governance, transparency, accountability," he added. Reminding that earlier this month, Ukraine passed reforms to align its energy

market regulations with the EU. Blinken said that these and other critical reforms to increase Ukraine's transparency competitiveness to bolster the rule of law will help attract more private investment.

He also said that the US will provide \$1.3 billion of additional aid to Ukraine. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock also said that Ukraine "will eventually become a member of the EU." "I'm convinced that we need to further link Ukraine's recovery, and the EU accession process," she noted. Baerbock said that her government is stepping up efforts for Ukraine, adding that Germany will provide Ukraine with an additional 381 million for humanitarian

assistance. - Agencies

Erdogan slams opp, launches race for local polls

Tayyip Erdogan returned to his weekly parliamentary group meetings on Wednesday, weeks after his victory in the May 28 runoff. Addressing fervent supporters of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party), occasionally interrupting his speech with slogans, Erdogan appeared to be having a field

day against the embarrassed opposition bloc. He also said that the race was not over and vowed to work to "take back" municipalities the AK Party lost to the opposition in the 2019 municipal polls. Erdogan, who secured a five-year tenure as president, aims to boost the standing of his party as well, as he acknow ledged a decline in the votes in the parliamentary polls. Yet, he sought to invigorate his supporters for more work for a landslide win in the local elections, which are expected to be held in March 2024. He reiterated his gratitude to the nation for voting for him and AK Party and thanked members of the People's Alliance of Parties, which endorsed him. The president then proceeded with his usual dose of criticism of the opposition, which failed once again to unseat him or the AK Party after almost three decades. "He was talking about the 'table for six' and now wants to expand it to 16. It is not enough. You should consider increasing it, though you won't get results still," Erdogan told Kemal K l çdaroglu, his rival in the presidential election. The leader of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) was

defiant despite suffering another loss.-DNA Russian oil payment in yuan based on Sino-Pak mutual trust

BEIJING: The transaction of Pakistan's first government-to-government import of discounted Russian crude oil in Chinese yuan is in line with Pakistan's practical and broad-based economic partnership with China and is based on our strong mutual trust and win-win cooperation, said Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque. Ambassador Haque told the Global Times in an exclusive interview that with growing economic ties and the new projects being launched under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China and Pakistan have agreed to the use of the Chinese yuan and Pakistani rupees for financial transactions. Analysts pointed out that this transaction of oil in the Chinese yuan marks a significant shift away from the traditional use of the US dollar for international transactions. The move is also viewed by observers as a way for Pakistan to reduce its reliance on the US dollar and strengthen its ties with China and

Russia. It is also expected to boost trade among the three countries. The first-ever shipment of Russian oil recently arrived in Pakistan after undergoing a prudent process of procurement. This transaction is aimed to bring benefits to the people of Pakistan amid rising fuel prices all over the world, as well as Pakistan's difficult economic situation, energy shortages, and dependence on expensive imported petroleum, Haque told the Global Times.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Twitter on June 11 when the crude oil cargo arrived in the country that today is a transformative day. We are moving one step at a time toward prosperity, economic growth, energy security and affordability.ť This is the first ever [consignment of] Russian oil cargo to Pakistan and the beginning of a new relationship between Pakistan and the Russian Federation. I commend all those who remained part of this national endeavour

and contributed to translating the promise of a Russian oil import into reality, he said. Pakistan's first government-to-government deal with Russia consisted of a 100.000-ton crude oil consignment, according to media reports. Ambassador Haque noted that this transaction in Chinese yuan is based on win-win cooperation and Pakistan's broad-based economic partnership with China. According to the Pakistani diplomat, China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and one of the

biggest sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow into Pakistan. The economic and financial ties between China and Pakistan have been further fortified since the inception of CPEC in 2013 which became the mainstay of the bilateral economic relationship. Pakistan is also a priority partner for developmental cooperation under the Global Development Initiative (GDI). China and Pakistan have a currency swap agreement to facilitate trade in local currencies. As bilateral trade between the two countries grows and new projects are launched under the CPEC, the two countries have agreed to the use of yuan and Pakistani rupees for financial transactions, he said.

In a previous interview with the Global Times, Ambassador Haque said that CPEC is a flagship project and a major corridor under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Fully aligned with the national development agenda of Pakistan, CPEC has

been the key to the countries' socioeconomic development. In its first phase, CPEC aimed to develop major transport infrastructure and address the country's essential energy needs. In the next phase, CPEC will focus more on socioeconomic development, agricultural cooperation, and industrialization.

The use of the Chinese vuan in international transactions has increased in recent years. Pakistan is among a list of countries that now settle trade with China in Chinese yuan. Iraq's Central Bank announced in February that it plans to use the Chinese yuan to improve its access to foreign currency. In March, the China National Offshore Oil Corp and France TotalEnergies completed China's first yuan-settled liquefied natural gas trade using cross-border yuan settlement, according to the Xinhua News Agency. Meanwhile, a de-dollarization trend has been gaining momentum.—Agencies



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Briefs

Moscow issues warning over 'nuclear winter'

DNA

MOSCOW: Global arms control is mired in an unprecedented crisis, triggered primarily by the actions of the West, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov claimed on Tuesday. Speaking at the PIR Center, a Russian think tank specializing in nuclear non-proliferation, Ryabkov argued that the issue had been building for some time, and had been exacerbated by US and Western attempts to "actively use coercion and violence in unsuccessful attempts to strengthen their

global positions. Those actions could be exemplified by the bombing campaign against the former Yugoslavia, the US invasion of Iraq, and NATO's "destabilizing" eastward expansion, the diplomat said. At the same time, Washington and NATO "categorically refused" Russia's proposals to create a comprehensive security framework in Europe, Ryabkov insisted. Instead, they embraced a course seeking to "deliberately and maliciously" fan the Ukraine conflict and inflict a "strategic defeat" on Moscow - all of which affected areas of contact with the West, including regarding arms control, he added.

N. Korea slams Blinken's recent China visit

PYONGYANG: North Korea has ridiculed US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent visit to China as a "disgraceful begging trip," further slamming it as a failure of policy aimed at exerting pressure on Beijing.

The rare visit was aimed at begging for the relaxation of tensions as the "attempt to press and restrain China may become a boomerang striking a fatal blow to the US economy," said North Korean international affairs analyst Jong Yong in a column published by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Wednesday.

"In a word, the US state secretary's recent junket can never be judged otherwise than a disgraceful begging trip of the provoker admitting the failure of the policy of putting pressure on China," he then added. The analyst further blamed Washington for escalating regional tensions with "anti-China complexes" such as the so-called Quad strategic security group, which includes Japan, Australia, India, and the United States, as well as the Australia-UK-US security deal known as AUK-US. - Agencies

PPP suspends basic membership of Aitzaz, Khosa



DNA

LAHORE: The PPP on Wednesday abruptly suspended the basic membership of its senior leaders Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan and Barrister Sardar Latif Khosa reportedly for violating the party's discipline.

Talking to a private news channel PPP Central Punjab chapter President Rana Farooq Saeed confirmed that the basic membership of the duo has been suspended. It was suggested to the party leadership to suspend the basic membership of Khosa and Ahsan. "Final decision about expelling the leaders from the party is expected during the party's upcoming CEC meeting." It is pertinent to mention here that Ahsan and Khosa are also the members of PPP's CEC. Earlier today, the PPP inaugurated a "Wall of Shame" at the party's Cen tral Punjab Secretariat.

Pak-Azerbaijan LNG deal will end gas crises soon

The government has also devised a plan to attract investment from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik Wednesday assured that Pakistan's a liquefied natural gas (LNG) purchase agreement framework with Azerbaijan would end gas crises and domestic consumers will not face any gas shortage in the next winter season. Azerbaijan will supply an LNG cargo every month to Pakistan at a "cheaper price," he said while talking to a private news channel.

While giving details of LNG Cargo, he said under Pak-Azerbaijan long-term agreement in the current year we will have 9 to 10 cargo factories in the country, adding, Azerbaijan would help Pakistan to fulfill its energy needs through cooperation in

the fields of oil and gas. Replying to a question about the shortage of gas, he said winter, we would be able to control the gas shortage.

some specific areas in Karachi's, he said that we

have been facing infrastructure issues that will be solved on a priority basis.



auestion. he explained that the government has also devised a plan to attract investment

residen-

He said that from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as part of the 'Economic Revival Plan', adding, these billion of investments in the country would create jobs and livelihoods for the youth and women. In responding to another query about IMF, he said Pakistan has met all the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a staff-level agreement and we are still very hopeful that the IMF programme will materialize soon.

Talking about the senate chairman's additional benefits, he strongly condemned and said that these certain privileges as well as allowances at a time when the country has been going through a severe financial crunch is unacceptable. He said that as a Senator," I will play my due role and raise objections for these special privileges".

Hunt for missing Titanic sub continues

News Desk

NEW YORK: The US Coast Guard Wednesday diverted its robotic undersea search operations to the area where sounds, likely from the missing OceanGate Expeditions submersible, originated from. Search teams, as reported by the Coast Guard, detected underwater sounds as they scanned the North Atlantic to search for the tourist vessel that embarked on a journey to explore the century-old Titanic ruins in the Canadian seas, according to Reuters. The submersible, the sounds of which were detected by a Canadian aircraft on the third day of the search. vanished with five passengers, including crew members, aboard during their deep-sea expedition.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar received Ambassador of Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan today & discussed bilateral ties & cooperation. MoS stressed the need to create international partnerships especially in disaster management, climate change, tourism & vocational training. - DNA

EU agree on a new package of sanctions against Russia

News Desk

BRUSSELS: European Union countries on Wednesday agreed on a new package of sanctions against Russia for its war against Ukraine aimed at countering sanctions circumvention through third countries and businesses. The EU had previously imposed 10 rounds of sanctions on Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Banks, companies and markets have been hit - even parts of the sensitive energy sector. More than 1,000 officials are subject to asset freezes and travel bans. Much work in the latest batch of sanctions has involved closing loopholes so that goods vital to Putin's war effort don't get through via nations that trade with the EU and have maintained a business-as-usual relationship with Moscow. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm, said the new package will "deal a further blow to Putin's war machine with tightened export restrictions, targeting entities supporting the Kremlin." "Our anti-circumvention tool will prevent Russia from getting its hands on sanctioned goods," she added. It is the first time that plans have been announced to target trade via other countries, apart from sanctions against Iranians alleged to be supplying drones to Russia. It also prohibits the transit via Russia of products and technologies which might help boost its defense and security sector.

Biden calls China's Xi a 'dictator'

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden has labeled his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, a "dictator," claiming Beijing was humiliated after one of its weather balloons accidentally strayed into American airspace earlier this year. Biden discussed BEIJING: Beijing has pushed back the row over the balloon at a fundraiser in California on Tuesday, suggesting the incursion was unintentional, even while stating that the craft was designed for espionage. He said the mishap blindsided Chinese officials, including Xi.

"The reason why Xi Jinping got very upset, in terms of when I shot that balloon down with two box cars full of spy equipment in it, was he didn't know it was there," Biden said. "That's a great embarrassment for dictators. When they didn't know what happened. That wasn't supposed to be going where it was. It was blown off course. The Chinese balloon floated into US airspace in February and, after several days, was shot down by a fighter jet. While Washington has repeatedly described the device as a "spy balloon," Beijing maintains it was logical data, and that it floated off course several other objects spotted in American skies soon after the first incident.

China hits back at

against remarks by US President Joe Jinping as "a dictator," claiming that the statements are outright offensive. Speaking on Tuesday at a fundraiser controversy surrounding a Chinese balloon that entered US airspace earlier this year, suggesting that Xi did not know the vessel was even there. dictators. When they didn't know It was blown off course," he said at the time. On Wednesday, speaking at a regular press conference, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning described the remarks as "exa civilian airship used to gather meteoro- tremely absurd," adding that they "seriously violated China's political digby mistake. The balloon triggered anxiety nity." She said that such statements for US officials, with the military firing on also violate diplomatic etiquette and contradict basic facts. "It is an open political provocation," Mao stressed.

Biden's remarks

DNA

Biden referring to Chinese leader Xi in California, Biden addressed the "That's a great embarrassment for what happened. That [balloon] wasn't supposed to be going where it was.

Gen Sahir holds meetings with Chinese leadership

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCsSC), is on an official visit to China from 18-22 June 2023 as head of delegation for Pakistan-China Defence and Security Talks. During the visit, CJCsSC met Chinese Chief of Joint Staff Department, General Liu Zhenli. During the meeting both sides reviewed ongoing bilateral defence cooperation between China and Pakistan. CJCsSC reiterated that Pakistan-China friendship is highly valued and deeply

rooted in the hearts and minds of Pakistani people. He also said that not only have the military relations of the two countries withstood test of time, but also high-level cooperation in defense and training has progressed well.

CJCsSC also held wide-ranging bilateral meetings with high ranking civil and military dignitaries including Mr Qin Gang, Chinese State Councilor, Foreign Minister, Mr. Chen Wenqing and other key military & government officials. Both sides re-affirmed commitment; that being "Iron Brothers" and "All Weather Friends", Pakistan and China would continue to forge deeper strategic ties.



News Desk

GOLAN HEIGHTS: Dozens of people have been injured after Israeli military forces attacked the residents of Golan Heights opposed to the Tel Aviv regime's plan to install wind turbines in the occupied Syrian territory. On Wednesday, hundreds of people staged a protest in the

Hafayer area for the second consecutive day to defend their farmlands from the wind turbine project and confronted Israeli troops. According to Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television news network, Israeli soldiers disproportionately used rubber bullets and tear gas canisters against the unarmed protesters in order to disperse the crowd.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported that dozens of people were injured as a result. Several were listed in serious and critical condition. Israeli forces also arrested more than 10 young protesters and prevented medical staff as well as ambulances from reaching those injured during the skirmishes. Local sources added that the Israeli army called in large reinforcements and

Dozens injured as Israeli forces attack Syrian protesters

sealed off all roads leading to the Hafayer area. Videos shared online on Tuesday showed residents confronting Israeli forces and blocking roads by burning tires. "Today they [Israeli troops] entered the lands of the Golan Heights by force, against the will of the people, which led to clashes," Sheikh Salman Awad, a local resident, said. Awad added that Israeli forces had turned the area into a military zone and the situation was tense.

