

### **Expatriates** are 'pride of Pakistan'

#### DNA



Marri-

the overseas Pakistanis are pride of Pakistan' as they are playing a major role in its economic development. In a meeting with members of Pakistani diaspora in Paris, she said it is the foremost priority of the government to resolve the issues of expatriates. Marriyum Aurangzeb said the journey of progress and development would continue in Pakistan under the visionary leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif. The prime minister along with a delegation is visiting Paris to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit hosted by France. He said the overseas Pakistanis were Pakistan's ambassadors and an asset, and that their services for the country's development were laudable.

PPP has history of rigging, corruption

### **PM calls for** 'rethink' on int'l finances PM Shehbaz meets EU Commission

President, Chinese Premier Li Qiang

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the world should "course correct" by rethinking the global financial architecture, urging everyone to rise to face the challenge hand in hand in a spirit of solidarity and compassion. "The world should use [the] present economic and climate turbulence as an opportunity for course correc-tion," PM Shehbaz said on Twitter. He was in Paris to attend the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact. Separately, President of the European Union Commission has appreciated the level of ongoing cooperation between EU and Pakistan, including GSP Plus.

The appreciation came during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit in Paris. The Prime Minister thanked the President of the Commission for her participation in the Resilient Pakistan Conference held in Geneva on 9 January this year. He conveyed Pakistan's commitment to continue working in close collaboration with the European institutions for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the flood-affected areas. On this occasion, the EU Commission President lauded Pakistan's efforts to recover from the 2022 floods and assured continued support. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has thankfully acknowledged the vital support country

**Continued on Page 06** 

Pakistan irrelevant internationally and isolat-

ed, which is evident from the joint statement

### **PM urges expatriates** to expose propaganda

#### DNA

PARIS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the overseas Pakistanis to play their role to expose the anti-Pakistan propaganda in their respective countries, besides condemning the arson that took place on May 9. The prime minister, in an interaction with the representatives of the Pakistani community in France as well as the Pakistan Business Forum, told the expatriates that the arsonists of May 9 were spreading lies to instigate the people abroad. The prime minister is visiting Paris to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit hosted by France. He said the overseas Pakistanis were Pakistan's ambassadors and an asset, and that their services for the

**Continued on Page 06** 



PARIS: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of the EU Commission Ursula von der Leyen meet on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit in Paris. - DNA

**Greece shipwreck** 82 bodies recovered; 12 survivors Govt to take firm action against traffickers

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Friday that the government will take a firm action against those involved in the illegal business of hu-

'Ready for charter of economy' Zardari says will not betray PML-N, urges cooperation Former President says everyone will suffer if Pakistan is affected

**Bilawal showers BUREAU REPORT** LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party Co-chair-

DNA



latter was having a history of doing rigging, corruption and horse-trading. Addressing a public gathering, Siraj took a swipe at the PPP, claiming, "The PPP leaders cannot compete us". The electoral watchdog had failed to hold transparent elections, he chided the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). "When it came to holding the elections, the ECP fell short of justice," he added. "The aim of the PPP to win the Karachi mayor election is to grab the state land after coming into the power," Siraj asserted. Earlier, JI senior leader Hafiz Naeemur Rehman poked fun at political rivals on Friday, saying the Karachi's residents wanted the "mafia out of the city".

### **Holiday Notice**

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shal remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.

- Editor

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Providing clean food to citizens our responsibility – Page 03

Passing out parade held at PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek – Page 04

Indian PM Narendra Modi's four-day red carpet visit to the US – Page 05

Pakistan Olympic Association celebrates Int'l Olympic Day - Page 06

Hungary risks ties with Ukraine over POW exchange – Page 07

West Bank violence could spiral 'out of control': UN – Page 08

**US-India joint statement** Imran slams govt on foreign policy States no balancing statement about gross HR abuses in Kashmir 'Biden should **QALB-E-ABBAS HASHMI** LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

#### consider facts' Chairman Imran Khan has said that the imported government experiment has made

#### MEHTAB PIRZADA

of India and US reducing Pakistan to a promoter of cross-border terrorism in India and ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khanothing more. PTI Chairman, in his reaction waja Asif on Friday took exception to a joint US-India statement issued against to the joint statement of India and the US, Pakistan after Indian Prime Minister said that no balancing statement about the gross human rights abuse in Kashmir or the Narendra Modi met President Joe Bidappalling treatment of minorities especially en a day earlier, saying that the latter of Muslims in India. Imran Khan: "The ques- should "consider facts the next time he tion we want to ask him and PDM is that after fetes the butcher of Gujarat". Reacting a year in government and countless trips of to the development, Asif noted it was Pakistan's FM to the US, the joint India/US ironic that the statement was issued statement reduces Pakistan to a promoter of during the visit of "someone who was cross-border terrorism in India and nothing banned entry to the US for overseeing more." He said: "Gen Bajwa along with his a pogrom of Muslims when he was

**Continued on Page 06** 

man trafficking. The minister made the comments during the session of the National Assembly today. He added that around 350 Pakistani migrants were aboard the boat that capsized in Greece, out of which 12 survived the tragedy. He added 82 bodies of those aboard have so far been recovered and their identification process is

Continued on Page 06

### Pak rejects India-US joint statement

ISLAMABAD: Responding to media queries regarding the US-India Joint Statement of 22 June 2023, the Spokesperson said:

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"We consider the Pakistan-specific reference in the 'Joint Statement from the United States and India', issued on 22 June 2023. as unwarranted. one-sided, and misleading. The reference is contrary to diplomatic norms and has political overtones. We are surprised that it has been added despite

Continued on Page 06

man Asif Ali Zardari on Friday insisted that he would not betray the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) - the key ally of the ruling coalition government. Zardari made the remarks in the backdrop of reports circulating on social media that the PPP is "not happy" with the policies of the coalition government and will part ways with the ruling alliance - under the umbrella of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) - ahead of the upcoming elections. Sources privacy to the development said that the Bilawal-led party wanted to reclaim Punjab – once the stronghold of the PPP.

**Continued on Page 06** 

### praise on PM

#### SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Earlier in the day, PPP Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari commended the performance of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying that he is not a premier of the PML-N but more of the PPP. Speaking in the National Assembly today, Bilawal said: "If we want to take the country out of its problems then we will have to work like the premier."

**Continued on Page 06** 

Civilians trial in mily courts 102 people in army's custody, AGP tells SC

AGP Awan said that authorities had doubts about one of the people in custody being below 18 years of age

### tice Ayesha Malik, and Justice Mazahir Ali Naqvi, was hearing a set of petitions trials of civilians in military courts. The govern-

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial remarked on Friday that Pakistan Army Act applied to civilians. A seven-member bench comprising CJP Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Jusment had decided to try civilians under **Continued on Page 06** 



### **President lauds services of outgoing Korean, Lanka envoys** It may be mentioned here that the Korean and Sri Lanka envoys are leaving Pakistan after completing their term. Both of them contributed greatly towards further strengthening of bilateral relations

#### ANSAR M BHATTI

**Continued on Page 06** 

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for further promoting bilateral economic, trade and cultural cooperation with the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka to further cement bilateral ties. The President expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr Suh Sangpyo, and the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Vice Admiral (r) Mohan Wijewickrama, who made separate calls on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Talking to the outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, the President said that Pakistan highly valued its multidimensional relationship with Korea, which involved collaborations in various fields such as political, economic, scientific, cultural and people-to-people relations.

He highlighted that Pakistan was open for business and investment for all its friends and partners, and would especially welcome Korean investment in various sectors. He stated that Pakistan rea, adding that Pakistan offered some wanted to increase cooperation with Korea, particularly in the areas of Information Technology and Agriculture.

The President also called for further promoting cultural cooperation with Ko-

of the most exotic mountaineering and religious tourism sites and would welcome tourists from Korea to visit Buddhist sites. He remarked that Pakistan was home to the Gandhara Civilization and some of the most sacred relics in Buddhism, which could be a source of attraction for Korean tourists.

Talking to the outgoing High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, the President said that Pakistan attached great impor-



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing envoys of Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka paying farewell call on the President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi. - DNA

tance to its long-standing friendship and cooperative ties with Sri Lanka, which was its second-largest trading partner in South Asia.

He added that Pakistan wanted to further expand economic cooperation and trade relations with Sri Lanka under the Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. He stated that both countries should explore ways to rejuvenate SAARC and work together to fight poverty and promote peace, economic growth, and development for the benefit of the entire region. He also recalled Pakistan and Sri Lanka's support for each other at the UN and other international bodies and expressed the hope that this cooperation would continue at international fora.

The President appreciated the role of outgoing envoys in improving bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in all areas of mutual interest.

It may be mentioned here that the Korean and Sri Lanka envoys are leaving Pakistan after completing their term. Both of them contributed greatly towards further strengthening of bilateral relations.

## NATIONAL

Netherlands, Pak mark 75 years of bilateral relations

Chairperson Almarah Sophiya Warraich thanked the ambassador for her presence at the MoU signing ceremony

#### **DNA**

02

LAHORE: Netherlands Ambassador in Pakistan Henny da Vries cut a cake to mark 75 years of relations her copuntry and Pakistan during a ceremony, held at the National Hockey Stadium, here on Friday. The ambassador also attended the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between SBP Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy and Almarah

Foundation, an orphanage, under which more than 100 children, between 3 to 9 years of age, would be imparted hockey skills during the next 10 years. Hockey Olympian Khawaja

Junaid, chairperson Almarah Foundation, and DIG Police Mehboob Aslam Lillah, welcomed the guest at the hockey stadium. Former IGP Punjab Tahir

Raza, Olympians Shehbaz Senior, Khalid Bashir, philanthropists and a large number of hockey players

and enthusiasts attended the event. Ambassador Henny da Vries said Netherlands and Pakistan enjoyed strong diplomatic relations and she would work to further strengthen the bilateral trade and relations. She said: "I am immensely pleased to visit historic city of Lahore and pleased to find myself among little children, who promise a bright future for the country." Henny

da Vries said sports was a binding force among societies, and it was admirable

that young children would be groomed under the eye of great hockey players. She lauded the philanthropic work of Almarah Foundation which had been taking care of more than 100 orphan children and working to ensure a bright future for children. DIG Mehboob Aslam Lillah

shed light on the journey of Almarah Foundation over the past 27 years. Chairperson Almarah Sophiya Warraich thanked the ambassador for her presence at the MoU signing ceremony.



### WAPDA, UAE firm sign MoUs for capacity enhancement

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Water and Power Development Au-

to initiate projects for Afghan migrant families residwa, focusing on providing

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Red ullah Khan emphasized Crescent society intending that there is a shortage in providing monetary assistance. In response to this ing in Khyber Pakhtunkh- situation, Pakistan Red deserving. Pakistan Red Crescent has taken on the responsibility of supporting Afghan migrant families in need. Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent society Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that they have successfully completed distribution of cash assistance to over

PRCS steps in to assist Afghan migrant families who are either unregistered or possess only Afghan citizenship cards, as they are considered more Crescent will collaborate

Bhutto, Shaheed Shahnawaz Bhutto, Mir Murtaza Bhutto. with the Ministry of Sa-The deputy mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad said PPP will fulfill the mission of its martyred leaders. Later, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab visited the shrine of Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sehwan Sharif and recited Fateha, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad and other elected representatives were also with him.-APP



Outgoing Sri Lankan High Commissioner posing for a picture with staff on the occasion of farewell lunch hosted by the embassy's staff in his honour.-DNA

### PPP leadership sacrificed their lives for democracy

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the leadership of PPP has sacrificed their lives for the survival of democracy, the mission of Shaheed Baba and Shaheed Bibi will be fulfilled under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and fulfill the trust of the party leadership. He said this after attending the shrine of martyrs of Pakistan Peoples Party in Garhi Khuda Baksh Bhutto and offering Fateha, said a statement issued here on Friday. On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Parliamentary Leader of People's Party in City Council Najmi Alam, President of Pakistan People's Party District South Khalil Hot, General Secretary Karamullah Waqasi, Farhan Ghani, Nazir Bhutto, Kemari Town Chairman Humayun Khan, Other town chairman, UC chairman and elected local body council members of Karachi were also with him. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab prayed at the shrines of Shaheed Zulfigar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Benazir

### Int'l Day of Women in Diplomacy ISSI holds roundtable discussion to Mark

### MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion to mark the 'International Day of Women Diplomacy' on June 23, 2023. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, shared a special message on the

was chaired by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI. Participants included: Ambassador Tehmina Janjua, Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan; H.E. Nyambura Kamau, High Commissioner of Kenya to Pakistan; Dr. Noor Khan, Minister Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Norway in Islamabad; Ms. Alice Courlander, Second Secretary at the British High Commission

Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS; Ambassador Shah Jamal, Former Ambassador to Iraq; Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen, Former Ambassador to Poland; Ambassador Riffat Masood, Former Ambassador to Iran, Dr. Shabana Fayyaz, Professor, QAU; Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor, QAU; Ms. Iqra Ashraf, Director Spokesperson Office/StratCom, MoFA; and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG,

Islamabad **POST** 

Saturday, June 24 , 2023



### Minister orders maximum facilities to patients at govt hospitals

LAHOR: Caretaker Punjab working with good intentions (FJMU). "Better treatment

thority (WAPDA) signed two Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) with the Private Office of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum of United Arab Emirates on Friday.

The MoUs were signed by Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani and Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum on behalf of their respective organizations, said a press release. The first MoU is aimed at establishing a framework for cooperation and collaboration between the Private Office of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum and WAPDA to explore investment opportunities for WAPDA's small hydel power stations including 1MW-Renala, 22 MW-Rasul, 13.2 MW-Chichokimalian and 13.8 MW-Nandipur.

The second MoU is related to exploring investment opportunities in the energy sector of Pakistan, specifically for the development of floating solar power project on water reservoirs and water bodies of the existing hydel power stations of WAPDA. Under the two MoU, both organizations will work together to assess the technical and economic feasibility of these projects and develop a plan for their implementation.

cash assistance as well as healthcare and education services. According to a press release issued here on Friday, Habib Malik, Chairman of Pakistan Red Crescent, and Abidullah Khan, Secretary General, have stated that due to the Ukrainian conflict, there has been a decrease in financial aid from international organizations. Secretary General Abid-

Pakhtunkhwa. The priority will now be given to Afghan families

ilies residing in Khyber

fron and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to work together for the benefit of these families in the areas of health and education. Chairman Habib Malik emphasized Pakistan Red 5,000 Afghan migrant fam-Crescent's firmly belief in serving humanity without any discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, or nationality. –APP

Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram has said that maximum facilities should be provided to patients at the public sector hospitals as these hospitals were being run with citizens' tax money. During his visit to Sir Gangaram Hospital on Friday, he said emergency conditions of hospital were slightly better. "I am visiting the government hospitals across the province on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi," he added. Dr Javed said the Punjab cabinet was

for betterment of people. By of patients is our first priority," he said. He directed the pointing out shortcomings in the government hospitals, he MS to remain in hospital and added that better facilities all MS should ensure their visit to the hospital daily in for patients could be brought the evening. He said that Sir about in hospitals. He asked the medical superintendent Gangaram Hospital would be (MS) to realise the responsimade a state-of-the-art medical facility. He added that supply bility and create facilities for patients. He said a patient of medicines was being ensured in the government hospitals. FJMU Vice Chancellor should not face any problem in any government hospital of the province. He said a Professor Dr. Khalid Masood male hostel for post-graduate Gondal said Sir Gangaram researchers (PGRs) would Hospital was creating convenbe established at Fatima ience for patients coming to Jinnah Medical University hospital.-APP

The Smooth Moving Connection

### CM visits Katcha area to boost police morale LAHORE: Caretaker Chief and other police officers took

Minister Punjab Mohsin their meal with the police Naqvi visited the Katcha jawans, listened to their Area in Rahim Yar Khan in problems and promised order to boost the morale solving their problems. of police officers and jawans Mohsin Naqvi met stutaking part in the ongoing opdents getting education in eration against dacoit gangs. schools and inquired from He visited various 'mauzas' them about their educational activities. He also and deep katcha areas, which are being cleared from dacoit distributed prizes among gangs and met the police students in the school, jawans deployed at the front established in the Katcha line bunkers. He appreciated area. The CM inquired afthe spirit of police jawans ter patients at the tempotaking part in the operation rary dispensary and asked in severe hot weather, said them about the treatment a handout issued here. Mofacilities. He announced hsin Naqvi, Inspector Generestablishment of a school al of Police Dr Usman Anwar, and a hospital in the Kat-Additional IGP South Punjab cha area and ordered es-

tablishment of a dispensary and a school after acquiring a house with the cooperation of local residents

Mohsin directed additional chief secretary South Punjab to take prompt measures for establishing a school and a hospital and stated that the people of Katcha area would be provided health and education facilities. Complete medical cover would be provided to jawans of police force and their families, he added. Operation in the Katcha area was underway successfully and the police had got

miscreants, he said adding the nation was proud of brave sons of Punjab Police. Mohsin Naqvi saluted the valour and spirit of the police officers and jawans taking part in the operation and added that establishing durable peace in the kacha was a priority. A permanent infrastructure is being established after eliminating hideouts of the miscreants. IG Police Dr. Usman Anwar, while briefing the caretaker CM about law and order and areas being cleared in Katcha, apprised that medical screening of all Punjab police officers and jawans had been conducted.-APP

### Pakistan to support Azerbaijan in mobile manufacturing, telecom sectors

#### FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque has said that Pakistan had vast investment opportunities in various sectors including IT and Telecom. "We wish the bilateral relations in the Technology sector to be strengthened and the trade volume to increase further, he said during a meeting with Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov here Friday.

Syed Amin ul Haque further said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan had long-standing relations as Islamic brotherhood countries, Pakistan was the first to



recognize Azerbaijan and the love between the two countries was natural, said a news release. Cooperation in Trade and

all possible facilities and supports to Azerbaijan government and businessmen Industrial sectors can furin all sectors including Instrengthen mutual

cubation Centers, Software relations in this regard, he said. The minister said the Technology Parks, Mobile Ministry of IT will provide Manufacturing and Telecom sector. The Ambassador said, the revolutionary steps taken in the IT sector in Pakistan are commend-

able. "We wish to benefit from these experiences of Pakistan", he said. He informed that the Minister for Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan would visit Pakistan in the second week of July. During his visit, we are looking forward to signing different Memorandum of Understandings on bilateral cooperation in Technology sectors. The Ambassador of Azerbaijan also extended an official invitation to the Minister of IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque to visit Azerbaijan. The meeting was attend-

ed by Secretary IT Navid Ahmed Shaikh, Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Director General International Coordination Jawad Sherazi.

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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



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## Providing clean food to citizens our responsibility

He said that I am grateful to the Food Authority for its participation and provision of awareness. Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, President Anjuman Tajran Ajmal Baloch, Executive Member Muhammad Naeem and others also addressed the workshop

#### FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and IndustryAhsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that cleanliness is a part of our faith and the identity of any developed society.It is the responsibility of all stakeholders, including food authorities, restaurants, to ensure the provision of healthy food to citizens in a clean environment.The establishment of Food Authority is a very welcome step for the federal capital. The authority has excellent and professional officers, Islamabad Chamber will provide full support to the authority and restaurants in the implementation of food standards. Will manage the training of the staff related to the food sector.

He expressed these views yesterday while addressing a training workshop for the staff of hotels and restaurants in Islamabad organized by Islamabad Chamber and Food Authority. He said that Islamabad as the federal capital has global recognition, ambassadors, guests and other people from all over the world are constantly coming to this city, so we Islamabad Chamber will organ-

need to focus on improving the quality here at every level. The food sector is very important to the identity of any city. I am glad that the government has taken the best step to set up a functioning Food Authority which will ensure enforcement of food standards. all hotel and restaurant Ensure their cooperation with the Authority. Cleanliness, hygiene and quality can be improved only if we all work together. He said that the

ize staff training in collaboration with the Food Authority. In this regard, short-term training will be given to the staff by the Punjab Food Authority.All hotels and restaurants should ensure the participation of their staff. He said that I am aware that the authority lacks funds, we demand from the government that the funding of this most important institution should be ensured in any case. He said that taking photos during the raids of hotels and restau-

rants by the Food Authority and sharing them on social media is tantamount to defaming the name of the respective brand, It should be banned. Speaking on the occasion, Director Food Authority Dr. Tahira Siddique said that as a regulator, the main task of Food Authority is to ensure the implementation of SOPs.If the staff of hotels and restaurants pay attention to some basic points, this problem can be solved. He said that the authority has prepared 24-point SOPs

which will be provided to all hotels and restaurants. Mosquito repellent spray should be ensured after closing the outlet concerned. The medical tests of the staff should be done in a timely and continuous manner, the quality of the food should be ensured. The staff should also take special care of their cleanliness. He said that photos and videos are taken during raids only to improve the efficiency of the authority and for records-The authority does not release them to social media or the media. Speaking on the occasion, Vice President Chamber Engineer Azhar ul Islam said that the aim of this awareness workshop is to provide basic training to the staff associated with the food sector, Islamabad Chamber will continue this series. He said that I am grateful to the Food Authority for its participation and provision of awareness. Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, President Anjuman Tajran Ajmal Baloch, Executive Member Muhammad Naeem and others also addressed the workshop.

### Internationa Widows' Dav observed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: International Widows' Day was observed across the globe on Friday.

The theme for the Day this year was "Innova-tion and Technology for Gender Equality". As the world observed the International Widows Day, Kashmiri women continued to suffer at the hands of Indian forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The unabated Indian state terrorism in the occupied territory has rendered 22,960 women widowed since January 1989 in IIOJK. Around 2,500 women have been forced to live as 'half widows' during the past 35 years as their consorts have become victim of enforced disappearance at the hands of Indian occupation forces. The half widows do not know whether their husbands are alive or dead.

ANF seizes 305 kg drugs in eight operations

#### DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover 305 kg charras and arrested 12 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that in an operation near M-1 Toll Plaza, Islamabad, ANF recovered 72 kg opium and 61.2 kg charras from a vehicle. Two accused including a woman resident of Sheikhupura were arrested during the operation. In another operation near T-Chowk Islamabad, 2.4 kg opium was seized while two accused residents of Rawalpindi were netted. In third operation near Indus

Chowrangi Karachi, 157.2

kg charras was recovered

from secret cavities of two

vehicles Three accused

residents of Karachi and

Qilla Abdullah were round-

ed up. In fourth operation

near Khairpur Road Suk-

kur, 2.4 kg charras was

recovered from the pos-

session of an accused res-

ident of Khairpur while in

fifth operation conducted

near Sher Shah Toll Pla-

za, Multan, six kg charras

was recovered from the

### Residents demand repair of broken Rawalpindi roads to spend heavy amounts on

RAWALPINDI: The resimanabad Roads, Railway dents of several city areas Road, Dehri Hassanabad have demanded the auand several other roads. thorities concerned to pay In last two years, Municipal Corporation did not launch attention on urgent repairs of broken roads which are any major uplift project while Rawalpindi Cantonnot only causing traffic ment Board paid attention

jams but also endanger public safety. According to to some areas and left sevthe citizens, several city eral others neglected. and cantonment roads are giving a nightmare look for the residents as these have not been repaired and re-carpeted for the past others

repair of their vehicles. Sajid Khan, a resident of Kashmiri Bazaar said that residents of the area had been facing problems due to the bad condition of several city roads. Travel on

consuming, he added. The roads from Marrir Open manholes in several Chowk to Gawalmandi, city areas are also endangering the lives of the mo-Westridge Bazaar to Allahabad, Kashmir Road and torists and pedestrian alike, developed he added. During a visit ditches. The residents of to the city, this reporter the downtown are disturbed found open manholes and the drain covers were also over the situation and have demanded of the provincial missing in Chandni Chowk, Rehmanabad, Sadiqabad, government to fulfill its promise of launching public Kuri Road, Iqbal Road, Circular Road, Banni Chowk and in several other areas. The residents said they had lodged complaints with the authorities concerned about the problem but the departments paid no heed to it. Sajid, a resident of Chandni Chowk area, said he fell in a ditch few days back during electricity loadshedding hours at around 11pm while coming back from his office. He said one of his legs was injured and

some passersby shifted him to nearby hospital for medical treatment. "My wife narrowly escaped felling down in the drain while going to the market," said Asif, a resident of Rehmanabad adding, at several places, many the roads is time and fuel slabs over the drains are missing exposing pedestrians to imminent danger.

The state of the streets has been bad for a long time and they have no option but to endure bumpy rides whenever they come out of their localities. Open manholes in many areas are inviting any untoward incident as anyone can easily fall into it. The level of the open drain and the road is almost the same. After dark, it becomes a more serious issue for the residents. The citizens appealed to the civic bodies to repair the broken roads and make the open drain properly covered. The monsoon comes with many challenges as the situation of streets in several city areas becomes worse and the water inside the potholes makes it more difficult for the commuters to discover the depth of the potholes.

AIOU inks MoU with Rupani Foundation

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rupani Foundation Pakistan here at University's main campus on Friday. According to MoU, "Both institutions will collaborate to provide training to teachers of ECD centres

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



### Enguiry

EdhiAmbulance.....115 PIA Flight Info.....114 PIA Cargo......9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 CAA ..9281092



#### Hospitals

| СМН                         | 5611111    |  |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|
| MH                          | 561116     |  |
| Cantt Hospital              | 9270907-11 |  |
| DHQ                         | .5556311-4 |  |
| RGH                         | 9290301-7  |  |
| Holy Family                 | 9290322-7  |  |
| PIMS                        | 9261170-79 |  |
| Polyclinic                  | 9218300-09 |  |
| Shifa International 4603666 |            |  |



#### Departments

| CDA            | .9221334-43   |
|----------------|---------------|
| CDA            | .9208301-04   |
| Met Office     | 9250360-6     |
| RDA            | 5555864       |
| ТМА            | 5770886       |
| Cantonment Boa | ard 9270151-3 |

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480 many years and travelling on these dilapidated roads has been causing inconvenience for the motorists. Several roads have devel-

oped potholes and causing hazards for commuters. The broken roads includ-

Road.

"I daily travel on Gawalmaned Kashmir Road, Range di Road to Saddar and my Allahabad Road. vehicle has developed faults Tench Bhatta Road. Chor to due to the broken road. Will Masrial Road, Tippu Road, the authorities concerned Zakria Masjid Road, Transit compensate us if our vehi-Camp Road, Dhoke Ratta, cle gets damaged due to the Workshop Road, Marrir Chowk Road, PAF Chowk broken roads," said Altaf, a resident of Gawalmandi. to Committee Chowk Road, Najam of Allahabad said his Bostan Khan Road, Westmotorcycle developed faults ridge Bazaar Road, Gawaldue to the potholes on Allamandi Road, Farooq-i-Azam habad Road and it was diffi-Road, Sadiqabad and Rehcult for middle class people

welfare projects.

have

across Pakistan, including

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The ceremony was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of AIOU Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood. Additional Registrar of AIOU Bibi Yasmin and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Rupani Foundation Jalal-Ud-Din signed the MoU. Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood said, "Early childhood education plays a fundamental role in shaping a child's personality." He said that it was a need of hour to train the teachers of early childhood education institutions. "Collective efforts of both organizations for ECD will bring positive changes," Jalal-Ud-Din said. "There is a shortage of trained teachers in ECD institutions, we will overcome this shortage in the next three to four years in collaboration with AIOU, he added. Chairman of the Department of Early Childhood Education Prof Dr Fazal-Ur-Rahman said, "AIOU and Rupani Foundation under the objectives of this MoU will fulfill the shortfall of trained early childhood education teachers very quickly." "AIOU is offering BS (Early Childhood Care and Education) program in the autumn semester of 2023," he added.-DNA

possession of two accused including a woman resident of Multan travelling in a passenger bus. Sixth operation conducted in a deserted area near Jarobi Zaka Khail, Khyber CDNS set target of and ANF seized 3250 grams Ice drug, he said adding, in an operation at Rs 70 bln in Islamic Peshawar Airport, three charras-filled capsules weighing 576 grams were FY 2023-24 recovered from the possession of a Sharjah-bound passenger, resident of

> PK-257. In another operation at Peshawar Airport, two charras-filled capsules weighing 106 grams were recovered from the possession of another Sharjah-bound passenger, resident of Bannu, going on flight no G-9555.

Bannu, going on flight no

Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.

Qty

### Pakistan makes progress on global gender gap

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has shown significant improvement in its performance on the Global Gender Gap Report 2023, according to the latest findings released today by the World Economic Forum. The annual report, which assesses gender equality across various sectors, highlights achievements as well as areas for further improvement.

**JUNE 2023** 

Pakistan's Premier News &

**Diplomatic Affairs Magazine** 

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of 142nd out of 146 econotors in this subindex, parmies. Pakistan has reached ticularly in the representaits highest score since 2006, tion of women in technical achieving 57.5% gender roles and wage equality for parity. Notably, the counsimilar work. Pakistan's try has made considerable performance on the Global progress in the Economic Gender Gap Report 2023 reflects a mix of progress Participation and Opportunity subindex, with a 5.1 and persistent challenges. percentage point increase While the country has made in the last decade, bringing notable improvements in parity to 36.2%. Although certain areas, such as edthis level of parity remains ucation and health, there one of the lowest globally, are still significant gender Pakistan has shown broad disparities that need to be

> Ch.Usman Nisar Almaniof(substance

d in economic and political inclusive society.

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings empowerment. (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 70 billion rupees in Islamic Pakistan has achieved its finance year 2023-24. The aim was to introduce new dimenhighest overall score since sions in the Islamic finance sector. "Islamic finance has a very 2006, indicating a commitimportant role in the global financial sector at this time, and a ment to advancing gender large part of the economy of many major countries currently inequality. However, contincludes Islamic finance," the senior official of CDNS told APP here ued efforts are necessary to on Friday. The senior official said, "Work on Islamic finance is still bridge the gender gap, parneeded in Pakistan." He said, "At present, work is being done on ticularly in economic particinstitutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations ipation, political representaare being introduced." He said, "At this time Automated Teller tion, and senior leadership roles. Pakistan recognizes the importance of empowering women and creating an

Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users." The official said, "CDNS will now provide facilities to its customers as a complete bank." Replying to another query, he said CDNS had reviewed and set a target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market.-APP PAKISTAN SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (PVT.) LTD. (Wholy Owned Subsidiary of State Bank of Pakistan) INVITATION FOR BIDS (SINGLE STAGE - TWO ENVELOPE BASIS) SEALED BID ON PRESCRIBED BIDDING DOCUMENTS ARE INVITED FROM REPUTABLE MANUFACTURERS / SUPPLIERS / CONTRACTORS, MUST BE REGISTERED WITH TAX AUTHORITIES AND ARE ACTIVE TAX PAYERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF FOLLOWING ITEMS / JOB ON F.O.R. BASIS Bid Doc. **Bid Opening** Earnest Tender No Description of Job / Items Date & Time

SERVICE ARE REQUIRED OF A FIRM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STORM WATER DRAIN AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (PHASE-I) AT PAKISTAN 11-JULY-2023 11-JULY-2023 LP/T-1821/23 108.1 2% 10:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION Specification / BOQ / Sample / Picture Detail attached with relevant document => BIDS WILL BE OPENED ON THE ABOVE BIDS OPENING DATE & TIME IN PRESENCE OF PARTICIPATED BIDDERS WHO WISH TO ATTEND => DETAILED TENDER REQUIREMNETS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PPRA WEBSITE "www.ppra.org.pk" AND AT PSPC WEBSITE DEPLITY GENERAL MANAGER

**PID K 3661** 

### 04

## **TWIN CITIES**

Islamabad **POST** Saturday, June 24 , 2023

### Briefs

### **Tanveer for** collective efforts to improve governance

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Friday stressed the need for making collective efforts to improve the institutional governance. which faced 'extreme deterioration' during the PTI tenure, and achieve the required goals of national development. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said all institutions should work within their constitutional ambit and own-interpretation avoid and rewriting of the laws passed by the Parliament in line with the Constitution of Pakistan. "Performance of institutions witnessed a decline during the tenure of the past government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI). All institutions should work within their constitutional limits," he said He was of the view that all institutions should exhibit greater patience and tolerance beside forging greater national unity to come out of the confronted crisis whether it was related to economic or governance. Commenting on the issue of prolonged electricitv load-shedding echoed in the House, he said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government during its last tenure (2013-18) had brought the power load-shedding at 'zero' from

20-hour duration outages. He said the PML-N leader ship had completed installation of new power generation plants in the shortest time frame of three years, which usually took seven years to complete. He said some of the power generation projects were to be completed in the next three to four years when the PML-N left the government before the 2018 general elections, but unfortunately, the PTI government did not give due attention on the power projects rather put them on the backburner. -APP

Pakistan Railways to

### Passing out parade held at PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek

Air Officer Commanding Trophy for the Best Performance in General Service Training was awarded to Academy Sergeant Aircraftman Noman Karim whereas Trophy for Best Performance in foreign trainees was lifted by Corporal MD Salim Ahmed from Bangladesh

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Passing out Parade of Aero Apprentices was held at PAF Airmen Academy, Korangi Creek, Karachi, today. Air Marshal Ahmad Hassan, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Engineering) Pakistan Air Force, was the chief guest at the occasion. Earlier, Air Vice Marshal Syed Imran Majid Ali, Air Officer Commanding, PAAK, received the chief guest. A total of 1567 Aero Apprentices including trainees from Pakistan Navy and allied countries have successfully completed their technical training.

While addressing the ceremony, the chief guest said, "PAF is a highly professional organization that is venerated as a combat efficient force and has always come up to the expectations of the nation during times of trial



through its historic valor, operational preparedness and professional excellence". He further said that PAF is equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry and has full potential to defend the aerial boundaries of the motherland.

The chief guest emphasized that the current situation necessitates to keep our training and professionalism fully harmonized with the contemporary requirements for developing competent and professional airmen, fully capable

of protecting our modern defence assets. The chief guest congratulated the graduating airmen and wished them a bright future and success in their upcoming professional assignments. He also commended the Academy In-

structional Staff for their sincere endeavors and commitment to the cause of training. Later, the worthy chief guest awarded trophies to the distinction holders. Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for Overall Best Performance was awarded to Aircraftman Muhammad Yousaf, Asghar Khan Trophy for the Overall Best Performance in Aeronautics was clinched by Aircraftman Muhammad Yousaf whereas Nur Khan Trophy for Best in Aero Avionics Technology was conferred upon Aircraftman Muhammad Ibrahim Suleman. Air Officer Commanding Trophy for the Best Performance in General Service Training was awarded to Academy Sergeant Aircraftman Noman Karim whereas Trophy for Best Performance in foreign trainees was lifted by Corporal MD Salim

Ahmed from Bangladesh.

Afghani, while now one US

dollar is available at 86 Af-

ghani. In contrast, at the

time of the American with-

drawal from Afghanistan,

one US dollar in Pakistan

was worth about 176 ru-

pees, which is now availa-

ble at almost 300 rupees.

He noted that despite the

wishes of dozens of coun-

tries, the dollars smuggled

from Pakistan helped Af-

ghanistan to remain afloat.

The rulers in Afghanistan

are not inclined to create

assets and prefer personal

welfare over national inter-

est. Aslam Khan said that

resources are not being

plundered in Afghanistan

but distributed properly,

which is promoting eco-

nomic development.

### NPO to organize webinar on "Productivity **Enhancement**

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar on the importance of team building to enhance productivity on June 26 (Monday). The objectives of the webinar include enhancing communication, developing trust and collaboration, strengthening problem-solving abilities and building stronger relationships, according to NPO document. It would also highlight encouraging effective leadership, enhancing team productivity, adaptability and resilience, establishing a team charter, applying practical team-building techniques, and evaluating progress and continuous improvement. The webinar has been designed for senior management, middle management, team leaders, supervisors, customer care staff, sale staff and the business development team.-APP

### DC visits DHQ, cattle market to inspect facilities

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema on Friday visited the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients. He interacted with the patients, their attendants and inquired about the treatment facilities being provided to them at the hospital. Cheema took rounds of various hospital wards including the male and female wards, operation theater, medical store, the emergency department and others.

He directed the management of the DHQ to ensure cleanliness arrangements in the hospital and adequate seating and clean drinking water for the patients and their attendants. He also directed to ensure medicines in sufficient quantities at the hospital. The DC further asked for the best cleanliness arrangements at the hospital's washrooms and directed them to make the air conditioning system functional. Later, the deputy commissioner also visited the cattle market in the Khayaban Sir Syed area and reviewed the seating, drinking water, cleanliness, medical facility and other arrangements. Waqar directed the concerned officials to ensure plenty of water and shady places for animals during hot weather. He directed the police officials to watch criminal elements like pickpockets in the cattle markets.-APP

### Govt on toes to manage power supply during peak summer

ISLAMABAD: Despite the economic recession and pressure by International Monetary Fund to do away with subsidies, the government is pursuing a focused agenda of overcoming power shortage during the peak summer season through a multi-pronged strategy.

Since the uninterrupted power supply is considered crucial for the development of industrial, agricultural and domestic sectors, its smooth supply to domestic consumers is equally important. But it becomes difficult when one's hands are tied to certain international monetary compulsions and there is a shortfall in indigenous supply and demand. Therefore, the present government is vigorously pursuing arrangements to provide respite to industry and common consumers

reduce power tariffs. He during the ongoing hot spell. Rising fuel prices and said over 2000 MW alone new energy situation after electricity was added to the system from local Thar Ukraine war also necessitated Pakistan to utilize coal during the said period. its indigenous resources Moreover, 1320 MW Shanglike hydel, solar, wind and hai Electric, ThalNova, Kar-Thar coal as it has already ot hydropower project and announced not to build any K-3 Karachi Nuclear Power new power projects de-Plant project have startpending on imported coal ed generating electricity and ensure 60 percent of since the present coalition its power through local government took over led sources by 2030. "We are by Prime Minister Shehtaking pragmatic steps to baz Sharif. Khurram Dasoverpower load-shedding tgir said Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) governby focusing on generation, transmission and energy ment had successfully addconservation to provide ed over 10,000 MW elecmaximum relief to people," tricity to the national grid stated Minister for Power through Economic Corridor (CPEC) Division Khurram Dastgir. projects from 2013 to 2018. The present government has added cheap 3800 "Efforts of the then PML-N megawatts (MW) indigegovernment, had not only nous electricity to the nacontrolled load-shedding tional grid in just one year but there was also surplus which would gradually help power available in the sys-

criminal China-Pakistan ity from Iran.

tem," he remarked. "But, negligence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf government had delayed a number of projects dragging the country back to darkness." He informed that total power generation from Thar coal stood at 2640 MW with formal commissioning of 1320 MW Shanghai Electric Thar Coal Project under the CPEC. "Another 330 MW Thal Nova Thar coal project has also been synchronized in February that would help reduce load-shedding and cut the power tariff." Khurram said there were 175 billion tons coal reserves at Thar that were sufficient to generate 100,000 MW electricity. Moreover, Bolan-Gawadar Transmission Line has also been completed for importing 100 MW electric-

### Dollars being smuggled to Afghanistan, Iran dollar was available at 124

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Friday that a large number of dollars are being smuggled from the country to Afghanistan and Iran. Pakistan's economy is getting weak due to continuous smuggling of dollars, while the economy of both the neighbouring countries is getting stable, he said. There is no corruption in the government machinery in Afghanistan due to which their economy is flourishing despite the sanctions. he added. In a statement issued here today, Aslam Khan said that immediately after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, one US

Around Rs. 23 b disbursed among 2.5 m beneficiaries ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has disbursed a total of Rs. 23 billion

### run three special trains

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has announced to run three special trains to facilitate the passengers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha holidays. According to a notification issued by Pakistan Railways, the first Eid Train will depart from Quetta to Peshawar on Monday. The second train, departing from Karachi to Lahore, will start its journey on Tuesday while the third Special Eid Train will run from Lahore for Karachi on July 03 after Eid-ul-Azha. This has been a regular feature for Pakistan Railways to announce special trains operation on the occasion of Eid to provide a comfortable and convenient travel facility to the general public who are visiting their native towns to celebrate the festival with their families and relatives. -APP

### Shah for focusing on indigenous powergeneration resources

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmad Shah on Friday informed the National Assembly that we have to pay attention to power generation projects based on indigenous resources including hydel power, Thar coal and local gas. Currently, only 7,000 MW hydel power is being generated out of total 20,000 MW hydel potential, he added. He called for paying special attention to hydel power generation projects by scrapping other development schemes for the time being. He said that currently, over 2600 MW was being generated from Thar coal alone while the additional 1000  $\,MW$ would soon be added to the system shortly. He said that the allegation of Rs 100 billion corruption was leveled against our then minister in 1995 in \$ 5 billion LPG deal with France. The agreement was published in Dawn and later the agreement was scrapped through suo moto notice, he added.-APP

### Army's role in economic growth termed crucial

#### DNA

business leader said that ISLAMABAD: Former Vice the Army's commitment was very essential for the President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh said on Frisuccess of the plan and the day that Army has agreed plan require a secure and stable environment which to play a role in boosting the economy, which is very the Army can provide. In encouraging for the busiorder to maintain stability ness community. The govand national security, the ernment has announced an Army can help protects domestic and foreign assets Economic Revival Plan to which will be favourable for address economic issues and promote prosperity, the commercial activity and and the business commuencourage local and foreign nity is pinning high hope investors, he added. The on the plan and the COAS plan emphasises the value amid the economic downof cooperation between civilturn, he said. Atif Ikram ian and military leadership Sheikh who has also served which will encourage good as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said in a decision-making, optimise use of available resources, statement that the Special and accelerate investment Investment Facilitation and execution, he observed. Council has been estab-Atif Ikram Sheikh said that lished to attract investment one of the industries targetand the Army's contribued for expansion and develtion in it will be significant. opment is the production of The economic revival plan defence equipment, which

recognises the importance will have a substantial ecoof domestic development nomic impact. He noted that and foreign investment human resource developwhile the Army has assured ment and job creation are to support these initiatives, essential for a healthy econowhich has gone down very my, which has been stressed

in the plan. This will help with the business people become more indecommunity, he added. The pendent, promote economic inclusion, and lower unemployment rates through providing vocational training, encouraging entrepreneurship, and job creation.

Building infrastructure is essential for boosting the economy and luring investors and this plan will help improve connectivity, facilitate trade, and bolstering the general investment climate by constructing roads, bridges, dams etc. The economy can be adversely impacted by catastrophes, and the Army plays a crucial role in reducing the negative impact of such occurrences because of its well-established disaster response and relief capabilities. It also helps to restore economic activity in impacted areas, fostering resilience and stability, by offering immediate assistance, relief supplies, and rehabilitation support, he said. It is impossible to overestimate the contribution of the Army to the development of the national economy, he concluded.

#### gamblers RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district Police arrested five gamblers and recovered Rs 10,500 stake money, four mobile phones, and valuables from their possession, said a police spokesman here on Friday. He informed that Taxila police conducted a raid and arrested five gamblers namely Meharban, Sajid, Nisar, Adnan and Arif who were allegedly involved in betting

Police

arrest five

while playing cards. A case has been registered against them while further investigation is under process. -APP

faalat program during the last four days. According to the disbursement details till date revealed by the BISP here Friday, those beneficiaries who have not received their quarterly payment yet must visit their respective campsite to receive the amount. The beneficiary women must receive their full payment as well as a receipt. The BISP has been disbursing Benazir Kafaalat cash and Benazir educational stipends since Monday (June 19). After a 25 percent increase, this time the quarterly installment amount is Rs. 9000. About 81 billion rupees is being distributed among nine million deserving families under Benazir Kafaalat. In case of any complaint, the beneficiaries must immediately report to BISP toll-free helpline 0800-26477. All messages from BISP are sent from 8171 only.-APP

among 2.5 million deserving women under Benazir Ka-





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### Chances of IMF program restoration low: Zahid will have to withdraw from

some of its conditions and

#### DNA

Pakistan will also have to ISLAMABAD: Chairman of make changes in the federal National Business Group budget. Talking to the busi-Pakistan, President Pakiness community, the veterstan Businessmen and Inan business leader said that tellectuals Forum, and All the finance minister Ishaq Karachi Industrial Alliance, Dar has already said that and former provincial minthe IMF is looking at the ister Mian Zahid Hussain issue of Pakistan geopolitsaid on Friday that the curically, which seems to be rent EFF program of IMF correct to some extent. The is ending in a week and now business leader said that the chances of a tranche apart from Prime Minister, are slim. As a result of the Finance Minister Ishaq Prime Minister Mian She-Dar is also meeting the amhbaz Sharif's meeting with bassadors of America and IMF MD, if the suspended important countries in a bid loan is granted, then both to restore the program. the international organiza-Mian Zahid Hussain said tion and Pakistan will have that the government has fulfilled most of the conto take special measures to do so, he added. Mian Zahid ditions of the IMF, but Hussain said that the IMF compared to the financial

requirements of six billion dollars, 4 billion dollars have been arranged.

The finance minister has also clarified that national interests cannot be sacrificed for the IMF, in which case the IMF's inflexible attitude makes it impossible to revive the program. He said that due to the IMF,

Pakistan has increased the interest rate to 21 percent, the petroleum levy has been increased to 50 rupees per litre, the value of the rupee has also been reduced; but the lender is still not satisfied. The IMF has also described the current budget as going against the basic terms of its program, which include increasing the tax base and reforming failed public institutions.

### Strait Forum counters Western narratives

7 n mainstream Western narratives and those of the pro-independence forces in Taiwan, the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are on the brink of war. They have fabricated the lie that as the Chinese mainland, which has been placed in a bully's role in those narratives, constantly upgrades preparedness for "a war of aggression" to reunify the island with the motherland, Taiwan must be armed to its teeth for self-defense, with substantial Western support.

An armed conflict between the two sides of the Strait that would inevitably drag in some of the world's strongest militaries is imminent in the words of their fearmongering. The 15th Straits Forum, which was opened in Xiamen, Fujian province, sent a very different message, displaying a common aspiration on both sides of the Taiwan Strait for peace and development. As the largest gathering for non-governmental exchanges across the Strait held since the pandemic control measures were lifted on the mainland, the event was a thermometer of public enthusiasm for constructive cross-Strait engagement. That more than 5,000 people from Taiwan were invited as guests alone revealed the mainland organizers' sincerity. In a congratulatory letter read out by Wang Hu-ning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Chinese President Xi Jinping expounded what Wang said was the "ultimate truth" that "Compatriots on both sides of the Strait will do well only when the country and nation do well". While declaring a continuous dedication to cross-Strait economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation, integrated development in all areas, and delivering benefits to people on the island, Wang extended an invitation to all compatriots there to share the extensive opportunities arising from "Chinese-style modernization". Wang reiterated the mainland side's persistent emphasis on "placing hopes on the people of Taiwan", pledging to make every effort to do and do well whatever is conducive to increasing good feelings, as well as deepening mutual understanding and identification across the Strait. A "Cross-Strait People's Declaration" jointly compiled by kinship organizations from both sides of the Strait was released at the gathering, vowing to forge tighter people-to-people links across the Strait to serve the purpose of peaceful reunification. And under the peace-oriented principles both leaders highlighted, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council have jointly issued a document on supporting Fujian to "Explore New Ways of Integrated Development on Both Sides of the Strait" and to build a corresponding pilot zone. The narrative of an impending war is part of the collusive games Washington and the pro-independence forces on the island are playing. Beijing insists on reunification, and apparently it prefers the peaceful realization of that goal more than anyone else.

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### Macron's green finance deal

he International Energy Agency in 2021 had an unambiguous message: developing new fossil fuel resources is incompatible with restricting global heating to below 1.5C, a threshold beyond which the most disastrous climate impacts lie. Yet the oil and gas industry isn't listening. Last year it committed half a trillion dollars for new capital expenditure on future drilling and extraction, while making outrageous profits of \$4tn. Business as usual will destroy life as we know it. Energy is fundamental for development and meeting basic needs. But producing it from coal, oil and gas is simultaneously the cause of the climate emergency. Clearly the issues of climate, energy and development must be addressed in an interconnected way. This is very difficult against a post-Covid backdrop when poor nations have record levels of debt.

The French president, Emmanuel Macron, should be congratulated for hosting a summit to reimagine financial solutions to the interlinked global goals of tackling poverty, curbing planet-destroying emissions and protecting nature. But there is still a long way to go. The announcement by the International Monetary Fund that rich countries had met a target, set in 2019, of a \$100bn climate fund for poor countries is probably less than meets the eye. The contrast with the trillions of dollars mobilised in an instant, to bail out finance houses in 2008, is stark. It is inexcusable that funds to address global heating cannot be found.

"For us it is about saving lives, for others, it is about saving profits," said Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, chiding the rich world for inaction during a "polycrisis moment". Colombia's president, Gustavo Petro, called for a global financial transaction tax. Kenva's president, William Ruto, came to Paris after endorsing a report, "Just Transition", which pointed to Africa's potential for harnessing renewable energy far outstripping any projected needs. Yet the continent has been barely able to industralise at all, let alone tap its vast green power potential. Leaders in North America and Europe are intent on reshaping their energy systems, but the key materials required are found in the developing world. Even China, which dominates critical rare earth elements and their processing, lacks vital metals. This should allow for a grand bargain, where poorer countries are given policy space to address the three structural deficiencies that hinder their development - a lack of food sovereignty, a lack of energy sovereignty, and low value-added manufacturing - in return for sharing their minerals. Mr Ruto said the three weeks taken to create the current "Bretton Woods" financial institutions should be enough to design their replacement. This might sound ambitious but it was Martin Luther King who warned against the "tranquillising drug of gradualism". This sense of urgency is needed now to stop an environmental disaster.

# Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's four-day red carpet visit to the United States

### **James Dorsey**

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal this week, Mr. Modi asserted that the South Asian nation's quest for great power status based on being the world's most populous country and, by 2030, its third largest economy, did not involve "supplanting any country." Instead, Mr. Modi said, "We see this process as India gaining its rightful position in the world." The prime minister noted, "I am the first prime minister to be born in free India. And that's why my thought process, my conduct, what I say and do, is inspired by my country's attributes and traditions." A former US State Department official and the Carnegie Endowment

he visit spotlights the adjustments the United States faces in transitioning from a US-dominated unipolar world to a multipolar world populated by three major powers - the US, China, and India - and several middle powers with greater agency to hedge their bets and chart independent courses.

Those adjustments include the viability of a foreign, defense, and security policy anchored in alliances rather than more narrowly-focused agreements and micro-laterals like I2U2, which groups the United States, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and India, or AUKUS, a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. I2U2 was created last year to facilitate "joint investments and new initiatives in water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security." "supplanting any country." Instead, Mr. Modi

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal this week, Mr. Modi asserted that the South Asian nation's quest for great power status based on being the world's most populous country and, by 2030, its third largest economy, did not involve said, "We see this process as India gaining its rightful position in the world." The prime minister noted, "I am the first prime minister to be born in free India. And that's why my thought process, my conduct, what I say and do, is inspired by my country's attributes and traditions." A former US State Department official and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's Tata Chair for Strategic Affairs, Ashley J. Tellis, argued that India and the United States differ on what a 21st-century world order should entail. The Tata family, whose Tata Group is India's largest conglomerate with operations in more than 100 countries, funds Carnegie and the chair. India "does not harbor any innate allegiance toward preserving the liberal international order and retains an enduring aversion toward participating in mutual defense. It seeks to acquire advanced technologies from the United States India by Indians. It's not going to be determined to bolster its own economic and military capabilities... It does not presume that American assistance imposes any further obligations on itself," Mr. Tellis said in a recent Foreign Affairs article. Bolstering Mr. Tellis' argument, prominent Indian commentator C. Raja Mohan noted that "the Indian argument of 'strategic autonomy'...is only deployed in the engagement with the US. ... We rarely ask how Delhi, despite the talk of strategic autonomy, has allowed a massive and unhealthy reliance on Russian weapons to develop over the decades." Widely viewed as India's most popular politician rooted in Hindu nationalism with a track record of illiberally hollowing out the world's largest democracy and rolling back minority rights, particularly regarding India's 200 million Muslims, the world's largest Muslim minority, Mr. Modi stands firm in the struggle to shape the 21st-century world order. That battle is as much a power struggle as it is a battle of ideas. "Ideologies play a central role in structuring international orders as well as mounting collective efforts to challenge and transform them," scholars Gregorio Bettiza, Derek Bolton, and David Lewis noted in a recent journal article. Challengers, they said, "tend to organize around alternative beliefs and values." Juxtaposed with the Biden administration's democracy vs. autocracy framework, Mr. Modi's model of illiberalism combined with non-alignment while maintaining close ties to the world's major economies is increasingly a preferred alternative for autocratic middle powers, particularly in the Gulf, according to Middle East expert Jon Alterman. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said on the eve of President Joe Biden's White House meeting with Mr. Modi that the US leader would not lecture the Indian prime minister about human rights. "Ultimately, the question of where politics and the question of democratic institutions go in India is going to be determined within

by the United States," Mr. Sullivan said.

Mr. Alterman suggested, "That is precisely the conclusion that officials in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi and Cairo-and others-would like Washington to reach about them. They would like to have the US president welcome their rulers without lectures or preconditions." India's appeal as a model for authoritarians and autocrats is not simply self-serving. It also benefits from the fact that credibility is essential in the battle of ideas. Credibility is what the United States lacks. The effective dropping of human rights concerns in the US-India relationship is just the latest example of the United States refusing to put its money where its mouth is or, at best, its selective adherence to its democratic and human rights values. Earlier, Mr. Biden lost ground by framing the Ukraine war as a fight between democracy and autocracy rather than what resistance to the Russian invasion is about: upholding the rule of law and the inviolability of internationally recognised borders. Mr. Biden's problem is that inconsistency in US policy has become as much a liability as it long was an asset. The rise of illiberalism in the United States, symbolised by former President Donald J. Trump, compounds Mr. Biden's difficulties. To be sure, balancing values with the requirements of big power geopolitics produces uncomfortable compromises. The United States has yet to attempt to regain credibility by countering legitimate allegations of hypocrisy and opportunism with a well-argued rationale for selective insistence on its values that for decades have rung hollow and insincere. Mr. Raja Mohan, the Indian commentator, put his finger on the US dilemma by noting that "if Washington can do business for many decades with the House of Saud, the Pakistan Army, and the Chinese Communist Party, it is unreasonable to think it will be squeamish about building on clearly convergent interests with the Modi government."

### Sunariwala: From barren earth to prosperity

#### Muhammad Rizwan



The distance between Sunariwala and Depalpur is 18km, while Shir Gad is 14km away and Hujira is 12km away from Sunariwala. Okara is located approximately 43km from Sunariwala. Sunariwala falls under the jurisdiction of Okara district and its tehsil is Depalpur. The province where Sunariwala is

situated is Punjab. The administrative authority overseeing Sunariwala is the Punjab government.

he Sunariwala village is located in Depalpur, which is situated in Okara, the largest city in Okara district. Okara itself is situated in the Punjab province of Pakistan, a beautiful country in the world. Sunariwala is positioned at the corner of Bayas River, which has been dry for many years. To reach Sunariwala, one can take the Shir Gad road from Depalpur to Shairgad or the Hujira road from Depalpur to Hujra. Another option is the Shairgad road from Hujira to Shairgad or the Hujara road from Shairgad to Hujira. One can also travel on the Depalpur road from Hujara to Depalpur or from Shairgad to Depalpur. The major cities near Sunariwala include Depalpur and Hujira. If the residents of Sunariwala need to purchase any items, they usually visit Depalpur or. The University of Okara is also accessible from Sunariwala.

The distance between Sunariwala and Depalpur is 18km, while Shir Gad is 14km away and Hujira is 12km away from Sunariwala. Okara is located approximately 43km from Sunariwala. Sunariwala falls under the jurisdiction of Okara district and its tehsil is Depalpur. The province where Sunariwala is situated is Punjab. The administrative authority overseeing Sunariwala is the Punjab government. Sunariwala is part of Pakistan, a country known for its beauty.

In 1967, Sunariwala was an underdeveloped village. Haji M Sharif, who came from Arifwala, took an interest in purchasing land at a low price when he saw some people selling their land while traveling to Hujira. After consulting his family and other individuals such as Haji Ismaeel, Kushi Muhammad, and Solaman, they decided to buy the barren land. They cleared the land by cutting down bushes, making it uneven. The individuals involved in cutting down the bushes were Chodary Abdul Majeed, M Shareef, Solaman, Glam Mhammad, Haji Ismaeel, and Haneef. They worked on developing the

land for five years, making it more suitable for cultivation. To make the land even, they used bales in small sections.

In 1971, they purchased an area of 17 acres, and in 1990, the people of Sunariwala bought their first tractor. In 1992, they expanded the cultivated area. Initially, wheat was the primary crop, but in 1993, electricity was introduced to Sunariwala. M Shareef, M Haneef, Solamaan, and Kushimuhammad were the individuals involved in the electrification process. In 1975, M Shareef's sons started receiving education in Mazra Bad. Rasheed Ahmad and Abdul Hafiz completed their middle education there and later enrolled in the Government Model High School in Depalpur.

This progress was made possible by M Shareef's efforts. When the electrical system was established in 1993, tube wells started running on electricity, resulting in increased water supply. M Shareef began producing more crops, including rice, leading to higher profits than expenses. These advancements brought about changes, and the agricultural productivity of the area increased. In 1995, the production of sugar increased significantly due to improved water availability. People started growing vegetables and fruits, with guava and orange being the prominent fruits. In 1996, people began selling vegetables and crops in nearby cities. Animal husbandry also started in 1987, and the number of animals increased significantly. In 1996, the people of Sunariwala purchased a portion of plain land from Zada Bibi and sold more animals to others.

The land was priced at 750 rupees per acre at that time. They once again worked on developing the uneven land, utilizing machinery and technology. After clearing the bushes, the land became suitable for cultivation, and crop production resumed. However, water shortage became a challenge, affecting the productivity of the previously fertile land. To address this issue, with the help of Haji Share Muhammad, a new tube well was established without relying on electricity. The tube well was initially powered by an engine and was later converted to electricity in 1999. By 2002, the condition of the land improved, and the people of Sunariwala enjoyed a better quality of life.

In 1995, a teacher arrived from Depalpur, motivating the people to pursue education. Rasheed Ahmad was the first person from Sunariwala to pass matriculation. He completed his matriculation from the Government High School in Depalpur.

Abdul Raziq was the first person from Sunariwala to complete MPhil and also the first to learn by heart The Holy Quran in Urdu. Haji Jan Muhammad was the first person to join the army, while Hafiz Muhammad Dine and Hafiz Ahmad Dine were the first individuals to thoroughly learn The Holy Quran. M Abdullah Rasheed was the first person to complete MPhil in a science subject. M Bilal Rasheed was the first to join a university, specifically pursuing software engineering.

At the last, I am deeply grateful for Sir Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer's mentorship, as his guidance has not only enhanced my writing skills but also broadened my understanding of the subject matter. His expertise and experience have guided me to delve deeper into the topic, enabling me to present a more nuanced and well-reasoned opinion.

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### 06

## WORLD / SPORTS

### Briefs PM calls for 'rethink' on int'l finances

FROM PAGE 01

extended by EU in the reha-

## **Pakistan Olympic Association** celebrates Int'l Olympic Day

### Bilawal showers praise on PM

Islamabad **POST** 

Saturday, June 24 , 2023

FROM PAGE 01 He also stressed the need for further empowering the prime minister to steer the country out of the crisis. He thanked PM Shehbaz and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar for providing relief to the flood affectees in the budget proposals.

"Our politics is not of abusing but positivity," the PPP chairman said, adding, "For everyone he is Dar but for

me, he is Dar uncle.' Berating PTI chairman Imran Khan, he said that the deposed prime minister's lies harmed the country internationally. "The politics of constant lies and blaming has damaged the reputation of the country," Bilawal added.

### Imran slams govt on foreign...

FROM PAGE 01

PDM cronies claimed that I had isolated Pakistan internationally." Imran Khan stated that so now the imported government experiment has not just made Pakistan irrelevant internationally but our democracy, rule of law and the entire economic and institutional structure is also collapsing right in front of our eyes.

### 'Biden should consider...

FROM PAGE 01 CM Gujarat." "He (Modi) leads yet another campaign of state-sponsored terrorism in [Indian-held] Kashmir, which includes routinely maiming and blinding the local population. Across the rest of the country, Modi's acolytes lynch Muslims, Christians and other minor-

ities, with impunity. "Pakistan has lost countless lives and has been continuously at war with terrorism for decades now, owing to failed American interventions in the region," the defence minister said. "Perhaps President Biden should consider these facts the next time he fetes the Butcher of Gujarat," he added.

### bilitation & reconstruction

of the flood-hit areas as well as its active participation in Resilient Pakistan Conference in Geneva. In his quote tweet, he termed discussion with the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen fruitful as whole gamut of bilateral relations between Pakistan and EU were dis-

cussed in the meeting. The Prime Minister said that GSP Plus has provided a strong boost to our exports and continues to remain critical to our economy and further said that my government is keen to further build on our strong

partnership with EU. Meanwhile, Pakistan and China, while expressing satisfaction over the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, have agreed on the centrality of CPEC for Pakistan's socio-economic development. The understanding to this effect reached during a meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang on the sidelines of New Global Financial Pact Summit in Paris. It was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since Premier Li assumed office in March this year. The two leaders also expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing its shared objectives for the two countries. The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership. During the meeting, the two sides held an in-depth discussion on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as well as bilateral

### PM urges expatriates to expose...

economic cooperation.

### Thousands of people of all ages participated in sporting and cultural activities, such as fun runs, exhibitions, music, tree plantation, beach cleaning and educational seminars. Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) also regularly celebrates the Olympic Day every year

**OUR CCORRESPONDENT** 

ISLAMABAD: Under the umbrella of the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), the Olympic Day colorful event was held here at Rawal Lake Islamabad celebrate International Olympic Day 2023.

Olympian Sadaf Siddiqui, Olympian Ahmad Ali Khan, Is-Siddiqui, lamabad Olympic Association (IOA) interim committee secretary and Chairman Pakistan Rowing Federation Rizwan ul Haq, Army Sports Directorates Major Irfan Younis, national athletes, officials, children and personalities from different walks of life were also attended the event.

On the eve to celebrate Olympic Day a fun run was held where kids participated in the

race, on this occasion, a specially prepared cake with the logo of Olympic rings was cut as well as tree plantation were also held. Olympic Day is celebrated worldwide on June 23 of each year to commemorate the birth of the Modern Olympics Games that were held in Paris back in June 1894. "This day is one of the key LYMPIC **LYMPIC** YMPIC DLYME events of our annual calendar ILYMPI ILYMPIC DAY where we engage with partners for the promotion of Olympism in the community. Thousands of people of all ages participated in sporting and cultural activities, such as fun runs, exhibitions, music, tree plantation, beach cleaning and educational seminars. Pakistan

### Sabalenka, Gauff crash out in Berlin

metova on Sunday. Her BERLIN: Top seed Aryna Sabalenka and US star win over Gauff avenged Coco Gauff suffered sether loss to the American backs in their Wimbledon teenager from two match build-ups on Thursday points up in their only when they slumped to secprevious meeting at Duond round losses at the bai in 2021. Berlin WTA tournament. After falling behind 3-1 in the first set, the 28-year-World number two Sabalenka was defeated 6-2, old Russian won 11 of the

last 12 games to reach 7-6 (7/2) by Veronika Kudermetova whose Russian the Berlin quarter-finals Ekaterina Alexandrova saw off seventh-ranked Gauff 6-4, 6-0.

Alexandrova and Kudermetova will meet in Friday's quarter-finals, just five days after they fought out the final in 's-Hertogenbosch.

compatriot

Kudermetova had also defeated Sabalenka at the same stage in Berlin 12 months ago in three sets.

On Thursday, world number 13 Kudermetova broke her Belarusian opponent three times in her 99-minute victory.

for the second time in her career. "Grass is not my favorite surface, but somehow I'm managing to play so well on it, said Alexandrova. "And maybe the score looks easy, but it's never like that because she played amazing. I needed to stav focused during every single point to keep it that

way. I'm just hoping I can keep this form as long as

I can." Greek sixth seed Maria Sakkari breezed past Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus 6-2, 6-1 while Marketa Vondrousova also made the last eight when German opponent Jule Niemeier retired with injury from their second round clash.-APP



### Muhammad Waseem set to face Donnie Nietes

Pakistan's star boxer and three-time WBC flyweight world silver champion Muhammad Waseem will face four-time world champion Donnie Nietes of the Philippines on July 22 in Dubai. The bout was confirmed by Dubai-based Disrupt Promotions, who roped in Waseem recently. Disrupt Promotions is owned by a group of businessmen from England and South Africa.

Earlier, in an interview with The News in April, Waseem said that he was looking forward to the fight against Nietes. "Donnie is a four-time world champion in four different divisions and currently he is in the top four in the WBC flyweight rankings," Waseem said. "If arranged, it will be a tough fight as he is a top-ranked fighter but beating him will help me acquire top rankings. "You know I have not played a fight since my world title shot a year ago in Dubai. The bad luck was that my former managers MTK Global ceased operations and this year Probellum also ceased its operations and handed over most of its assets to Disrupt Promotions. "The issues wasted my crucial time and it also deprived me of top rankings due to barren patch. Now I will have to play a few ranking fights in order to improve my rankings before going for a title clash. "Despite such matters my aim is to win the world title one day. I will not give up and will continue working hard to achieve my goal one day." Waseem last played the IBF flyweight world title on March 19, 2022, at the Duty Free Tennis Stadium in Dubai where he lost to England's Sunny Edwards despite almost dominating the fight. Waseem has to his credit three WBC world silver titles so far. He won two in 2016, in the second year of his professional career, toppling Jether Oliva and Giemel Magramo, both of Philippines, in Seoul in July and November, respectively. He beat Rober Barrera of Colombia in Dubai in November 2021 to win his third such title. -APP

### Olympic Association (POA) also regularly celebrates the Olympic Day every year.

FROM PAGE 01 Prime Minister Shehbaz told the community members that through its tough economic decisions, the incumbent government saved the country from default. During the last four years, the economy was pushed to the verge of collapse, and unemployment and inflation were at their peaks, he added. The prime minister said that having inherited an isolated Pakistan on the diplomatic fronts, his government made constant efforts throughout the year to revive foreign relations.

He said the recently unveiled Economic Revival Plan would prove to be a milestone to restore Pakistan's economic position and that a Special Investment Facilitation Council had been established to remove impediments to investment. Prime Minister Shehbaz said that only economic sovereignty and stability could guarantee a safe future for Pakistan.

### Zardari says will not betray...

FROM PAGE 01 Addressing a joint press conference flanked by All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma) leader Gohar Ejaz in Lahore, the former president said, "Neither deceived anyone nor will betray the PML-N."

Stressing the need for joint efforts for a "better future" for the country, the PPP stalwart urged all the political parties to sign a charter of economy. "I am ready to sign a charter of economy. The charter of economy is need of the hour," he added. The former president said that they should work jointly for the progress of the country. Referring to the crippling economy of a cash-strapped nation, Zardari said that everyone will suffer if Pakistan is affected. Country needs trade opportunities instead of aid, he added. "We should promote trade to improve economy." Pakistan has barely enough currency reserves to cover one month's imports. It had hoped to have \$1.1 billion of the funds released in November - but IMF has insisted on a number of conditions before it makes any more disbursements.

22, successfully defended her 's-Hertogenbosch title in a dramatic threeset triumph over Kuder-



### Schedule announced for Asian Hockey **Champions Trophy**

### SPORT DESK

CHENNAI: The Asian Federation an-Hockey nounced the schedule of the Champions Trophy in a press release on Friday. The event is set to be held in Chennai. India from August 3 to 12.

The teams of India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Japan and China are included in the tournament and all of them are in the same pool. Pakistan will play its first

match against Malaysia on August 3, its second match against Korea on August 4, third match against Japan on August 6, fourth match against China on August 7, and its fifth match against arch-rivals India on August 9. The final of the event will

Central America and the Caribbe-

an gets under way at Soldier Field

this weekend, with the defending

champion US taking on Jamaica in

Group A. Hallgrimsson, who was

part of the Iceland coaching set-

up that masterminded a stunning

defeat of England at Euro 2016,

took over as Jamaica coach last

September. But so far the 56-year-

old qualified dentist has strug-

gled to reverse Jamaica's dismal

international form, with the Reg-

gae Boyz winless in seven games

since Hallgrimsson took over. The

Icelandic coach though is bullish

that the Gold Cup can mark the

beginning of an upturn in Jamai-

ca's footballing fortunes. "We

don't fear them, we know they

have a good squad and they are

playing at home in front of their

own fans," Hallgrimsson said of

be played on August 12. Pakistan and India have won the event twice and once jointly in 2018. The training camp of the

shortlisted players for the national hockey team to participate in the Asian Champions Trophy is currently going on at the National Hockey Stadium, Lahore. The Asian Champions Trophy is considered a big event as it serves as an opportunity to prepare the team for the Asian Games 2023 in China, which will begin in September, which are also the qualifying rounds for securing a berth in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

It has to be mentioned that recently Pakistan reached the final of the Junior Asia Cup 2023 in

#### Oman and also qualified for the Junior Hockey World Cup 2023, even though PHF was facing a severe financial crisis. The Green Shirts lost the final by 2-1 against arch-rivals India. The PHF is facing a financial crisis in terms of bearing the expenditures of organising the training camps, travelling, boarding and lodging of the Pakistan hockey team in international hockey events and the salaries of players and coaches and other members of the team management. But it is hopeful that the success of the Pakistan junior team in Oman and qualification for the Junior World Cup will make the federal government resolve its financial issues.

BERLIN: Bayern Munich have signed Borussia Dortmund

chances.--Agencies

**Guerreiro joins** 

**Bayern on free** 

left-back Raphael Guerreiro on a free transfer, the Bavarian club announced on Friday. Guerreiro, 29, joins Bayern after seven seasons at Dortmund, where the Portuguese international won two German Cups. His deal with the German champions is set to run until 2026. A Euro 2016 winner with Portugal, Guerreiro will reunite at Bayern with manager Thomas Tuchel, who brought the defender to Dortmund when he managed the club. "When the call came from FC Bayern, my decision was made quickly. It's an honour for me to play for this big club and I also really appreciate Thomas Tuchel from our time together at Dortmund,"

transfer

the defender said in a statement. "I'm a player who always likes to have the ball - it's about dominating the game and I want to create

### Neymar faces possible \$1m fine RIO DE JANEIRO: A "major

construction" project at Brazilian football star Neymar's mansion in Rio de Janeiro state was halted on Thursday for "environmental infractions," which could result



Jamaica are ready to end their

long winless streak. "It's often

said that winning is a habit,"

Hallgrimsson said. "But sadly

losing can be that as well. It's

something that we don't want to

carry on doing. "But I think the mindset for the Gold Cup will be

a lot more different. The set up

is going to be different. "I sin-

cerely hope that we will stop not

winning and get good results in

the Gold Cup. We're not happy

with losing." Jamaica's chances

of ambushing the Americans on

Saturday have been improved

by the fact that the Gold Cup

takes place outside of FIFA's

international windows. It means

that the US will embark on

the defense of their title with

virtually a second-string team

stripped of most of their Eu-

rope-based players. Only one

member of the US starting XI

that defeated Canada in last

Sunday's CONCACAF Nations

League final in Las Vegas - goal-

keeper Matt Turner - is in the

squad for Gold Cup.-Agencies

102 people in army's custody...

#### FROM PAGE 01

army laws after enraged protesters belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vandalised army installations following the arrest of their party chief. The petitions, separately filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan, former chief justice Jawwad S Khawaja, legal expert Aitzaz Ahsan. and five civil society members including Piler Executive Director Karamat Ali, have requested the apex court to declare the military trials unconstitutional. During the hearing, CJP Bandial, while citing Justice Shah, said that the army is directly affected related to the matters like national security. "Provoking serving army officer for conspiracy against national security was a serious crime," CJP remarked, adding that reviewing Army Act clauses was not needed.

### 82 bodies recovered; 12 survivors

FORM PAGE 01 underway with the help of forensic and NADRA data. The interior minister said at present a crackdown is underway to nab those behind the tragic boat accident near the coast of Greece. Sanaullah also informed the house that special desks have been established and so far 281 families have contacted these desks. The minister also said that 193 DNA samples have so far been collected to complete the identification process.

### Pak rejects India-US...

### FROM PAGE 01 Pakistan's close counterterrorism cooperation with the U.S. Pakistan

has rendered unmatched sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. In laying down their lives, our law enforcement agencies and armed forces have set an example. People of Pakistan are the real heroes in this fight.

### Jamaica eye US ambush as Gold Cup kicks off LOS ANGELES: Jamaica coach (Everton), Hallgrimsson says

the United States. Heimir Hallgrimsson is plotting "The most important thing in a an unlikely upset as the Reggae tournament like this is not to lose Boyz prepare to kick off their the first game. A draw is always CONCACAF Gold Cup campaign a good point from the first game against the United States on so you are alive until the end of Saturday. The 16-team biennial the group phase." Jamaica has a championship for North America,

solid record in the Gold Cup but has struggled in games against the US in the tournament. The US beat Jamaica in the knockout rounds in 2021 and 2019, and also defeated the Reggae Boyz in the 2017 final. Jamaica though upset

the US en route to the 2015 final,

where they lost to Mexico. However with a team bolstered by Premier League attacking talent in the shape of Leon Bailey (Aston Villa), Michail Antonio (West Ham) and Demarai Gray



### 07

## **BUSINESS / WORLD**

### **Briefs**

## Blinken, Guterres hold talks

WASHINGTON: US Secre tary of State Antony Blink en and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres discussed Russia's recent statements on not renewing the Black Sea grain deal during a phone conversation on Thursday, said the State Department.

"Blinken spoke with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres regarding Russia's statements to not renew the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) by the July 17 deadline," said spokesperson Matthew Miller in a statement. The two men also agreed on the importance of the grain deal to global food security and on the adverse impact its suspension would have on food importers, especially in developing countries.

"The Secretary thanked the Secretary-General for his firm commitment to the principles of the UN Charter, including sovereignty and territorial integrity, in the context of Russia's fullscale invasion of Ukraine.' said the statement.

The agreement, initially signed last July in Istanbul by Türkiye, the UN, Russia and Ukraine, aimed to resume grain exports from Ukrainian ports. The exports had been halted due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine that began in February 2022. The deal has been renewed several times since then and was extended for another two months on May 18.–APP

### China completes longest submarine oil pipeline

BEIJING: China on Thursday completed its longest deepwater pipeline for transporting oil and gas. The pipeline is a crucial component of the second phase of China's ultra-deepwater energy station known as Shenhai-1, or Deep Sea-1. which commenced operations in June 2021, Chinese broadcaster CGTN reported. Located approximately 130 kilometers (80 miles) from Sanya City in the southern province of Hainan, the phase II project aims to increase the peak annual output of the Shenhai-1 gas field from 3 billion cubic meters to 4.5 billion cubic meters, said CGTN. China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) has pioneered a new development model which includes a subsea production system, a shallow water jacket processing platform and a remote-control system for a deepwater semi-submersible platform.-APP

# Hungary risks ties with Ukraine over POW exchange

Captured by Moscow during its ongoing invasion of Ukraine, the POWs were transferred to Hungary earlier this month, with the help of the Russian Orthodox Church

#### **News Desk**

BUDAPEST: Hungary has gradually diverged from the EU's foreign policy agenda when it comes to Ukraine, angering Kyiv and further straining their relationship. Hungary has injected itself between Ukraine and Russia by seemingly facilitating the release of 11 Ukrainian prisoners of war. Captured by Moscow dur-

ing its ongoing invasion of Ukraine, the POWs were transferred to Hungary earlier this month, with the help of the Russian Orthodox Church. They belong to Transcarpathia, a region in western Ukraine home to a large Hungarian community. It remains unclear how the exchange took place, with some officials Budapest completely in denying any Hungarian

government involvement. Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó said the "Hungarian state did not participate in the exchange." Three of them have already returned to Ukraine, while Kyiv has claimed they are unable to

contact the remaining 8 Krekó, the director of Political Capital Institute and a POWs, accusing Hungary of blocking access. The Eurosenior fellow at the Center pean Union has demanded for European Policy Analysis, told Euronews."The that authorities in Budapest clarify the circumstances of Hungarian government has the exchange. "We believe that Hungary did not conclaimed they have no knowledge about this, that they sult with Ukraine, and that weren't even aware it was the case was handled in happening. But the depua way that was not agreed ty PM, Zsolt Semjén, the with them. However, this head of a Fidesz satellite party, boasted that he was issue should have primarily belonged to Ukraine, involved in the process,' since it is mostly about Krekó continued. their citizens," EU spokes-"Imagine if the whole seperson Peter Stano said

cret service and the govon Wednesday. Unilateral ernment are unaware of diplomatic efforts between the fact that the Russian Orthodox Church and the Hungary and Russia could be perceived as a means to Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta were undermine the collective effort by the EU to presbringing over 11 POWs from sure Moscow into backing Russia?" he exclaimed. down from the invasion of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, its neighbour. According to the head of the Russian media reports, the POWs Orthodox Church, awardare Ukrainian citizens of ed Semjén - who leads Hungarian ethnic back-

the Christian Democratic People's Party, which is in a coalition with Orbán's Fidesz - the Order of Glory and Honour Second Class in September of last year. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church's branch in Hungary, Metropolitan Hi-

larion, bestowed the order onto Semjén to "commemorate Semjén on his 60th birthday and recognise his assistance to the Diocese of Budapest-Hungary."

Ever since coming to power over a decade ago, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has fostered a romanticised idea of helping Hungarians that live in Europe outside the country's borders. Ethnic Hungarians are

found in countries that were once part of the Kingdom of Hungary, including Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, and Ukraine. The Treaty of Trianon, which was drafted during the Paris Peace Conference after World War I, foresaw the independence of these countries and shrank Hungary's borders to what they are today. Hungarian national histori-

ography presents Trianon as a deeply traumatic event. It is seen as an attempt by European powers to strip the kingdom of its once greater influence on the continent. To this day, the feast of King Stephen I is commemorated on 20

the day the now-abolished kingdom was founded at the end of the 10th century. Orbán and others in the country have latched on to the emotionally-laden legacy to significantly expand the country's involvement with Hungarians abroad and capitalise on their involvement politically. "It is part of Orbán's foreign policy to send a message that Hungary is the most important caretaker of ethnic Hungarians abroad. He's definitely playing the ethnic card, which benefits him in the elections," said Krekó. Hungarians living in neighbouring countries can apply for citizenship and vote in the elections despite not having a residency there. This is why "bringing home" ethnic Hungarians captured by Russia is likely to resonate positively with Hungarians at home and abroad. "Given that the government is aware of the popularity of every measure it makes, it's hard to assume that it would not be popular. They like appearing like the people who can outsmart everyone, who

August each year to mark

### **Obama slams** Western hypocrisy over migrants

Islamabad **POST** 

Saturday, June 24 , 2023

miraculously brought these

POWs from Russia without

Ukraine even being aware of

One thing that is certain is

that Hungarian Deputy PM

Semjén was part of facilitat-

ing the exchange - according

"The deputy PM boasted

it was his personal move to

bring these prisoners of war

to Hungary," said Krekó. The

Russian Orthodox Diocese in

Budapest has received funds

from the Hungarian gov-

ernment in the past years,

including to build churches.

"Publicly, the argument is

that the reason they are so

involved with the Russian

Orthodox Church is because

they want to promote peace

through interreligious dia-

logue," he explained. Orbán

boycotted a set of EU sanc-

tions presented in May 2022

because they featured Patri-

arch Kirill and demanded he

should be removed from the

list, citing protections for

"religious freedom". Kirill

has been a vocal supporter

of the invasion of Ukraine

and has publicly thrown

its weight behind Russian

President Vladimir Putin.

it," continued Krekó.

to his own words.

ATHENS: Former US President Barack Obama on Thursday slammed the hypocrisy of Western media concerning migrants and particularly in reference to the recent sinking of a migrant boat off southwestern Greece in which at least 82 people died and hundreds more are feared to have drowned. The fact that more attention is being paid to a submersible carrying five people that vanished off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada while on a tour of the Titanic's wreckage than the migrant boat sinking off Greece with up to 700 people on board is "rotten," he said during an appearance in the Greek capital Athens. He came to participate in the Stavros Niarchos Foundation's Nostos 2023 conference.

'That's an untenable situation. And, you know, the notion that we can't do something about that is simply not true. We know we can do things for these people," Obama said in reference to the migrant flow to developed countries.

'Canadians will no longer have access to news stories'

TRENTON: Meta is ending Canadian access to news stories on Facebook and Instagram after the passage of a law forcing the media giant to pay news outlets for articles it uses, the company announced Thursday. Bill C-18 – the Online News Act - passed the Canadian House of Commons and Senate and will soon receive Royal Assent, at which point it will become law. Meta warned it would stop carrying news stories if the bill came into effect. "We have repeatedly shared that in order to comply with Bill C-18 ... content from news outlets, including news publishers and broadcasters, will no longer be available to people accessing our platforms in Meta

### Russia playing no positive role for int'l community PARIS: The French presi-

grounds from the Tran-

scarpathian region of the

country. "There has been

a cacophony of messages

that have come out relat-

ed to this incident, and it

is hard to discern what is

and what isn't true," Péter

dent said on Friday that currently, Russia is not playing a positive role in the international community. Emmanuel Macron made

the remark during an interview with French broadcasters Franceinfo, France 24, and RFI on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact in Paris, when asked if "Russia is still an enemy, especially in Africa." "I do not like these terms which are definitive because this is not diplomacy," Macron replied, adding that Russia decided by itself to not respect international law and



public." When reminded that Russia did not attend the summit, the president that were needed to tack- thing, I'll take it, because

will come for negotiations on the terms of Ukraine. On the other hand, if he said that all the countries calls me to suggest some-

#### said the country will not have to give up its gas exploration, and added that the deal allows a transition that creates wealth. Macron also noted that gas production will continue in Senegal since it is a "transitional energy that the planet will still need for decades." Senegal vowed to increase its renewable energy rate to 40% in its electricity mix by 2030. The French

presidency, in a statement on Thursday, announced partnership between Senegal and Germany, France, the EU, the UK, and Canada to support the West African coun-

### Ukraine could get nukes in near future

KYIV: Ukraine has the ability to quickly develop and deploy nuclear weapons, Aleksey Arestovich, a former adviser to President Vladimir Zelensky, indicated in an interview released on Thursday. Speaking to Russian activist Mark Feygin, Arestovich argued that if Moscow were to make use of its nuclear arsenal, many countries would be tempted to pursue their own nuclear arms programs, with Ukraine receiving a carte blanche in this regard. Moscow has repeatedly denied that it plans to use nukes in Ukraine or elsewhere. When asked whether Kiev could produce nuclear weapons, the ex-adviser replied without hesitation: "It can... within a short time." Arestovich went on to say that Ukraine would still need some time to obtain enriched uranium, a crucial component needed to make nuclear bombs, but added that "a lot of things could happen." "Who knows where this uranium is just lying around?... You just walk and see a barrel of uranium. That's cool," he quipped. Should Ukraine become the target of a nuclear strike, "it should be either accepted into NATO in one day... or we will create nuclear weapons, because there are no other [security] guarantees," the ex-adviser said. Already in April, Arestovich suggested that Ukraine could develop a bomb in less than a year, but noted that it is not doing it because such a move would violate its international obligations. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine inherited part of its nuclear arsenal. In 1994, it signed the Budapest Memorandum, agreeing to give up its nukes in exchange for promises by the US, Britain and Russia that they would "provide assistance" to the country in case of aggression.-DNA

### Russia files legal case against Australian government

MOSCOW: Russia has launched a formal legal case against Australia over the cancellation of Moscow's lease on land to construct a new embassy building in Canberra near the parliament. Russian Ambassador to Australia Alexey Pavlovsky on Friday moved to the High Court to challenge Australian governthe ment's new legislation over the issue, ABC News reported. The government led by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese last week rushed through a new law to cancel the lease to the Russian Embassy. "The government has received very clear security advice as to the risk presented by a new Russian presence so close to the parliament," the Australian premier had said about leasing land to the Russian Embassy.

Earlier on Friday, Albanese said there was "no threat" posed by a Russian diplomat squatting on a piece of land at Yarralumla area in Canberra, close to the nation's parliament, which was earlier leased to Moscow's mission in Canberra. "A bloke standing in the cold on a bit of grass in Canberra is not a threat to our national security," Albanese told reporters in the capital city. His comments came after a Russian diplomat was reportedly seen living on the same site.-Agencies

become a colonial power in this century by waging a war against neighboring Ukraine. "Russia is also a power of destabilization in Africa through private militias which are predators. It abuses the civilian populations through the Wagner group, as documented by the United Nations in the Central African Re-

le the climate issues were there. "Russia must first stop the war and agree to respect international law," he further said. Asked about possible contact with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, the French leader said: "I have no reason to call him today. There is a counter-offensive and the time

EU contributes

 $\in$  12 mln in aid

for Afghanistan

individuals (of which 62% are women) and close to 500,000

household members across seven provinces.-APP

France has always been a facilitating and mediating power." Macron explained that resuming the dialogue is only possible if Moscow respects international law. To a question about Senegal's energy transition, and whether the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) deal would set back its gas activities, Macron

try's transition efforts for cleaner energy. "To accelerate the deployment of renewable energies, international partners and multilateral development banks will mobilize 2.5 billion euros (\$2.7 billion) in new and additional financing over an initial period of 3 to 5 years. starting in 2023," the statement read.-Agencies

nada, statement.

Canadians could also lose news content from Google searches if the search engine giant follows Meta's lead. Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriquez is said to be in talks with Google on Thursday to try to stave off that happening, reported the National Post.

The revenue-sharing provisions of Bill C-18 do not apply if Meta and Google remove news content. But Rodriquez said Meta did not have to block news content at this time because the bill has not had Royal Assent. The Canadian government said it is only fair for big social media giants to pay part of the revenues they earn from news content picked up from news outlets.-Agencies

### EU adopts 11th sanctions package against Russia BRUSSELS: The European Union adopted on Friday

the 11th sanctions package against Russia for its war in Ukraine.

The Council of the European Union announced in a statement that it introduced "measures intended to strengthen existing EU sanctions and crack down on their circumvention."

With the decision, the EU blacklisted another 87 entities "directly supporting Russia's military and industrial complex" that will have to face tighter export restrictions on dual-use

goods and technologies. The list includes four Iranian companies supplying military drones to Russia, as well as firms from other countries that contributed to circumventing trade ban. The bloc also prohibited the transit through Russia's territory of more EU-made goods and technology that may be used for military purposes.

The EU extended the transport ban of Russian goods to trailers and semi-trailers registered in Russia, and prohibited any vessels that perform shipto-ship transfers to dock at EU ports.

The decision also withdrew the broadcasting license of five media outlets with close ties to the Russian state.-APP

### Mass protests demand political change in Serbia

BELGRADE: Outcry over shootings, political corruption and an atmosphere of violence are ratcheting up tensions in Serbia. Week after week, the Serbian capital is flooded with demonstrators. Among the sea of people you see homemade signs and little buttons on clothing depicting vultures and hyenas. Since early May, tens of thousands of people are hitting the streets of Belgrade protesting against the government and President Alexandar Vučić. These are the biggest public demonstrations in the country since the fall of Slobodan Milošević. The protests are against an atmosphere of violence and fear, against manipulated media, against corruption. But why is the symbol of the uprising animal buttons on T-shirts and jackets? In our latest episode, Euronews Witness went to Belgrade to find out. The weekly mass protests were triggered by a school-shooting in Belgrade and, the day after, a second shooting in a village. 18 people died. But by now the anger is directed against the ruling power. Tara, a student, prepares her protest placard: "We want the rule of the law instead of the rule of one person." President Vučić accuses the opposition to instrumentalize the mourning and called protesters "vultures"

and "hyenas". Since then, they wear animal buttons. "We are demonstrating, because of the corruption, the criminality and the malfunction of institutions in our country", one of the protesters tells Euronews.

suggested snap elections, but opposition parties are against this idea.





MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider receiving the beautiful sketch of Faiz Ahmed Faiz from Belarusian artist Marina Laikova. - DNA



government which would prepare fair conditions for free elections. It's important that the EU does not regard Vučić any longer as a stability factor." The chaos of the demonstrations is aggravated by pro-government supporters who can be seen being bussed in from regions all over Serbia and from neighbouring countries. There are reports that the ruling party funds these counterdemonstrations. However, some supporters we talked to denied these claims. "I paid for this one myself. 80 it cost" said one supporter holding a Vučić banner. "I love Vučić and I will give everything for him." he added. In the high rise appartments of the Fontana-neighborhood in New-Belgrade, you can find every political faction, including Vučić voters. Marijana is member of the ruling Progressive Party. She moved from a rural area to Belgrade, studied economics and works in a business-tax office. According to her, since Vučić is in power, the country

changed for the better.-Agencies

up in elections (around polling stations).







### Briefs **Hundreds** of migrants rescued off Canary Islands

### DNA

MADRID: At least 227 migrants were rescued off Spain's Canary Islands on Thursday, officials say, a day after reported deaths of more than 30 migrants there. Emergency services say the Coast Guard saved the migrants travelling on inflatable boats near the Lanzarote and Gran Canaria islands in the Atlantic. A number of them were taken to hospital to be treated for a "mild condition". On Wednesday, two charities said more than 30 migrants may have drowned after their dinghy sank off Gran Canaria. Spanish authorities said rescue work ers found the bodies of a minor and a man, and rescued 24 other people.

However, the charities Walking Borders and Alarm Phone - said about 60 people had been on board. Helena Maleno Garzon, from Walking Borders, said 39 people had drowned, including four women and a baby, while Alarm Phone said 35 people were missing.

Both organisations monitor migrant boats and receive calls from people on board or their relatives. A Spanish rescue service ship, the Guardamar Caliope, was only about an hour's sail from the dinghy on Tuesday evening, according to Spanish news agency Efe.

> 3 killed in Russian attacks in southern Ukraine

DNA

## West Bank violence could spiral 'out of control': UN

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said the sharp deterioration was having a terrible impact on both Palestinians and Israelis and called for an immediate end to the violence

NEW YORK: The new outbreak of violence in the occupied West Bank could spiral out of control, the UN human rights chief warned on Friday. This week, at least 18 people have been killed in the territory - in incursions by the Israeli military or attacks by Palestinians or Jewish settlers.

"These latest killings and the violence, along with the inflammatory rhetoric, serve only to drive Israelis and Palestinians deeper into an abyss," Volker Turk said in a statement. So far this year, more than 200 people have died in violence linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the vast majority of them Palestinians.

in the northern West Bank, a stronghold of Palestinian armed groups where Israel has stepped up

military operations. Turk said this week's violence was being fuelled by strident political rhetoric and an escalation in the use of advanced military weaponry by Israel. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said the sharp deterioration was having a terrible impact on both Palestinians and Israelis and called

Deadly violence has flared in recent days for an immediate end to the violence.

He said international human rights law required Israeli authorities to ensure all operations are planned and implemented to prevent lethal force. Every death caused in such a context requires an effective investigation, he added. "Israel must urgently reset its policies and actions in the occupied West Bank in line with international human standrights ards, including protecting and

respecting the right to life," Turk said. "As the occupying power, Israel also has obligations under international humanitarian law to ensure public order and safety within

the occupied Palestinian Territory." Turk said the underlying dynamics leading to violence and the arbitrary loss of life needed to be addressed urgently and would require political will from Israel and the Palestinians as well as the international community. "For this violence to end, the occupation must end," he said. "On all sides, the people with the political power know this and must instigate immedi-ate steps to realise this." - Agencies

### Extreme weather hits China

BEIIING: Many cities in China continued to issue heat and rainfall response warnings on Friday, as residents in many areas are experiencing weather extremes that could go down in history in the last few days. According to the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), weather observations from Wednesday to Thursday showed that a total of 2,830 stations across the country recorded high temperatures above 40 C, while 2,130 stations recorded heavy rainfall.

On Friday morning, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) continued to issue high temperature orange warnings, the second highest across China's four-level weather warming system, as the highest temperature in Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong on Friday is expected to reach 40 C. - APP

### NDMA warns of urban flooding

### Rains, storms expected from tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: Amid the forecast of pre-monsoon rains in upper and central regions of the country from June 25 to 30, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Friday warned of urban flooding in major cities and directed provinces to ensure public safety during this period. It said the showers could cause flash flooding in Punjab and trigger landslides in the hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan. A day earlier, the Pakistan Meteorological Department said rain and wind-thundershower with isolated heavy falls were expected in the upper and central parts of the country under the influence of moist weather conditions. The areas forecast to receive rain with occasional breaks include Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliyat, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral,

Swat, Mansehra, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Kurram, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Kohat, Mianwali, Sargodha, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh.

Meanwhile, Sukkur, Jacobabad, and Larkana may receive rains and wind-thundershowers from June 27 to 28. In a weather advisory issued today, the NDMA said the prevailing heatwave conditions were likely to subside under the new weather system. "Heavy rainfall may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala, and Lahore from June 26-27," it stated, adding that flash flooding could be triggered in the hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan. Rajanpur and adjoining areas of northeast Balochistan on June 27. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam calls on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. - DNA

Relatives mourn Ukraine claims advances, KYIV: At least three people were killed in Russian attacks in southern Ukraine on Fri-

day, including two who died after a trolleybus company came under fire in the city of Kherson, regional officials said. Oleksandr Prokudin, the governor of the Kherson region, said two men aged 55 and 43 were killed by "targeted fire" on the Kherson trolleybus company in what he described as "another Russian terrorist attack".

Several other people were injured, he said in a post on the Telegram messaging app. Video footage posted by the regional authorities showed a wounded man on the ground inside the trollevbus company's building, with broken glass and blood on the floor. Another dead or wounded man lay on the ground outside, and a man was shown being lifted on a stretcher into an ambulance. The prosecutor's office said the attack took place around 10.20 a.m. (0720 GMT) and that it had launched an investigation. Yuriy Malashko, the governor of the Zaporizhzhia region, wrote on Telegram that a 35-year-old man had been killed in a Russian artillery barrage on the village of Mala Tokmachka and that four people had been wounded elsewhere in the region.

### Gold falls by Rs1,500 per tola in Pakistan

KARACHI: The gold price in Pakistan continued to lose its shine as it fell by Rs1,500 per tola on Friday due to the decrease in the international market. According to the data released by All-Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA), the price of gold (24 carats) decreased by Rs1,500 per tola and Rs1,285 per 10 grams to settle at Rs217,000 and Rs186,043, respectively. Meanwhile, the price of the yellow metal also declined by \$10 and settled at \$1,919 per ounce in the international market today. The gold rate has been volatile in Pakistan recently amid continued political and economic uncertainty. and high inflation. People prefer to buy this precious commodity in such times

as a safe investment and a

hedge. - DNA

LONDON: Relatives and colleagues mourned on Friday five people who died when their submersible imploded in the North Atlantic during a deep dive to the Titanic wreck, triggering questions about safety rules for such adventures into the ocean depths. Debris from the Titan submersible, which had been missing since Sunday, was detected on Thursday by a robotic diving vehicle deployed from a Canadian ship as part of an international rescue effort. Remains of the submersible, which lost contact with a surface ship about 1 hour and 45 minutes into a 2-hour descent, were discovered on the seabed about 1,600 feet (488 meters) from the bow of Titanic wreck, about 2.1/2 miles (4 km) below the surface. U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral John Mauger said. He told reporters on Thursday the debris was consistent with "a catastrophic implosion of the vehicle." The five who died included Stockton Rush, U.S. founder and chief executive officer of OceanGate Expeditions, which operated the submersible and charged \$250,000 per person to make the Titanic trip. He was piloting the craft. The others were British billionaire and explorer Hamish Harding, 58; Pakistani-born businessman Shahzada Dawood, 48, and his 19-year-old son, Suleman, both British citizens; and French oceanographer and Paul-Henri Nargeolet, 77. "These men were true explorers who shared a distinct spirit of adventure, and a deep passion for exploring and protecting the world's oceans," OceanGate said. - Agencies

### Taliban letter reinforces bar of female aid staff in Kandahar

#### WEB DESK

KABUL: Taliban authorities in Afghanistan's Kandahar province ordered female aid workers this week to stop work on a refugee project, according to an official letter, reinforcing rules against women working despite exemptions sought by some organisations. The letter between departments of the ministry for refugees in Kandahar, the Taliban's historical heartland, said aid agencies had been in viola-

tion of the orders in work related to refugees in Spin Boldak, a town near the border with Pakistan. "All partner organisations that are working with the Department of Refugees and Repatriation of Spin Boldak ... should ask their female colleagues not to come to their work and stay at home until further notice," the letter said. A spokesperson for the United Nations' humanitarian coordination office said the body was aware of the instruction and seeking clarity. The letter underscored the uncertainty of the operating environment in Afghanistan for aid agencies who say they intend to stay and deliver aid during a humanitarian crisis but seek exemptions to let female staff work, to reach female beneficiaries and avoid breaching UN charter principles. The Taliban administration signalled in January it would work on a set of written guidelines that could allow aid groups to operate with female staff in some cases, but it has not yet done so.

### **Decision to increase** renewable energy to **60 percent lauded**

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer, along with Federal Secretary for Energy Rashid Mahmood Langrial and USAID Mission Director Reed Aeschliman, concluded the



second cohort of the Future of Women in Energy Scholars program with a certificate distribution ceremony on June 23, 2023. The program, which was launched in 2022 in Pakistan, aims to support and inspire Pakistani women to pursue careers in the energy sector. Held in Islamabad, the ceremony featured remarks from the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission and the Federal Secretary for Energy.

"We commend the Pakistani government's decision to increase its share of renewable energy to 60 percent by 2030. We remain committed to supporting this goal by creating opportunities for all Pakistanis, including women, to benefit from the country's inclusive growth and development," stated Mr. Schofer. Federal Secretary for Energy Rashid Mahmood Langrial acknowledged that the United States and Pakistan have a long history of partnership in the climate and energy sectors and emphasized the important role of women in Pakistan's economy.

### liar told Ukrainian television.

#### **News Desk**

KYIV: Ukraine's armed forces have halted a Russian offensive towards the cities of Kupiansk and Lyman in the east of the country, and are advancing in the south, a senior Ukrainian defence official said on Friday.

"We had very fierce battles in the Kupiansk and Lyman directions, but our soldiers stopped the enemy there,' Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Ma-

Ukraine is in the early stages of its most ambitious counterattack since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022 and says it has retaken eight villages, its first substantial gains on the battlefield for seven months. But Russia still holds swathes of terri-

tory in eastern and southern Ukraine, and Ukrainian forces have vet to push to the main defensive lines that Russia has had months to prepare. "Indeed, we still have the main events

ahead of us. And the main blow is still to come. Indeed, some of the reserves - these are staged things - will be activated later," Maliar said.

She said Russian forces still aimed to gain control of the whole of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine's military operation in the south was going according to plan and its forces were advancing, even if minefields were slowing them down, she said.



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