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Prime Minister greets Muslims on Eid ul Adha

Detailed News On Page-01

German Embassy donates Rs 1.5m for flood relief

Detailed News On Page-08

Timeless Venus eyes one more magic spell

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Sanjrani defends perks bill

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani says he can present himself for accountability after resigning from his office for adopting a controversial bill aimed at enhancing perks and privileges of past and future heads of the upper house of parliament. The bill, adopted earlier this month by the Senate, proposed the provision of a lifetime security detail of at least 10 personnel to all former chairmen. It also proposed that the government bear travel expenses of their domestic staff as well as family members. The proposed law is currently pending with the National Assembly. Chairman Sanjrani defended bill during a news channel's programme on the flimsy excuse that it would not put any additional burden on the national exchequer. Sanjrani told the host of the programme that he had not sought even a paisa's raise in his salary. He had never claimed any travel or daily allowances, he added. He claimed that he bore all expenses of his household.

Zardari returns home

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday returned home after a three-day visit to Dubai to celebrate Eid ul Adha in Nawabshah. Sources divulged that Zardari will leave Karachi for Nawabshah today to celebrate Eid. However, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari will celebrate Eid in Dubai. Last week, former president Asif Ali Zardari said the charter of economy was need of the hour. Speaking to industrialists, the PPP co-chairman underscored the nation's potential and dubbed the country as a "golden basket". The nation has been blessed with an abundance of resources by Allah Almighty, he added.

Eid Holidays

The offices of Daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed from Thursday, June 29th to Saturday, July 1st on account of Eid-ul-Adha. - Editor

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PPP, PML-N meetings Ruling parties mull economy, general polls

Dubai meetings also focus on post-PTI chief scenario

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The coalition partners in the centre - Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) - have reportedly agreed on "charter of economy" to steer the cash-strapped country out of the crisis, media reported on Wednesday citing sources. PML-N top leader Nawaz Sharif and PPP leaders Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto have been in Dubai for talks over the election and other political and economic issues. The top men from the PML-N and PPP met in Dubai on Monday to decide the timing of the next general elections in the country and "their share" in the future set-up. The high-level stakeholders' summit in the Gulf state of Dubai is not just deliberating on electoral alliances or seat adjustments for the elections; rather, it aims to devise a unified strategy to address the aftermath of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's fallout, according to several top sources involved. The stalwarts of both the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have engaged in closed-door, off-camera sessions to discuss various

Elections on time: Javed Latif

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister and PML-N leader Mian Javed Latif says elections will be held on stipulated time. Talking to media in Lahore on Wednesday, he said if the mastermind of May 9 and 10 gets any concession, the nation will not tolerate it because this is not an attack on an institution but on the state and security of Pakistan. Javed Latif added that those who have brought petitions of not being punished under the Army Act should be asked when the Army Act was made.

options aimed at containing and managing public sentiments, and ensuring the absence of any destabilising void that could potentially undermine civilian governance.

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Pak sets sights on stop-gap IMF deal

Govt hopes to get \$2.6b under stand-by arrangement

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund have begun discussions for a new short-term programme to receive the remaining \$2.6 billion undisbursed amount of the current bailout package that is going to end unsuccessfully on Friday. Only two days are left for the \$6.5 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to expire, with \$2.6 billion amount undisbursed. On Tuesday, the IMF issued a fresh statement but did not announce a staff level agreement despite high hopes in the official circles. The 9th review worth \$1.2 billion is in order after the implementation of new conditions but we are keen to receive total undisbursed amount of \$2.6 billion,

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Bonded storage policy for Pol products approved

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced on Wednesday that the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved the "Bonded Bulk Storage Policy 2023" for petroleum products. The minister took to Twitter to make the announcement and said that the government has fulfilled another of its commitment "with the

Continued on Page 06

Shehbaz, Erdogan Exchange Eid greetings

PM also extends greetings to Pakistanis at home and abroad on Eidul Adha

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif spoke to the President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, today. The Prime Minister felicitated the government and the people of Turkey on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. Reciprocating the Prime Minister's sentiments, President Erdogan extended warm Eid greetings to the people of Pakistan. The two leaders also reviewed bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkey. They agreed that the 7th Session of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) to be held in Islamabad, will provide a leadership driven and forward oriented impetus to further strengthen the close fraternal relations between the two countries, especially in the economic domain.

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LAHORE: Education Minister Rana Tanvir Hussain calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

Commander, 3 other terrorists gunned down

Terrorists were killed by security forces in two different operations

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have gunned down four terrorists, including a commander, in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, shared the military's media wing in a statement on Wednesday. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement, the operations were conducted on Tuesday in KP's Bajaur and Khyber districts. In Bajaur, the operation was launched after the security forces received a tip-off about the presence of terrorists in the general area of Inayat Qilla. During the operation, an intense fire exchange took place between security forces and terrorists that resulted in the killing of three militants, including commander Shafi. "Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as killing of innocent citizens," said the ISPR. It added that the forces were conducting sanitisation of the area to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. The operation in the Khyber district was conducted in the general area of Tirah, where a fire exchange took place between the security

forces and terrorists. In the shootout, one terrorist was killed, while another three were injured. The forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from the killed terrorist. "Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism," the ISPR added. The number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan has seen a phenomenal surge of 73pc during the first 21 months since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, compared to the corresponding period before their takeover. Overall, incidents of terrorist violence have significantly increased inside Pakistan since August 15, 2021 when the Taliban took control of Kabul. The number of people killed in the attacks in Pakistan from August 2021 to April 2023 (21 months) has also increased by 138pc. These are some of the key findings of the policy-oriented report titled "Pakistan's Afghan Perspective and Policy Options", launched by Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) here at a local hotel. The report, which comprises significant recommendations for policymakers, is the final outcome of extensive monitoring, research and analyses, and eight expert consultations the think tank has conducted since July 2021.

BNP may divorce ruling coalition

DNA

QUETTA: The Balochistan National Party (BNP), a main ally of the ruling coalition, is reportedly upset with the government, and has started considering withdrawing its support. A consultative meeting of the party leadership was held in Khuzdar under the chairmanship of BNP chief Akhtar Mengal. The meeting discussed the overall political situation of the country. The meeting also expressed concern over the law and order situation of Balochistan. During the meeting, a proposal to

Continued on Page 06

Russian deadly missile strike in Ukraine's Kramatorsk kills ten

NEWS DESK

KRAMATORSK: A Russian missile struck a restaurant in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk on Tuesday, killing at least ten people and wounding 56, emergency services said, as rescue crews combed the rubble in search of casualties. A second missile hit a village on the fringes of Kramatorsk, injuring five, but the main casualties were at the restaurant, where at least three children were among the dead. "Rescuers are working through the rubble of the destroyed building and searching for people who are probably still under it," emergency service officials said on the Telegram messaging app. A Russian missile also hit a cluster of buildings in Kremenchuk, about 375 km (230 miles) west in central Ukraine, exactly a year after an attack on a shopping mall there that killed at least 20. No casualties were reported in the latest attack. In Kramatorsk, a city frequently targeted by Russian attacks, emergency workers scurried in and out of the shattered restaurant as residents stood outside embracing and surveying the damage. The building was reduced to a twisted web of metal beams.

Continued on Page 06

کالعدم تنظیمیں بشمول ان کے ذیلی ادارے اور زیر نگرانی تنظیموں کی فہرست درج ذیل ہے		
1) افکار ہتھیاری	31) چٹوڑا سٹی کونسل لہاری	61) داعش / IS / ISIL
2) پانچ پانچ پاکستان	32) اہلسنت والجماعت	62) جماعت الارار
3) عین جہم	33) سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان	63) فکری ہتھیاری العالی
4) (دینی تحریک) (I) (ارشد، تربیت، بہادری)	34) اہل السنن فاؤنڈیشن	64) انصار السنن
5) (افغان نرسٹ، کراچی)	35) رابطنہ	65) تحریک آزادی، عدل، تعمیر و ترقی
6) افکار ہتھیاری	36) اہل السنن فاؤنڈیشن	66) جہاد
7) تحریک ہتھیاری پاکستان	37) مسلم سٹوڈنٹ آرگنائزیشن گلگت	67) اہل السنن فاؤنڈیشن
8) تحریک ہتھیاری پاکستان	38) عظیم اہل سنت والجماعت گلگت	68) بورد اسلام (مہادیب خان گارڈ)
9) تحریک ہتھیاری پاکستان	39) بلوچستان نیاہل سنت گلگت	69) جماعت الدعوة اور اس کی ذیلی تنظیمیں
10) اتحاد	40) تحریک ہتھیاری پاکستان	70) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
11) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	41) تحریک ہتھیاری پاکستان	71) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
12) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	42) بلوچستان وادی پشاور آرگنائزیشن	72) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
13) خدمت الاسلام	43) بلوچستان یوتھ فاؤنڈیشن	73) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
14) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	44) اسلام آباد	74) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
15) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	45) (I) (افغان نرسٹ، کراچی)	75) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
16) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	46) اسلام آباد	76) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
17) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	47) اسلام آباد	77) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
18) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	48) اسلام آباد	78) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
19) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	49) اسلام آباد	79) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
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21) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	51) اسلام آباد	81) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
22) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	52) اسلام آباد	82) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
23) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	53) اسلام آباد	83) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
24) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	54) اسلام آباد	84) ادارہ خدمت خلق لاہور
25) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	55) اسلام آباد	
26) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	56) اسلام آباد	
27) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	57) اسلام آباد	
28) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	58) اسلام آباد	
29) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	59) اسلام آباد	
30) (سہ ماہی پانچ پانچ پاکستان)	60) اسلام آباد	




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Nawaz Sharif offers Eid prayer at Dubai's Emirates Hill

DNA

DUBAI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif along with other family members offered Eidul Azha prayers at Emirates Hill in Dubai. After offering prayers, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif also met his relatives and workers. On this occasion people also took pictures with him. It should be noted that Eidul Azha is being celebrated today in Gulf countries including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman. On this occasion, spirited gatherings of Eid prayers were held in Makkah and Madinah, where millions of Muslims offered Eid prayers in Masjid al-Haram and Masjid-e-Nabawi. On this occasion, soul-stirring scenes were witnessed and the Muslims humbly prayed and sought forgiveness from Allah. After the Eid prayer, the Muslims were sacrificing animals following the Ibrahim Sunnah. The pilgrims will shave their heads and open the Ihram after performing the sacrifice. Citizens turned to shops to present sweets to their friends and loved ones.

Aima Baig shines at Spotify's Times Square billboard

DNA

KARACHI: A soulful and charming voice that has become a household name in the country, Aima Baig featured as EQUAL Pakistan's Ambassador for the month of June, and like other EQUAL Ambassadors before her, Aima is also shining bright on Spotify's digital billboard in Times Square, NYC. Her track "Aey Zindagi" has been highlighted on Spotify's EQUAL Pakistan playlist as part of the celebrations. Aima Baig made her debut in 2016, and since then, she has been on the roll, becoming one of the most celebrated playback singers in the country and receiving numerous accolades including the coveted Tamgha-e-Fakhre-Imtiaz from the government of Pakistan, global recognition, and a massive fandom.

Masterminds of May 9 must be punished

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif has said that the PTI chairman is involved in the May 9 riots, calling for bringing to book the masterminds of these violent incidents. Addressing a presser in Lahore on Wednesday, Latif said that since the beginning, his party has been saying that PTI Chairman Imran Khan was behind the violent episode of May 9. He said that the PML-N was proved right when trials of the accused were held and punishments awarded.—DNA

Traders, capital of our country, says Tessori

DNA

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori has said that traders, industrialists and exporters are the capital of our country, the business community is struggling with the government for the stability of the country and the positive results will be produced soon. The rate of export has increased a lot while the export sectors are facing tough competition in the global market due to high production cost, but the federal government is making efforts to control all these problems and soon the economic conditions of Pakistan will improve. These views were expressed yesterday during a conversation with the delegation met at the Governor's House under the leadership of United Business Group (UBG) Pa-



KARACHI: Group photo of Patron-in-Chief UBG, Provincial Minister for Commerce and Industry Punjab SM Tanveer, Zubair Tufail, Khalid Tawab, Atif Ikram Sheikh, Malik Sohail Hussain, Amir Rata Bajwa, Rizwan Ehsan, Aslam Chandi and Shyam Lal in a meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori.—DNA

tron in chief SM Tanveer who is also the Minister of Industry and Commerce of Punjab. UBG President Zubair Tufail, Chairman Sindh Region Khalid Tawab, FPCI presidential candidate in the upcoming election Atif Ikram Sheikh, Malik Sohail

Hussain, former senior vice president of FPCCI Amir Rata Bajwa and others were also present in the delegation. Governor Sindh told the delegation that information technology (IT) classes are being organized to start after Eid-ul-Azha

in the governor's house. Create a name in the sector. On this occasion, SM Tanveer appreciated the efforts of Governor Sindh and said that we have got a lot of success in the efforts we had started to bring the business community across

the country on an authentic platform. The business community of Pakistan is worried about the future of the country, but we have told them that when the countries of the world that suffered from disaster have stood on their feet, why

can't Pakistan be economically strong once again? It is important that people associated with all the business sectors of Pakistan join us in the struggle, we are sure that the country's economy will be stable once again.

People throng to markets, but animals remained unsold

LAHORE: With only one day left for Eid-ul-Adha, people thronged to cattle markets to buy sacrificial animals but many of the animals remained unsold because of their sky-high prices. After receiving salaries, the government and private sector employees also visited the markets on the first official holiday on Wednesday, however, most of them seemed complaining about inflated animal rates, while on the other side, cattle sellers claimed that insufficient supply from Punjab and Sindh provinces had driven the prices high. "Cattle markets have visitors in large numbers but serious buyers are a few. People mostly ask about the prices, take selfies with animals, and go away," some

sellers told APP. Meanwhile, cattle traders insisted that affluent people preferred goats and sheep for health reasons as they feared that the other sacrificial animals were infected with cattle skin disease. A visit to different sale points also revealed that the price of a normal-size goat, sheep, or lamb ranges from Rs 65,000 to Rs 75,000, whereas a medium-size cow and calf ranged from Rs 140,000 to Rs 300,000. "Transporting animals from south Punjab to cities like Lahore, Rawalpindi or Faisalabad had become a pricey affair," Imran Ali, a livestock trader from Narang Mandi, said. When asked about the high prices, he replied that last year a truck carrying animals to Lahore from Mithan Kot and Dera

Ghazi Khan would charge Rs 48,000 to 50,000, but this year they were demanding around Rs 95,000 to 100,000 for the same task. Security, cleanliness, animal health and other facilities provided by the local body and caretaker set up, were seemed better this year, however, effects of the heavy rain on Monday morning could not be washed out till Wednesday. Meanwhile, keeping in view the security measures regarding the Congo virus and lumpy skin diseases, the Minister for Local Government & Community Development (LG&CD) Ibrahim Murad had already issued instruction that only healthy animals should be allowed to be brought to the cattle markets while the entry points of

cities should be sprayed to prevent the Congo virus. Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) also provided their cleanliness services in cattle markets and the city and also set up an control room for cleanliness operation during all three days of Eid. Meanwhile, Department of Local Government had established 118 cattle markets and 182 cattle sale points across the province for the convenience of the people to purchase sacrificial animals for Eid-ul-Azha. As many as 34 cattle markets and sale points were set up in Bahawalpur Division, 42 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 34 in Faisalabad, 23 in Gujranwala, 22 in Gujrat, 31 in Multan, 32 in Lahore Division, 26 in Rawalpindi Division.—APP

ECP notifies schedule for Havelian Tehsil Chairman election

ABBOTTABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced the schedule for the election of the Tehsil Chairman of Havelian, which became vacant following the tragic assassination of Tehsil Chairman Atif Munsif Khan on March 20, 2023. Khan, along with 10 others, was attacked and killed by a rival group in Langra Havelian. According to the ECP schedule, the polling for the Tehsil Chairman election will be held on August 6, 2023. Candidates interested in contesting the election can submit their nomination papers between July 1 and July 12, 2023. The ECP regional office will publish the names of the nominated candidates on July 13, 2023. The scrutiny of the candidate's nomination papers will be completed from July 14 to July 16, 2023. The returning officer will make decisions regarding the acceptance or rejection of the nomination papers on July 17 and July 18. The last date for deciding appeals by the Appellate Tribunal is set for July 20, 2023. On July 21, the revised list of nominated candidates will be displayed. Candidates will have the option to withdraw their nomination papers on July 22. The ECP will then display a revised list of candidates and allocate election symbols. The final list of contesting candidates will be published on July 23, 2023. The election for the Tehsil Chairman of Havelian will be held on August 6, 2023.—APP

Inquiry into Mansehra fire incident ordered

ABBOTTABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Wednesday while taking notice of the fire incident at a petroleum agency in Mansehra directed Commissioner Hazara division to submit an inquiry report. He also directed the commissioner to conduct the inquiry through Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mansehra and a thorough examination should be carried out to determine the cause of the fire. The minister further said that all precautionary measures would be taken and in case of any negligence, action would be taken against those responsible, and also relevant authorities will be questioned in that regard. Murtaza Abbasi expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the loss of lives in the incident and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families. In Mansehra City, a fire broke out in a warehouse located on Thakrah Chinar Road due to an oil tanker. Upon receiving the report, Rescue 1122 dispatched an ambulance and three fire vehicles to the place.

China to help Pakistan develop chemical industry

DNA

KARACHI: "We hope to set up chemical factories collaborating with China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). China has modern technology, and we can improve our chemical sector with it. Improved industry can generate employment as well," said Sheikh Muhammad Nadeem, chairman of Pakistan Chemical Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA). Earlier this month, Chinese Consul General (CG) in Karachi, Yang Yundong, attended the tea party of PCDMA and delivered a speech. Yang appreciated the association's contribution to Pak-China cooperation and highlighted the fruitful results of CPEC programs, according to Gwadar Pro.

PDMA issued pre-monsoon rains relief guidelines

PESHAWAR: Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Wednesday issued pre-monsoon rains relief guidelines for people and district administrations across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to avoid an incident. According to a notification issued by PDMA to all district administrations in view of more pre-monsoon rains during the Eid holidays, issued guidelines for the concerned institutions and district administration, spokesman of the Relief Department said here Wednesday. The guidelines says that people should avoid standing near electric or telephone poles (pylons) during thunderstorms, stay away from seasonal drains (dry streams), bridges and drainage canals and do not attempt to cross them during rain. The guidelines warned the people not to risk their life while crossing roads with high flow of water while travelers and tourists plan trips keeping in mind the weather conditions. District administration should share the information of untoward incidents with all concerned institutions in a timely manner while Civil Defense and Rescue Services (1122/Fire Brigade) be alert. Ensure availability of emergency response personnel and equipment during forecast holidays, Secretary Relief said in the notification. People living near landslides take extra precautions and local administration and Disaster Management Authorities to keep emergency operation centers active so that they could easily deal with any untoward incident. All institutions should be alert and ensure provision of staff and supplies as per the forecast during the holidays while disposing of the remains of sacrificial animals in properly designated places so as not to obstruct the drainage system. The people have been warned to limit the crossing of seasonal channels and instructions for continuous monitoring of seasonal drains. The guidelines aim to create awareness, implement preventive measures, says the spokesman of the Relief Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He advised the people and other concerned departments to share the information of the unfortunate incident with the Provincial Control Room of PDMA in a timely manner so as to take immediate relief activities.—DNA

Workshop on 'Bamboo' concluded

Experts shared that the bamboos could play a significant role for eco-system restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation and proved to be a potential crop for restoring degraded land, conserving soil and water

DNA

SARGODHA: A three-day training workshop titled "Mobile-App Base Bamboo Resource Assessment training for Pakistan" concluded held at District Forest office here on Wednesday. The aim of the training was to increase the production of bamboo crops and to know their number and types through mobile-app launched across the country. According to the press release issued by District Forest office here on Wednesday, the workshop was organized by the International Bamboo and Rattan organization in collaboration with the ministry of climate change and environmental

coordination and Pakistan Forest Institute (PFI) Peshawar. The workshop was inaugurated by Director General PFI Khalid Ilyas while Additional Director General PFI Safdar Ali Shah, Assistant Inspector General Forest Parveen Ijaz, District Forest Officer Nisar-ul-Haq and experts from the district also participated. Experts said that bamboo was one of the fastest growing species and was located in more than 85 areas of Pakistan including Sargodha, Jhang, Kasur, Lahore and Dera Ghazi Khan. They added that bamboos had enormous potential for generating income and employment. Experts shared that the bamboos could play a significant role for eco-system res-

toration, climate change adaptation and mitigation and proved to be a potential crop for restoring degraded land, conserving soil and water. The speakers said that Pakistan recently become a member country of INBAR in 2021 and intensified its bamboo sectorial development for green economy development. Later, the PFI delegation conducted field survey at Chak 90SB in Sargodha, Bamboo Nursery at Bucha Kalan and Kotmomin and examined bamboo process unit comprises of grading, drying, and kiln treatment for enhancing elasticity and straightness in details, while pictorial evidences had been shared in the group at the time of activity conducted.

Motorcycle lifter gang busted

WAH CANTT: The Taxila Police on Wednesday busted a motorcycle lifter gang and recovered ten stolen motorcycles besides other looted booty from their possession. Sub-divisional Police officer DSP Ghulam Asghar Chaudhary told reporters here on Sunday that a team of Taxila Police led by station house officer Sarmad Ilyas while acting on a tip-off, raided the hide-out of the outlaws and arrested the two members of the gang identified as Sher Wali and Aabid. He said that ten stolen and stashed motorcycles besides looted booty cash worth Rs 0.3 million, six cell phones and weapons utilized in the various crimes were also recovered. He said that the members of the gang have confessed their involvement in various lifting, snatching and street crimes in twin cities of Taxila and Wah.—APP

The Smooth Moving Connection

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE

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

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Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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Holy Family.....9290322-7
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Shifa International 4603666



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RDA.....5555864
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Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Northern areas must be made a center of tourism: ICCI

They are working on roads and other infrastructure in collaboration with federal agencies. He said that I hope the tourism summit of Islamabad Chamber will be a milestone for the promotion of tourism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari met Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mohiuddin Ahmed Wani. In the meeting held at Gilgit-Baltistan House, Islamabad, he briefed about the first ICCI International Tourism Summit to be held in Skardu from July 7 to 9 next month. On this occasion, arrangements and measures regarding the tourism conference were also discussed in detail. President Islamabad Chamber while speaking said that the tourism sector is the easiest source of foreign investment for Pakistan. There are probably no other tourist destinations in the world like our northern regions. However, our problem is that unfortunately tourism has never been given priority in our country and due to lack of concrete measures in this regard, tourists are turning to other countries. Along with



the completion of the CPEC project and the construction of Skardu International Airport, more steps need to be taken to promote tourism. International flights should be launched in Skardu. Flights from all over the world

should come to Skardu. Apart from this, special attention should be paid to the construction of infrastructure for the promotion of tourism in Skardu. For the promotion of tourism, new restaurants, hotels and guesthouses should be

built to attract tourists. Islamabad Chamber is taking special interest in promoting tourism in northern regions. On this occasion, Chief Secretary GB Muhyiddin Wani informed the President of Islamabad Chamber about the meas-

ures taken in Gilgit including the promotion of tourism in other sectors. He said that in Gilgit-Baltistan, education, health and information technology are among my priorities. Lack of funds is also a major problem. New school buildings are being constructed. Several buildings have been upgraded. GB Government has established 5 Software Technology Parks in Gilgit, Chalas Hunza and Skardu. A skills program for GB's youth has been launched in collaboration with Nest University. Work is underway to reform the health sector. Modern medical equipment is being provided to the hospitals. 50-bed Cardiac Hospital and 700-bed Saifur Rehman Hospital are being established in Gilgit. The number of doctors is also being increased in the province. They are working on roads and other infrastructure in collaboration with federal agencies. He said that I hope the tourism summit of Islamabad Chamber will be a milestone for the promotion of tourism.

Int'l Day of Cooperatives to be marked on July 1

DNA

ISLAMABAD: International Day of Cooperatives will be marked on July 1 (Saturday) across the globe, the day's goals are to increase awareness on cooperatives, as well as strengthen and extend partnerships between the international cooperative movement and other supporting organizations including governments. International Day of Cooperatives remembers what cooperatives do to improve the world's economic and social development. Cooperatives around the world celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives in many ways. Activities include: messages from the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the UN translated into local languages for worldwide distribution; news articles and radio programs publicizing the awareness of the day; fairs, exhibits, contests and campaigns focused on the topics related to the day; meetings with government officials, UN agencies and other partner organizations; economic, environmental, social and health challenges (such as tree planting); and sponsored cultural events such as theatres and concerts. Cooperatives are important in the world's economic and social development. Based as on the principle of cooperation, cooperatives help create new ethics and values in business and economics. In 1895 ICA was formed and since 1927 it observes the first Saturday of July as International Cooperative Day. In 1994 the United Nations recognized and reaffirmed that cooperatives were vital in the world's economic, social and cultural development. However two years earlier - on December 16, 1992 - the UN General Assembly proclaimed the first Saturday of July 1995 as the International Day of Cooperatives, marking the centenary of ICA's establishment.

Manufacturing sectors boost trade surpluses, foreign exchange

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Wednesday said that the countries with strong manufacturing sectors generate trade surpluses, increase foreign exchange reserves, and improve balance of payments besides providing impetus to economic growth. Speaking at seminar, He said that the manufacturing sector equally plays a vital role in international trade by producing quality goods for export besides strengthening the economy by increasing GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and ample jobs creation opportunities, said a press release. "Manufacturing industries tend to have higher productivity levels compared to other sectors, leading to

higher economic output and improved living standards", he added. He said it is a labor-intensive sector that provides employment opportunities to a large number of people that creates both skilled and unskilled jobs, supporting a diverse range of occupations. "Availability of manufacturing jobs helps reduce unemployment rates, alleviate poverty, and promote social stability", he said. Manufacturing sector is closely linked to innovation and technological advancements and drives research and development activities, leading to the creation of new products, processes, and technologies. Meher Kashif Younis said technological advancements in manufacturing can enhance productivity,

efficiency, and competitiveness, benefiting both the sector and the overall economy. "Export-oriented manufacturing industries contribute to economic diversification and reduce dependence on a single sector", he added. Highlighting the significance, Meher Kashif Younis said manufacturing can drive regional development by attracting investments and creating industrial clusters in addition to concentration of manufacturing activities in specific areas stimulates local economies, encourages urbanization, and promotes the development of supporting infrastructure and services. It can help bridge regional economic disparities and promote balanced growth, he added. He said this sector

also adds value to raw materials by transforming them into finished products and this value addition increases the overall wealth of a nation. By producing higher value-added goods, countries can command higher prices, capture larger market shares, and improve their competitiveness in the global economy, he added. Manufacturing sector is crucial for sustained economic growth, job creation, technological progress, and export competitiveness. He said government and policymakers often prioritize the development and promotion of manufacturing industries to achieve broader economic objectives and improve the standard of living for their citizens.—APP

Modern technology crucial for boosting agriculture production

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Rice Research and Development Board Government of Punjab Shahzad Ali Malik on Wednesday said that use of modern technology and best quality seed plays a crucial role in boosting agriculture production, offering numerous benefits and addressing key challenges faced by farmers in Pakistan. Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led Shoukat Ali Arain from Mamukanjan Faisalabad, he said climate change poses significant challenges to agriculture, including erratic rainfall patterns and increased frequency of extreme weather events, said a news release. Modern technologies like climate modeling, remote sensing, and crop simulation models help farmers adapt to these changes, he added. They assist in making informed decisions regarding crop selection, planting schedules, and water management, ultimately enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerability. He said government must provide interest free soft loans to farmers for purchase of modern agriculture implement and technology to bring green revolution across the country. He said advanced agricultural technologies such as high-yield crop varieties, precision farming techniques, and improved irrigation systems enhance productivity. These technologies help farmers maximize their output and yield, resulting in increased agricultural production and food security.—DNA

Huge rush at cattle markets

ISLAMABAD: As the sale of sacrificial animals all over the country's makeshift cattle markets is gearing up where enthusiastic buyers especially youngsters are taking a keen interest in buying some unique names and heavy-weight animals. According to a private news channel, despite prices, most people have been visiting animal markets to get the animals of their choice well before Eid day, to provide their family members, especially children, to spend maximum time with these animals before they are slaughtered to fulfill the command of Allah Almighty. Children are enjoying the best time while enjoying at the cattle market, said a citizen. For the attraction of buyers, sacrificial animals are being decorated with colorful garlands, sterling bands, embellished belts, and crowns. All kinds of heavy-weight and various unusual name animals including cows, bulls, camels, goats, and lambs are becoming part of cattle markets across the country. A goat with a heavy weight of more than 300 kilograms has become an attraction for youngsters in the Faisalabad cattle market.—APP

Pak confronting worst-ever climatic disaster

ISLAMABAD: Former President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Wednesday said that Pakistan is among the hardest hit country in the world confronting the worst ever climatic disaster in memory because of emissions of other rich countries. Addressing a seminar as keynote speaker on "Pakistan and Response of Leading Emitters" he said around the world 2022 has been a year of climate catastrophe including drought, floods, mega-fires, typhoons, and Pakistan's flash floods and its large-scale destruction opened the eyes of all over the world which he added is bigger global wake up call, said a press release. He said one-third of Pakistan was submerged wiping out hundreds of villages from the map and snatching livelihood from poor strata of the society rendering millions homeless and displacing 33 million. He said unfortunately developed countries have so far after a lapse of one year given assistance to Pakistan less than peanuts. He said global "Justice is Underwater". Although some progress has been made in recent years to elevate climate justice to a higher place on the global agenda but the world's leading emitters still have not risen to the occasion he added. He said it's known to everyone globally that the world's rich countries are like that polluting factories that have deprived Pakistan of the long-term climatic conditions on which it has built its economy, homes, farms and infrastructure. He said if there was a global climate count, Pakistan would have a strong case against other high-income countries for failing to limit climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). But since there is no global climate count (yet) governments should act like one and allocate the attributable climate losses and damages to those countries that are historically responsible for them, he added. He said the costs of Pakistan floods are enormous to the tune of more than US\$30 billion and the coming months brought increased hunger, disease, poverty, and other social complications. He said rich countries should bear their fair share of the attributable costs of climate adaptation.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the Margala Hills during pleasant weather after rain in Federal Capital.— ONLINE

JUNE 2023

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Briefs

Turkish Ambassador calls on Khawaja Ahmed Hassan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci on Wednesday called on Khawaja Ahmed Hassan Coordinator to Prime Minister here at his office. Bilateral relations between the two countries and mutual interests were discussed during the meeting. Khawaja Ahmed Hassan said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Republic of Turkiye proved helpful for strengthening the relations of both the countries. "Turkiye has always helped Pakistan in critical circumstances and its major companies have invested in Pakistan a lot", he added. Turkish Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci said that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan loves Pakistan. —APP

IRSA releases 344,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 344,500 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 552,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1493.23 feet and was 95.23 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 290,600 cusecs and 154,800 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1172.75 feet, which was 122.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 81,800 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 217,900, 169,300, 109,600 and 42,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 77,500 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 77,700 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala. —APP

ANF nabs eight drug peddlers in three different operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) during three different operations across the country on Wednesday, arrested eight accused allegedly involved in drug smuggling and recovered 150 kg of drugs from their possession, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here. He informed that in an operation near Kala Shah Kaku Motorway Toll Plaza, 96 kg opium and 24 kg charras were recovered from a vehicle while two drug peddlers, residents of Jhelum and Sheikhpura were also rounded up. In the second operation on Shakarpur, Sukkur Road, a drug smuggler, resident of Balochistan was arrested while 12 kg charras were recovered from his possession.

ECC approves Bonded Bulk Storage Policy 2023

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet approved "Bonded Bulk Storage Policy 2023" for petroleum products, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar tweeted here on Wednesday. He said, it was another commitment of the government fulfilled with the people of Pakistan that was made through the budget speech for the fiscal year 2023-24 on June 9 in the National Assembly. He said, the details would be shared by State Minister for Petroleum through a presser. "ECC approved 'Bonded Bulk Storage Policy 2023' for petroleum products. Another Govt's commitment was fulfilled with the people of Pakistan made in the budget. —APP



ISLAMABAD: A street vendor is selling butchers met along the road side due to high demand because of Eid-ul-Adha in Federal Capital. —Online

Chery listed in China's top 50 Global Brands in 2023

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "China's Top 50 Global Brands in 2023" released by Google and Kantar on June 15, Chery brand ranked first in the automotive category, and this is the sixth time in a row that Chery has been on the list. In its seventh year, "China's Top 50 Global Brands" report is an authoritative and valuable analysis report jointly released by Google and Kantar, a world-renowned data and consulting company, according to Gwadar Pro. The report conducted in-depth research on users in 11 overseas markets, including the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Australia, Japan and India, with participating brands covering 15



categories including home appliances, consumer electronics, automobiles, smart devices and content entertainment applications. Chery finished 14th in the overall standings, up 18 places from last year, and first in the auto category. According to the report, to capture the perception of Chinese brands among international users, the Top 50 list combines MDS model analysis with Google's ability to reach online audiences and collect data to accurately measure the perception of Chinese global brands among in-

ternational users. Among them, MDS model is based on users' perception of the brand, which is composed of three main dimensions: meaningful, difference and salient. Higher brand power ranking indicates users' increased willingness to consider the brand. Like China's mobile phones and home appliances, Chinese cars are fast becoming the new choice for users around the world. In the first quarter of this year, China became the world's largest auto exporter. Chery has been exporting cars for 22 years, constantly pioneering the innovative practices for Chinese auto brands going global, and ranking first in the export of Chinese passenger cars for 20 consecutive years. With a two-way attraction of the brand and consumers,

Chery Group's Tiggo8, and other star products have been trusted and loved by international consumers, among which Tiggo 8 has served as a state guest-level reception car in Brazil and other countries many times. To date, Chery Group has more than 11 million car users worldwide, and its operations cover more than 80 countries and regions around the world. Chery's success comes not only from the strength of its superior products, but also from its passionate concern for its consumers. From 2020, Chery International tried to build a consumer caring brand— "WCWL, With Chery With Love. It is learned that Chery Pakistan plans to launch its first WCWL in Pakistan in the second half of this year.

Residents urged to dump entrails at specific points

RAWALPINDI: Cantonment Executive Officer, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) Imran Gulzar has urged the citizens to cooperate with the Cantt staff and dump entrails of the sacrificial animals and offal at specific collection points from where, these could be removed properly. He informed that after completion of the cleanliness task and removal of offal, all collection points and other areas would be cleaned and sprayed. He said that over 700 sanitary workers would remove entrails of animals and offal from all cantonment areas during Eid-ul-Azha holidays. The board had finalized a comprehensive cleanliness plan for Eid-ul-Azha to dispose of entrails of sacrificial animals. He informed that the sanitary workers under the supervision of three sanitary inspectors, 22 supervisors and a public health officer would perform their duties in Cantt areas during Eid holidays. All available resources would be utilized to accomplish the task during Eid-ul-Azha holidays, he said and informed that over 118 vehicles including dumpers, mini dumpers, tractor trolleys, pick-ups, compactors, trucks, excavators, with a large number of hand-carts would be used to remove garbage, entrails of animals and offal from all Cantonment areas. Two transfer points at old Daewoo Adda and Ghaziabad Dhoke Syedan would be set up from where entrails of the animals would be shifted to the dumping point. A special monitoring team had also been formed, he added. —DNA

International day of the Tropics

ISLAMABAD: The International Day of the Tropics will be marked on June 29 (Thursday) across the globe that celebrates the extraordinary diversity of the tropics while highlighting the unique challenges and opportunities nations of the Tropics face. It provides an opportunity to take stock of progress across the tropics, to share tropical stories and expertise and to acknowledge the diversity and potential of the region. The Tropics is a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the area between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. Although topography and other factors contribute to climatic variation, tropical locations are typically warm and experience little seasonal change in day-to-day temperature. An important feature of the Tropics is the prevalence of rain in the moist inner regions near the equator. —APP

College librarians have no career growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The librarian cadre in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) colleges is facing a significant dearth of career advancement opportunities and promotions. According to the details, the college librarians, appointed in BPS-17, find themselves trapped in this grade for their entire government service, retiring without any upward mobility despite serving the department diligently for over three decades. This unfortunate situation has left many librarians disheartened and discouraged. On the other hand, the school librarian cadre has witnessed significant improvements in recent years. Sub-librarians of BPS-15 were elevated to the position of Assistant Librarian in BPS-16 on December 23, 2010. Shortly after, on January 1, 2011, they received another promotion to the coveted rank of librarian in BPS-17. Adding to the disparity, they were once again

fortunate to receive a time-scale promotion to BPS-18 after a period of five years on January 1, 2016. Unlike their teaching counterparts who can climb the career ladder up to BPS-20, college librarians feel neglected by the failure of the Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) to implement a similar system for their profession. The teaching staff in colleges follows a well-defined 4-tier promotion formula, while the librarian cadre remains trapped in a dead-end BPS-17 position throughout their government service. The glaring contrast in the treatment of college librarians between the capital city and the provinces is also a cause for concern. In Punjab, there exists a four-tier promotion formula for college librarians, allowing them to progress up to BPS-20 as Chief Librarian. Similarly, in Sindh, librarians can be promoted up to BPS-19, while other provinces such as Balochistan and KPK also have well-

defined promotion channels for the librarian cadre. Even in Azad Kashmir, librarians enjoy a proper channel of promotion. Regrettably, the capital city's librarians are denied such prospects, leading to a glaring disparity and discrimination in terms of career advancement. examples of career stagnation of college librarians include Ms. Nighat Rana and Ms. Safia, former librarians at Islamabad Model College for Girls (Postgraduate) G-10/4 and F-7/2, respectively, who retired in 2017 in the same grade. Another librarian, Mr. Azeem Khan Marwat retired in 2023 after tirelessly waiting for a promotion that never materialized. Similarly, Mr. Shah Wali, a former librarian at Commerce College H-8/4, and Ahmed Mubeen Raza, the former librarian of H-9 College, served their respective departments for decades without receiving any promotions due to the dead-end cadre.


Citizens urged not to throw offals, entrails in nullahs

RAWALPINDI: The citizens particularly those living near nullahs have been urged not to throw offal and entrails of sacrificial animals in drains. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities concerned had been directed to utilize all available resources to ensure cleanliness on Eid-ul-Azha. He said, negligence on the part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against those found absent from duty. The citizens could use the toll-free number 1139 to register their complaints about the removal of offal and entrails. He informed that Rawalpindi Waste Management Company on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar Cheema had finalized a comprehensive cleanliness plan for Eid-ul-Azha to get rid of entrails of animals under which a large number of points were set up in the city while a control room had also been set up to monitor cleanliness operation. The sanitation staff would work round the clock to ensure the timely removal of entrails and offal from city areas. Total 4052 sanitary workers and 463 vehicles would take part in the cleanliness operation during the three days of Eid ul Azha. 17 permanent and 43 mobile transfer stations were set up in this regard, he said and informed that over 10,000 entrails and offal would be shifted to the dumping station and buried underground. Over 200 officials would supervise the cleanliness operation including 'numberdars' and revenue officers, he said. He informed that special bags were distributed among the citizens. 11 cattle markets were set up in Rawalpindi district to facilitate the citizens, he said. —APP

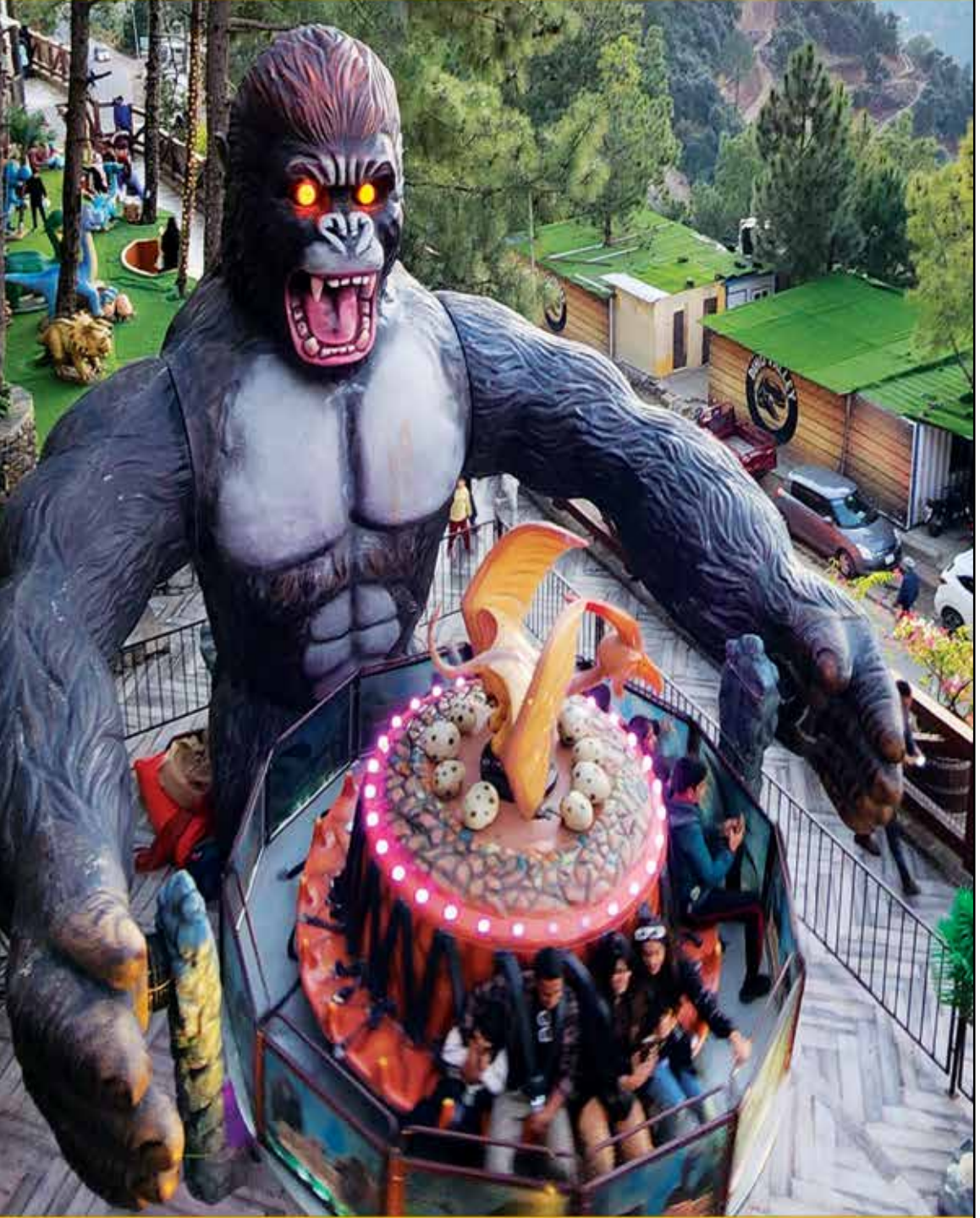
SBP decision to hike interest rates supported

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Wednesday supported the decision of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to hike interest rates by one percent. SBP raised key policy rate to 22% a day after passage of revised budget on the demand of International Monetary Fund (IMF) he said. In a statement issued here today, Aslam Khan said that SBP raised its benchmark interest rate by 100 basis points to 22 percent at an emergency meeting in a bid to rescue an IMF program that expires on June 30. The central bank has now raised its main rate by 12.25 percentage points since April 2022, mainly to curb soaring inflation, he added. —APP



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UK cricket: infused with racial, class-based bigotry

Holding Up a Mirror to Cricket, the report unveiled on Tuesday by the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket (ICEC), will make all but the most blinkered cricket aficionados reconsider the sport they love. The commission deserves credit for nailing the indifference to discrimination that has eaten away at the fabric of the game. Many have suffered cruelly for years. Others have attempted to blow the whistle on degrading behaviour, only to see very little change. For far too long, cricket's hierarchy has been complacent and self-congratulatory over trivial attempts to right wrongs. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has deluded itself into thinking that the sport could continue like a time capsule from the past – transmitting the “racism, sexism, elitism and classism” into a future that regards such bigotry, rightfully, as anathema. Can a sport that is being outpaced by football risk not drawing on the full spectrum of the human experience, particularly by not seeking out talent that has been hitherto silenced or underrepresented? No, a search for such talent would only enrich the game. That is why the ECB ought to embrace the very sensible ICEC recommendations: to embed a commitment to inclusivity in its administration; establish an action plan to reverse the decline of cricket in black communities; seek to remove the class barriers that exist in cricket; allocate more resources to the women's game and move towards pay parity between professional male and female players by 2029-30; and play women's Tests at Lord's rather than the Eton v Harrow and Oxford v Cambridge matches. The report says “we believe that cricket needs to engage more frankly with the fact that, despite conjuring images of tradition, continuity and togetherness, cricket's history is also replete with tensions and social conflicts, even histories of brutality and oppression”. Sir John supports the idea that cricket needs, in the ECB jargon, a “reset”. The report, commissioned by the ECB in response to Black Lives Matter and #MeToo and produced by four independent commissioners chaired by Cindy Butts, dismisses the idea of a lost Eden, arguing that the sport has always been divided between “the rural and the urban; social classes; ‘gentlemen’ and ‘players’; North and South; private and state educated; men and women; and between White colonisers and ‘non-White’ peoples”. Cricket, the report justly argues, does not need to rediscover its roots; it needs to tear up those roots. The ECB has made the “unqualified public apology” for past failings that the commissioners demanded. The report found that the “white, middle-class men” who dominate cricket as players, administrators and spectators did not think their beloved game had a problem with discrimination or inclusivity. Claiming the report's recommendations are “woke” is a fig leaf for prejudice. Perhaps many of those in the Lord's pavilion today have found themselves Bazballled. Despite their sedentariness, they may not take it sitting down. But cricket's future starts with a battle over its past.



Neighbors must strengthen ties

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh is in China on a four-day formal visit, during which he will attend the 14th Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Tianjin. In their meeting on Monday in Beijing, Chinese Premier Li Qiang pointed out that amid the complex and volatile world situation China and Vietnam can inject more stability and positive energy into world peace and the development of the two countries by working together to take their relations to a new level. Pham's positive responses to the series of proposals Li made to upgrade and expand bilateral cooperation in trade, security, energy, regional development and culture show Vietnam's willingness to share China's development dividends, tap the potential of their complementary economies and seek regional integration. Prime Minister Pham's visit is important for both countries in multiple ways. It is not only Pham's first China trip as Vietnamese prime minister, but the first by a Vietnamese prime minister in seven years. It occurs as the two countries commemorate the 15th anniversary of their comprehensive strategic partnership, and as an increasing number of non-regional countries are bolstering their presence in the region seeking to sow the seeds of discord. But Pham's remarks will upset those awaiting a breakup between Hanoi and Beijing. To their disappointment, Pham's trip has nothing to do with the kind of geopolitical game outsiders want, but everything to do with strengthening ties. The openness the Vietnamese prime minister expressed to strengthening exchanges and coordination to properly handle the disputes between the two sides was highly welcomed by Li. No matter how hard third parties work to exploit the maritime disputes between the two neighbors in an attempt to turn them against each other, Beijing and Hanoi are shelving their differences to pursue the greater good of peace and cooperation. As both sides have pointed out in relation to Pham's visit, each side considers relations with the other to be a diplomatic priority. This is not only a natural product of the two countries' historical friendship and their long-standing mutually beneficial exchanges in the process of regional economic integration. It is also the result of a forward-looking strategic choice by them. During Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong's China visit in 2022, the two countries signed the “Joint Statement on Further Consolidating and Deepening the China-Vietnam All-round Partnership of Strategic Cooperation”. Prime Minister Pham's participation in the Tianjin event is meant, to a great extent, to attract more foreign direct investment to Vietnam. Chinese enterprises are already showing they are happy to oblige. Vietnam is China's largest trading partner among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and Chinese direct investment in Vietnam has kept increasing in recent years, becoming the fourth largest last year. Those trying to drive a wedge between the two countries are betting on a losing hand.

Israelis must recognize Palestinian citizens as true equal

Yossi Mekelberg

Law enforcement is a first step and a necessary condition, but not a sufficient one. Only through addressing the decades-long neglect of successive Israeli administrations – much of it due to societal and institutional racism against the large Palestinian minority that makes up 20 percent of the country's population – can a path back from this murderous abyss be provided. The spike in homicidal violence is largely attributed to a general rise in crime, but it is not sparing bystanders. They may comprise a fifth of the population, but a disproportionate 76 percent of those murdered so far this year so far have been Palestinian citizens of Israel, while the rate of resolving these crimes and bringing their culprits to justice is a mere 25 percent, much lower

In an unusual gesture, Israeli public radio last week began one of its lunchtime news programs by reading out the names of the 103 Palestinian citizens of Israel who have been murdered already this year as violent crime soars. It was an important gesture, although a chilling one, to supply the names behind the cold figures of this almost daily carnage that is threatening to get completely out of control. Whether these deaths were the result of gang wars or domestic violence, the authorities appear to have lost control of the situation. A comparison underlines the severity of the situation: In all of 2022, 106 Palestinian citizens of Israel were killed. Previous homicide figures in the community have been shocking enough, but what is taking place right now is nothing short of a deadly epidemic that requires an immediate, coordinated and determined response from the authorities.

Law enforcement is a first step and a necessary condition, but not a sufficient one. Only through addressing the decades-long neglect of successive Israeli administrations – much of it due to societal and institutional racism against the large Palestinian minority that makes up 20 percent of the country's population – can a path back from this murderous abyss be provided. The spike in homicidal violence is largely attributed to a general rise in crime, but it is not sparing bystanders. They may comprise a fifth of the population, but a disproportionate 76 percent of those murdered so far this year so far have been Palestinian citizens of Israel, while the rate of resolving these crimes and bringing their culprits to justice is a mere 25 percent, much lower than among Israel's Jews. Although in principle the Palestinian citizens of Israel enjoy equal rights, there are many areas in which they are discriminated against. A March report by the Council on Foreign Relations highlighted that “nearly all Arab towns and cities have lower standards of living than those that are predominantly Jewish.” Research from around the world has proven time and again the strong correlation between inequality, poverty and population density, and there are high levels of all three factors in most Palestinian towns and villages in Israel, matching high rates of violent crime.

However, the current dramatic spike in homi-

cides and other violent crimes has both long-term and short-term causes. Some experts have been arguing that it was last year's pressure exerted by law enforcement agencies on the main crime families that led to splits among them, which resulted in violent rivalries, but this offers only a very partial explanation. For too long, government policy did not prioritize developing similar capabilities of dealing with crime in terms of prevention and apprehension in the same way it did within the Jewish society. This was coupled with allowing criminal elements to amass arms and ammunition, some of it illegally purchased from within Israel and some smuggled in from the West Bank and Jordan. For criminals and would-be criminals, to know that they can easily acquire weapons with little chance of being caught, let alone brought to justice, is an invitation to violence.

While internal social causes are contributing to this high rate of homicide – for instance, there are honor killings, such as the case of 18-year-old Sarit Ahmed, who two weeks ago was shot and killed after receiving threats from her family due to her sexual orientation – most of the killings are more to do with a general breakdown in law and order, for which the government must take responsibility.

It is no coincidence that the spike in killings of Palestinian citizens of Israel has occurred since the swearing-in of the most extreme right-wing government in the country's history. It is an open secret that Palestinians have been discriminated against and neglected for ideological reasons ever since Israel was created, with very strong racist elements caring little as long as the killings remain intra-Arab incidents. It was the violence that broke out among the Palestinian population in the spring of 2021, some of which was directed at their Jewish neighbors in the mixed cities, that served as a wake-up call for the authorities and a reminder that the accumulation of weapons and ammunition, coupled with a decades-long resentment toward the state, is a problem for all Israelis.

Some progress was made in tackling violent crime among Palestinian citizens of Israel during the short-lived Naftali Bennett-Yair Lapid government of 2021-22. It was very

much the result of the participation, for the first time in the country's history, of a Palestinian party in a coalition government. It led to a brief change in attitude regarding this dire situation and also in the allocation of resources. However, the very same people who relentlessly incited against increasing these budgets – and who, in their bigotry, described it as funneling money to Hamas and terrorism – are those who are now in power, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. In an analysis published last month by Israeli think tank the Institute for National Security Studies, the authors concluded that the major cause of the recent rise in crime “is ostensibly the loosening of the state's effort since the current government took office to curb crime in the Arab sector.” For the vast majority of law-abiding Palestinians in Israel, the message is that the authorities are once again abandoning them and relinquishing their responsibility to protect them from all forms of criminal violence. This leaves them fearful of their future, suspicious of the true intentions of the national governing bodies and reluctant, even afraid, to cooperate with the police. Yet, under these circumstances, the most creative solution that Ben-Gvir and his bunch of ultranationalist advisers have been able to come up with is to get Shin Bet, the internal security apparatus that for most Palestinians is a source of oppression and fear, actively involved. Neither Shin Bet nor the Palestinian citizens of Israel would like this to materialize, as it is reminiscent of dictatorial regimes and, beyond the prevention of criminal violence, might also be misused for political objectives. Violence among the Palestinian population of Israel is a social and political time bomb that is ticking away. Solving the problem requires, first and foremost, a radical perceptual change on the part of the Jewish majority – a change that would see the Palestinian citizens treated as true equals who are entitled to all the rights and privileges that come with citizenship, including the same opportunities for social and economic development as the rest of the population. But above all, their lives must be protected.

—Courtesy: Arab News

What impact will the Wagner mutiny have on Russia-Ukraine conflict?

Andrew Hammond

One fact that will assist Putin is the support coming from foreign countries, including staunch allies like China and other friendly nations like Turkiye. Beijing on Sunday said it supported Russia in “protecting national stability.” The same day, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang met with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko. The Wagner mutiny came at a time when the initiative in the war had already very much shifted toward Ukraine

As the Ukraine war nears its 500th day, the key issue on the minds of international policymakers is what impact last weekend's extraordinary mutiny of Wagner forces will have on the conflict. The uprising, which exposed the growing internal fissures within Russia, will do nothing to strengthen the country's already faltering war effort. But its wider impact, including on President Vladimir Putin's hold on power, will not be fully known for many days, if not weeks. This is despite some instant assessments – including from former Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov – that this is the “beginning of the end” of Putin's presidency.

A number of other commentators, including former UK MI6 intelligence chief Richard Dearlove, had previously predicted that Putin may only last in power for months, rather than years, and that Russia could be broken up into several states. However, the president's political longevity has been remarkable over the last quarter of a century and, while he is clearly down and very badly weakened, he cannot yet be counted out. One fact that will assist Putin is the support coming from foreign countries, including staunch allies like China and other friendly nations like Turkiye. Beijing on Sunday said it supported Russia in “protecting national stability.” The same day, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang met with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko. The Wagner mutiny came at a time when the initiative in the war had already very much shifted toward Ukraine, as it moved forward with its much-anticipated counteroffensive. Kyiv will be hoping it will be able to make even bigger gains than it had previously hoped for if disarray sets in among the wider pro-Moscow forces. If Putin remains in power, which seems most likely

for the foreseeable future, and the Russian war effort continues apace, the conflict will probably follow a war of attrition trajectory, albeit with significant twists and turns. This seems especially likely as long as both sides remain prepared to expend massive resources. Some Western intelligence sources estimate that more than 200,000 Russian soldiers have already died on the battlefield, which was one of the chief gripes of Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin. Meanwhile, the West has committed vast sums to Ukraine in aid and military support. Historically, wars tend to end when one side imposes its will on the other on the battlefield, then at the negotiating table; or when both sides embrace a compromise they deem preferable to fighting. While one of these outcomes could emerge – for instance, if the Ukrainian counteroffensive makes massive, spectacular gains and/or the Putin government implodes – they remain highly unlikely at the time of writing, despite the recent fast-moving events. Although a continued war of attrition may imply a degree of stability in the conflict, the events of recent days show why this is not the case and the level and range of risks actually remain exceptionally high. This is why the outcome remains so unpredictable – a factor not helped by Russia's saber-rattling around its potential use of nuclear weapons and its disregard for nuclear power sites. Pessimistic as this central scenario of a continued war of attrition may seem, with the human cost – including for millions of refugees – largest of all, there are at least two other plausible outcomes. Firstly, there is a slim but significant window of opportunity for peace talks to open up, especially if a war of attrition continues for many months, with heavy casualties suffered by both sides. Although neither Moscow nor Kyiv are currently showing strong signs of wanting to negotiate, this could change. On Ukraine's side,

for instance, if its counteroffensive yields little fruit, pressure may grow significantly in the West to explore a peace deal. There would be a lot of opposition to this, of course, but a pathway may be found. For instance, key Western leaders could highlight to Ukraine that, during the Cold War, the US-led alliance did not recognize Soviet control of the three Baltic states. Ultimately, these countries emerged free and democratic after the end of the Cold War. The parallel with those parts of Ukraine now occupied by pro-Moscow forces could be strengthened with generous Western construction assistance, as well as security guarantees, for Kyiv. For Putin, a peace deal might have growing utility as he fashions his political strategy ahead of next spring's presidential ballot. The Russian leader could seek to argue that, despite the manifest failures of Moscow's military campaign, it is a case of mission accomplished thanks to the seizure of significant slices of Ukrainian territory, if these can be held in the meantime. Another factor that may also increase the prospects for peace is the growing interest of China in the conflict. President Xi Jinping, who has already tabled a vague peace plan, has the most influence within Russia of any world leader. However, the worst-case scenario – escalation – is also a possibility because of Russia's growing weakness. If Moscow raises the odds, the conflict could even escalate beyond Ukraine to involve NATO countries. While this still seems highly unlikely to many, it cannot be dismissed, such is the volatility of the situation. Although NATO is doing what it can to support Ukraine without getting itself entangled in a direct military confrontation, miscalculation is a real concern. However, such an outcome is still not the central scenario. Rather, that is instead that a war of attrition grinds away.

—Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Archbishop extends Eid greetings to Muslims

ISLAMABAD: Archbishop Dr. Joseph Arshad has extended his heartfelt greetings to all Muslim brothers and sisters in Pakistan and around the world on the occasion of Eid ul Azha. He, in a statement issued here, said Eid ul Azha teaches sacrifices and invites us to respect, tolerance, and love for all which were the cornerstones of an integrated society. On this blessed occasion, he also remembered all those suffering in pain and anguish who are not able to celebrate the joy of Eid. He invited all who were blessed with numerous resources to reach out to help the deserving people so that they can also join in the celebrations of Eid ul Azha with joyful hearts. On the occasion, he said let us pray to God to refresh our spirit to make Pakistan a prosperous and flourishing nation. Archbishop offered his prayerful and best wishes to all Muslim brothers and sisters, political leaders, Armed forces, members of civil society, media and bureaucracy. He also prayed that may Almighty God bless us all on Eid ul Azha so that we may live peacefully and take care of the weak and poor people of our society.—DNA

Punjab to lose Rs336 billion to federal govt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Punjab will also face the brunt of International Monetary Fund's conditions as the province will have to give Rs336 billion from its income to the federal government in the coming financial year. The caretaker Punjab government has given approval to give Rs336 billion to the federal government on the recommendations of the latter. Earlier, the Punjab Finance Department had prepared a strategy to give Rs125 billion from the revenue collection of the province. However, the federal government requested the caretaker government in Punjab to increase the share to Rs336 billion as per the global lender's conditions. Complying with the request, the Punjab government will now pay Rs336 billion to federal government under the EPS formula instead of Rs125 billion in the next financial year.

Sheikh Rashid sees next 48 hours crucial

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid said on Wednesday it would be clear in the next 48 hours whether the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would revive the bailout package for cash-strapped Pakistan. In a series of tweets, the former interior minister said additional taxes to the tune of Rs300 billion would be imposed after the IMF deal. Former finance minister Miftah Ismail had secured an IMF tranche but Ishaq Dar could not stop the rupee devaluation and put the economy on track, he quipped. Taking a dig at the ruling parties, the AML chief said decisions about political fate of the country were taken in London and Dubai as they hold their assets there. Calling the current rulers hypocrite, he said public hated them, adding that it was first time that the Hajj quota was underutilised. The decisions about caretaker setup, elections and seat adjustment were being taken in Dubai, he said, adding that Pakistan was just used for money laundering by them. He said national assets were leased out while the poor were facing severe inflation, adding that the ruling coalition was not capable. In upcoming elections, Punjab will hold centre stage, he said. Mr Ahmed said he informed the high court that seven cases were registered against him and vehicles were taken away for three times. He said police were reluctant to give his vehicles despite orders from the court.



ISLAMABAD: People are playing and wondering along with their Sacrificial animal at Sector G-8 as Pakistan people pay special attention and takes extra care of sacrificial animals in Federal Capital.—Online

Protests flare up in France after police shoot teenager

NANTERRE: Violent protests shook Paris suburbs overnight and celebrities expressed outrage Wednesday after police shot dead a teenager during a traffic stop and appeared to have lied about the circumstances of the killing. The 17-year-old man, named only as Nael M., was pulled over by two policemen on Tuesday for breaking traffic rules, prosecutors said. Police initially reported that one officer shot at the teenager because he was driving his car at him, but this version of events was contradicted by a video circulating on social media and authenticated by AFP. The footage shows the two policemen standing by the

side of the stationary car, with one pointing a weapon at the driver. A voice is heard saying "You are going to get a bullet in the head." The police officer appears to fire point blank as the car abruptly drives off. The car moved a few dozen metres before crashing. The driver died shortly after. His death sparked immediate protests in Nanterre, a western Paris suburb. Bins were also set alight and a fire broke out at a music school, while police tried to disperse the protesters with teargas. Protests then broke out in some neighbouring suburbs. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said Wednesday that 31 people had

been arrested overnight, 24 police slightly injured and around 40 cars torched. The 38-year old policeman seen firing the lethal shot was taken into custody and is under investigation for voluntary manslaughter. Nael M's lawyer, Yassine Bouzrou, said he would file a legal complaint against the policeman for voluntary manslaughter, and against his colleague for complicity in the shooting. The lawyer also said that he would file a further complaint for false testimony against the policemen for claiming that Nael M. had tried to run them over. There were two passengers in the car. One ran off and the other, also a teenager,

was briefly detained. Celebrities and some politicians voiced disgust, concern and outrage at the shooting. "I am hurting for my France," tweeted Kylian Mbappe, captain of the French men's national football team and star player at the Paris Saint-Germain club. "An unacceptable situation. All my thoughts go to the friends and family of Nael, that little angel who left us far too soon," Mbappe said. Actor Omar Sy, famous for his role in the film "The Intouchables" and the "Lupin" TV show, said on Twitter: "I hope that justice worthy of the name will honour the memory of this child."—Agencies

Police cancel 123 driving license

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police by taking effective action against drivers violating traffic rules have cancelled 123 licenses. During the ongoing year a strict action against traffic rules violators, the driving license of 123 law breakers and 142 public service vehicles permits have been suspended for serious violations, a police public relations officer said Wednesday. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police have issued thousands of challan tickets for various violations so far, including over-speeding, red signal, lane discipline, signal violation, zebra crossing and one-way violations. Under the e-challan system, 123 driving licenses have been suspended on the basis of deduction of 10 points registered on driving licenses and 142 public service permits of vehicles have been suspended for serious violations of traffic. These suspended licenses include Islamabad and other district licenses. While, in this regard legal notices have also been issued to the law breakers for serious violations of traffic rules, if the response is not received, the driving license will be suspended. Due to the effective strategy of the e-challan system and the data link with the Excise and Taxation department, fatal accidents and other traffic violations have been significantly reduced. A copy of the challan for non-payment on time is being pasted in the master file of the vehicle with the help of excise and taxation office and it has been ensured that the owners under the challan will not be able to transfer the vehicle or motorcycle to another person until they pay the fine amount. Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad said that the safe city e-challan system is getting substantial results and due to excellent monitoring under the e-challan system, fatal accidents and other violations of laws are being reduced significantly.—DNA

IIUI President chairs online meeting

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, President, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) chaired an online meeting on Wednesday (Eid day in Saudi Arabia). Dr. Hathal wished a blessed Eid to the IIUI community and gave directions on a number of important matters. The meeting was attended by Vice President Female Campus, Provosts Male and Female, Students Advisors Male and Female, Chief Security Officer, Incharge administration, Assistant Director Protocol, Incharge Horticulture, Incharge Estate Management, Incharge admissions and other relevant officials. The Worthy President said the most important point is exquisite arrangements for Eid celebrations of foreigner students and students of far flung areas who stay on campus on Eid day. He advised the Provost to offer eid prayer with the students at the hostels.—DNA

500 pilgrims receive treatment for heat exhaustion

DNA

MAKKAH: Amid scorching heat with maximum temperature touching 45 C, more than 500 pilgrims have suffered from heat exhaustion while performing their Hajj but thanks to relevant health authorities for providing them quick treatment. Of the total, around 400 pilgrims with worse health conditions were given support to join the health convoy that took them to stay in Arafat, which is inevitable for fulfillment of Hajj. In a media interaction, a Spokesman of Health Ministry, Dr. Mohammed Al-Abdali on Wednesday said more than 166,000 pilgrims were provided with healthcare services so far. He pointed out that the general health of the pilgrims was reassuring and no outbreaks or infectious diseases threatening public health were detected. The pilgrims completed standing at Arafat Tuesday

evening and proceeded to perform remaining observances including their overnight stay in Muzdalifah. He highlighted success of Ministry of Health's preparations and its operations plan for Arafat Standing which is the peak of the annual Hajj pilgrimage. The Spokesman pointed out that the ministry's preparations had several aspects including the participation of all sectors by fielding about 36,000 cadres, 32,000 of them from the Ministry of Health alone. The number of volunteers who participated in providing healthcare services exceeded 7,600 this year. Al-Abdali said the Ministry of Health had equipped several field hospitals in Arafat with a bed capacity of more than 800 beds and 45 centers, and underscored the services and contributions by other ministries, government agencies, and centers in delivering healthcare services to the pilgrims. He

appreciated the healthcare efforts by Ministry of Defense, which resulted in three field hospitals, and the Ministry of National Guard, whose efforts focused on equipping a center for addressing heat exhaustion cases. He stated that a total of more than 166,000 people had been provided with various health services so far. The number of heat exhaustion cases reached 500, and they received quick treatment. For his part, Ministry of Interior's Security Spokesman announced that first phase of the Hajj security plan had been implemented successfully following transportation of pilgrims from Makkah to holy sites over past 24 hours. He said that pilgrims' ascension to plains of Arafat and their prayers there were performed in complete tranquility and peace after they spent the Day of Tarwiyah in Mina, thanks to the strict implementation of the traffic and organizational plan for the transportation of pilgrims to the holy sites.

Police to ensure security during Eid-ul-Azha: SSP

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations/Investigation) Malik Jamil Zafar Wednesday chaired a meeting to reinforce foolproof security arrangements during the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha festivities. The meeting focused on ensuring the safety of citizens, protecting public gatherings, mosques, Imambar-gahs, and maintaining law and order throughout the district. In adherence to the directives issued by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Operations/Investigation convened the meeting to discuss proactive security measures. The attendees included SP Investigation, SP Traffic,

SDPOs, DSP Property, Incharge Anti-Vehicle Lifting Unit and officers incharge police stations. Recognizing the mass movement of citizens to their native town during this festive season, it was emphasized to establish street committees in respective areas. These committees will appoint representatives with their contact numbers shared among police officers, officials of the Falcon and Dolphin of the Safe City project, as well as patrolling officers. This collaborative effort will ensure enhanced security for residences and swift response to any potential threats. Furthermore, stringent security protocols are to be implemented in all markets, highways.—DNA

Eight outlaws arrested

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital police Khanna police teams apprehended eight outlaws and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of ICCEO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city. Following these directives, the Khanna police teams arrested eight accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons namely Muhammad Shehryar, Adnan Iqbal, Muhammad Faizan, Haroon, Shahid Khan, Saqib, Zulfiqar and Nasir and recovered 10 liters of alcohol.

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Briefs

**Latif Khosa
house
attacker
arrested:
police**

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore police Wednesday said it apprehended the suspect who allegedly opened fire at the residence of former Punjab governor and senior lawyer, Sardar Latif Khosa, adding that he also intended to target Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan. Punjab Police DIG Investigation, Kamran Adil, stated that the suspect was wanted in 14 other cases of firing. He added that the suspect Mohsin, alias Lamba, is a resident of Samanabad, an area in Lahore's Millat Park. The suspect told the police that he was given money by Zubair Khan Niazi, after which he opened fire at Khosa's house. "The suspect was used to create tension in the ties between the lawyers and the government," the DIG investigation said. Earlier this month, the politician's driver sustained injuries after a gun attack was launched by unidentified gunmen at his house in Lahore.

**PAC notices
hardships
faced by
Hajj pilgrims**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Tuesday took stern notice of the lack of facilities for the Pakistani Hajj pilgrims, summoning the religious affairs ministry officials on July 4. Chairing a PAC meeting, Chairman Noor Alam Khan criticised the performance of Religious Affairs Minister Talha Mehmood, saying that everybody wanted to become a minister but one had to perform in that capacity. "Yesterday, I saw the plight of the pilgrims. I have the videos [sent by the pilgrims] and the written complaints," Noor told the committee. "It's strange that the entire ministry, including the minister himself, had gone to [perform] Hajj, still the conditions are poor," he added. "During the tenure of previous minister [late Mufti Abdul Shakoor] not a single complaint was received. Shaheed Mufti did a very good work last year. We will call the ministry of religious affairs official on July 4." Separately, talking to the media at the Parliament House, Noor said that each Hajj had gone to perform Hajj after paying Rs1.2 million to the government, yet they faced problems relating to accommodation, food, and transportation in the holy lands.

**Gulf states,
other countries
celebrate Eid**

DNA

RIYADH: Muslims across Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and other Gulf and European countries celebrated EidulAdha with religious fervour to commemorate the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (AS). Over a billion Muslims from around the world celebrated EidulAdha, which is also known as the "Festival of the Sacrifice". In Saudi Arabia, Eid prayers were offered at Masjid-e-Nabvi and the Grand Mosque in Makkah. The pilgrims, who spent the whole night in the open sky offering prayers in Muzdalifa started moving towards Mina. After reaching Mina, they will perform stoning at Jamarat Al-Aqba, sacrifice animals, shave their heads and then leave for Makkah to perform Tawaf Al-Ifada and Sai, two other pillars of Hajj. Eid is also being celebrated in Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain and Qatar. Indonesia, Iran and Malaysia are also marking the day. Millions of pilgrims on Tuesday crowded the rocky rise known as Mount Arafat to pray at the climax of the Hajj pilgrimage and to listen to the sermon delivered from the Nimara mosque amid a fierce Saudi Arabian summer.

**German Embassy donates
Rs. 1.5 mn for flood relief work**

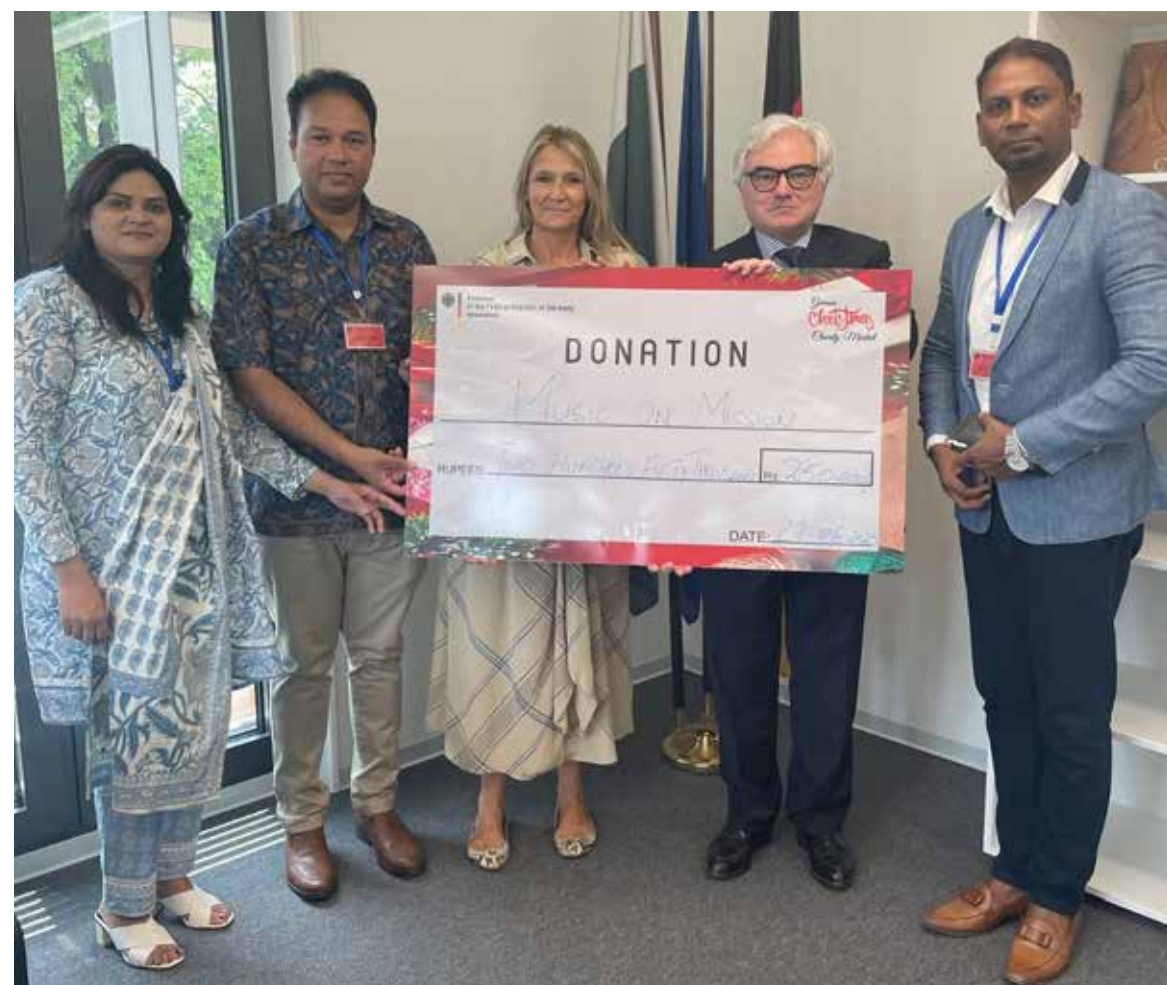
His Excellency Alfred Grannas, along with embassy representatives, met with esteemed organizations including the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat - Flood Relief, Aaghosh Mera Ghar, Haashar Association, Rawalpindi Leprosy Hospital, and MOM - Music on Mission to formally present the charitable donations



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The German Embassy in Islamabad proudly handed over the proceeds from last year's highly successful Christmas Mar-

ket. The surplus amounted to an impressive sum of approximately 1.5 million PKR. His Excellency Alfred Grannas, along with embassy representatives, met with esteemed organizations including the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat - Flood Relief, Aaghosh Mera Ghar, Haashar



Association, Rawalpindi Leprosy Hospital, and MOM - Music on Mission to formally present the charitable donations. During the meetings, the recipient organizations showcased their plans for utilizing the funds for various charitable causes and expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the

German Ambassador for his generous contribution. Impressed by the impactful work carried out by these organizations, Ambassador Grannas stated, "I am delighted to learn that our proceeds are being directed towards exceptional projects that are creating a positive difference in society."

**Pakistan seeks protection
of IIOJK, Palestine people**

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has urged the advocates of the concept of "responsibility to protect", or R2P, to apply it to safeguard the oppressed people of Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). "Apart from its abuse, the concept of R2P has also led to the criticism that some powerful states have failed to invoke R2P by showing hesitancy, either in condemning the massive human rights violations committed by so-called 'strategic allies' or by holding them accountable in the Security Council," Ambassador Amir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the UN General Assembly. The concept of R2P rests on three pillars - responsibility of each state to protect its populations; responsibility of the international community to assist states in protecting their populations and responsibility of the international community to protect when a state is manifestly failing to protect its populations. Speaking in a debate on the responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, the Pakistani envoy said that for more than seven decades, India had denied the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people, in violation of multiple resolutions of the Security Council, prescribing a free and fair plebiscite. India, he said, had deployed 900,000 troops, resorted to extra-judicial killings; forced abductions; collective punishments; and the incarceration of the entire political leadership of the All Parties Hurriyet Conference (APHC). To this end, he noted that Pakistan had circulated a dossier with the evidence of 3,432 war crimes, committed by India's officials in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that Muslims' persecution had become a 'routine norm' for India. On Saturday, during a visit of Indian Home Minister Amit Shah to IIOJK, Ambassador Khan said that Indian Army personnel stormed into a mosque in Pulwama district of south Kashmir while Muslims were offering prayers and forced them to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' against their will. - DNA

**FBR likely to miss FY23
target by Rs75bn**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is facing a shortfall of Rs75 billion in achieving the downward revised annual tax collection target of Rs7,200 billion in the outgoing financial year, media reported. The FBR collected Rs7,125 billion against the revised tax collection target of Rs7,200 billion, so the net revenue shortfall stood at Rs75 billion for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The FBR's annual tax collection target was set at Rs7,640 billion for

the outgoing fiscal year in the aftermath of the mini-budget unveiled in February 2023. The government had imposed Rs160 billion in additional taxes by hiking the GST rate from 17% to 18%, imposing a higher GST rate of 25% on luxury items and increasing the FED by 154% on cigarettes. However, the FBR failed to get additional revenues in the last four months, so the revenue collection target was revised downward from Rs7,640 billion to Rs7,200 billion for the end of June 2023. Interestingly, Minister for Finance and Revenues Ishaq Dar highlighted the highest-ever tax collection for the outgoing fiscal year via tweet.

**Massive crowds stone the devil
as fiercely hot Haj winds down**

NEWS DESK

MAKKAH: Vast crowds of robed Muslims hurled pebbles in the "stoning of the devil" ritual on Wednesday as the biggest Haj pilgrimage since the start of the pandemic draws to a close in intense Saudi Arabian heat. From dawn in Mina, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims began pelting three concrete monoliths representing Satan, and heading to Mecca for a final "tawaf". More than 1.8 million people are taking part in the first unrestricted Haj since Covid struck in 2020. About 2.5 million, the most on record, joined the pilgrimage in pre-pandemic 2019. As well as crowds at every turn, the visitors have had to contend with ferocious temperatures at the Haj, which currently coincides with the Saudi summer. Temperatures peaked at 48 degrees Celsius (118 Fahrenheit) on Tuesday, when the pilgrims prayed for hours at Mount Arafat, and were expected to hit 47 degrees on Wednesday in Mina. "I will not think of doing Haj again until it takes place in winter," Farah, a 26-year-old Tunisian, said of the annual ritual which fol-

lows the lunar calendar and doesn't always coincide with summer. "My body is melting," she said. More than 1.8 million pilgrims, most of them from abroad, joined the first Haj with unrestricted numbers since pre-Covid in 2019, when 2.5 million took part. The attendance figure, announced by Saudi officials on Tuesday, falls well short of their predictions of beating the 2019 record. The Haj is a source of prestige and a major revenue-earner for Saudi Arabia, which is trying to pivot its oil-reliant economy in new directions including tourism. The devil-stoning marks the start of the three-day EidulAza holiday, celebrated by Muslims by buying and slaughtering livestock to commemorate Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son. Afterwards, the pilgrims return to Makkah to perform a farewell tawaf - walking seven times around the Kaaba. Mina's walkways have proven deadly in the past: in 2015, a stampede killed up to 2,300 worshippers in the worst Haj disaster ever. A similar incident killed 364 in 2006. Other stampedes were reported in 2004, 1998 and 1994.

**Taiwan detects
two Russian
warships near
its waters**

DNA

TAIPEI: Taiwan has said it spotted two Russian warships off its eastern coast on Tuesday and sent its own aircraft and ships to monitor the vessels' movements. The Ministry of National Defence said in a statement late on Tuesday that the Russian frigates had been seen "sailing from south to north in the waters off our eastern coast" as of 11pm local time (15:00 GMT). It added that they "departed from our response zone" in a southeasterly direction off the port city of Suao, which is home to a major Taiwanese naval base. It did not say how far the warships were from the island's coast.

**Pakistanis among 2,700
detained in Manila raid**

MANILA: Philippine authorities have detained more than 2,700 people during a raid on several buildings in Manila where alleged trafficking victims were paid to recruit players for online games, police said Tuesday. Chinese, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Singaporean, Malaysian, Pakistani, Cameroonian, Sudanese, Myanmar and Philippine nationals were among the people found inside a compound in the capital on Monday night. Authorities were interviewing 2,724 detainees to identify who was a victim or suspect, said police Captain Michelle Sabino, a spokeswoman for the anti-cybercrime unit. International concern has been growing over internet scams in the Asia-Pacific region, often staffed by trafficking victims tricked or coerced into promoting bogus crypto investments. Sabino said the alleged trafficking victims had accepted jobs posted on Facebook to work in the Philippines "to find players" for online games. Many of them were forced to work 12-hour shifts every day for as little as 24,000 pesos (\$433) a month, and were prevented from leaving the compound, she said. Sabino described it as the "biggest ever" anti-trafficking raid in the Philippines. Journalists at the scene on Tuesday saw two police buses and two police trucks parked outside the compound. They were not allowed to enter the buildings. Sabino said "everything will be investigated", including whether the workers were involved in online rackets. - Agencies



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