



# Islamabad POST

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### EU should focus on stopping migration: Italian PM Meloni

Detailed News On Page-07

### China and the EU at odds over Borrell's visit

Detailed News On Page-07



### Babar Azam moves down in Test ranking

Detailed News On Page-07



## 10 years of success story

# CPEC project transformed Pakistan: PM

### Shehbaz Sharif says the CPEC is all about a story of hard work and untiring commitment between the leadership of Pakistan and China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a key role in transforming the development landscape of Pakistan with the launch of several multi-billion dollar projects. Addressing a ceremony to mark the decade of signing of CPEC, the prime minister said the mega project helped Pakistan progress in the region and the world. PM Shehbaz said the country ushered in a new era of development with the completion of hundreds of projects under the umbrella of CPEC, including coal-fired power plants, the Orange Line mass transit project, and road infrastructure. "The CPEC is all about a story of hard work and untiring commitment between the leadership of Pakistan and China," he said. He recalled that in July 2013, then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Beijing, where he signed an agreement, pledging to develop a long-term plan for the CPEC. "On July 5, 2013, we witnessed the memorable signing ceremony of CPEC, where President Xi Jinping and PM Nawaz Sharif inked the milestone

### PM directs Punjab Govt for urgent measures amidst rains

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the Punjab Government to take urgent measures and mobilise rescue teams amidst heavy rains in the province. The prime minister called for coordinated efforts by the district administration, Rescue 1122, Provincial Disaster Management Authority, municipal and other departments, saying that all possible measures should be taken to protect the

citizens' lives, according to a PM Office statement. He instructed the National Disaster Management Authority and other federal departments to extend maximum support to the Punjab Government, if required. Prime Minister Shehbaz said necessary steps should be taken to aware the citizens of any emergency situation, chalk out alternate traffic plans and make arrangements for proper drainage. He also instructed to take preventive measures in

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accord," he said. Terming CPEC a "very transparent" project, the prime minister said the Chinese government and companies made \$ 25.4 billion investments in multiple projects. He said thousands of Chinese along with their Pakistani counterparts, worked day and night to create a history of commitment and exuberance of goodwill between the two sides. He commended Chinese President Xi for

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad Ms Pang Chunxue, and Federal Ministers cutting a cake marking the 10th anniversary of the signing of the agreement for CPEC. - DNA

### Three soldiers embrace shahadat

#### The suicide bomber intended targeting the security forces' post

STAFF REPORT

Rawalpindi, 05 July, 2023: On 05 July 23, a vehicle borne suicide bomber exploded himself in general area Miran Shah, North Waziristan District. Resultantly, Naib Subedar Sahib Khan (age 41 years, resident of Mianwali), Naik Muhammad Ibrahim (age 40 years, resident of Dera Ismail Khan) and Sepoy Jehangir Khan (age 24 years, resident of Mardan) embraced shahadat, while, three innocent civilians got critically injured. The suicide bomber intended targeting the security forces' post, however, timely interception of the

Continued on Page 06

### Hamid Khan spills the beans 'Decision' to disqualify Nawaz was taken before SC verdict'

#### Says Maybe Nawaz believed that he was good at handling courts, but later, he realised that the issue was out of his hands

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) senior legal counsel Hamid Khan Wednesday claimed Nawaz Sharif's disqualification as prime minister was decided elsewhere, and Supreme Court's verdict was used just to legitimise it. "Dawn leaks had taken place [...] and if we look at the events that follow it in chronological order, then we can understand that the decision had been made to dismiss Nawaz," he told private media channel on Tuesday. Hamid's revelation is a significant development as his party, led by PTI Chairman Imran Khan, has been at loggerheads with the PML-N since its ouster from the government in April last year. The legal expert, who has represented PTI Chairman Imran Khan in several cases, said amid the decision to dismiss Nawaz, coincidental-

ly, the Panama Papers exposé also came to the fore. He did not specify who had decided to send Nawaz, a three-time prime minister, packing and having him disqualified as a parliamentarian for a lifetime. Noting that it wasn't decided that the matter would be taken up by the courts, he reminded the host that Former chief justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali was not interested in taking up such cases. "Justice Jamali had stated that he did not want to be involved in any political matter," Hamid said. "However, gradually, the Supreme Court had gotten involved in the issues [...] and the ends were met through the judiciary," the legal expert added. The show host then asked Hamid whether it was correct to assume that the decision to disqualify Nawaz was already made prior to the verdict and that the judiciary was used: "Absolutely, this is what it seems like."

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## Briefs

### PM praises COAS efforts for economy

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presided over apex committee session on Wednesday and praised COAS Asim Munir for the latter's efforts to improve the economy. Meanwhile, the PM expressed satisfaction in terms of the trajectory the country's economy while also called for strenuous measures to stabilise the financial situation of the country. During the meeting, the PM also directed the council to find opportunities related to foreign investment while assuring of full co-op adding PM also took the participants into confidence on foreign visits.

### Pak, US discuss ways to enhance economic co-op

#### Finance Minister meets Amb. Donald Blome



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome here on Wednesday exchanged views about areas of common interest and enhancing existing bilateral relations between the two countries. According to a statement issued by the finance ministry the discussion was made during the call on the meeting of the US Ambassador with the finance minister.

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### Pakistan, Turkiye engage in Political Consultations

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD, The 6th round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Turkiye is being held in Ankara on Wednesday (July 5).

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### GB top court puts off CM election

DNA

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan Supreme Appellate Court (SAC) on Wednesday delayed the election for the new chief minister citing various procedural irregularities. A day earlier, the Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Court had disqualified former chief minister Khalid Khurshid on charges of obtaining a licence from the region's bar council based on a fake degree. Subsequently, the PTI had nominated Raja Azam as the party's candidate for the slot while the PPP had nominated Amjad Advocate, the PML-N had

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### Seven lives lost in recent rains in Lahore

#### Earlier this year, Lahore received the maximum rainfall of 256 mm on June 26 while in 2022, 238mm of rain was recorded in Lahore

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: Incessant showers on Wednesday broke a 30-year-old record when the city received over 290mm of rain within a span of 10 hours, resulting in the death of at least seven people, officials said. "Three people were electrocuted, two died after roofs collapsed, and a child drowned after rainwater accumulated," Punjab interim Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi told journalists in Lahore. In an update on his official Twitter handle, the interim CM said the rain death toll rose to seven. The metropolis received

291mm of rain, during which more than a dozen areas recorded more than 200mm of rain, Commissioner Lahore Mohammad Ali Randhawa said, adding this is happening due to climate change and strong monsoon. The city administration and all officers and staff of Water and Sanitation Authority (Wasa) Lahore are fully mobilised to ensure the drainage of rainwater, he added. "Earlier this year, Lahore received the maximum rainfall of 256 mm on June 26 while in 2022, 238mm of rain was recorded in Lahore," Randhawa said. The commissioner said that in 2018, 288mm of rain was recorded in Lahore, adding the city has not received so much rain in such a short period of time in the last 30 years. Meanwhile, MD Wasa Ghafraan Ahmed said all low-lying areas would be cleared within a few hours after the rain stops.

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### FM Bilawal reaches New York

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday reached New York on an official tour. The Pakistan Peoples Party chairman will stay in the United States for one week. The foreign minister will interact with US think tanks and meet leadership of the country. Bilawal left for the US after completing his Japan visit while his sister Aseefa Bhutto will reach Karachi from Tokyo. Earlier, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari went to Japan and declared his intention to boost trade and promote diplomatic ties with Japan.

### Nawaz Sharif was ousted from power through a conspiracy

#### Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says CPEC has changed destiny of Pakistan credit for which goes to PML-N

KHAYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has expressed the commitment to stabilise the economy and address the issue of inflation. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, she said the people are fully aware of the fact that the PML-N always delivers on the economic front. She said an economic revival plan has been rolled out which envisages the development of various sectors including agriculture, IT and Industries. She said this plan will bring both domestic and foreign investment, produce employment opportunities and also help address the issue of inflation. Alluding to the recent statement of PTI leader Hamid Khan on the television, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting said that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was ousted from the power through

a conspiracy. She said the judiciary will have to do this wrong. Marriyum Aurangzeb highlighted the successes achieved by the country on various fronts in the tenure of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. She recalled that while one person at that point in time was standing on the container, Nawaz Sharif was busy in serving and uplifting the country. She regretted that the person who was imposed on this country through a conspiracy destroyed the economy and incited intolerance and hatred in the society. The Information Minister said those who conspired against the country shall be given strict punishment. Responding to a question, the Information Minister said the government does not believe in political victimization.

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## Amir Mir inspects water drainage operation

DNA

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information, Culture and Local Government Amir Mir conducted an extensive visit to various areas of the provincial metropolis on Wednesday to closely monitor the cleanliness arrangements, water drainage, and restoration of the sewerage system in response to the ongoing heavy rainfall in the city. During the visit, the minister issued instructions to the local government staff, who were diligently working on the bustling streets of the city, to ensure the swift drainage of rainwater and the restoration of the sewage system. He emphasized that Lahore has witnessed the highest amount of rainfall during the first week of July in recent years. The recorded rainfall was initially estimated to be 285 mm on Wednesday, which later increased to 291 mm. Despite the challenging weather conditions, the local government department's staff remained resolute and actively engaged throughout the day. Specific directives were issued to the line departments to ensure the timely drainage of water and the restoration of normal traffic flow on busy roads, to facilitate commuters. The implementation of effective drainage measures, utilizing appropriate machinery, was emphasized to control the accumulation of rainwater and enable the smooth movement of citizens in low-lying areas while maintaining their daily routines. Provincial Minister Amir Mir also acknowledged the diligent efforts of all line departments.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Noor Ul Ameen and Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Chatha chairing meeting on dengue prevention.—DNA

## CM Naqvi reviews drainage systems in different areas of Lahore

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi visited different areas of Lahore and reviewed the drainage issues in the city. According to a private TV channel, CM Naqvi visited the areas of Lakshmi Chowk, Railway Station, Karishan Nagar (Islampura), Urdu Bazar, and Circular Road. During his visit to different areas, the CM reviewed the rainwater situation at Lakshmi Chowk, Rail-

way Station, and Circular Road and appreciated the performance of the administration on the completion of drainage work at Lakshmi Chowk. CM Mohsin Naqvi visited Urdu Bazaar and Islampura and directed the concerned authorities to drainage of water through machinery in both areas to make the life and business of people easy. Mohsin Naqvi also made a detailed conversation with the shopkeepers and residents in Islampura and assured them to complete the

drainage work soon. In Islampura, the citizens complained to the Punjab Chief Minister about the slowness in the drainage work in their area. Talking to media while visiting different areas of Lahore, Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi confirmed that seven people died in rain-related incidents in the city. "Three died due to electrocution, two in roof collapse and a little girl drowned in rainwater," he added. The CM Punjab further said their top mission is the water draining before

the next rain spell hit the city. It is pertinent to mention here that heavy rain and strong winds lashed upper parts of Punjab including Lahore early Wednesday morning claiming several lives, and disrupting routine life and electricity supply. At least seven people were killed in Lahore in rain-related incidents in the city and remote areas. Data shared by Met Office showed several parts of Lahore received up to 179mm of rain. According to Met Department

stats, the highest rain was recorded at the Nishtar Town Director Office (118mm), Jail Road (56.5mm), at Airport 52mm, Head Office WASA, Gulberg 63mm, Gulshan-e-Ravi 79mm, Iqbal Town 69mm, Tajpura 79mm, Johar Town 82mm, Mughalpura 88mm, Chowk Nakhuda 54mm, Samanabad 54mm and Upper Mall 88mm. Following the rain, the power supply to different parts of Lahore was disrupted as 200 feeders of the LESCO tripped.—DNA

## IHC grants one week to police for recovery of Azam Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted one week more time to the authorities for recovery of missing bureaucrat and former principal secretary to prime minister Azam Khan. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case regarding the recovery of Azam Khan who disappeared from Islamabad the few days back. During hearing, the officials of Islamabad police submitted a progress report regarding the matter. The police said that Azam Khan went out on a vehicle which was non-registered. It said that all resources were being used for the recovery of the disappeared bureaucrat. The court instructed the police to continue its efforts and also be in contact with the victim family. The SSP Operation Islamabad said that he was monitoring the matter himself, adding that he could not meet the family members of Azam Khan due to the Eid holidays. The official said that Azam Khan had been using an international number in his phone which could be used only in Wi-Fi. The police was facing difficulties in tracing the location due to the international number. The court granted one more week to the police and also sought progress report on next hearing.—APP

## Four Pakistan Navy officers promoted as Vice Admiral

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Four Rear Admirals of Pakistan Navy promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral. Vice Admiral Abdul Samad was commissioned in Operations branch of Pakistan Navy in 1990. During his illustrious career, the Flag Officer has served on various Command and Staff appointments. His Command appointments include Commanding Officer of PN Submarine and Commander of Submarines Squadron. His major Staff appointment was Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Training & Evaluation) at Naval Headquarters. The Admiral is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore and National Defence University Islamabad. Vice Admiral Abdul Samad is presently serving as Cdr NSFC. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military). Vice Admiral Abid Hameed was commissioned in Ma-



rine Engineering branch of Pakistan Navy in 1988. During his illustrious service career, the Admiral has held diversified Command & Staff appointments. His Command appointments include Managing Director PN Dockyard and Commander Logistics. His salient Field and Staff appointments include General Manager Ship Rebuild & Construction at PN Dockyard, and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff Projects, Works and Maintenance at Naval Headquarters. The Admiral is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, National Defence University Islamabad. Presently, Vice Admiral Abid Hameed

is appointed as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Material) at Naval Headquarters. In recognition of his illustrious career, the Admiral has been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military). Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1991. The Admiral's distinguished service career includes wide range of Command and Staff appointments. His Command appointments include Commanding Officer of PN Destroyer, Commander West and Flag Officer Sea Training. His salient Staff appointments include Chief Staff Officer to Commander Pakistan Fleet, As-

sistant Chief of Naval Staff (Plans) and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Welfare & Housing). The Admiral is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, National Defence University Islamabad. Presently, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1991. The Admiral's distinguished service career includes wide range of Command and Staff appointments. His Command

appointments include Commanding Officer of PN Ships, Commander of 25th Destroyer Squadron and Flag Officer Sea Training. His salient Staff appointments include Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations), Director General Naval Intelligence and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations). The Admiral is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, Naval Staff College USA and National Defence University Islamabad. Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi is presently appointed as Commander Pakistan Fleet. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

## CUI hold design and fine arts thesis show

ISLAMABAD: Thesis Show of graduates of the Department of Art and Design at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) opened at COMSATS Art Gallery, featuring a variety of visual art forms. The event was inaugurated by the Counselor of Education Embassy of Türkiye in Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Toyran along with Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar. Ms. Dorothea Berezicki, First Secretary for German Embassy in Pakistan also graced the occasion as a guest of honor. The 11th Thesis Show of 'B. Design' included the works of 20 graduates, while eight students of Bachelor of Fine Arts displayed their works in their first Thesis Show. Thesis Show of this year presented a wide variety of Visual Art forms. From graphic design and communication design to illustrations, videography, painting, digital art, animations, printmaking, and even miniature painting, with both traditional and contemporary techniques. Addressing the event, Counselor of Education Embassy of Türkiye in Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Toyran, as a chief guest, said: "The significance of four years of individual research and creative studio practice reflect through the student's work on a particular design narrative and brings it into a tangible form in their chosen major field of design practice". Ms. Dorothea Berezicki said that students have honed their abilities to articulate the concepts, techniques, and intentions behind their creations, and that their work resonates deeply with viewers. Speaking on the occasion, Dean Faculty of Architecture and Design, Dr. Shahid Mansoor also praised the work of students and expressed her pleasure over the tremendous response the graduating students received from the audience. Acting Rector, CUI, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar congratulated the graduates and said he felt proud to see the remarkable work of his students. He said that the students had set a benchmark for the batches to come and wished all the students achieve much more in their professional lives. Speaking at the occasion the Chairperson of the Department of Art and Design, COMSATS University Islamabad, Ms. Farrah Mahmood, said that the department had always placed a strong emphasis on providing quality education in Visual Art.—APP

## USA CG visits GPGC Attock

The US Consulate Lahore is looking forward to deepening and expanding these relationships in the coming years. Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza said that we welcome William Makaneole

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Consul General of the American Embassy in Lahore William Makaneole visited the Government Post Graduate College. Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza and Principal Government Post Graduate College Professor Majid Bhatti welcomed the distinguished guest. Chief Guest Consul General William Makaneole said that Pakistan has been and continues to be a valued partner of America. Our governments have partnered on many issues and our people-to-people ties are strong. The United States has a broad, deep, and long-term partnership with the people of Punjab province in the fields of education, economics, health, law, and beyond. The US Consulate Lahore is looking forward to deepening and expanding these relationships in the coming years. Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza said that we

welcome William Makaneole. The visit of the US Consul General will further expand the diplomatic, commercial, mutual and cultural relations between the two countries. Culture plays an important role in the mutual relations of countries. Culture includes a country's formation, history, language, customs, music, arts, literature, architecture, food, clothing and other cultural factors. This cultural duality separates one country from another because of individuality, distinction and differentiation, he added. The US Consul General visited various departments of the college on the arrival at Government post graduate college Attock. The Principal, Post Graduate College, Attock gave a briefing and highlighted the long history of the college. Prof. Majid Bhatti said that the region is rich in terms of Potohar culture. Different nations have ruled in this region in different eras, Potohar is the name of the overall culture of different nations. Punjab Arts Council set up stalls of artisans from all over the province like Paper mache, truck art, stone carving, doll making, beadwork on the occasion of the visit of the American Consul General. Assistant Director Punjab Arts Council Muhammad Sulaiman gave a briefing to the chief guest Consul General William Mika Naval regarding the handicrafts of Punjab and also introduced all the artisans to the chief guest. The folk dance party gave a special performance on the arrival of the chief guest. During the musical performance, William Micah Neville was delighted by the performance of Sunny Prince's. The violin, guitar and desk performances were also well received by the audience.

## Serena Hotels, PDF celebrates Silver Jubilee

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels with The Pakistan Disabled Foundation celebrated the silver jubilee of the organisation, which has been instrumental in enabling the disabled communities in Pakistan by ensuring that they know their rights and privileges and become a source of achievement towards the said philosophy and put into practice, it is the first and foremost responsibility of those disabled, themselves to get the disabled community fully acquainted with the training, education, and socialization to plead and protect their rights, privileges, facilities, and securities with full of command and confidence in themselves. The opening sessions commenced on the fifth of July, hosted in the Islamabad Serena Hotel. The Chairman of the Pakistan Disabled Foundation, Mr. Shahid Ahmed Memon, welcomed the guests with a speech on the achievements and milestones of the foundation. Mr. Hassan Murchie, a fellow advocating for People with Disabilities from South Africa, further expanded upon the importance of such initiatives. Shields were gifted after the session finished for the special guests. The first business session started at 3:30 and was presided upon by Dr. Habib Bulhari, a second business session with the media was held at 5:00, followed by a HiTea for the participants.—DNA

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### JULY

- July 01/Japan  
Self Defence Day
- July 01/Singapore  
Armed Forces Day
- July 01 / Canada  
National Day
- July 01/Somalia  
Independence Day
- July 04/USA  
Independence Day
- July 05/Algeria  
Independence Day
- July 09/Argentine  
Independence Day
- July 09/Mongolia  
Revolution Day
- July 14/France  
National Day
- July 15/Brunei  
Sultan's Birthday
- July 21/Belgium  
National Day
- July 20/TRNC  
Independence Day
- July 23/Egypt  
National Day
- July 26/Cuba  
National Day
- July 26/Liberia  
National Day
- July 30/Morocco  
National Day

### Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

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



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



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Mehmet PAÇACI, President Supreme Court Bar Association Abid Zuberi, TİKA Islamabad coordinator Mr. Muhsin BALCI participated in the inauguration ceremony of Upgradation of Supreme Court Bar Room. Mr Zuberi: "It's pleasure to inaugurate the upgradation of Bar Room at Supreme Court Bar Association along with Turkiye Ambassador to Pakistan H.E Mehmet PAÇACI. —DNA

## For economic recovery direct flights need of hour: ICCI

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan is lagging far behind the world in the race of development, which is mainly due to the lack of connectivity at the regional and international level. Pakistan needs to be connected to the region through rail, road and direct air links. PIA has failed to connect Pakistan to the world, the government should announce a fast-track privatization program without wasting more money and capital. Despite its effective

presence in various regional and international blocs, Pakistan has not yet been able to benefit at the commercial level. Work is required on an emergency basis to start direct flights.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, he said that Pakistan has lagged far behind in the race of development at which the world is moving forward. In today's world, no country can develop alone, but now interests can be protected through blocks and regions and this is the main source of economic development. Regions like the European Union and ASEAN are great examples in this regard. These regions have accelerated



economic growth by improving connectivity through rail, direct air links and roads. He said that Pakistan is an important member of several regional and international groups including SAARC,

D-8, ECO, SCO, and OIC. Due to the lack of railway, road and direct air links of Pakistan with all these countries, despite political activity, Pakistan has not been able to benefit from these groups at the commercial level. He said that in order to advance the current debt-ridden economy of Pakistan, the series of direct flights with different countries of the world should be carried forward rapidly. Recently, Ethiopia has started a series of direct flights. Similarly, Kazakhstan, an important country in Central Asia, is also starting direct flights from July 8. This is important news for Pakistan's regional connec-

tivity. He has suggested that Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique along with Islamabad Chamber organize an international conference regarding direct flights in which all the major public and private airlines of the world are invited. He said that many countries of the world are interested in starting direct flights with Pakistan, the government should provide them facilities and a fast track process should be launched in this regard. He said that national airlines of different countries around the world are the most important source of connectivity but PIA has isolated Pakistan from the world.

## PTA develops user friendly complaint management system

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: In order to address formidable challenges in this era of social and digital media regarding the uploading of unlawful online content, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has developed a user friendly Complaint Management System (CMS), accessible at its website as well as through mobile app. The CMS is available through the web link: <http://complaint.pta.gov.pk/RegisterComplaint.aspx> and can be downloaded at Play Store and Appstore. According to an article written by a senior official of PTA, Muhammad Farooq, "Raising public awareness about the complaint registering mechanism provided by social media platforms,

as well as the mechanism provided by PTA, will facilitate the lodging of complaints concerning unlawful online content". The article titled "The Role of Timely Reporting Unlawful Online Content" elaborates that any aggrieved person can lodge the complaint to PTA by selecting a relevant category such as Anti-State, Sectarian, etc while incomplete or wrong information may cause rejection of the complaint or delay in processing complaint. For public guidance, a video "How to Report Unlawful Online Content" has been uploaded on PTA's official Youtube channel (@ptaofficialpk).

Social media strive to ensure a safe platform for users through self-regulation, which involves the issuance of community

guidelines and standards. It is essential for the public to familiarize themselves with these community standards/guidelines of these platforms. These guidelines provide a framework of rules aimed at creating a safe environment for users to interact and share information. They also include advice on illegal and prohibited actions that may result in the permanent suspension of user accounts. Timely reporting of unlawful content that goes against the community guidelines/standards is crucial for its early removal and the permanent banning of repeat offenders. Social Media (SM) platforms actively encourage users to approach them directly to seek missing or additional information needed for the timely resolution of issues.

PTA has provided a list of URLs for major SM platforms where complaints can be lodged that is accessible at ([http://www.pta.gov.pk/assets/media/sm\\_platforms\\_09032020.pdf](http://www.pta.gov.pk/assets/media/sm_platforms_09032020.pdf)). Additionally, WhatsApp, known for its end-to-end encryption, encourages its users to report unlawful content within the app itself. Users can do so by long-pressing the unlawful message and selecting the 'report' option. Awareness of unlawful online content and its reporting to SM platforms/PTA will ensure safe, responsible and secure use of cyberspace, the article said. In the past, broadcasters/telecasters held complete control over the content to be broadcasted or telecasted, ensuring the avoidance of inappropriate or unlawful programs.

## Services' trade deficit narrows by 88 %

On the other hand, the imports witnessed a sharp decline of 31 percent falling from \$80.136 billion last year to \$55.291 billion during the fiscal year 2022-23

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The services' trade deficit shrank by 88.26 percent during the first eleven months of the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has reported. The services trade deficit was recorded at \$607.67 million during July-May (2022-23) against the deficit of \$5,175.24 million during July-May (2021-22). The exports of services during the period increased by 3.38 percent by going up from \$6,438.33 million in 2021-22 to \$6,655.82 million in the first eleven months of FY2022-23, according to PBS data. On

the other hand, the imports declined from \$11,613.57 million to \$7,263.49 million in FY2023, showing negative growth of 37.46 percent. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the export of services increased by 19.77 percent by growing from 515.14 million in May 2022 to \$ 616.96 million in May 2023. However, services imports into the country decreased by 11.84 percent, from \$977.85 million to \$862.11 million. On month-on-month basis, the export of services increased by 19.78 percent in May 2023 when compared to the imports of 515.08 million in April 2023. The imports of services also grew by 31.60 percent in May 2023 compared to imports of \$655.10 million in April 2023, PBS

reported. It is pertinent to mention here that the merchandise trade deficit a decline of 43.03 percent during the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the previous year (2021-22). The trade deficit during July-June (2022-23) was recorded at \$27.547 billion against the deficit of \$48.354 billion in July-June (2021-22), a decline of 43.03 percent. The exports during the period were recorded at \$27.744 billion against \$31.782 billion last year, showing a decline of 12.71 percent. On the other hand, the imports witnessed a sharp decline of 31 percent falling from \$80.136 billion last year to \$55.291 billion during the fiscal year 2022-23.

## Medium to high level flood likely

ISLAMABAD: The FFC has said that medium to high level flooding is expected in the Nullah's of Rivers Chenab and Ravi. According to the daily FFC report on Wednesday, flash flooding is expected in the Hill Torrents of D.G Khan Division and local Nullahs of Northern Balochistan including small rivers in Bannu, Kohat and D.I Khan Divisions during July 5-7. Currently, all major rivers of Indus River System (IRS) are flowing normally. The combined live storage of the country's three major reservoirs (Tarbela, Mangla & Chashma) is 7.38 MAF which is 54.90 % of 13.443 MAF (total existing Live Storage Capacity). As per Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) Lahore, yesterday's deep trough of the Westerly Wave continues to prevail over Northeastern Afghanistan and adjoining areas.—APP

## NEPRA concludes public hearing into FCA for XWAPDA DISCOs

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Wednesday concluded a public hearing into XWAPDA power distribution companies (DISCOs) in monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for May. The hearing was presided by the NEPRA Authority comprising of Chairman NEPRA, Tauseef H. Farooqi, Member (Technical), Engr. Rafique Ahmad Shaikh, Member (Licensing), Engr. Maqsood Anwar Khan, Member (Technical & Finance), Mather Niaz Rana and Member (Law), Ms. Amina Ahmed. Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) has requested an increase of Rs. 2.05/kWh in the tariff on account of the monthly Fuel Price Adjustment pertaining to May 2023 for XWDISCOs. However, the net FCA for the month of May 2023 as per NEPRA's preliminary calculation is Rs 1.90/k Wh (an impact of Rs. 22.6 billion approx.) The Authority heard the petitioner and would decide the matter after due diligence and considering the comments of all stakeholders.—DNA

TENDER NOTICE						
Sealed tenders based on item rates/percentage above or below approved estimate/ (DNIT) amount are hereby invited, for the works mentioned below from the contractors/firms enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for the financial year 2023-24 in the relevant Category in accordance with PPPA Rules 2021 (with upto date amendments)						
1. Tender documents can be obtained from the date of publication of invitation of bids in the newspaper from any of the below mentioned offices, upon written request:-						
i) Chief Engineer, Punjab Buildings Department North Zone Lahore.						
ii) Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Rawalpindi.						
iii) Superintendent Engineer, Buildings Division No.1, Rawalpindi.						
iv) Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi.						
v) Executive Engineer, Buildings Division No.1, Rawalpindi.						
vi) Assistant Commissioner, Rawalpindi.						
2. The applications for purchase of tender shall be on the letter head of company with a copy of valid CNIC of the contractor or authorized representative of the firm with authority letter must be accompanied with the following documents (mandatory requirements):-						
3. Tendered rates and amounts should be filled in figures as well as in words and tenders should be signed as per general directions given in the tender document. No rebate on tendered rates will be acceptable.						
4. Tenders will be received in the offices of Chief Engineer, Punjab Buildings Department North Zone Lahore and Commissioner, Division Rawalpindi and will be opened simultaneously on fixed date and time by the respective tenders Opening Committee at the above venues in the presence of intending contractors or their representatives and who opt to be present.						
5. Conditional tenders and tenders not accompanied with earnest money @, 2% of the estimated cost in shape of CD/R/Bank Draft / Cashier's Cheque of any Schedule Bank and attested copies of registered partnership deed and power of attorney in case of firms will not be entertained.						
6. No tender will be issued in shape of open CD/R/Payment orders with previous/old date of issue on account of tender fee/earnest money.						
(1) The procuring agency may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal.						
(2) Any redressal of grievance by the procuring agency the committee has been constituted vide Superintending Engineer, Buildings Circle No.1 Rawalpindi office order No.123/G, dated.02.12.2019 under chapter-X Sr. No.67 of PPPA.						
Sr.#	Name of work.	Estimated Cost / Earnest Money in Million.	T.S No. & Date.	Tender Fee.	Last date for submission of applications & purchase of tenders.	Date and time for receipt / opening of tenders.
1	Prisoners Welfare Program one at Central Jail, Rawalpindi (Women Jail) ADP No. 3715 for the year 2022-23	187,237 3,745	CE No.941/D dt:23.6.2023	Rs2000/-	21.07.2023	24.07.2023 11:00 / 11.30 AM
Name: Syed Imran Raza Zaidi			Name: Dr. Muhammad Khalid Hafiz			
Designation: Executive Engineer			Designation: Superintending Engineer			
Department: Buildings Division No.1,			Department: Buildings Circle No.1,			
House / Street P.O: Mehrabad Main Peshawar			House / Street P.O: Mehrabad Main Peshawar			
Cantonment area: Rawalpindi Cantt			Cantonment: Rawalpindi Cantt			
City Name with Dist. & Teh: Rawalpindi			City Name with Dist: Rawalpindi			
Phone / Fax: 51-9334188/Fax 051-9334008			Phone / Fax: 051-9334587 / Fax:051-9334542			
 Executive Engineer Buildings Division No.1 Rawalpindi			 Superintending Engineer Buildings Circle No.1, Rawalpindi			
IPL 5222						

## Pakistan needs to adopt a culture of savings

### DNA

(ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the previous government's efforts to develop the economy resulted in a payment crisis and this will happen again in the future. Our growth depends entirely on imports rather than exports, always leading to an unsustainable current account deficit, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that it is necessary to foster a culture of exports and savings in the country to ensure development without current account deficit. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that GDP growth on a sustainable basis is impossible until the current savings rate is doubled. The savings rate in Congo is 61.4 percent, in Singapore it is 53.8 percent, in the United Arab Emirates the savings rate is 47.8 percent, in China it is almost 44.9 percent and in India and Bangladesh it is between 30 and 31 percent, he informed. However, in Pakistan this rate is only twelve percent which is rapidly decreasing due to current inflation and unemployment, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that in 2007-2008, the growth rate was 4.4 percent while the current account deficit was fourteen billion dollars. In 2010-2011, the current account was moved to a modest surplus by reducing imports, bringing the growth rate down to 3.2 percent. In 2012-13 too, the growth rate was reduced to 3.9% to bring the current account under control. The situation was somewhat better from 2013 to 2018.—DNA

## Briefs

## Sharmila for introducing reforms in taxation system

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party's Sindh MPA, Sharmila Farooqui Wednesday called for bringing big fishes into the tax net and for introducing reforms in the taxation system to achieve durable economic progress. "Pakistan's survival is linked to tax collection as no nation that relies on loans can maintain its pride," she said while talking to PTV news channel. She appreciated that the PDM-led government was making hectic efforts to revive the economy, adding, the signing of a staff-level agreement with IMF was a great success of government policy and measures. She said political stability and the end of polarization in the country were the need of hour, adding, Pakistan had to take some tough economic decisions to comply with the conditions of IMF, but the programme was necessary for Pakistan's economy and growth. Under the IMF programme, the record stock exchange, decrease rate of the dollar and down gold rates were witnessed in the market which bring further financial discipline to the economy. Sharmila Farooqui said that the IMF programme would now open financing of multilateral financial institutions as well as from bilateral creditors.—APP

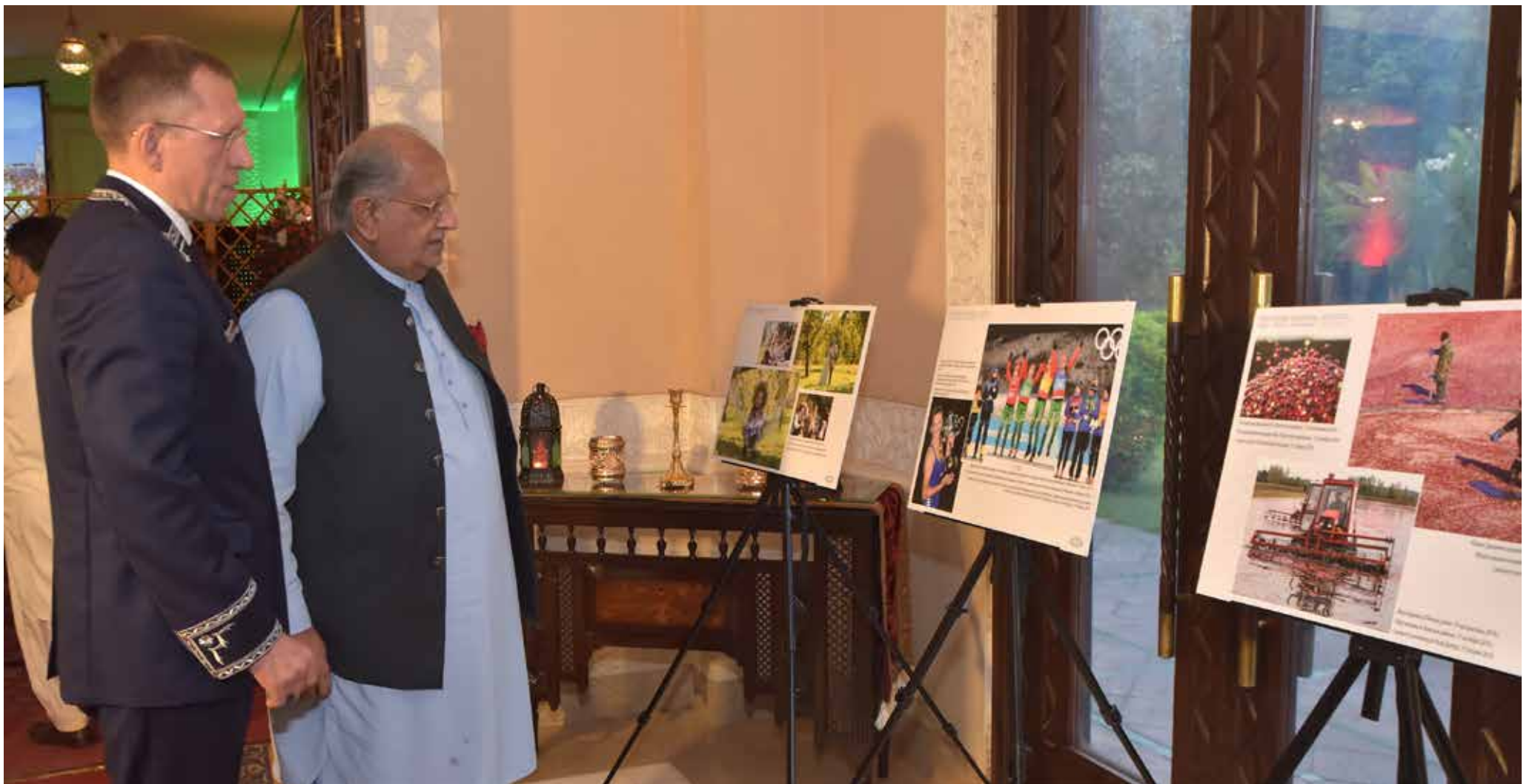
## PDM-led govt striving hard to stabilize economy

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Prime Minister of Commerce and Industries Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan Wednesday said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led government with its fruitful policies was striving hard to stabilize the economy and leaving a responsible platform for the next government. Talking to PTV news channel, he said that under the IMF agreement, the overall uncertainty was covered after a successful IMF agreement, adding, the government had to take unpopular and strict decisions, but these were necessary to save the country from the risk of default. He further mentioned that it was very important for Pakistan to get the IMF programme as it would help achieve financial discipline and keep the country afloat. Replying to a question, he said the Pakistani rupee also experiencing a significant gain against the US dollar in the interbank market, adding, the first IMF installment of \$1.1 billion from IMF would be received in July. We would also receive \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia and \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) later this month. The country's current account deficit and the core inflation would also go down by the end soon, he highlighted.—APP

## Chinese company to establish state-of-the-art dairy farm

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As agriculture and livestock will remain among the targeted sectors during the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Royal Group of China intends to establish a state-of-the-art dairy farm in Punjab. In this regard, a meeting between officials of Royal Group of China and Livestock and Dairy Department Punjab was held here on Tuesday, according to Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT)'s statement. The Secretary Livestock presided over the meeting aimed at establishing a cutting-edge dairy farm consisting of 500 animals in collaboration with Royal Group, reads the PBIT's statement, adding that the Livestock and Dairy Development Department expressed its full support in facilitating the export of dairy products in compliance with international standards. PBIT pledged to assist Royal Group in finding local partners for joint ventures.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Riaz Hussain Pirzada witnessing photo exhibition on the occasion of the Independence Day of Belarus.—DNA

## President enhances fines upon sexual harassers

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: After the charges of blackmailing and sexually harassing a female employee at MEPCO were proven, President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the penalty of "dismissal from service" imposed upon Mr Sohail Afzal, Assistant Director, besides enhancing the amount of the fine from Rs 500,000 to Rs 1 million. He also upheld the penalty of "reduction to lower post" imposed upon Mian Sohail Afzal, Director (Admin), for three years and increased the fine from Rs 1 million to Rs 1.1 million to be paid as compensation to the victim. He also upheld the exoneration of Mr Sohail Abbas, Deputy Director, and Mr Jamshed Ahmed Niazi, Director, as no cogent evidence or substance was available against them to prove them guilty of the charge beyond any shadow of a doubt. The President gave these orders while rejecting two representations filed separately by Mr Khizer Hayat and Mian

Sohail Afzal against the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAAH) imposing fines and major penalties upon the two officers. A female Commercial Assistant at Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) had filed a complaint before FOSPAAH against four employees stating that they hacked her mobile data, made sexual demands, got published false news items against her, and demanded Rs 500,000 from her to stop the series of news from its further publication. In his decision, the President stated that a good message had to be sent to society that we would ensure the protection of women against harassment so that our women feel safe in the working environment of the country and our families were confident that if women get harassed, the law of the land would take strong action. "When Islam came, it lifted women out from exploitation, live burials, and denial of property rights and granted unbelievable gender

parity. Such acts of harassment reflect poorly upon our country, which is an Islamic Republic", he said. He emphasised that a strong message should go out to the people of Pakistan that their daughters, sisters, and mothers would be protected in society from harassment so that they could participate in public spaces and in their work without fear, adding that measures should be taken to uphold our religious values and international norms. The President rejected the stance of one of the accused that the case against him was the result of any conspiracy, concoction or fabrication. "It is a matter of common sense and even a man of prudent mind cannot think lady can



ruin her modesty and dignity herself by making false complaints of sexual harassment just to defame a person or colleague", he said. He added that the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010 had been promulgated for the safety of women who feel insecure at the workplace and to teach a lesson to the transgressors for their acts of harassment or abuse of their financial position. The President remarked that such acts of sexual harassment were required to be condemned and discouraged, especially in organizations like MEPCO. "If MEPCO management cannot assure a female employee a safe and secure workplace, she will fear stepping out of her home to make a dignified living", he said. He observed that being a victim of such a deplorable act of hacking of mobile data, not only dented the self-esteem of a female employee, but it also usually took a toll on her emotional, mental and physical health. He further said that it not only created an insecure and

hostile working environment for women but also impeded their ability to deliver in today's competing world and lift their families out of poverty. The President concluded that hacking/stealing of mobile data of a female employee was not an ordinary but rather a severe offence and it was a well-settled principle of law that punishment should be commensurate with the severity of the offence. He noted that it stood established that Mr Khizer Hayat, at the instigation of Mian Sohail Afzal, hacked the mobile data of the woman complainant. He said that the Act provides that "a single incident having the effect of making a person uncomfortable or creating a sense of fear or panic at the workplace is also harassment", therefore, keeping in view the severity of the offence, the fines of Rs 500,000 and Rs 1 million imposed by FOSPAAH upon Mr Khizer and Mian Sohail respectively were enhanced to Rs 1 million and Rs 1.1 million.

## Five drug peddlers netted

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up five accused on recovery of over 7 kg charras. According to a police spokesman, Rawat police held Shoukat with 2430 grams charras and Kalar Syedan police rounded up Adnan Dawood on recovery of 1300 grams charras. Rataamral police nabbed Badri Khan for carrying 1300 grams charras and Fazal ur Rehman with 1100 grams charras. Waris Khan police arrested Muhammad Aslam for having 1250 grams charras. Separate cases have been registered against all accused while further investigations are underway. City Police Officer, Rawalpindi had directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other law-breakers, he added.

## FAO to bridge technological divide in Rural Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Government of Punjab, launched a Digital Village Initiative (DVI) pilot site, in a ceremony organized at the Food Security & Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE) in Rahim Yar Khan. Two sites: one in Rahim Yar Khan and another in Sargodha, were launched after a detailed assessment conducted in 7 districts of Punjab and Sindh with the support of the provincial governments of both provinces. Government officials, community leaders, researchers, male and female farmers, the private sector, and other key stakeholders were present at the launching event. This pilot launch is the FAO's global initiative under the 1000 Digital Village Initiative in Asia and the Pacific to bridge the technological divide and empower rural communities with access to digital resources, education, and opportunities.

During the ceremony, female lead farmers from the pilot site villages also received 10 tablets to use the agriculture-related applications on which they were already trained by FAO. A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Hyper Localized Weather Station pilot site was also organized along with a briefing on the digital monitoring and forecasting function of the weather station. The stations were installed on both pilot sites along with the provision of necessary equipment installed at training halls of both sites for virtual training of farmers. The stations will provide customised weather advisory, forecast pest & disease models and other information to farmers of 10 kilometres range from its vicinity. Both weather station facilities are also equipped to arrange online trainings for farmers on the latest innovations in agriculture. Male and female farmers of selected pilot sites received training

on different features of the weather station. Through these stations, farmers will be able to get customized and specific information to their farmland, accurate data and information which will help them in reducing costs related to inputs and taking measures for crop protection. The data will also help Punjab Agriculture Extension 2.0 Project, Water Management Department and Start-Up companies to offer customized, farm-specific services to farmers. Booths were also set up at the launching ceremony by the digital service provider, which served as an avenue to connect the farmers with services available to them. Through the deployment of robust internet infrastructure and the provision of tablets and technological resources, the DVI seeks to empower individuals with access to a wealth of information, e-learning platforms, and digital services.

## 3 bike lifters arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police arrested three bike lifters, members of 'Basit' gang besides recovering four stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. According to a police

spokesman, a team under the supervision of SHO, Cantt Police Station managed to net three bike lifters namely Basit, ring-leader, Zeeshan and Hanzala and recovered four stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against

the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Potohar said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars. He said that the operations against the law-breakers would be accelerated further.—APP

## 'Excessive intake of meat can cause digestive system disorder'

ISLAMABAD: Health expert on Wednesday strictly warned that the public should avoid the excessive intake of storage frozen red meat after Eid-ul-Azha which is leading to gastric irritation, high cholesterol, acidity, abdominal contraction, nausea, diarrhea, heart problems, and constipation problems. Red meat should not be stored in refrigerators for more than one week, advised a renowned specialist Dr Masood Sheikh while talking to a Private news channel. The doctor emphasized the importance of mindful eating and the need to maintain good health to avoid common digestive issues that are reported during and post-Eid holidays. He mentioned that after the Eid a number of cases of gastroenteritis were being reported at various hospitals of Punjab, adding, the emergency wards of the city's major hospitals are witnessing an increased number of gastroenteritis patients. He said that after Eid-ul-Azha most people habitually consume a lot of meat, even for breakfast, which becomes difficult to digest, adding, having BBQ for consecutive days is not good for the stomach.—APP

## PM pays tributes to Capt Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tributes to Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Nishan-i-Haider on his 24th martyrdom day. He said the nation salutes to all the martyrs including Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed. The prime minister said Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed was such a brave son of Pakistan whose courage, valour and bravery were confessed by the enemy itself. Captain Karnal Sher Khan turned into a lion like his name and pounced on the enemy chasing it away from the borders of the motherland, he said in a statement issued by the PM office.—APP

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## Israel's violent attacks on Jenin

ISRAEL has portrayed its strikes on the Jenin refugee camp – the biggest military operation in the occupied West Bank for two decades – as a limited intervention lasting just a few days. This is scant comfort for the thousands fleeing violence, including families making their escape as homes and infrastructure were destroyed. The Palestinian health ministry said on Tuesday that at least 11 people had been killed, and 100 injured. Whenever the troops leave, the idea of a short-lived offensive is also misleading. The intent is a show of force in retaliation for renewed attacks on settlers, and unexpectedly strong resistance to a previous raid. Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, said it was an attack on a "safe haven for terrorists" and "people who would annihilate our country". But this is only the latest and most intense of multiple raids on Jenin, one of which killed the renowned journalist Shireen Abu Akleh last year. And it will only fuel the surge of violence. On Tuesday a Palestinian resident of the West Bank injured at least nine people in Tel Aviv in a truck and knife attack; he was shot dead. This is not yet a third intifada – even if the scenes in Jenin are remarkably reminiscent of the second. But the violence is spiralling. Last year was the West Bank's deadliest since the UN began documenting fatalities in 2005. At least 150 Palestinians – including 33 children – were killed by Israeli forces and at least two by settlers. Ten Israelis, including five settlers, were killed by Palestinians. Yet those figures have been surpassed in the first half of this year. The residents of Jenin's refugee camp are the children and grandchildren of those who lost their lands to the new state of Israel in 1948. A peace process appears increasingly distant, never mind the destination of their own state. Meanwhile, Israel's government of extremists is essentially annexing the West Bank by civilianising the occupation, and is expediting approval for thousands of new settlement homes. Mr Netanyahu enabled far-right politicians; now, still facing corruption charges and struggling to push through the undemocratic assault on the judiciary, he seeks to appease extremist coalition mates. When a settler group rampaged through Huwara in revenge for a Palestinian gun attack, torching homes and cars in what an Israeli general called a "pogrom", Bezalel Smotrich, the finance minister who also oversees settler life in the West Bank, said the village should be "wiped out". Settler violence has increased dramatically. All this is happening amid international indifference. While the UN humanitarian office expressed concern at the scale of the operation, including airstrikes on an area densely populated with civilians, the US merely said that it supported Israel's security and right to defend its people. With so little effort to halt the escalation, the forces unleashed under Mr Netanyahu threaten to burn beyond control, with consequences felt for months or years, not days.

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## Unity and cooperation keys for Eurasia

EVOLUTION is defined as a process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex or better form. Driven by natural selection, those organisms that are different from the norm and are able to survive an environmental change become the new normal. The evolution of the international order follows a similar trajectory with "environmental changes" producing a new normal. Such is the process underway today with the rise of developing countries. Environmental changes are by their nature volatile and the one currently underway in the postwar system is no exception. In the increasingly turbulent world, fraught with uncertainties, frictions and confrontations, the global governance and trust deficits have become ever more prominent. And these deficits have become even more acute with the United States remapping its divisive Cold War strategies on the world in an attempt to put the brakes on the coalescing of a multipolar world in place of its hegemony. It was in light of this, while addressing the India-hosted 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO via video link on Tuesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping called on the member states to focus on pragmatic cooperation to speed up economic recovery and to formulate foreign policies independently. He also urged the SCO countries to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning, and foster closer people-to-people ties. Formed to promote economic cooperation and facilitate coordination on security matters in Central Asia, the SCO's successes in these endeavors over the years have seen it thrive and evolve into a beacon for development and stability on the Eurasian continent. Its success has propelled its continuing enlargement. The growing number of members, Iran being the latest, and an expanding "family" of observer states and dialogue partners are testimony to the attractiveness of the Shanghai Spirit that the SCO upholds, which emphasizes mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diverse civilizations and pursuit of common development. With the SCO assuming ever greater importance as an anchor of stability in these troubled times, Xi's call for it to consolidate its role as a bastion of unity and collaboration, inclusivity and shared benefits is recognition that the world needs signs of certainty and stability, and demonstrations of trust more than ever as it undergoes the difficult transformation into a community with a shared future. Iran joining the organization as a full member is a meaningful development in this regard, as it is an indication of the SCO's growing interaction with the Middle East, which is looking to move away from the Washington-induced convulsions in pursuit of peace and development. It is also a sign of the SCO's growing significance.

## 10 Wonderful Achievements of CPEC in 10 Years

Irfan Shahzad Takalvi



Yet, CPEC has not been without its own share of challenges including security threats as well as persistent negative propaganda – maneuvered, without an iota of doubt, by the enemies of Pak-China partnership. It is a matter of satisfaction to note that two countries are successfully dealing with and have by and large overcome these challenges. As Pakistan and China look forward towards an even stronger bond in years and decades to come

THIS is the year completing a full decade of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – the 'flagship' and of the most comprehensively moving forward component of BRI, is also completing a decade of its inception on July 5, 2023. Beijing and Islamabad (Karachi, before 1960s) have had a close and mutually beneficial partnership throughout the past over seven decades of their diplomatic relations. Nonetheless, the advent of CPEC in 2013 ushered the bilateral ties into a whole new paradigm. The first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Long-Term Plan for the Corridor was signed on July 5, 2013. Work on CPEC was jump-started during the visit of Chinese president Xi Jinping to Pakistan in April 2015. CPEC, while maintaining the strategic and diplomatic closeness between the two sides, added an unprecedented scale and scope of economic, commercial, investment bonds and people-to-people exchanges. CPEC, during the past 10 years of its initiation and implementation, has seen its first phase being completed successfully and now the second phase is well underway – thus CPEC is arguably becoming one of the most significant, and watched, components of China's mega global Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Out of the total more than \$ 60 billion envisaged under CPEC Long-Term Plan, roughly a half, just below \$ 30 billion of Chinese investment has already been made in Pakistan. This has resulted in Pakistan's electricity generation capacity increasing significantly; adding some 10,000-12000 Mega Watts into Pakistan's national grid. The issue of power shortage in Pakistan has been resolved to a large extent – particularly so for all-important export-oriented manufacturing sector. (The power outages that Pakistan sees now are rooted more in financial issues and not because of lack of capacity to generate electricity.) Besides, CPEC has also improved Pakistan's road communication infrastructure in a big way. New highways and motorways have been built and are being built throughout the country's length and breadth. These include Karachi-Lahore Motorway also connecting Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur and Hyderabad; Up-gradation of Karakoram Highway; Zhob-Kuchlak road, Eastbay Expressway and others. Moreover, the Gwadar deep-sea port is now functional, increasingly handling cargo ships.

Related infrastructure at Gwadar including the new international airport are also up and coming. Up-gradation of Pakistan railway's ML-1 (Main Line 1, Peshawar to Karachi) is agreed upon. Therefore, the pre-requisites for Pakistan economy to move towards industrialization and export-driven growth have been provided. Now, in the second phase of implementation of CPEC, Pakistan and China are moving ahead with industrial cooperation, agriculture, and social sector projects. 9 Special Economic Zones (SEZ) have been identified and work on some of those is moving quite fast, in addition to Gwadar Free Economic Zone. Chinese companies are registering in sizeable numbers to start their production facilities in these SEZs. In Gwadar economic zone alone, close to 50 Chinese companies have registered already and some 200 more are in the pipeline. In the second phase of CPEC, China is providing a grant of \$ 1 billion for Pakistan's social sector development. People-to-people contacts have also seen a big boost; more than 30,000 Pakistani students are studying in Chinese institutions and a sizeable number of Chinese are living and working in Pakistan, as well. Yet, CPEC has not been without its own share of challenges including security threats as well as persistent negative propaganda – maneuvered, without an iota of doubt, by the enemies of Pak-China partnership. It is a matter of satisfaction to note that the two countries are successfully dealing with and have by and large overcome these challenges. As Pakistan and China look forward towards an even stronger bond in the years and decades to come; CPEC has already laid the foundation for a broad-based and stronger mutual partnership. The Corridor, in coming years and decades, would undoubtedly be shaping the future of Pak-China ties in more ways than one. The following 10 positive outcomes are particularly worth mentioning:

1. Overall strategic significance of Pakistan at regional and global level has been manifested and enhanced in many ways; the myth of Pakistan being 'isolated' and 'failing' has been shattered;
2. CPEC has put Pakistan back on global map of key recipients of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) – China leads the scene, but also providing impetus for others to keep up;
3. Pakistan and China are now geared towards a close

industrial cooperation including transfer of Chinese industries and technologies to Pakistan – though a little slower than envisaged it means production in and export from Pakistan;

4. Mutual ties are becoming broad-based with inclusion of new areas of cooperation such as railways; water resources; technological; educational; health; social-sector assistance; agriculture; coastal development; urban uplift; media & cultural sectors etc;
5. Pakistan's communication infrastructure including roads, railways network, sea-ports and airports has got the upshot and would further be improved and up-graded;
6. The way is being paved for reduction in Pakistan's chronic trade deficit, with China as well as with the rest of the world because CPEC-backed industrialization, Pakistan's export capacity is set to increase;
7. Pakistan is becoming an important link within China-backed Global Supply Chains;
8. More avenues are opening up for people of the two countries to have wider exchanges for the purpose of business, education, as well as tourism
9. CPEC will also impact the entire region positively. Through CPEC, Pakistan and China are laying a solid and dependable foundation for broader regional connectivity and integration; Gwadar port in particular is assuming a key position for South-Western China, Central Asia and Afghanistan. Modalities for adding third parties into the CPEC umbrella are being worked out
10. CPEC, apart from initial 'route' controversies, has contributed positively towards national integration among Pakistan's federating units and territories

Overall, CPEC is opening exciting vistas for Pakistan and China to further cement their already explanatory relationship. One may hope that the leadership, institutions, functionaries and all concerned stakeholders of the two sides would continue to work together to make CPEC a resounding success – for a win-win relationship and for the journey towards a shared future. That indeed is needed for bilateral, regional and global objectives.

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## Discipline and self-accountability soul to armed forces

Waheed Hussain

The General told reporters that three officers have been removed from the service including a three-star Lieutenant General failing in performing their duties on 9 May violent protest, was a sheer example of the policy of discipline-reward and punishment. The story of taking action against those who showed negligence does not end here, it was informed that 15 other high-ranking officers, including three major generals and seven brigadiers were passing through a tough inquiry process, by two different committees, headed by two Major Generals. This shows the sensitivity of the matter.

DISCIPLINE and self-accountability are the soul to armed forces. It's the discipline which makes an army efficient, strong, powerful, and formidable. Many other state institutions have been suffering from poor performance, inefficiencies, internal disintegration, as they always compromised on discipline, merit and accountability. Reward and punishment were the yardstick to make the armed forces, the best functional institutions in the country. It has been a great debate that majority of civilian state institutions in the country have been bitterly damaged, affecting their efficiency-performance except the Armed Forces of Pakistan. The merit-based promotion policy coupled with reward and punishment criteria made the armed forces exclusive and dependable. Naturally, if the armed forces had not been following the tough policy of reward and punishment, then the morale and spirit to fight for the security and defense of the country would have been on the slide. The Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry held a comprehensive, thought-provoking news conference on Monday, 26 May, 2023, at Rawalpindi, mainly disclosing the details about a disciplinary action that had been taken against all those army officers who had demonstrated negligence to their assigned duties on the May 9 violent protests by the PTI leaders and workers as a result of the arrest of their chairman and former prime minister. Looking into the May 9 violent incidents throughout the country it reflects that there was a planning and strategy to target mainly the military installations. In this process, the violent protestors also attacked the monuments of the Shuhadas (martyrs) badly hurting the feeling of both the Shuhadas families and the entire nation. Shuhadas are the national heroes, who sacrificed their lives in defending the motherland. They are above all political vengeance and divide. Apart from action against the protestors, there have been a lot of speculations and rumors about action against senior commanders with reference to 9 May incidents. So, the articulated announcement made by the Army Spokesperson regarding strict action against those army officers who displayed negligence in performing their duties at various levels, addressed the questions being raised by both masses and the media. The General told reporters that three officers have been removed from the service including a three-star Lieutenant General failing in performing their duties on 9 May violent protest, was a sheer example of the policy of discipline-reward and punishment. The story of taking action against those who showed negligence does not end here, it was informed that 15 other high-ranking officers, including three major generals and seven brigadiers were passing through a tough inquiry process, by two different committees, headed by two Major Generals. This shows the sensitivity of the matter.

When the army books (rules, regulations, laws) say that army operates on the policy of discipline-reward and punishment, then what does it mean? It means merit, a tough process of selection and promotion to next grade/position. Reaching to a level of Lieutenant General was a very hard process of more than 35 years' service including going through number of courses and degrees achieved from prestigious war colleges-universities within and outside Pakistan. Total 18 officer went through the strict screening of the inquiry was a message to all those who were involved in that heinous crime that if the army can take action against its own senior most commanders, it would not spare the criminals, who violated law of the land. The General Sharif reiterated that it was a well-planned, preconceived conspiracy against army and state, involving people from other countries. He said all it was done for the political gain, to regain the power. Lot of voices have been raised on the issue of civilians' trial in the military courts. The Supreme Court of Pakistan was already hearing the petitions in this regard. The DG ISPR informed that 102 cases of accused have been taken up by the 17 different military courts throughout the country. "All those courts were already in operation; no new courts were established," he informed. Actually, those cases were referred by the Anti-Terrorist Courts' judges to the military courts. The parliament and the governments in past had allowed civilians trials in the military courts and this time again the government approved trials of the accused of May 9, in the Military Courts. The government senior ministers and military spokesperson have been clarifying that even if the Military Courts decide or pass an order against an accused, he or she enjoyed the legal right to appeal to Chief of Army Staff (COAS), High Courts and finally the Supreme Court of Pakistan. There had been lot of debate on the human rights violations during raids, arrests, investigation and court proceedings of the arrested by the law enforcement agencies, legal and judicial officers. The voices were being raised by few US Congress members, international human rights organizations after May 9. Replying to a question on the issue of human rights, the DG (ISPR) said that it was a fake propaganda by the anti-Pakistan elements who wants to defame the country and its armed forces. There should not be any doubt that Pakistan Army was the main target in this whole process. However, from human rights point of view, the government and its law enforcement agencies must be careful in performing their duties that the innocent should not be punished just because he or she were the follower or member of a particular political party. We had the history of political victimization by various governments of opposition's MNAs, MPs, Senators, party leadership and workers. Before signing the Charter of Democracy (COD) by the PML (N) and PPP in London, in 2006, both of them had been facing each other's political-

ly motivated cases. After 2018 elections, PTI followed the same crush opposition policy and launched severe crackdown against both PML (N) and PPP, arresting their top leadership by using the controversial National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) cases. Today you can see those who were either in jail or facing the money laundering-corruption charges, had been cleared by the two top agencies (NAB-FIA) followed by the courts. and they are ruling this government as Mr "Clean." Instead of focusing on the governance and economy, the former Prime Minister was guided by some exclusive political scientists to crush opposition. Such dirty political culture needs to end. Our politicians did not want to learn from their past, while, this cycle of crush opposition policy will continue to operate. Some people from the west are raising the question of human rights violation issue related to the May 9 violent protests. They need to be educated and told that what happened to those criminals who attacked the Capitol Hill (a building having Upper and Lower Houses of Congress, the House of Representative and the Senate in America) during the Donald Trump's presidency. According to details, 1000 people were charged and punished in Capitol Hill attack. The US administration and courts followed the law of the land so that next time no criminal dare to conceive such a satanic idea. There must be a distinction between criminals and peaceful citizens. Law abiding citizen do have all kind of rights ensured by the constitution of Pakistan, but the law breakers must be punished to create a harmony and peace in the society. Criminals could not be forgiven. They must not be forgiven. On the question of identifying the mastermind of May 9 violence, the DG (ISPR) seemed very careful. He did not give a news to the reporters, as they were expecting, but at the same time, he said that those were the mastermind who had been promoting anti-Pakistan Army narrative. There was a question on the closeness of the PDM government and army. We must understand that armed forces are part of the government. They have their constitutional role to play. The basic role of the Army is to guard the frontiers of the country. To secure the country from all internal and external threats. So, the army cannot operate in isolation. Institutional harmony was important for peace and security and smooth functioning of the country. Here the report-er question gave an impression that army was playing a political role to favor some XYZ political party. Former Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa in one of his addresses to the officers, soldiers and their families openly said that Army has become neutral and will not play any political role. It is important for all the state institutions to operate in their assigned role by the constitution of Pakistan. The problem begins when the individuals on the top positions try to intrude into others domain. We must learn from the past and should not repeat the same blunders.

## Briefs

## CPEC project transformed Pakistan: PM

FROM PAGE 01  
Shehbaz Sharif expressed confidence that CPEC would make a big kickstart in various areas including agriculture, Special Economic Zones, Information Technology, and exploration of mineral resources. He regretted that the previous government created misconceptions about the project which resulted in its slow implementation. The prime minister thanked President Xi and the Chinese government for supporting Pakistan, especially when it awaited the staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He hoped that the agreement would be given final approval during IMF Board meeting on July 12. Following the IMF deal, he said, Pakistan was secure after averting default and termed it an opportunity for the country to progress. "We need to work hard and save the poor people from inflation. Affluent need to play a role in this regard," he said. He pledged to fulfill the conditions of the IMF which were earlier violated by the previous government. He also acknowledged the financial support by China including the rollover of its loans and mentioned the backing by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Islamic Development Fund in helping Pakistan overcome its financial crisis. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue were also present.

## PM directs Punjab Govt for urgent...

FROM PAGE 01  
the wake of monsoon rains in other parts of the country, besides asking the NDMA and PDMAs to coordinate for necessary arrangements. He said all possible steps should be taken to relocate the people from villages to safe locations, besides saving their cattle. Similarly, he said all necessary measures should also be taken to prevent urban flooding. The prime minister also directed to mobilise the respective administrations of Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other hilly areas, besides instructing to keep the PM Office updated on all the measures taken.

## 'Decision' to disqualify Nawaz...

FROM PAGE 01  
The lawyer said: "The chain of events leads one to believe that his disqualification was pre-decided." "Maybe Nawaz believed that he was good at handling courts, but later, he realised that the issue was out of his hands," the PTI lawyer added. In a landmark decision on the Panama Papers case, the Supreme Court disqualified the three-time prime minister on July 28, 2017, for being "dishonest" under Article 62(1)(f) of the Constitution. The PML-N has repeatedly contended that Nawaz was unjustly disqualified.

## Pak, US discuss ways to...

FROM PAGE 01  
The finance minister appreciated the deep-rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United States on economic and trade fronts. He updated the Ambassador about successfully reaching the staff-level agreement with IMF and communicated about the economic policies and priorities of the government in order to set the economy on the path from stability to growth. Dar appreciated the support and cooperation of the US and reiterated the desire of the government to further deepen bilateral economic and trade ties with the US. On the occasion, Donald Blome expressed confidence in the policies and programmes of the government for bringing economic sustainability to the country.

## Shaza inaugurates PM Federal Hockey League in Islamabad



AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that government are trying to provide all possible facilities to young players to promote healthy activities among the youth. She was speaking in the opening ceremony of Federal Hockey Provincial League at Naseer Bunda

Hockey Stadium, Islamabad as five teams from Islamabad, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Skardu and Gilgit are participating in the league. While addressing the participating players Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that if youth of Pakistan progress, so is the country, adding that the country will be brought out of the economic turmoil in the same way as in 2013, when we took hold of the Government, Pakistan was surrounded

by problems like terrorism and load shedding and till 2018, Pakistan was on the track of progress and development. She said that hockey talent hunt was conducted at 25 different locations in every province of the country, adding that the primary purpose of the talent hunt was to attract young girls and boys of age 15-25 years to play hockey and through this project, 11,000 girls and boys showed their interest in

hockey sports and appeared for the trials. She said that talented players will participate in the upcoming national hockey league in August this year. She further said that in 2013, the former prime minister launched the Youth Programme, which has completed 10 years. The youth programme aims to attract youth towards education and sports, she informed. Talking to the players, she said that in the last few years, our mor-

al values among the youth have been damaged and tarnished. "Differences should be expressed in a civilized manner, not being arrogant", she opined. "The young players involved in the talent hunt will soon join the national hockey team", she hoped. The Special Assistant said we have completed Talent Hunt Programmes in volleyball, wrestling, and weightlifting, while trials in football are continuing.

## Rescue operation for Pakistani climber delayed

ISLAMABAD: The rescue operation of stranded Pakistani mountaineer Asif Bhatti, who is also a university professor, has been delayed due to rockfall at Nanga Parbat on Wednesday. Bhatti, who is suffering from snow blindness, made his way to camp three yesterday after getting stuck on camp four on Monday. He is descending with the help of Israfil, a climber from Azerbaijan. Climbers Shah Daulat and Mohammad Yonus are the volunteers who are part of the rescue team looking to bring Bhatti to safety. "The two volunteer climbers who went for upper slopes of NP [Nanga Parbat] last night couldn't go any further from C1 due to rockfall which started on the mountain last night," the Karakoram Club tweeted from their official account on Wednesday. "The weather seems to be getting worse and Heli [helicopter] rescue is the only hope unless a miracle happens and climbers are able to come down on their own. Prayers for everyone on the mountain and the basecamp," it added. Meanwhile, Asif Khoja, Social Media Incharge and point of contact for Bhatti, has stated that "Dr Bhatti's health is deteriorating and helicopter sling operation seems the only solution". "Immediate actions and decisions are required to save the life of Professor Bhatti," he added. The 8,126-metre Nanga Parbat, which is the ninth-highest mountain in the world, is considered dangerous due to its high fatality rate. The mountain has a daunting ascent along with the risk of unstable glaciers, avalanches and storms. Before its first ascent in 1953, 31 people died attempting to climb the peak which is why it was nicknamed "the Killer Mountain." The mountain is also called "the western anchor of the Himalayas." It has a 22.3% death ratio, making it the third most dangerous mountain peak in the world. - DNA

## Babar Azam moves down in ICC Test batters rankings

DNA

LAHORE: Australia veteran Steve Smith is on the verge of regaining his place as the best Test batters in the world following a major shake-up on the latest ICC Men's Test Batters Rankings. Smith scored his 32nd Test century in a Player of the Match performance in the second Ashes Test at Lord's and it helped push the classy right-hander within one rating point of the top ranking in second place on the updated batters rankings. Smith was previously ranked sixth in the list. Consequently, Babar Azam, who held the fifth position with 862 rating points, has now dropped to sixth place. England star Joe Root relinquishes the premier position following scores of 10 and 18 against Australia, with injured New Zealand veteran Kane Williamson sliding up one place to claim the top ranking just one rating point ahead of Smith. It is the first time Williamson has held the No.1 ranking since August 2021, with the Kiwi having first risen to the top back in November 2015. Australia batters now occupy four of the top seven places on the Test batter rankings, with Marnus Labuschagne (third), Travis Head (fourth) and Usman Khawaja (seventh) all within striking distance of the No.1 spot ahead of the eagerly awaited third Ashes Test against



England this week at Headingley. Just 17 rating points separate the top five batters on the updated rankings list, meaning there could be more change ahead should players perform well in Leeds. England duo Ben Duckett (up 24 places to 18th) and Ben Stokes (up nine spots to 23rd) also made some ground on the latest Test rankings for batters following their strong efforts at Lord's, while a host of quicks also progressed well on the updated list for bowlers. Australia skipper Pat Cummins closes in on India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin by jumping two places to second overall on the latest Test rankings for bowlers, while teammate Mitchell Starc also gains two spots to rise to 14th. Cummins' rise is offset by a two-place loss for veteran seamer James Anderson from second to fourth, while England newbie Josh Tongue improves a mammoth 27 spots to 59th after his impressive effort in London. Meanwhile, Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi has moved up to sixth position in the ICC Test bowlers rankings with 787 rating points. Stokes (up one place to fourth) and Root (up one spot to seventh) make some ground on the list for Test all-rounders, with India duo Ravindra Jadeja (first) and Ashwin (second) maintaining the premier positions in that category.

## Amazon Indigenous are leaving the rainforest for cities

ATALAIA DO NORTE, Brazil (AP) - In 1976, Binan Tuku ventured to meet a Brazilian government's expedition on the banks of the Itui River in a remote area of the western Amazon rainforest. After some initial suspicion, he and his father accepted machetes and soap in what was the beginning of the Matis tribe's contact with the non-Indigenous world. Nearly 50 years later, Tuku's own son Tumi is trying to carve out a living in the impoverished city of Atalaia do Norte. Instead of the traditional blowgun, Tumi held a pastry bag in his hands while working

in a bakery, and his face bore none of the tattoos or piercings characteristic of the Matis. "In the village, the quality of education is not as good as in the city," said Tumi, 24, who hopes to go to college to study medicine or journalism. "I want to engage with non-Indigenous people, learn from the challenges I face, and perhaps one day return to my village to share my understanding of how the city functions with the elders." Thousands of Indigenous like Tumi are migrating to cities like Atalaia do Norte, some in pursuit of a better education and some drawn

by a federal welfare benefit that can ensnare them in urban poverty. Their exodus is leaving villages to wither and raising concern that the world's largest tropical rainforest - crucial to stemming the worst of climate change - will be left without its most effective guardians. About half of the 6,200 Indigenous people in the Javari Valley now live in urban centers, according to estimates by anthropologist Almerio Alves Wadick. The Matis, one of several Indigenous peoples in the region, say almost half their 600 people now live in that city.

That number is likely to grow, said Binin Matis, who leads the Matis Indigenous Association and takes the name of his people as his surname. Binin Matis said he fears the loss of his people's language and their exposure to drugs. "In the village, there are few people; it's the older leaders. The youngsters are in the city," he said. "No young Matis knows how to make a blowgun, an arrow. When the students go to the village for vacation, they don't want to learn from the elders. They want to play soccer, have fun, and do things of the white man." - Agencies

## Ancelotti to coach Brazil from 2024 Copa America

MADRID: Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti will take over as head coach of Brazil's national team for the 2024 Copa America, a source at the Brazilian Football Federation told AFP on Tuesday. The federation had announced earlier that Fluminense's Fernando Diniz would take charge of the team in the interim period. Carlo Ancelotti has a season remaining on his contract with Real and will take over Brazil in time for the Copa America which will be held in the United States from June 2024. The former AC Milan and Chelsea coach will become the first foreigner to coach Brazil in almost sixty years. The last foreign coach of Brazil was Argentine Filpo Nunez who was in charge for one game in 1965. Among his many successes, the 64-year-old Carlo Ancelotti has won the Champions League twice with both AC Milan and Real Madrid. He has also won domestic league titles in England with Chelsea, Germany with Bayern Munich and France with Paris Saint-Germain as well as with Real and Milan. Brazil were coached by Tite at last year's World Cup, but he stood down from the role after their elimination at the quarter-final stage to Croatia. - Agencies

## Pakistan, Turkiye engage in Political...

FROM PAGE 01  
Foreign Secretary Dr Asad Majeed Khan will lead the Pakistan delegation while the Turkish side will be led by Deputy Foreign Minister Burak Akcapar, according to a spokesperson of the Foreign Office. The two sides will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations encompassing the political, economic, security, social and cultural dimensions. Review of various institutional mechanisms, including the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) and the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) will also be undertaken. Developments in the region and cooperation at the multilateral fora will also come for discussion. These consultations will set the stage for the next round of the HLSCC, to be held in Islamabad. Pakistan-Turkiye relationship is underpinned by abiding bonds of religion, culture and history. Regular high-level consultations remain a defining feature of this strategic partnership.

## Seven lives lost in recent...

FROM PAGE 01  
According to Wasa Monsoon Control Room, the city's Lakshmi Chowk area received 291mm of rain, Nishtar Town 277mm, Qurtaba Chowk 270mm, Gulshan-e-Ravi 268mm, Pani Wala Talab 268mm, Johar Town 260mm, Tajpura 249mm, and Iqbal Town 232mm. The rain spell, which started earlier in the morning, paralysed the city as all the major roads and connecting streets were waterlogged making commuting impossible. Many vehicles broke down on the roads due to knee-deep water. Rainwater entered the houses in low-lying areas of Shah Jamal and Tajpura while the electricity supply was cut, making life more miserable.

## Three soldiers embrace...

FROM PAGE 01  
suicide bomber on suspicion by on-duty soldiers prevented a major catastrophe. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

## GB top court puts off CM...

FROM PAGE 01  
nominated Engineer Anwar and the Jamiat Ulama-i-Islam had nominated Rehmat Khaliq. The deadline to submit candidates' nomination papers was noon while the election was to take place at 3pm today. However, a press release issued from the top court said Chief Justice of GB SAC Justice Sardar Muhammad Shamim Khan ordered that the election be adjourned. He also ordered GB Assembly Speaker Nazir Ahmed to present a new election schedule in court tomorrow with at least three days given for the election and directed that assembly members should be informed about the election schedule through the press, TV or detailed notice. The press release said that while presiding over a hearing, Justice Khan asked Ahmed why the election schedule for today was announced in such a hurry, especially when there was a no-confidence motion submitted against the speaker. Citing the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Rule (3) of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2017, the court said it was necessary to advertise the election schedule through television, newspapers, radio and gazette publications. It also noted that it was necessary to notify the members of the assembly about the election by post. Earlier today, police officials entered the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly and sealed the premises while evacuating journalists and lawmakers present. Shortly after noon, a heavy police contingent headed by DIG Farman Ali entered the assembly hall and sealed it.

## England make bold changes for third Test

"I had to think about what the game would look like if I didn't bowl any overs," Stokes said. "Last week, I am not going to lie, it did take it out of me

LONDON: England have made three changes for the third Ashes Test, bringing in Mark Wood, Chris Woakes and Moeen Ali. Ollie Pope has been ruled out of the series but England have opted against replacing him with Dan Lawrence, the spare batter in their squad. Instead, Harry Brook moves up to number three with all-rounders Woakes and Moeen added to bolster the lower order. Wood joins Woakes, Stuart Broad and Ollie Robinson in the pace attack with Josh Tongue and James Anderson rested. The Test begins at Headingley on Thursday with England needing to win to prevent Australia retaining the Ashes. England team: Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Harry Brook, Joe Root, Ben

Stokes, Jonny Bairstow (wk), Chris Woakes, Moeen Ali, Stuart Broad, Mark Wood, Ollie Robinson. Wood, who will provide a high-pace option, missed the first two Tests with a series of niggles. He will play his first Test since England's tour of Pakistan last winter, while Woakes features for the first time since March 2022 - before captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum took charge. In a further change Jonny Bairstow will also move from number seven to number five. Yorkshire's Brook has not batted higher than number five in his nine Tests to date. He has batted at three 13 times for his county, most recently in 2018. Stokes said England's second-Test defeat last week,

in which he bowled a continuous 12-over spell, "took a lot out of him" and his ability to bowl was a factor in his decision to pick an extra bowling option. "I had to think about what the game would look like if I didn't bowl any overs," Stokes said. "Last week, I am not going to lie, it did take it out of me. "That is not to say I am not going to bowl, when the game is on the line things might change, but it was a tough week last week."

The fallout from Bairstow's controversial dismissal has overshadowed the first Test. For the first time in the series' history, England now need to come from 2-0 behind to win an Ashes. Stokes said it was time to "move on" from the incident and played down using the anger evident on the final day to inspire his side. "The more we talk about it the less emphasis on the rest of the series," Stokes said. "The message is 'we

know what we have to do as a team and do whatever you have to do, feel however you have to feel to get the best out of yourself." "The best thing to do from our camp, and probably Australia, is shut it down and move on - concentrate on the cricket. "I don't think we can be any more galvanised than we are." I'd do the same thing again - Cummins Australia captain Pat Cummins said he would do the same thing again, if the opportunity to dismiss an England batter in a similar fashion arose at Headingley. While England have been branded "cry-babies" in the Australia press, some have questioned whether Australia's stumping held up when considering the spirit of the game. "It doesn't really bother



## Briefs

EU, China  
snap up US  
LNG

BRUSSELS: Energy companies from the EU and China are racing to secure shipments of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the US amid a potential supply shortage, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday. In recent weeks, US LNG exporters have signed long-term contracts with a number of European firms as well as Chinese private energy company ENN. High demand is boosting investment in America's LNG infrastructure, but it could take two to three years to bring additional supplies fully online, the FT wrote. The International Energy Agency (IEA) stated in March that the amount of new LNG capacity reaching the global market this year would be "very low," while energy consultancy S&P Global warned that it would be even less than the IEA's estimate.

EU demand for LNG spiked last year following the start of the conflict in Ukraine and related sanctions against Russia, once the bloc's main energy supplier. The EU switched from Russian pipeline gas to LNG shipments, mainly from the US and Qatar, although the bloc's gas-buying frenzy has been criticized for taking supplies away from Asia. Europe and China jointly accounted for nearly 40% of US LNG supply contracts agreed between 2021 and late June 2023, the FT reported, citing data from S&P Global. China signed large volumes of American LNG in 2021 and 2022, but demand has dropped in the current year. So far in 2023, European nations such as France, Spain and the UK have procured more gas from the US than China did, the FT noted.—DNA

Hundreds  
flee homes  
after flooding  
in Mongolia  
capital

ULANBAATAR: Hundreds of people in Mongolia's capital have fled their homes as heavy flooding inundated basement apartments, with authorities placing the city on high alert Wednesday. Swathes of Asia have been hit by extreme weather that scientists say has been exacerbated by climate change, with over a dozen killed by heavy rain in China since Monday.

In traditionally dry Ulaanbaatar this week, heavy rains have inundated rivers, flooding basement apartments and trapping cars. Residents of Bayanzurkh District living near the river Selbe told AFP they had been working since the early hours to boost the height of a local dam and stem rising waters caused by heavy rain.

"Our neighbours started to bring dirt and rocks from other places to add more layers on the dam at 3 am," said a 40-year-old resident of one of the worst-affected areas, who gave his name as Delgersaikhan.—APP

Britain's  
Afghan probe  
investigating  
UK special  
forces

LONDON: Britain's defence minister on Wednesday said allegations of unlawful killings in Afghanistan being examined by an independent inquiry relate to UK special forces.

The inquiry which opened in March was "now reaching the stage of substantive hearings, and I can confirm that the allegations relate to the conduct of UK Special Forces", Ben Wallace told parliament in a written statement. The inquiry is looking at a number of detention operations between 2010 and 2013 and how allegations of wrongdoing were investigated by military police, in particular whether there were any cover-ups. It is being led by senior judge Charles Haddon-Cave, who has said it is important wrongdoing be "referred to the relevant authorities for investigation" while "those who have done nothing wrong should rightly have the cloud of suspicion lifted from them". Haddon-Cave said on Wednesday that he had recently visited the office of the prosecutor.—APP



RAWALPINDI: Group photo of Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen with Mr. Khalid Ahadov, Advisor to President of Azerbaijan and his delegation at MoDP.—DNA

Expelling the Azerbaijanis  
from Armenia an injustice

The victorious self-defense operation, which Azerbaijan conducted in 2020 against the armed attack and occupation of Armenia, is a milestone event in restoring justice

DNA

BAKU: Western Azerbaijan Community, which was established as the Society of Azerbaijani Refugees in 1989 and was renamed to the Community of Western Azerbaijan in 2022, deals with the protection of the rights of the Azerbaijanis, who were expelled from the area, which was their homeland for centuries, and which is now called Armenia. Expelling Azerbaijanis from nowadays Armenia is an unprecedented injustice, given its political, legal, and humanitarian dimensions. The ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis was

carried out in most cases with systematic efforts of state authorities by using violence, massacres, and other crimes against humanity and human rights violations. This process was especially violent and cruel in 1905-06, 1918-21, 1948-53, and 1988-91. The results of these acts, especially the deeds of the entities called "The Republic of Armenia" and "The Mountainous Republic of Armenia", the Soviet Union, in particular its notorious leader Joseph Stalin, who ensured the transfer of Zangezur and other Azerbaijani-majority areas to Armenia in 1921 and signed the racist order on the deportation of one

hundred thousand of ethnic Azerbaijanis from Armenia, as well as the malfeasance of the leadership of the Armenian SSR in 1988-91 remain unredressed. As a result of the ethnic cleansing, this territory has been inhabited exclusively by ethnic Armenians since 1991. Azerbaijani cultural and historical heritage, including mosques and graveyards in nowadays Armenia, were destroyed, toponyms were

changed, and systematic racial discrimination against Azerbaijanis was carried out in this country. The persons involved in ethnic cleansing and other crimes against ethnic Azerbaijanis and their misdeeds are glorified in Armenia as a matter of state policy. This unprecedented injustice created a sense of impunity among the ruling circles of Armenia and encouraged them to territorial claims, use of force and military occupation against the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan, further massive ethnic cleansing, and other crimes against humanity. The victorious self-defense op-

eration, which Azerbaijan conducted in 2020 against the armed attack and occupation of Armenia, is a milestone event in restoring justice. Azerbaijan's victory has increased prospects of the peace between the two countries. On the other hand, the inability of Azerbaijanis, who were expelled from nowadays Armenia, to return to their homes, the continuation of the policy of mono-ethnic statehood, ethnic cleansing, and racial discrimination in Armenia represent an immense injustice. This poses a grave threat to the maintenance of lasting peace. As the decades-old credible representative of the

millions of Azerbaijanis expelled from Armenia, Western Azerbaijan Community is determined to carry out its activity with increased vigor to restore the rights of the affected people. Based on the right to return enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and other important international acts, the Community aspires toward ensuring the return of Azerbaijanis expelled from nowadays Armenia to their homes in safety and dignity, and realization of their individual and collective rights after the return.

Azerbaijani  
team visits  
Defence  
Production  
Ministry

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high level Defence Delegation of Azerbaijan headed by Mr. Khalid Ahadov, Advisor to President of Azerbaijan called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Israr Tareen in his office at Rawalpindi. Minister welcomed the delegation and highly appreciated the brotherly feelings of Azerbaijan Government for Pakistan on all international forums including OIC and United Nations. Muhammad Israr Tareen said that Pakistan is a peace-loving country, strictly believing in the policy of peaceful co-existence with all. The Minister reiterated that Pakistan's commitment to peace is evident through its major contribution to UN peace efforts in war-torn countries in different parts of the world. He also expressed Pakistan's strong desire to broaden and strengthen its partnership with Azerbaijan in all fields. Mr. Khalid Ahadov, Advisor to President of Azerbaijan thanked for warm hospitality extended to the delegation and providing the opportunity to discuss various avenues of cooperation.

Tunisians  
target African  
migrants,  
dozens  
expelled

SFAX: Racial tensions in the Tunisian coastal city of Sfax flared into violence targeting migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, dozens of whom were forcibly evicted from the city, witnesses said Wednesday.

Amid the disturbances late Tuesday, police detained some and deported them as far away as the Libyan border more than 300 kilometres (over 200 miles), according to a local rights group. The latest unrest started after the funeral of a 41-year-old Tunisian man who was stabbed to death Monday in an altercation with migrants, which led to the arrests of three suspects from Cameroon. "We are going to avenge his death!" young people chanted at the victim's funeral, according to video footage published online.—APP

'European Union should  
focus on stopping migration'

WARSAW: The European Union should put a priority on stopping illegal migration instead of trying to persuade the 27 member nations to share responsibility for people who arrive without authorization, the prime ministers of Italy and Poland said Wednesday. Italy's right-wing leader, Premier Georgia Meloni, traveled to Warsaw for a meeting with her conservative Polish counterpart, Prime Minister Mateusz

Morawiecki. As a country that is one of the first stops for asylum-seekers who cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe, Italy is eager to reduce their number. Poland and Hungary last week vetoed a statement by EU leaders on priorities for limiting arrivals, and the two countries voted against a June 8 agreement that balanced the obligations of front-line countries against the requirement for other mem-

ber nations to provide support. The governments in Warsaw and Budapest insist that preventing people from entering the EU is a better approach. After her talks with Morawiecki, Meloni said she thinks the bloc will never be able to "find a real solution" to the situation once migrants are already in Europe. "I believe our position is substantially the same. We want to stop illegal immigration," Meloni said.

Referring to the Polish government's position, she added, "I cannot not defend someone who defends national interests." Morawiecki said it was "fundamental" to his government to have the EU's external borders "insulated" and that it also opposed a provision in the June agreement that calls for fining countries that refuse to host a share of asylum-seekers 20,000 euros (\$21,400) per person.—DNA

China and the EU  
at odds over top  
diplomat's visit

DNA

BEIJING: China has abruptly canceled a visit to Beijing by the European Union's top diplomat, the EU said Wednesday, amid ongoing disagreements between the two powers over trade, human rights and the Ukraine war. Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, was due to arrive in China on July 10 for talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and other officials, according to an announcement by the EU ambassador to Beijing on Sunday. The European and Chinese diplomats were set to discuss topics including trade, human rights and China's stance on the war in Ukraine, according to Ambassador Jorge Toledo. But China has canceled Borrell's visit, the EU announced, without saying why. "Unfortunately, we were informed by the Chinese counterparts that the envisaged dates next week are no longer possible and we must now look for alternatives," EU spokesperson Nabila Massrali said in an emailed statement on Wednesday. "It is for China to communicate on the reasons," she added. "We will adapt and find together a new date." China's Foreign Ministry was vague on the topic. "China attaches high importance to Sino-European relations and has maintained exchanges with Europe at all levels and in various aspects," ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbing said at a routine briefing in Beijing on Wednesday. "We welcome Representative Borrell to visit China as soon as possible at the convenience of both sides, and we are ready to carry on exchanges with the European side." Borrell was initially scheduled to visit Beijing in April but had to postpone after testing positive for Covid-19, the EU said. While it remains unclear what has caused the latest cancellation, it comes on the heels of a summit by EU member states last week during which the bloc endorsed a strategy to try to procure critical materials from sources other than China, while insisting it did not want to entirely "decouple" from the world's second-largest economy. The member states also affirmed the EU's "multifaceted" position on China, which the bloc labels as "simultaneously a partner, a competitor and a systemic rival."

## Thousands mourn martyrs of Israeli raid on Jenin

OCCUPIED WEST BANK: Thousands of people have turned out for the funeral procession of a dozen Palestinians, among them four minors, killed by Israeli military forces during a raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the northern part of the occupied West Bank. On Wednesday, the mourners converged outside Jenin's governmental hospital as they grieved for the victims of the latest Israeli onslaught. They shouted slogans in commemoration of the fallen Palestinians and in support of the resistance fighters, who courageously withstood the Israeli violence and forced the regime's troops to withdraw. The participants also strongly denounced the security cooperation between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israel, and vowed to continue the struggle against the occupying Tel Aviv regime until the final victory over it. Meanwhile, Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement, said Palestinian resistance fighters based in Jenin gave the Israeli military a "bitter and unforgettable" lesson, and inflicted heavy losses on its troops. He reiterated that all options are on the table in support of the residents of the

northern West Bank city as well as its valiant resistance fighters. "The coming days will reveal the magnitude of the resistance front's strong strikes against the enemy. It will be forced to reconsider its calculations over and over again, when thinking about launching another assault on our people," Haniyeh said in a statement on Wednesday. The Hamas leader stressed that resistance is the Palestinian nation's "strategic choice to respond to the occupying regime's aggression and liberate their land." "We have

sent clear message to the enemy through different parties that it must stop its acts of aggression immediately," he underlined. Israel launched the military campaign against Jenin in the early hours of Monday morning, mobilizing upwards of 1,000 troops as means of supposedly damaging the resistance "infrastructure" in the city and the refugee camp that it hosts. At least 12 Palestinians and one Israeli trooper died as a result of the conflict, during which a steadfast Palestinian resistance response

prompted the regime to pull out its forces after less than two days. The Palestinian nation managed to record a glorious victory by ending Israel's aggression against the Jenin refugee camp and forcing its troops to withdraw from the site, says the secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement. Ziyad al-Nakhalah said on Tuesday evening that the Jenin Brigades, affiliated with the al-Quds Brigades — the military wing of the Islamic Jihad movement, played the leading role in notching up the outstanding achievement. "The Palestinian nation, through unity and offering unwavering support to resistance fighters, proved they can defeat the Zionist enemy. "Palestinians have proven that they can overwhelm the Israeli occupation forces in any battle no matter what the situation could be, as was the case in Operation Sword al-Quds [carried out in May 2021] and the latest retaliatory operations in Jenin," Nakhalah said. The Islamic Jihad chief noted that all the residents of the Jenin camp admire the heroic sacrifices made by resistance fighters and the Jenin Brigades "during these historical moments." —Agencies

China slams new  
US arms sales  
to Taiwan

BEIJING: China on Wednesday slammed new US arms sales to Taiwan, saying it has lodged protest with Washington. Tan Kefei, spokesman for China's Defense Ministry, said in a statement: "China firmly opposes US arms sales to Taiwan, and has lodged stern representations with the US." Beijing's sharp reaction came after the US State Department approved two separate potential sales of arms and logistics support for around \$440 million to the island nation last week. "The United States ignores China's core concerns, grossly interferes in China's internal affairs, and deliberately escalates tensions across the Taiwan Strait," said Tan. The arms sales are "tantamount to accelerating the transformation" of Taiwan, which China considers its breakaway province.—DNA

## Briefs

**Two judges for deciding fate of SC law first**

### BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah has said that until the constitutionality of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023 is decided, all matters falling under the Supreme Court's original jurisdiction should be heard by a full court bench of the SC. In detailed notes released Tuesday night, originally written on June 22, SC Justices Sardar Tariq Masood and Syed Mansoor Ali Shah have agreed with Justice Qazi Faez Isa's reasoning regarding refusal to sit in the larger nine-member bench constituted to hear the petitions on military court trials of civilians. The bench was later trimmed down to seven members. These notes add to a detailed note written on June 22 by Senior Puisne Judge Justice Isa, who had explained why he had refused to be part of the larger nine-member bench constituted to hear the petitions regarding military court trials of civilians and why the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Bill, 2023 had to be resolved before he could be part of SC benches. This note was removed from the apex court website shortly after having been uploaded.

**UNDP strategy to confront HIV stigma**

### DNA

PESHAWAR: The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) hosted the second consultative session at the KPK, FC premises. The event, dedicated to formulating an engagement strategy to confront HIV stigma and discrimination within law enforcement agencies, brought together an assembly of approximately seventy officials. Representatives from the National Highways & Motorway Police (NHMP), Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), KP Police, Frontier Corps (FC), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), along with esteemed individuals such as Dr. Yasir Hayat, Dr. Inam of UNICEF KP, Mohammed Shafiq of URDO, Saif, Arzo Khan, Heer, and Zaheer Khattak, CEO of URDO were among the participants. The session was inaugurated by the Inspector General (IG) of KP, Mr. Akhtar Hayat. Mr. Hayat highlighted the critical need for effective guidelines to enhance law enforcement agencies' sensitivity and responsiveness to HIV stigma. He emphasized that the pillars of "awareness, effective communication, and inclusivity" are instrumental in countering stigma and creating a secure, supportive environment for individuals affected by HIV.

**ICJ confirms case over Iran downing of Flight PS752**

TEHRAN: The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has confirmed that Canada and three allies have filed proceedings against Iran over its downing of Flight PS752 in 2020, which killed all 176 people on board. Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Ukraine, all of whom lost nationals and residents in the incident, tabled their case under the Montreal Convention, which deals with civil aviation safety. The Hague-based tribunal said on Wednesday. The ICJ, also known as the World Court, said the applicants accuse Iran of failing to take all practical measures to prevent the destruction of the passenger plane and said it subsequently "failed to conduct an impartial, transparent and fair criminal investigation and prosecution consistent with international law". - Agencies

# Disposal of Nuclear-contaminated Water China regrets hasty IAEA's releasing report

China believes that the IAEA report should not be the "shield" or "greenlight" for Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean

### DNA

BEIJING: The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China has reacted to the statement of the IAEA report during a briefing. Here is the text of the question-answer session with the media.

Q: According to reports, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued a Comprehensive Report on the disposal of nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, which believes that Japan's plan to discharge the nuclear-contaminated water into the sea complies with international safety standards. The IAEA will conduct long-term monitoring over Japan's discharge activities. What's China's comment?

A: China noted a Comprehensive Report on the disposal of nuclear-contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station released by the IAEA. It is

learned that the report failed to fully reflect views from experts that participated in the review. The conclusion was not shared by all experts. The Chinese side regrets the hasty release of the report.

We believe that the IAEA report should not be the "shield" or "greenlight" for Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean. Due to its limited mandate, the IAEA failed to review the justification and legitimacy of Japan's ocean discharge plan, assess the long-term effectiveness of Japan's purification facility and corroborate the authenticity and accuracy of Japan's nuclear-contaminated water data. Therefore the conclusion is largely limited and incomplete. We noted that Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi stated that the IAEA conducted the review at the request of the Japanese government and the report is neither a recommendation nor an endorsement of Japan's ocean discharge policy. Simply for saving cost, Japan has insisted

on discharging the nuclear-contaminated water into the sea in disregard of the concerns and opposition from the international community and taken the Pacific Ocean as the "sewer". No matter what the report says, it will not change the fact that Japan will release millions of tonnes of Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water into the Pacific Ocean in the next three decades. Will Japan's purification facility be effective in the long-term? Can the international community be timely informed when the discharged water exceeds the discharge limit? What impact will the long term accumulation and concentration of radionuclides bring to the marine environment, food safety and people's health? These are the questions that the IAEA report failed to answer.

Twelve years ago, Japan received supports from all over the world in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear accident. Twelve years on, Japan has chosen to shift the risk of nuclear contamination onto the whole hu-

manity. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) stipulates that States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment, and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter in 1972 prohibits the dumping of all radioactive wastes into the ocean from man-made structures at sea. What Japan does contravenes its international moral responsibility and obligations under international law.

We once again urge the Japanese side to stop its ocean discharge plan, and earnestly dispose of the nuclear-contaminated water in a science-based, safe and transparent manner. If Japan insists on going ahead with the plan, it will have to bear all the consequences arising from this. We urge the Japanese side to work with the IAEA to put in place as soon as possible a long-term international monitoring mechanism that would involve stakeholders including Japan's neighboring countries.

## 24th Shahadat anniversary of Capt Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed

RAWALPINDI: 24th Shahadat anniversary of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider was observed today. Commander Peshawar Corps along with Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) and Commander Force Command Northern Areas laid floral wreath at Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed's mausoleum in his native town Swabi (KP). A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented guard of honour. People from different walks of life, civil and military officials and relatives of Shuhada attended the wreath laying ceremony. - DNA



## PM greets Biden on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended warm greetings to the US President Joe Biden and the American people on their Independence Day. "Pakistan has always deeply valued its relationship with the United States," the prime minister said in a tweet. He said over the past 75 years, the bilateral ties had continued to expand and deepen. He said the US was one of Pakistan's major trading, defence and economic partners. "The governments in Islamabad and Washington have demonstrated pragmatism and wisdom to keep the course of our relations steady, which speaks of the dynamism of our partnership", he added. - APP

## Türkiye, Egypt open new page in trade ties

ANKARA: Upgrading diplomatic ties between Türkiye and Egypt after a decade-long hiatus will positively impact commercial relations, said an industry expert. Diplomatic relations between Türkiye and Egypt had been at the level of charges d'affaires since 2013. On Tuesday, Türkiye nominated Salih Mutlu Sen as its new ambassador to Cairo, while Egypt named Amr El Hamamy as its ambassador to Ankara. Mustafa Denizer, chairman of the Türkiye-Egypt Business Council of the Ankara-based Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEIK), told Anadolu that political relations between the two countries have been stable for 10 years. Still, positive steps have been taken in the last one-and-a-half years. Appointing mutual ambassadors has opened a new page in bilateral relations, Denizer said. "Both sides encourage mutual investments. Turkish authorities also want and encourage Turkish investors, big and small, to invest in Egypt again," he added. Stating that Turkish people have invested approximately \$1.5 billion in Egypt since 2007, Denizer said that there are 15-20 important Turkish investments in the North African nation, mainly in textiles and apparel. He said new investments in Egypt are expected in retail, energy, household appliances and transportation sectors in the coming period and the projected investment in the 2023-2024 period may reach \$500 million. - Agencies

## Govt prioritize for export-led growth in country: Ahsan Iqbal

The government's priority is to shift energy to fossil fuels in energy sector, incentives will be given in solar energy, he said

### DNA

ISLAMABAD, Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday said that introducing Pakistan as an export-led country in the world is the first priority of the present government. The Minister said that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is significant in any economy and Pakistan is currently an attractive country for foreign investment. Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said this while addressing a press conference here. Ahsan Iqbal said the meeting of the Apex Committee of the Special Council for Investment Facilitation was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and the political and military leadership participated in the apex committee. He said the government formed this council to promote direct investment in Pakistan, adding that the volume of foreign direct investment in Pakistan is \$1.5 billion now. There are more than \$2 trillion foreign direct investments in the world and every country is trying to become an attractive country for FDI. He said a country can develop only through foreign direct investment and every developing country has resorted to foreign direct investment and also expanded its exports. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

became a tool to bring investments of up to \$28 billion to Pakistan, he informed. He said that were derailed due to the negative agenda of 2018 and now the world's trust is being established in Pakistan again. He said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement is having positive effects on Pakistan and now the country has a chance to take off again. Ahsan said foreign investors will be given all facilities under one roof in five potential sectors, which have been identified under the planning. He said that Agriculture is also a sector under this project, agriculture will be promoted. He said the government will bring investment in modern farming and technology in the agriculture sector. The Prime Minister will inaugurate the Agricultural Information Management System on July 7th of this month? The government's priority is to shift energy to fossil fuels in the energy sector, incentives will be given in solar energy, he said. He said that IT sector is a potential sector, where youth can make a huge contribution in a country's economy. The Minister said the government's main focus is to increase exports in the IT sector and hoped that there will be rapid development in the IT sector in Pakistan. He said that need to pay attention in the mineral sector to maximize our exports. Ahsan said that Pakistan will go for a road show to invite the mining companies of the world to enhance the production He added that defense production has the ability to export along with its requirements.

## PM Shehbaz lauds services of outgoing Qatari ambassador



### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the State of Qatar pays farewell call on the Prime Minister Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received the Ambassador of the State of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani for a farewell call, at the Prime Minister's Office today. The Prime Minister, expressing satisfaction at longstanding brotherly relations between the two countries, appreciated Ambassador Thani's sterling contribution in further strengthening the fraternal ties. The Prime Minister particularly mentioned the recent visit of the delegation from Qatar Investment Authority as a manifestation of Qatar's interest

in investing in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. The Prime Minister noted the enhanced frequency of high-level interactions between the two countries and cooperation in the fields of Food Security, Energy, IT, Mining and Defence. The Prime Minister hoped the two brotherly countries would continue to broaden and deepen the bilateral relationship, mentioning trade and investment in particular. The Prime Minister wished Ambassador Al-Thani all success in his future assignments. Ambassador Al-Thani thanked the government and people of Pakistan for their hospitality and warmth, that made his stay in Pakistan truly memorable. Ambassador Thani arrived in Pakistan in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 and will be leaving Pakistan this month upon completion of his diplomatic assignment.

## Greece boat tragedy a 'human rights issue': CJP

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial said on Wednesday that the boat tragedy on Greek shores - which resulted in the deaths of nearly 300 Pakistanis - was a matter of human rights. He passed these remarks as a two-member bench, comprising the CJP and Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi, took up petitions pertaining to the trafficking of minors. At least 600 migrants, out of possibly 750, on the fishing boat that set off from Libya towards European shores, perished when their vessel capsized in the Mediterranean Sea last month. The passengers largely comprised Pakistanis, Afghans, Egyptians, Palestinians and Syrians migrating in the overloaded boat.

## Bill against contesting on more than two seats approved

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Law and Justice Wednesday approved a bill against contesting elections on more than two constituencies. In a meeting, Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali presented a bill to disallow elections on more than two seats. As per the bill, the candidates will not be able to participate in the elections for more than two seats. Chitrali said national resources were wasted if a candidate contested on multiple seats.

## Israel bombs Gaza following Jenin assault

GAZA: Israeli fighter jets have struck the Gaza Strip in response to rockets fired from the besieged enclave after Israel ended a large-scale offensive in Jenin, in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli attack on Wednesday hit an underground weapons manufacturing facility belonging to Hamas, the Palestinian group running the Strip. No casualties were reported. It came after Israel said it had shot down five rockets fired towards southern Israel from the Gaza Strip. - DNA

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