



Islamabad POST

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Swedish PM says worried about burnings

Detailed News On Page-07

Kim shows off banned missiles to Russian minister

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Heroic Noman takes seven wickets

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Remarks taken out of context: Asif

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif on Thursday clarified that his remarks about Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members during the joint session of the Parliament were misconstrued and not meant to single out any particular gender. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, the defence minister emphasized that linking his views with women was unjustified. As calls for an apology grew, Khawaja Asif firmly stated that he saw no reason to apologize for his comments. However, Khawaja offer offered to tender an apology if the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership also apologizes to Maryam Nawaz Sharif and Faryal Talpur for their own remarks. Khawaja Asif reminded that during the session said he asked parliamentarians not to obstruct the passage of legislations.

PTI's Ali Mohammad released

SHAMIM SHAHID

MARDAN: Hours after the Peshawar High Court (PHC) instructed authorities to immediately release him, PTI leader Ali Mohammad Khan was on Thursday set free from Mardan jail after nearly 80 days of incarceration. Confirming his release, Ali Mohammad's lawyer Shehryar Khattak said the PTI leader had departed for his village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hathiyan. According to his lawyer, the former MNA was arrested eight times and kept behind bars for 80 days. Ali Mohammad was first arrested by the Secretariat police on May 11 under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) in connection with the violence that took place on May 9 – the day violent protests broke across the country following PTI Chairman Imran Khan's arrest.

Holiday Notice

Offices of Daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Friday and Saturday on account of Ashura, therefore there will be no newspaper on Saturday and Sunday.

– Editor

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5-year jail term for authorised Army Act to be made tough for violators

Classified information disclosure only after army chief approval; spy agencies officials cannot take part in politics for five years after retirement or resignation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Senate Thursday approved a bill to amend the Pakistan Army Act, 1952, seeking stern action against anyone who discloses sensitive information pertaining to the army or seeks to malign the armed forces in any way. Moved by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, the bill titled "Pakistan Army (Amendment) Act, 2023" stated those who disclose information against the interests of the country or the Pakistan Army will be dealt with under the Official Secrets Act and the Army Act. It further permits a punishment of up to five years if a person discloses any sensitive information in the interest of national security – obtained in an official capacity – without prior permission of the army chief. "If any person, who is or has been subject to this Act, discloses or causes to be disclosed any information, acquired in an official capacity, which is or may be prejudicial to the security and interest of Pakistan or the Armed Forces of Pakistan, shall be guilty of an offence, and on conviction by the court constituted under this Act, be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years," the bill reads. However, the bill stated that a person disclosing such information with the permission of the army chief or an authorised officer will not be punished. "Any disclosure made after

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Senate panel passes Toshakhana bill

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat on Thursday unanimously passed a bill proposing heavy penalties on officials who fail to declare state gifts and refuse to deposit them in the Toshakhana (state gift repository). The Toshakhana (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2023, which was introduced by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi in the Senate on Tuesday, garnered widespread support from committee members during a session chaired by Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad. The Toshakhana – a repository under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division which stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats and other officials by heads of other governments and foreign dignitaries – has been at the

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China rolls over \$2.4 billion loan: Ishaq Dar

Pakistan will pay only interest in both years

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has confirmed that China has rolled over Pakistan's loan for the years 2023-24 and 2024-25 amounting to Rs \$2.4 billion. In a statement on the social networking website Twitter, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that China had rolled over a debt of 2.4 billion dollars due to Pakistan. Finance Minister said that EXIM Bank of China had rolled over the loan for two years, Pakistan will pay only interest in both years. The finance minister said that the tenure of all loan agreements had been extended from July 21, 2023 to June 30, 2025. Earlier, China had rolled over 600 million dollars of Pakistan's loan on July 18, which was confirmed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had said that China had rolled over \$600 million loan due to Pakistan, resulting in further increase in Pakistan's foreign reserves. Addressing the launching ceremony of the Prime Minister's

Continued on Page 06

Oil companies sign MoU with Saudi Aramco

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Four leading Pakistani state-owned companies signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate on \$10 billion Greenfield Refinery project that will be jointly developed with Saudi Aramco at the strategic Gwadar port in Balochistan. The MoU signing ceremony took place at the head office of Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Thursday, according to an official statement. The Pakistani state-owned entities, Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), and Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL), will collaborate through a joint investment strategy, statement added.



GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir and others listening to the national anthem during a ceremony in Gwadar. – DNA

Pak slams Indian minister's remarks

FO says Pakistan fully capable of defending itself

DNA

ISLAMABAD: While condemning the provocative remarks by India's defence minister, made on 26 July 2023, in Drass, Ladakh, boasting readiness to cross the Line of Control in Kashmir, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zehra Baloch says Pakistan is fully capable of defending itself against any aggression as demonstrated in its forceful response to India's misadventure in February 2019. In a statement issued in Islamabad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "We counsel India to exercise utmost caution as its belligerent rhetoric is a threat to the regional peace and stability, and contributes to destabilizing the strategic environment in South Asia." The statement further said, "This is not the first time that India's political leaders and senior military officers have made highly irresponsible remarks about Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. This kind of jingoistic statements must stop. The Indian leadership is reminded that Pakistan is fully capable of defending itself against any aggression." The Foreign Ministry further said, "The practice of dragging Pakistan into India's populist public discourse, with a view to stoking hyper-nationalism and reaping electoral gains, needs to end."

Continued on Page 06

'PTI govt slowed down pace' Gwadar port to be developed as one of the best

PM says laptop quota for Balochistan has been increased to 14%

DNA

GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday reiterated the government's resolve to develop the Gwadar Sea Port as one of the best in the world. He said the fate of the people of Balochistan especially of Gwadar would be changed through the ongoing development operation in across the province. Addressing a laptop and cheques' distribution ceremony here, he said when Nawaz Sharif was elected prime minister for the third time in 2013, he planned and launched multiple projects in power, infrastructure and other sectors in Gwadar. However, he deplored that when he visited as prime minister last year here, he was shocked to note that, the previous government had abandoned work on all ongoing projects in the city. He said despite 15 months of challenging time,

Continued on Page 06

Govt seeks names for caretaker PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has asked all the political parties to recommend names for the caretaker prime minister. Talking to media in Islamabad on Thursday, federal minister and member of advisory committee from PPP Naveed Qamar said that a meeting of all the parties was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship the National Assembly speaker. He said that main objective of the meeting was to hold consultations on the issue to agree on name for a caretaker prime minister. He said that all the parties have been

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan strongly condemns recent Islamophobic acts

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran and dishonoring of the Pakistani flag in front of the Embassy of Pakistan in Copenhagen, Denmark. A strong protest has been lodged with the Government of Denmark. We expect the Danish authorities to take all measures necessary to stop such acts of hatred and incitement. The intent of such evil acts is to insult two billion Muslims around the world and create friction amongst communities, cultures, and countries. These acts, by any definition, do not constitute freedom of expression. Nor can the permission to carry out provocative acts of religious hatred be justified under the pretext of freedom of expression, opinion and protest. As the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has said, "speech and inflammatory acts against Muslims are offensive, irresponsible and wrong". Pakistan has always maintained that freedom of expression comes with responsibilities. It is the responsibility of national governments, regional organizations and the international community at large to call out, condemn and proactively prevent the vile acts of Islamophobia and religious hatred.



Swedish PM 'extremely worried' about burnings

DNA

STOCKHOLM: Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson is "extremely worried" about the consequences should further demonstrations go ahead during which copies of the Holy Quran are desecrated, he said on Thursday. "There are a number of further requests for permission for desecration that have been made," he told Swedish news agency TT. "If they are granted, we are going to face some days where there is a clear risk of something serious happening. I am extremely worried about what it could lead to." Separately, Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said the Swedish state does not sanction or condone Holy Quran burnings but they are permitted by Swedish freedom of speech laws. "In some countries, there is a perception that the Swedish state is behind or condone this. We don't," Billstrom told reporters. "These are acts committed by individuals, but they do it within the framework of freedom of speech laws," he said.

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Political will vital for power sector revival

The minister pointed out that weak recovery of electricity bills was prevalent in areas where the state's authority was not effectively established, raising concerns about the overall governance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power, Khurram Dastgir Khan said that the power sector couldn't be put on the right track without the political will, support of the Parliament and strict disciplinary action against the corrupt mafia within power distribution companies. Answering the question of Samina Mumtaz Zehri, during question hour in the Senate here Thursday, the minister highlighted that the new government would face a significant challenge in reviving

the power sector, emphasizing that it could only be achieved through political will and support from the Parliament, as reliance solely on political backing would not suffice. The minister pointed out that weak recovery of electricity bills was prevalent in areas where the state's authority was not effectively established, raising concerns about the overall governance. Additionally, he highlighted that the significant line losses were putting a substantial burden on the country's economy. In response to Kauda Babar's question, the minister confirmed the suc-

cessful installation of transmission lines connecting Bolan to Jewani, facilitating the connection between Iran and Gawadar. Additionally, the Bisma-Khuzdar transmission lines have been fully completed, he told. Concerning the measures taken against corrupt individuals, the minister announced that 124 officials from Multan Electric Company (MEFCO) and 118 officials from Lahore Electric Company (LESCO) were facing punitive action for various charges related to their involvement in power theft and other misconduct.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sakib Rafiq and Editor Daily Islamabad POST at the Egyptian National Day reception. —DNA

Kundi takes stock of arrangements for Muharram

DNA

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi here on Thursday visited Imambargahs and Thalajat in the district to take stock of arrangements made for the peaceful observance of Ashura. During the visit, he met with religious leaders, caretakers of Imambargahs, 'Nohakhan' and 'Zakireen' including Syed Saqlain Shah, Syed Gulfaan Shah, Gula Shah, Tahseen Alamdar and Syed Sajjad Shehrazai and learnt about the arrangements made there for Muharram. Speaking on the occasion, Faisal Karim Kundi said that the role of the martyrs of Karbala was a beacon, teaching us a lesson of self-sacrifice and inspiring us to follow the teachings of Islam. He appreciated the security forces and other law enforcement agencies for making effective security arrangements for maintaining peace and harmony during Muharram. He said that the people of Dera Ismail Khan and security forces had rendered great sacrifices for ensuring peace in the district. He stressed the need to have respect for each other and ensure tolerance and unity. Faisal Karim Kundi also met with caretaker provincial minister Abdul Haleem Qasuria at Thala Shehrazai and both the leaders discussed regional issues. District President of Pakistan People's Party Malik Farhan Afzal Dhap, Tehsil President of PPP Fazlur Rehman Baloch, Former District Bar President Qaizer Khan Miankhal and Dr. Abdullah Zafrif of Muslim League also accompanied him.

Torrential rains cause widespread devastation in city

ABBOTTABAD: The city of Abbottabad, including the main Mansehra road, Ayub Medical Complex, Bilal Town, Hassan Town faced severe devastation as continuous torrential rains and wreaked havoc across the entire region. The heavy rain impact extended to surrounding villages, with Ayub Teaching Hospital (ATH) being hit hard as floodwaters entered its premises. The situation became even more critical for patients on ventilators in the Neurosurgery ward and were shifted to the COVID ICU to provide them the required medical care without any disruptions. According to a spokesperson from the hospital, the Neurosurgery ward was the most affected

area due to the heavy rains, as a precautionary measure, all patients from the ward were shifted to other wards to ensure their safety and well-being. During the rescue operations, Chairman BOG Mushtaq Jadoon and Hospital Director Dr Ashfaq Ahmed were actively engaged and communicated with relevant administrative officers and provided necessary instructions to handle the crisis effectively. Deputy Director Dr Junaid Sarwar supervised the rescue operation to ensure a swift response and minimize the damage caused by the floods. He expressed his gratitude to the dedicated staff for their diligent efforts in safely relocating the patients to secure areas.

The impact of the torrential rains extended beyond the hospital premises, as roads in Jhangli, Supply Bazar, Jub bridge and PMA Road experienced a severe flood, leading to traffic congestion and difficulties for commuters. Rescue 1122 disaster team promptly responded to the crisis in Abbottabad and engaged in relief operations to aid the affected residents and mitigate further damage. The torrential rains and flooding led to numerous houses being submerged, posing significant challenges for the rescue teams in accessing affected areas. The rescue teams successfully evacuated and transferred more than 15 persons to secure locations in various parts of the city. —APP

Three-day Teachers Training Workshop

ISLAMABAD: Space Education Research Lab, National Center of GIS and Space Applications, Institute of Space Technology (IST) is organizing the three-day Teachers Training Workshop on Space Education for Primary and Secondary science School Teachers from September 7-9. According to the IST, the workshop has been planned in collaboration with Office of Astronomy for Education (OAE), the International Astronomical Union (IAU) as part of their Teachers Training Program for Astronomy Education. The workshop, to be held in IST, will focus on enhancing the teaching skills and resources linked with the primary and secondary school science curriculum of Pakistan. About the eligibility criteria, the official informed that the applicant should be a School teacher with at least two years of experience. —APP

Workshop on exploring Climate Change vis a vis National Security

DNA

ISLAMABAD: One day-long workshop titled: "Exploring the National Security Dimensions of Climate Change using Foresight" was held at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) to dig deep into the National Security aspects of Climate Change, threats it posed to the food and water securities, the gaps in our current policies and potential solutions to effectively curb these challenges. Mr. Umar Sheraz, Futurist and Senior Research Officer at CPS, COMSATS delivered the training workshop and, stressed that, we tend to ignore the problem of climate change despite the severe urgency of the issue.

UNODC, FIA commemorate World Day against trafficking

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency with Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University successfully commemorated the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 27 July 2023. The event witnessed an overwhelming display of solidarity from medical students, faculty members, distinguished guests, and esteemed partners, all joining hands to raise awareness and combat human trafficking. Human trafficking is a grave human rights violation affecting millions worldwide, exploiting vulnerable individuals and subjecting them to various forms of exploitation, including organ removal, forced labor, sexual exploitation, and domestic servitude. In recognition of the urgent need to address this critical issue, the event focused on the

broader issue of trafficking while specifically shedding light on the distressing concern of trafficking for organ removal. The FIA building and Shifa Hospital Building were illuminated in blue, symbolizing hope, and solidarity in the fight against trafficking. A highlight of the event was the commemoration held at Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, attended by medical students who are at the forefront of the fight against human trafficking. Speakers from UNODC and the FIA delivered powerful messages on the urgency to combat trafficking, emphasizing the role of medical professionals in identifying and addressing this crime. Throughout the day, activities such as the distribution of T-Shirts, Caps, and Blue Heart Lapel Pins to students, and the placement of standees at

prominent locations like Shifa Hospital, Islamabad Airport, FIA Headquarters, and the UNODC country office, aimed to raise awareness among the public and mobilize support. The event also featured a social media campaign, with recorded messages from key partners aired on various platforms, amplifying the message against trafficking, and reaching a wider audience. Additionally, as a gesture of support, photos with Blue Heart Frames were shared on social media, symbolizing unity in the fight against trafficking. Furthermore, the campaign extended its reach to renowned hotels in Islamabad, where Blue Heart Lapel Pins were distributed, and banners were displayed in their lobbies, encouraging the hospitality sector to be actively involved in combating trafficking.

Senate witnesses presentation of 8 reports

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Thursday convened to witness a series of significant events, including the presentation of eight reports from various standing committees and the consideration of two motions seeking extensions for specific periods. The first report was presented by Senator Hillal ur Rehman, Chairman of the Standing Committee on States and Frontier Regions. The report focused on the development and full deployment of the e-tendering system, GIS mapping of AIP and ADP schemes, uploading of pre- and post-images, and the installation of biometric machines in every service delivery unit. Next, Senator Dr. Mohammad Humayun Mohmand, representing the Standing Committee on Human Rights Chairman Senator Walid Iqbal, presented a report on the bill to amend the National Commission on the Rights of Child Act, 2017. The bill, titled "The National Commission on the Rights of Child (Amendment) Bill, 2023," was initially introduced by Senator Professor Dr Mehr Taj Roghani. Moving on, Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Interior, presented a total of six reports. Five of these reports aimed to amend various bills, including the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, the Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021, the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, the Easements Act, 1882. All of these amendments were introduced by different senators, such as Senator Zeeshan Khan Zada, Senator Kamran Michael, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, and Senator Seemee Ezdi. Additionally, Senator Aziz presented a report on a matter raised by Senator Muhammad Asad Ali Khan Junejo. The issue addressed the irregular and disorganized speed limits on various roads within Islamabad Capital Territory, causing confusion and problems for commuters, and emphasized the need for regulation and rationalization. Amidst the presentations of reports, the Senate also considered and carried out two motions. Senator Sana Jamali, representing Chairman Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, sought an extension of sixty days for the presentation of the committee's report on the bill to amend the Pakistan Halal Authority Act, 2016 (The Pakistan Halal Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023). This bill was originally introduced by Senator Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur.

Envoy calls for strong efforts to increase Pak-Swiss bilateral trade

DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Georg Steiner, Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan said that many Swiss companies were doing successful business in Pakistan and more were interested in Pakistan as they considered it an attractive market for business and investment. The Swiss Embassy will play a role in bringing more Swiss companies to Pakistan to tap its untapped investment potential. He said this while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) that called on him led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President and discussed with him matters for further improving bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries. Ajwat Arslan Khan, Commercial Advisor of Swiss Embassy was also present on the occasion. The Envoy stressed for strong efforts to further increase Swiss-Pakistan bilateral trade as both countries have good potential to improve trade ties in multiple areas. He said that Switzerland was keen to improve business relations with Pakistan and stressed that the private sectors of both countries should develop strong business linkages to explore new avenues of bilateral cooperation. He said that in case the business community was interested in promoting Swiss brands in Pakistan, his em-

bassy would cooperate in connecting them with the right companies. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Switzerland was quite advanced in tourism and it should cooperate with Pakistan in promoting its tourism industry. He said that Pakistan possessed very attractive spots for tourism

and Swiss cooperation in developing modern tourism infrastructure would help attract tourists from around the world towards Pakistan. He said that ICCI had recently organized a successful tourism summit in Skardu in which many foreign diplomats participated and said that ICCI would try to organize more such events to highlight the

tourism potential in Pakistan. He emphasized that both countries should encourage regular exchange of trade delegations to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the close cooperation of Pakistan with Switzerland would help it in getting easy access to many potential markets of South-Central Europe.



Chinese scholar visits ISSI

DNA



ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a 4-member Chinese delegation led by Mr. Yuan Jianmin, Counselor of Xinjiang Autonomous Region Government. The delegation included Mr. Liu Zongyi, Secretary of China South Asia Study Centre, Shanghai Institute of International Studies; Mr. Wang Shida, Depu-

ty Director of South Asia Studies, China Institute of Strategic Cooperative Partnership in international dynamics. DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his introductory remarks, extended a warm welcome to the visiting scholars. He underscored the importance of Pakistan-China relations in the contemporary world and the strategic significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for Pakistan's economic transformation and regional prosperity.

کنٹونمنٹ بورڈ سنجاول

نوش نیلام عام حقوق کرایہ داری دکانات

- برخاس وعام کی اطلاع کیلئے مشیر کیا جاتا ہے کہ کینٹ بورڈ سنجاول اپنی ملکیت 06 عدد دکانات واقع وزیر اعظم ہاؤسنگ سکیم جھلا خان چوک سنجاول کے حقوق کرایہ داری مندرجہ ذیل شرائط کے تحت مورخہ 15 اگست 2023ء بمقت 12 بیے دن دفتر کینٹ بورڈ سنجاول میں نیلام کرینگے۔ اگر مندرجہ بالا تاریخ کو بولی کا حق فیصلہ نہ ہو سکے تو دوبارہ نیلام مورخہ 16 اگست 2023ء صبح بارہ نیلام مورخہ 17 اگست 2023ء کو منعقد ہوگا۔ خواہشمند حضرات بولی میں حصہ لے کر اس سہری موقع سے فائدہ اٹھائیں۔
- شرائط و ضوابط:-**
- 1۔ نیلامی میں حصہ لینے کے قبل ہر بولی دہندہ اپنے شناختی کارڈ کی نقل بہت محنت سے لاکھ روپے تک ایک لاکھ روپے تک لکھنا اور اس کی نقل زبردستی جمع کرانے کا۔
 - 2۔ دکان کی پیمائش 12x20 اور رقبہ 240 مربع فٹ ہے۔
 - 3۔ دکان کی بولی ماہانہ کرایہ کی بنیاد پر ہوگی اور ماہانہ کرایہ کی سرکاری بولی سے کم منظور نہیں ہوگی۔
 - 4۔ مدت کرایہ داری 3 سال کیلئے ہوگی اور مدت کے اختتام پر کرایہ داری خود بخود ختم ہوگی۔ اگر کرایہ داری مدت کرایہ داری میں توسیع کا خواہشمند ہوگا تو مدت کے اختتام سے 2 ماہ قبل کینٹ بورڈ سنجاول پر درخواست دینگے جو کینٹ بورڈ کی منظوری کے تابع ہوگا۔
 - 5۔ کامیاب بولی دہندہ کو بولی کی منظوری کے فوراً بعد 06 ماہ کے کرایہ کے برابر قائل اور باقی ضمانت جمع کرانا ہوگا جو کرایہ مدت کرایہ داری کے اختتام پر بعد میں حساب و ادائیگی کی جائے گی۔
 - 6۔ کامیاب بولی دہندہ دکان کی دوسرے کو نقل کرنے کا مجاز نہ ہوگی اور نہ کسی طور پر کسی کرایہ پر دینے کا مجاز ہوگا۔ صرف شرفی وارٹ بلیڈ مدت تک کرایہ کیلئے دکان رکھ سکتے ہیں تاہم فیصلہ فنانسنگ کی صورت میں دکان کی کرایہ داری منسوخ کر دی جائے گی۔
 - 7۔ کرایہ داری دکان کے ذمہ داری کے تمام عملیاتی نہیں کرنے اور نہ ہی دکان میں کوئی کاروبار یا خلاف قانون شرع کرینگے۔ خلاف ورزی کی صورت میں مجاہدہ کرایہ داری منسوخ کر دیا جائے گا۔
 - 8۔ کرایہ داری حکومت اور بورڈ کی جانچ و نظر کے ماتحت رہے گا اور دہندہ کو اس کے پانچ ماہ ہوگا۔
 - 9۔ کرایہ داری دکان کا فیصلہ کرایہ پر ماہ کی دس (10) تاریخ تک جمع کرانے کا پابند ہوگا اور کرایہ داری میں سالانہ دس فیصد اضافہ ہوگا۔
 - 10۔ مسلسل تین (3) ماہانہ بندی کی صورت میں کرایہ داری منسوخ کر دی جائے گی اور پندرہ (15) دن کے نوش کے بعد دکان خالی کر لی جائے گی۔
 - 11۔ PPRA روٹر کے مطابق زیر منظوری ہے تاہم کرایہ داری کی منظوری منسوخ کرنے کا مجاز ہے۔
 - 12۔ یہ اشتہار PPRA کی ویب سائٹ اور کینٹ بورڈ کی ویب سائٹ پر دستیاب ہوگا۔
 - 13۔ دیگر شرائط نیلامی سے متعلق پرتائی جائیں گی۔

PID (I) No. 610/23

المشتر

ایڈیٹور

کنٹونمنٹ سنجاول کینٹ

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/Argentina
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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
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SCO's success hinges on settling bilateral issues: IPS roundtable

The expansion of the SCO after inclusion of Iran along with the geographical spread of dialogue partners and observer states rooting for multipolarity instead of pledging to US-led Western domination has added a new dynamic to the evolving regional architecture of the SCO

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has the potential to create synergy and offers a viable alternative to SAARC, provided the regional problems are solved regionally. Unless the bilateral equations are settled and cohesion is maintained between member states, the future contours of SCO would remain undefined.

This was observed during a roundtable discussion titled 'Regional Cooperation in the Eurasian Region: Role of the SCO' held at IPS on July 20, 2023. The forum analyzed the significance of the SCO as a vital platform for fostering regional stability, economic development, and connectivity in the Eurasian region, with a particular focus on Pakistan, and evaluated the outcomes of the SCO Summit hosted by India on July 4. The roundtable was addressed by Ambassador (r) Masood Khalid, Pakistan's former ambassador to China, Dr. Sarwat Rauf, associate professor, NUML, Ambassador (r) Abdul Basit, Pakistan's former high commissioner to India, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Meher Kashif Younis, veteran industrialist and former senior vice president Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dr. Faisal Javed, assistant professor, FUUAST, Karachi, and Prof Dr. Fakhr-ul-Islam, director research and academic outreach, IPS. Underscoring the



potential of the SCO, Ambassador Masood said that the organization has gained strength as compared to SAARC and ECO. The expansion of the SCO after inclusion of Iran along with the geographical spread of dialogue partners and observer states rooting for multipolarity instead of pledging to US-led Western domination has added a new dynamic to the evolving regional architecture of the SCO. Despite having disputes, member states are keen to promote economic cooperation, linkages, trade, and access to the outside world. The security, development, and connectivity-driven regional architecture of the SCO provides Pakistan with an opportunity to engage proactively while aiming to become economically strong. Dr. Sarwat maintained that despite India mis-

using the SCO platform for blame game, Pakistan would remain in focus as a geostrategic location and trade hub. To Pakistan, the SCO may present a solution to the economic meltdown and security conundrum, provided embedded historical problems are resolved. In this regard, Pakistan needs to enhance multilateral diplomacy efforts and mend the Afghan Taliban supportive image that it still carries, she recommended. While the SCO has potential, its realization demands the resolution of bilateral disputes and other inherent discrepancies that may impede its growth, observed Ambassador Abdul Basit. For instance, the hardened stances of states like India, its reservations about the Belt and Road Initiative, the differences of opinion and mistrust, and bilateral disputes might

remain there for years to come. Unless the bilateral equations are settled, the future contours of the SCO would remain undefined, he said. Meher Younis stated that the SCO incorporates 46% of the global population and is the biggest consumer market, with a huge younger generation and land mass. To gain benefits from these factors, Pakistan must pay attention to development-oriented engagement, people-to-people interaction, cultural diplomacy, economic diplomacy, agricultural diplomacy, natural resources diplomacy, joint research, and technological and academic interactions. These prospects are further multiplied by the expansion of the SCO, said Dr Faisal Javed. However, maintaining cohesion is crucial for greater influence

and realization of these potentials. Earlier, Ambassador Abrar elaborated that under the New Delhi Declaration of the SCO Summit, member states are intended to strengthen political, security, and economic cooperation and confront threats from terrorism, extremism, and separatism. While this includes moving towards a democratic international political order, political resolutions to international and regional conflicts to establish a solid security shield in the region is crucial. In his concluding remarks, Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam stated that the significance of the SCO cannot be overlooked, but the potential challenges and diverging interests of member states should be worked on to increase the overall efficacy of the organization.

Admin, Police finalize foolproof arrangements for Muharram

Rawalpindi District Police, City Traffic Police (CTP), Rescue-1122 Rawalpindi, and other relevant departments have finalized all the arrangements for 'Youm-e-Ashura,' to be observed on Saturday

DNA

RAWALPINDI: All the arrangements have been finalized for the 9th and 10th of Muharram while over 6000 cops would guard 64 mourning processions and 113 majlis of the district. The district administration and law enforcers have finalized all necessary arrangements to facilitate the mourners. Rawalpindi District Police, City Traffic Police (CTP), Rescue-1122 Rawalpindi, and other relevant departments have finalized all the arrangements for 'Youm-e-Ashura,' to be observed on Saturday. Six main processions of Zuljanah, Alam, and Tazia would be taken out on Ashura from different areas of the city. All the processions would culminate at 10:00 p.m. at Imambargah Qadimi. Clerics and religious scholars would highlight the teachings of Imam Hussain (RA) and various aspects of the tragedy. According to City Police Officer (CPO)

Syed Khalid Hamdani, the Police had finalized elaborate security arrangements for the peaceful passage of 9th and 10th of Muharram and to avoid any untoward incident. Special security arrangements had been finalized for Muharram ul Haram in the district, he said. "A three-layer security cover would be provided particularly to the main Muharram processions with special arrangements ensuring rooftop duty and deployment of Quick Response Force (QRF)," he added. "The foolproof security arrangements had been finalized for the main 10th Muharram procession of the city which starts from Satellite Town and culminates at Imam Bargah Qadimi." Over 2500 security personnel would be deployed to guard the main procession while 3500 cops would provide security cover to other processions and majlis of the district. More than 1000 officers and personnel of traffic police would ensure traffic arrangements, he informed. According to a police spokes-

man, no one would be allowed to carry weapons in Muharram procession except designated police officers. Police would not allow anybody to organize a new Muharram procession and on SOPs violation strict action would be taken against the violators, he added. A special 24/7 control room had also been set up, he said and informed that strict monitoring of Ashura processions would be conducted as Close Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras had been installed at routes of main Zuljinnah processions and places where majlis would be held. He said special contingents of commandos and police officials would also be deployed at trouble points. According to the security plan formulated in this regard, aerial surveillance of the 'Ashura' processions would also be conducted to ensure the security of the mourners. Additional forces of Special Branch Police, Elite Force, Punjab Constabulary, and Women Police along with district police would be deployed to ensure

security on the 10th of Muharram. Special checking of the routes would be carried out before the start of the processions and the bomb disposal squad would clear the routes. The mourners would be checked with metal detectors and walk-through gates would be installed at the entry points of the processions. The route of the main procession of 'Ashura' would be sealed completely and streets on the route would be barricaded. Vehicles and motorcycles would not be allowed to move with the mourning processions. The spokesman informed that police had finalized security arrangements for 447 processions and 1925 majlis of Muharram ul Haram while special security arrangements were also finalized for 40 sensitive processions of the district. 5000 volunteers were also performing security duties along with District Police, Ladies Police, Elite Force, Traffic Police, Punjab Highway Patrol, Punjab Constabulary, and Dolphin Force personnel, he informed.

Senate Chairman urged to facilitate meeting with Afia

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony, Muhammad Talha Mehmood has urged the Senate Chairman on Thursday to write a letter to the foreign office, requesting their help in organizing a meeting with Dr. Afia Siddique, who is presently incarcerated in an American jail. During a point of order, he disclosed that the planned meeting with Dr. Fauzia Siddique on August 4 has been called off by American authorities. He elaborated that Dr. Fauzia is presently in Saudi Arabia and will directly travel to the United States of America (USA). He proposed that the meeting with her sister could be arranged on August 6 or 7 instead. In response to a Calling Attention Notice raised by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, urging efforts for the release of Dr. Afia Siddique, Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tarar, stated that a briefing on the issue would be given to the House by Foreign Minister Bilawal Zardari and State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar, in the near future. Furthermore, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto had already facilitated a meeting between Dr. Fouzia and Dr. Afia in a USA jail.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used to expand lanes on Islamabad Expressway.—APP

PM grieved over demise of UAE President's brother

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's brother Sheikh Saeed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He said the entire nation of Pakistan equally shared the grief of the brotherly country UAE, the royal family, and the people of the UAE. He prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the departed soul in paradise and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.—APP

World Hepatitis Day to be marked tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: World Hepatitis Day will be marked on Friday (July 28) across the globe including Pakistan to promote awareness of hepatitis, a disease that affects the liver. One way of preventing hepatitis is to get a vaccine against the disease before traveling. The United Nations and the World Hepatitis Alliance work with individuals and community groups to promote awareness raising campaigns worldwide about hepatitis. Information about World Hepatitis Day is usually distributed via social media, newspapers, posters, and through the World Health Organization (WHO) website.

IRSA releases 439,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 439,700 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 537,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1531.90 feet and was 133.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 287,100 cusecs and 261,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1222.20 feet, which was 172.22 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.—APP

President calls for early diagnosis of hepatitis cases

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that as Pakistan has the world's largest population of hepatitis patients, it was a must to prioritize the screening and early diagnosis of the disease and any delayed action could lead to a devastating liver cancer epidemic. "Presently, Pakistan has the world's largest population of patients living with Hepatitis C, a staggering 10 million cases... Without timely action, the number of HCV-infected cases in Pakistan may rise exponentially, leading to a devastating liver cancer epidemic," the president said in his message to the nation on World Hepatitis Day annually observed on July 28. He said World Hepatitis Day was commemorated to raise awareness about the critical issue of hepatitis and related diseases in Pakistan. He said Hepatitis B and C viruses posed significant public health threats, causing immense morbidity and mortality worldwide. "In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, a staggering 80% of the hepatitis C disease burden lies in Egypt and Pakistan. While Egypt has made commendable progress in combating hepatitis C, regrettably, our country remains a major contributor to this burden in our region," he remarked. The president said Hepatitis C was a dangerous, silent disease, often carrying no signs or symptoms until it has done significant damage to the liver. We must realize that individuals infected with this virus continue to carry it for years, putting them at high risk of advanced-stage liver disease and cancer, he added. He said in order to ensure the well-being of our nation, we need to prioritize the screening and early diagnosis of hepatitis C cases.—DNA

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AIUO
announces
admission
schedule

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) has announced the admission schedule for merit-based (face-to-face) programs offered in the first phase of semester autumn 2023 admissions. According to AIUO, face-to-face programs offered in this phase include BS, MBA, M.Sc (Hons), MPhil, MS, and PhD programs. Admission forms and prospectuses of these programs are available on the university website (www.aiuo.edu.pk). New students can apply online till August 15, while current students in these programs (continuing students) can enroll in the next semester till August 22. The entrance test/interviews for admission to MPhil, MS, and Ph.D programs will be held from August 17-23. According to the details, the tests/interviews of the Faculty of Education will be held on August 17-18. Tests/interviews for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities are scheduled on August 18-19, the Faculty of Science on August 21-22 while Tests/Interviews for the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies will be held on August 22-23.

Action taken
against HEC
official

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar on Thursday confirmed that strong action was taken against an official from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) who had directed educational institutions not to celebrate the Hindu festival of Holi, deeming it incompatible with the country's societal values and identity. Responding to a calling attention notice, the minister said Islam also taught respect to other religions. Danesh pointed out that on June 20, the HEC issued a directive to educational institutions, instructing them to refrain from celebrating Holi. Senator Danesh Kumar vehemently criticized the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for issuing a discriminatory letter against the Hindu community, emphasizing that non-Muslims were equal citizens of the country. He cited Quaid-e-Azam's speech on September 11, 1947, wherein he declared minorities as equal citizens of the nation.

CDNS sets
target of Rs
1743b for FY
2023-24

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Saving (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 1743 billion for the current Fiscal Year 2023-24, to promote the saving culture in the country. This is Rs 443 billion additional than the target of Rs1300 billion for the previous financial year 2022-23, a senior official of CDNS told APP here Thursday. Replying to a question, he said, "The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) attained the target of issuing Rs 1.48 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year (2022-23)." "The CDNS has set a reviewing saving target of Rs 1.3 trillion for the current financial year (2022-23) which will promote the savings culture in the country." Replying to another question, he said the CDNS has set a target of Rs 75 billion in Islamic finance year 2023-24. The aim was to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. He informed that CDNS had reviewed and set a target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market. "Islamic finance has a very important role in the global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," The senior official said, "Work on Islamic finance is still needed in Pakistan." He said that at present, work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced."—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Spouses of Ambassadors of Egypt, France, Belgium, Palestine posing for a picture with Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman on the occasion of the National Day of Egypt.—DNA

Economic integration a must for regional development

By integrating their economies, South Asian countries can create a buffer against external shocks

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik said the economic integration in South Asia holds significant potential to address future challenges and foster regional development. Chairing a seminar on "Economic Integration in South Asia" he said that South Asia, a diverse and populous region faced with several shared challenges that could be better tackled through closer economic cooperation, said a news release issued here

Thursday. By integrating their economies, South Asian countries can create a buffer against external shocks, he added. Diversification of markets and sources of investment can help countries better with stand economic downturns and reduce vulnerabilities. He said closer economic ties can lead to increased trade volumes, investment flows and technological transfers, which can boost economic growth and development across the region. This growth can be inclusive, benefiting various sectors and sections of society. He said many South Asian countries heavily rely on a

few trading partners outside the region. Economic integration can help diversify trade by fostering intra-regional trade, reducing dependence on external markets, and creating a more robust regional market for goods and services. About infrastructure development he said this region needs substantial investments in infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and communication networks. Economic integration can facilitate the pooling of resources to develop cross-border infrastructure projects, enhance connectivity, and promote regional trade and investment, he added.

Regarding leveraging the demographic dividend he said South Asia is home to a large and youthful population. By integrating their economies, the region can create a larger and more skilled labor market, attracting investments and promoting industrial growth. He said this would be crucial for harnessing the demographic dividend and creating employment opportunities for the growing workforce. Iftikhar Ali Malik said historically, economic interdependence has been linked to reduced tensions and conflicts between countries and strengthening economic ties can

promote mutual interests, trust, and cooperation, contributing to peace and stability in the region. He said poverty and inequality, addressing common challenges, promoting regional values chains and industries and harmonization of policies and standards are also equally crucial and important to be taken care of to attain desired results. However, concerted efforts by regional organizations like the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and bilateral agreements can play a crucial role in overcoming these barriers and advancing economic integration in South Asia.

7th Muharram procession culminates peacefully

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Seventh Muharram-ul-Haram procession taken out Wednesday after Maghrib prayer from Nishtar Street, Sadiqabad culminated peacefully on Thursday early morning at Imambargh Qadeemi. Foolproof security arrangements were finalized for the procession. The main procession of 7th Muharram al-Haram after passing through traditional routes concluded at Qadeemi Imambargh. More than 2500 security personnel and 210 wardens were deployed to ensure security. City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani, Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations, and senior officers remained present in the field to check arrangements and brief the cops about security. Walk-through gates were

installed at the entry points of the procession, the CPO said. The participants were allowed to join the procession after a body search. Syed Khalid Hamdani said that cops were also deployed on the rooftops to ensure the security of the procession. Police were utilizing all available resources to ensure foolproof security arrangements during Muharram, the CPO added. According to a CTP spokesman, CTP had chalked out a traffic plan for the 7th Muharram procession. 210 personnel including three DSPs, 10 inspectors, 196 traffic wardens, and traffic assistants under the supervision of the Superintendent of Police were performing duties to ensure smooth traffic flow during the procession. The route of the main procession was sealed completely. It passed through

Transformer Chowk, Kuri Road, Chah Sultan, Glass Factory Chowk, Zafarul Haq Road, Leprosy Hospital, Murree Road, Committee Chowk, and Iqbal Road and reached Naya Mohallah where other small processions joined it. The procession then passed through Naya Mohallah Chowk to Fawara Chowk, Dingi Khoi, Bansanwala Chowk, Jamia Masjid Road and culminated at Qadeemi Imambargh. Traffic diversion points were closed with barriers. During the diversions, alternative routes were provided to motorists. Parking of any type of vehicle was banned on the routes of the mourning procession. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan said in order to facilitate citizens, information about the alternative routes was also shared on the official pages of social media and radio stations (88.6) of the traffic police.

Custom approves 60 more orchards from GB

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has approved sixty more orchards from Gilgit-Baltistan to export cherry to China. This was stated by Commercial Counsellor Ghulam Qadir here at the Pakistani Embassy, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. Ghulam Qadir said that the approval of the Pakistani cherry orchards by Chinese customs holds significant potential for the agricultural sector in Gilgit Baltistan, where cherry cultivation is a prominent industry. "The endorsement by Chinese customs signifies that the cherries from Pakistan meet the required standards and regulations for export to China. This not only opens up new avenues for trade but also showcases the quality and taste of Pakistani cherries to a wider international market", he added. Arman Shah, CEO of Hashwan Group and Arman Shah Farm, which is the largest farm approved by Chinese Customs told CEN that the collaboration between China and Pakistan in promoting agricultural exports, particularly cherries from Gilgit Baltistan, highlights the mutual benefits derived from such partnerships. It not only boosts economic growth but also strengthens bilateral ties. He further told that GB cherries have already been exported to other countries with the major market being the Middle East, adding that this year the price of export was between Rs. 700-1000 per kg. "Gilgit Baltistan produces more than 4,000 tons of quality cherries in every season and my 7.5-acre farm produces around 15-20 tons. I also have cold storage facility which helps me export even after the season", he mentioned. "The approval of Pakistani cherry orchards by Chinese customs signifies a step towards enhanced trade relations and serves as a testament to the quality of produce originating from Gilgit Baltistan", he mentioned.—APP

'Economy saved from default but still in a mess'

DNA


ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rashid Butt said on Thursday that the business community supports the decision to give more powers to the caretaker government as it is the need of the hour. An interim setup is appointed to run day-to-day admin-

istrative affairs and not to make important decisions, but at this time the country's economic situation is critical and the threat of a default is looming, so giving them additional powers was necessary for the economic interests of the country, he said. Shahid Rashid Butt said in a statement issued here today that in the presence of powerless caretaker government, several agreements and projects, including the agreement


made with the IMF would have been exposed to risks, and the opportunity to hold negotiations with the creditors would have been lost, which would have affected the people, traders, and industrialists. To save the economy from destabilisation, the government has taken the right decision by amending the election laws in line with the economic situation of the country, which is laudable, he said.

Sino-Pakistan Drone conference held

ISLAMABAD: A China-Pakistan drone conference held here in Pakistan Embassy on Thursday with theme of building a viable drone industry in Pakistan. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that unmanned aerial vehicle (UAVs) is being used in many industries to ease the life of people. For instance, disaster Management, smart cities, policing, and agriculture sector are using these technologies. "In recent years, it has been a lot of focus on economic operations within the IT industry, China Pakistan Economic Corridor, being the flagship project of BRI, is helping Pakistan and has helped Pakistan economic transformation, infrastructure, industry, Special Economic Zone have all been developed under this framework. We are also focused on Pakistan's strategic infrastructure, scitech and new emerging technologies. Now, we have a special working group on IT under CPEC", the ambassador mentioned. "We have agreed to launch China-Pakistan digital corridor also, as well as we made national drone policy and establishment of civil drone regulatory authority in Pakistan has also been under our consideration. In Pakistan, the National Center for Robotics and Automation (NCRA) is working on development of drones related solutions and technologies, with the support of a series of dedicated drone labs, including UAV dependability lab, swarm intelligence lab, agriculture statistics lab, and robot design and development lab", Haque added. Chairman Yang, World UAV Federation told the audience that World UAV Federation was founded in 2017. More than 36 countries in Asia, Europe, North and South America have joined the Federation as local chapters. "As mentioned in the LTP, agricultural development is one of the key cooperation areas, where UAVs can work in several aspects like breeding, disease prevention and control. That is to say, the partnership in the drone area will be beneficial to CPEC construction", he mentioned. He invited all participants to attend coming events, including CPSE 2023 and DCW 2023, held in October 25-28, DWC and UAV Expo next year. According to statistics, China's drone enterprises provide various services to more than 100,000 villages, towns and communities in 30 provinces, with about 250,000 plant protection drones in an area of more than 800 billion SQM systems. "According to Morgan Stanley, the value of the global urban air mobility market will reach 9 trillion US dollars in 2050, and China expects the drone cargo market to be around 200 billion by 2024 and 20,000 to 3 trillion RMB by 2030. To build urban low altitude airway networks to support the large-scale commercial development of UA applications, and the low-altitude economy represented by UAVs are expected to become a new engine for social and economic growth," Yang emphasized. Addressing in the conference, Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at Pakistan embassy said nascent development of bilateral cooperation in the field of technology is essential for Pakistan. Qadir said Pakistan is going to organize largest agricultural exhibition next month, in which drone manufacturing industry will find a place and many invited drone companies will display products.—DNA



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Warming oceans are a warning of chaos ahead

WHAT was long predicted is now happening. Earth's weather systems are increasingly disrupted and destructive, as a consequence of the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. In addition to devastating heatwaves in the northern hemisphere, and their role in igniting forest fires, high sea temperatures over recent months have led scientists to reiterate their warnings that we are moving fast into uncharted, dangerous territory. Climate models have always allowed for uncertainty. For decades, scientists have been certain of the direction of travel: towards increased heat, risk and instability. But how precisely the crisis would manifest, in what order systems would break down, and how the knock-on effects would unfold, remains a subject for research and discussion. Currently, there is a debate between experts about whether the pace of global heating is accelerating or stable. The likelihood of vital ocean currents, known as the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation, collapsing this century is also contested. The causes of record-breaking ocean temperatures are also being investigated. While an El Niño weather event was expected this year, it is not regarded as a sufficient explanation of the ocean temperature rises recorded since April. Heat is also thought to be causing oceans' colour to change from blue to green, due to increased plankton. The situation is particularly concerning because we have relied on the oceans to absorb 90% of the heat trapped by greenhouse gases. Dr Bernadette Sloyan, a marine scientist in Australia, has compared their role to that of an air conditioner. For many of those focused on what is happening – including activists, scientists and politicians – the inadequacy of national and international responses to the emergency is disorienting as well as disturbing. Despite decades of pledges made under the auspices of the UN's climate process, global emissions are at an all-time high. It is hard to fathom what further evidence is needed to persuade governments that a drastic change of course is the safest option. But it is clear that the countries and businesses that are most strongly reliant on fossil-fuel profits will not willingly give them up. Whether and how they can be convinced or compelled to do so is the existential question of our times. Last weekend the G20 bloc of nations – which produce 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions – failed to reach agreement on phasing down fossil fuels. This November's round of UN talks, Cop28, is being held in the United Arab Emirates and led by Sultan Al Jaber, who also heads his country's national oil company. As forests burn and the sea turns green, the necessity of confronting vested interests – including energy-intensive western-type lifestyles as well as the corporations that depend on fossil fuels for profits – becomes more desperate by the day.

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US rushing to turn AI into a new weapon

THE question is not to be, or not to be. It is not even a question of whether to use it or not. The question is how it will be used. The United States turns almost every major new technological breakthrough into some kind of weapon. The corollary to that question is why would artificial intelligence be an exception. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo posed the question many are now asking, how AI is to be used, in a jointly penned article published in the Financial Times on Monday. While they claim that the Joe Biden administration is seeking to "limit the near-term risks of AI while fostering innovation", they reveal the administration already sees the development of AI as a battleground by declaring that the US must act quickly to shape its future development. Acknowledging that the US is "home to many of the leading companies, technologies and minds driving the AI revolution", they said that the fact it is working with others around the world to ensure the future for this technology "reflects our shared values and vision". But the values and vision of the US cannot really be shared as they are totally narcissistic. As the Biden administration and its predecessor have made crystal clear, the US simply baits others to its domineering cause with high-sounding notions on which they can pin their own agendas. Hence, Blinken and Raimondo can propose that G7-led action could inform an international code of conduct for private actors and governments. In the pretense that this would not be building high walls around AI technology or directly applying AI against other countries, they allege that the US is open to global engagement. In a nod to criticism that has hit home, they even claim that the US is committed to making AI work for, and designing governance with, developing countries, singling out India for a critical role. Notably, China is not mentioned. Yet that only serves to highlight that the US' push to lead the governance of AI is not to safely harness its potential, but an integral part of its endeavors to weaponize the technology. The two US officials are right in saying that "AI holds an exhilarating potential to improve people's lives and help solve some of the world's biggest challenges" and "that only with the combined focus, ingenuity and co-operation of the international community will we be able to fully and safely harness the potential of AI". But unless that cooperation is truly inclusive, then people will rightly continue to ask questions of Washington's intent and purpose.

Russian Strategic Challenges and America

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Russian military power is currently under significant pressure. Russia may face American military power that the United States chooses to deploy in response to Russian actions. However, the action taken by the rest of Europe, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania could agree to any agreement proposed by the United States to obtain support and commitment to resist Russian advancement. Therefore, this time the front line will be drawn in the Carpathian Mountains instead of Germany, as it was during the Cold War

THE US initially ignores its opponents, but as tensions rise then it overemphasizes the threats of their capabilities. It has been doing the same in relation to China. In which geographic distance continues to foster a sense of security and increased connectivity, this sense creates a tendency for Americans to understand their adversaries more or less. As the US grows closer to China, it increasingly portrays China as a dangerous country and increases military spending much to counter the perceived threat. While China's geographical location is of utmost importance, on the other hand, China also continues to avoid direct combat. A resurgence of Russia now poses a challenge to the US as Russia exerts influence in Central Asia and the Caucasus and is also threatened to absorb Moldova. However, it could not fulfill its dream of annexing the Baltic States or dominating any nation in the West. If Russia engages with the Baltic States and secures important allies in Central European countries such as Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, or Slovakia, the rivalry between the US and Russia will intensify and become more dangerous. Russia's tendency to move westward is due to its fear of Western attacks. Its interests encompass the region stretching from the Balkans to the Baltics. However, its main concern is to the west, especially towards and beyond the Carpathians, in which direction historical conflicts have arisen. On the other hand, US prefer naval dominance. Considering Russia's potential ability to deploy substantial naval forces in the Atlantic and Pacific, Washington views Russian defense as potentially offensive. As the result, the U.S. maintains control over air and naval forces, forcing it to respond primarily by using allied ground forces for major engagements. How-

ever, the results will not be determined by these factors alone. Russian military power is currently under significant pressure. Russia may face American military power that the United States chooses to deploy in response to Russian actions. However, the action taken by the rest of Europe, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Romania could agree to any agreement proposed by the United States to obtain support and commitment to resist Russian advancement. Therefore, this time the front line will be drawn in the Carpathian Mountains instead of Germany, as it was during the Cold War. The main front line will be the northern plains of Poland, but Russia does not seem likely to initiate military action. The main reason is that these nations are vulnerable to Russian aggression and they will align themselves with the United States to stop Russian advancement in the Carpathians and beyond. On the other hand, strategic depth is very important to Russia. The accurate assessment of the strategic challenges requires an understanding of a nation's requirements. Russia's main requirement is to create distance between itself and potential adversaries west of the Carpathians. The factors that led to this conflict and the previous Cold War have had a similar outcome, although this time with less effort on the part of the United States. The previous conflict took place in Central Europe, while the current conflict will unfold significantly further east. In the past, China aligned itself with Russia, at least initially. However, China will remain uninvolved in the current issue. Russia previously had complete control over the Caucasus, but this time it is facing pressure from both the US and Turkey in the northern region. Furthermore, Russia's population size is now small and declining, unlike in the past when it was very large. Internal pressures, particularly in the south, would di-

vert Russia's attention from the West, ultimately leading to a non-violent end. Russia has experienced bankruptcy in 1917 and again in 1991, and its military could be feared to be weakened once again after the 2020 case. Demographic factors could spell trouble for Russia. On the other hand, Europe and America may also face demographic challenges, but they continue to manage to overcome them through technological advancement. Although Russia also has significant technological capabilities in some limited areas, its technological capability is lower than that of the US and Europe. Because America has immense technologies that it continues to share with its allies. Russia is forced to fight this kind of war and has historically participated in it. In 1917, manpower shortages led to the collapse of the regime and in 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed because it was unable to compete with American military technology. In the same way, the Ukraine conflict has imposed on Russia an essentially conventional conflict that requires large numbers of troops and has resulted in significant casualties. It is clear that the Russian military has been showing resilience. It is worth noting that the United States is engaged in war with an exaggerated perception of Russian power. Another important factor to consider is that it has been repeatedly emphasized. Russia can achieve its goals by expanding its western borders and thus creating more distance between itself and its adversaries. Such an effort is limited by the size of its population and the significant number of men required initiating and maintaining armed conflict. In short, it is necessary to understand what Russia should have and to explore the reasons for its weaknesses. Trying to know outcomes without it is a futile exercise. It requires the most practical insight and the most vivid observations of events, decisions, measures and then analysis them.

Changes to health landscape in developing countries

Umama Bibi



NCDs, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, and musculoskeletal disorders, pose a significant health burden, especially in low- and middle-income countries. While commonly associated with older age groups, evidence shows that a substantial number of premature NCD-related deaths occur between the ages of 30 and 69, with a majority occurring in low- and middle-income countries

MANY developing nations now face a "dual burden" of disease. They must continue to combat infectious diseases while also addressing the health risks posed by non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and environmental hazards. As the social and economic conditions in these countries change and their healthcare systems and surveillance improve, there is a growing need to prioritize the management of NCDs, mental health, substance abuse disorders, and injuries (both intentional and unintentional). The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #3, which aims to ensure good health and well-being, has set a target to reduce premature deaths caused by NCDs by one-third by 2030. Some countries have already started implementing programs to tackle these issues. For instance, Kenya has initiated programs focused on road traffic safety and violence prevention. The primary types of NCDs include cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and strokes), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma), and diabetes. Musculoskeletal disorders like osteoarthritis also contribute to disability and reduced quality of life for a significant number of people. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NCDs disproportionately affect individuals in low- and middle-income countries, where over 75% of global NCD deaths (32 million) occur. Many more millions suffer from disabilities caused by these conditions. While these diseases are often associated with older age groups, evidence shows that 15 million premature deaths due to NCDs occur between the ages of 30 and 69. More than 85% of these premature deaths are estimated to occur in low- and middle-income countries. People of all age groups, including children, adults, and the elderly, are vulnerable to the risk factors that contribute to NCDs, such as unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, exposure to tobacco smoke, and harmful alcohol use. Many of these risk factors are modifiable behaviors that can be addressed. According to the WHO: Tobacco use accounts for over 7.2 million deaths annually, including deaths resulting from exposure to second-hand smoke, and this number is projected to increase significantly in the coming years. Excess salt/sodium intake has been attributed to 1 million deaths each year. More than half of the 3.3 million annual deaths associated with alcohol use are linked to NCDs, including cancer. Insufficient physical activity is responsible for 6 million deaths every year. Recognizing and reducing these risk factors is crucial for controlling NCDs. Governments and other stakeholders can implement low-cost solutions. Monitoring progress and

trends is vital for guiding policies and priorities. A comprehensive approach involving collaboration across sectors, including health, finance, transport, education, agriculture, planning, and others, is necessary. Investing in the improved management of NCDs is critical. This includes early detection, screening, treatment, and providing access to palliative care, all of which can be delivered through primary healthcare. Evidence shows that such interventions are cost-effective and can reduce the need for more expensive treatments when provided early. A decade ago, the Aya Njema project was initiated in and around Nairobi, Kenya. This project involved collaboration between nursing students and professors from local nursing schools and a team of nursing students and preceptors from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. The nurses worked together in specialized screening clinics to identify patients with elevated blood sugar, high blood pressure, and chronic arthritis. Thousands of individuals were screened during the first five years, and patients were provided with information on behavioral changes to manage their newly diagnosed disorders. They were also encouraged to follow up in their community clinics and hospitals. Many developing countries face a "dual burden" of disease, where they must tackle both infectious diseases and the health risks associated with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and environmental factors. As these countries undergo social and economic changes and enhance their healthcare systems and surveillance, it becomes crucial to prioritize the prevention and management of NCDs, mental health issues, substance abuse disorders, and injuries. The UN's Sustainable Development Goal #3 aims to reduce premature deaths caused by NCDs by a third by 2030, prompting some countries like Kenya to implement targeted programs in areas such as road traffic safety and violence prevention. NCDs, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, and musculoskeletal disorders, pose a significant health burden, especially in low- and middle-income countries. While commonly associated with older age groups, evidence shows that a substantial number of premature NCD-related deaths occur between the ages of 30 and 69, with a majority occurring in low- and middle-income countries. Risk factors contributing to NCDs, such as unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, exposure to tobacco smoke, and harmful alcohol consumption, affect individuals of all ages. Efforts to address these risk factors are crucial in controlling NCDs. Cost-effective solutions exist for governments and stakeholders to mon-

itor and address NCDs. A comprehensive approach involving multiple sectors, including health, finance, transport, education, agriculture, and planning, is necessary. Investing in improved management of NCDs, early detection, screening, treatment, and access to palliative care through primary health care can yield positive outcomes and reduce the need for more expensive treatments. The use of mobile phones can also aid in preventing and managing NCDs, as demonstrated by initiatives like the Be He@lthy, Be Mobile program, which leverages SMS messages to provide support and guidance to individuals with diabetes. Such programs have been implemented in various countries, including Senegal and India, with successful results. Furthermore, mental, neurological, and substance use disorders affect communities worldwide, with the majority of those affected lacking access to necessary treatment. The WHO Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) aims to scale up mental health services, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, emphasizing the importance of proper care, psychosocial assistance, and medication. Displaced populations, driven by factors like conflict, natural disasters, and environmental crises, require comprehensive support and assistance. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) plays a crucial role in providing protection, shelter, advocacy, and health services to refugees and displaced persons. Collaborative efforts between international agencies and host countries are essential to address the diverse needs of these populations and help them rebuild their lives. Addressing global health challenges necessitates the consideration of best practices, avoiding ineffective or counterproductive approaches. Technology and entrepreneurship can be valuable tools if applied appropriately, taking into account the unique circumstances of healthcare delivery in developing countries. It is crucial to prioritize the availability of basic healthcare and practical products specifically designed for resource-constrained settings. One of the most pressing challenges is the projected shortage of healthcare workers, with an estimated deficit of 18 million by 2030. This shortage disproportionately affects the poorest countries. Supporting community health workers and implementing innovative health technologies can help mitigate this crisis. Trained volunteers living within rural communities play a vital role in promoting healthcare activities, and efforts to standardize and support their work are evolving. Additionally, leveraging technology as a workforce assistant can enhance healthcare delivery

Briefs

Army Act to be made tough for violators

FORM PAGE 01 seeking prior approval from the Chief of the Army Staff, or any officer duly empowered by him, in the manner prescribed, shall not be deemed as unauthorised disclosure," it added. Furthermore, it sought to bar persons subject to this act from engaging in political activity for two years from the date of their retirement, release, resignation, discharge, removal or dismissal from the service, whereas those "employed, seconded, tasked or otherwise attached" to "sensitive" duties under the act will be barred from political activities for five years after they leave their posts. "Whoever violates [these conditions] on conviction by the court constituted under this Act, be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term, which may extend to two years," the bill stated. Moreover, the bill states that action will be taken against those involved in defamation of the military and they will be punished under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (Act XL of 2016) or relevant electronic, digital and social media laws. "A personnel who is or has been subject to this Act intentionally, ridicules, scandalizes, brings into hatred or otherwise attempts to lower the Armed Forces of Pakistan or any part thereof in the estimation of others shall, on conviction by a court constituted under this Act, in the prescribed manner, be punished with imprisonment which may extend to two years or fine or with both." Meanwhile, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Mian Raza Rabbani staged a walkout from the house, terming the approval of multiple bills in a day as "blind legislation". Rabbani said that the manner in which the bills were passed today is a "dark day" and added that these are very important bills but the members got these today.

Senate panel passes Toshakhana bill

FROM PAGE 01 centre of attention in recent times due to high-profile cases involving the concealment of gifts by public office holders. The issue has notably been brought to the forefront in recent months after accusations against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan of allegedly concealing such gifts during his tenure as prime minister. The government bill comes as a response to address gaps and deficiencies in the current system, aiming to establish clearer regulations governing the reporting and depositing of gifts received by government officials.

China rolls over \$2.4 billion loan: Ishaq Dar

FROM PAGE 01 Youth Sports Initiative, Shehbaz said the Exim Bank of China a day earlier rolled over \$600m to Pakistan, adding that assistance from friendly countries was improving economic indicators in the country. Last week, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar had said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had transferred an amount of \$1.2 billion to the State Bank of Pakistan as a first tranche under the stand-by agreement, which was approved its executive board. In a televised statement, Dar said the remaining \$1.8 would be released after two reviews, meaning that there would be two instalments. Pakistan's foreign reserves had jumped by \$4.2 billion during the last four days, he said - in a reference to \$2bn deposit made by Saudi Arabia and another \$1bn received from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Noting that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif played a pivotal role in the reaching the deal with the IMF, Dar said the economic team had extended full support to him during the complicated process.

PAL, PST to host Mazharul Islam's novel's ceremony

"Sarus Crane Apnay Khwabon mein se Urh kar ja Chukay Hain"



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) in collaboration with the Parveen Shakir Trust (PST) is organizing an introductory ceremony of the

eminent fiction writer Mazharul Islam's recently published novel "Sarus Crane Apnay Khwabon mein se Urh kar ja Chukay Hain" today (Wednesday) in the academy's Faiz Ahmed Faiz auditorium at 5.00 p.m. Chairperson of the PST, Parveen Qadir Agha will welcome the guests while Federal Secretary Na-

tional Heritage & Culture Division will deliver a keynote address on the occasion. Among the participant speakers include Javeria Tameem, Ayesha Farooq, Sofia Shakil, Shoaib Khaliq and Bushra Taimoor. Director of the PAL Muhammad Asim Butt will present a critical review of the book.

Ben Stokes denies rumours coming out of ODI retirement

LONDON: Long-format skipper Ben Stokes has denied the possibility of ODI retirement ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Stokes, 32, announced his retirement in July 2022 to manage his workload and on red-ball cricket with World Cup approaching. However, one of the important pillars of this team, there were rumours that the Brit may come out of retirement but the 32-year-old has denied it once and for all. "I'm retired. I'm going on holiday after this game [fifth Ashes Test] and that's as far as I'm thinking," Stokes was quoted as saying by ICC. Stokes also addressed his knee problems saying that the Cricket World Cup would be the best time to have a serious conversation with his doctors. "It's something I obviously want to get sorted. The times in which

I've seen specialists and stuff like that there has been cricket around. So, as it's been manageable, we've just cracked on," Stokes added. But I think that is a good time to have some serious conversations with medics around what is potentially something I could do to get a role in which I can bowl without having to worry about my knee. Those are conversations we will be able to have in that time off." As of now, Stokes has his eyes on Ashes 2025 which will be held in Australia. He is determined to win the series in Australia after failing to win it at home this year thanks to rain. "I mean obviously how this series has gone and how close we were it does make you think when we go to Australia do we have a better chance than the last few times we've been there. "Hopefully, it'd be nice to go out to Australia in 2025

and have a good chance of winning. It would be nice to say I've won it twice. There's obviously a lot of cricket that's played around the Ashes as well, but we'll just see when 2025 comes around," Stokes added. - Agencies



PBBF warns over malicious elements trying to cheat in Basketball

The elected body is also affiliated with FIBA, PSB and PPOA as well as all departments, provincial and divisional teams are also affiliated with the federation

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has clarified that it is the only elected body under the leadership of Brigadier (ret'd) Muhammad Ifkhar Mansoor and Khalid Bashir which has affiliation with Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) and international bodies of basketball. It has been clarified in a statement that the elected president of Pakistan Basketball Federation is Brigadier (R) Muhammad Ifkhar Mansoor and Secretary General Khalid Bashir, which is the only representative organization of Pakistan Basketball Federation and under their umbrella all the national and international events can be held including the development and promotion of basketball. The elected body is also affiliated with the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) as well as all departments, provincial and divisional teams are also affiliated with the federation, while under the agreement of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the government of Pakistan also recognizes the same federation which is affiliated to the world body. The statement said that some malicious elements are trying to deceive the players and the public by using the name of Pakistan Basketball Federation and harming the game of basketball, so beware of the evil elements and protect yourself from harm.

Pakistan record 4th win in Asian U16 Volleyball Championship

Pakistan got a carry point against Chinese Taipei Super 8 after they defeated them at group stage

TASHKENT: Pakistan recorded their fourth consecutive win after beating Thailand 3-0 in the ongoing Asian U16 Volleyball Championship in Uzbekistan on Thursday. The men in green won their last Super 8 match with the scoreline of 25-9, 25-16 and 25-19. Talal Ahmed, Mohammad Yahya, Mohammad Anas and Mahtud have been Pakistan's best performers in the tournament. Pakistan will now play their semi-final on Friday (July 28) with either Japan or Iran. Earlier in the first match of Super 8, Pakistan defeated Australia with a score line of 25-13, 25-19 and 25-14. Pakistan got a carry point against Chinese Taipei Super 8 after they defeated them at group stage. In the group stage, Pakistan defeated Mongolia 25-9, 25-17 and 25-13 and Chinese Taipei 5-15, 25-18 and 25-16. It has to be mentioned that earlier this month, Iran beat Pakistan 3-2 to win the Central Asian U16 Volleyball Championship. After an exciting contest, Iran won the final by the scores of 25-20, 25-27, 25-18, 21-25, and 15-11. The home side grabbed Gold after winning final whereas Pak managed Silver. - Agencies

Women's WC: Netherlands surprise USA, Portugal make history

SYDNEY: The Netherlands surprised United States of America (USA) with a 1-1 draw at the Wellington Regional Stadium, New Zealand. While Portugal made history as they registered their first-ever win in the Women's World Cup against Vietnam on Thursday. The Netherlands started the game well as they took a lead just after 17 minutes into the game with Jill Roord opening the account for the Dutch with a fine shot. The Netherlands' domination continued for the remaining part of the first half. Meanwhile, in the 62nd minute of the game, Lindsey Horan answered from the four-time champions with an unstoppable header at the near post on Rose Lavelle's corner. The match ended 1-1, and with it ended USA's tournament-record 13-match winning streak but they remain unbeaten in 19 straight Women's World Cup matches with 15 wins and one draw, the longest in competition's history. The Americans had not drawn a Women's World Cup match since 2015 and will rue a slow start to the game as well as an inability to take their chances at the end. "Even though it didn't finish the way we wanted (it) to finish I thought it was a good match for our team," said U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski. "What you saw in the second half is what you're going to see going forward as a baseline." It must be noted that both teams faced each other in the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup final which the Americans won 2-0. On the other hand, Portugal created history after winning against Vietnam 2-0 at the



FMG Stadium in Waikato, New Zealand. Portugal had a fantastic start as Telma Encarnacao scored not just the first goal of the game, but also her team's first-ever Women's World Cup goal. Encarnacao scored after reaching Lucia Alves' cross, meanwhile, the 20-year-old Kika Nazareth scored the second goal for Portugal with a calm and composed finish. Portugal's hopes are still alive as they are third in the group stage with three points, and with a win over the US, they can make their way into the round 16. - Agencies

Noman bags 7 as Pakistan crush Sri Lanka

The hosts started strongly with an opening stand of 69 until Noman bowled Nishan Madushka for 33 with his first ball of day and ruled the roost thereafter

COLOMBO: Noman Ali took seven wickets to lead Pakistan's rout of Sri Lanka by an innings and 222 runs to clinch the second Test inside four days and sweep the series 2-0 on Thursday. The left-arm spinner took the first seven and fast bowler Naseem Shah took the final three to bowl out Sri Lanka for 188 in the evening session in Colombo. Noman returned career-best figures of 7-70 in his 15th Test as Sri Lanka suffered their heaviest Test defeat at home. Pakistan,

who won the opening Test by four wickets, declared their first innings on 576-5 after just two overs in the morning session with a blowout lead of 410 runs. Opener Abdullah Shafique stood out with his 201 in an innings that saw three century stands, including a 124-run partnership with Agha Salman, who smashed an unbeaten 132. The hosts started strongly with an opening stand of 69 until Noman bowled Nishan Madushka for 33 with his first ball of the day and

ruled the roost thereafter. Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne hit boundaries off Naseem and Shaheen Shah Afridi, with Madushka joining the charge until his departure. Left-hander Karunaratne fell for 41 after lunch and Noman soon sent back Kusal Mendis and Dinesh Chandimal before Dhananjaya de Silva attempted to resist in his brief stay with Mathews. De Silva fell for 10 when he was caught out by Abrar Ahmed while attempting a big heave over long-on. Angelo Mathews

hit an unbeaten 63 and put on some fight with Ramesh Mendis before he was finally stumped off Noman, who went wicketless in Sri Lanka's first innings total of 166. Naseem bowled at express pace and reversed the old ball to miss out on a couple of close lbw calls but finally wrapped up the tail with two wickets in one over. Earlier in the day, Pakistan's concussion substitute Mohammad Rizwan reached 50 off 67 balls with three fours in the second over and put on 108 runs with overnight

partner Salman. Pakistan held all the aces after bundling out Sri Lanka for 166, with Shafique's maiden Test double ton guiding them to a mammoth total. Pakistan's young pacer Naseem Shah, on Thursday, has completed his 50 wickets in the Test format. Naseem, who picked the last three wickets on day four of the second Test against Sri Lanka, now has 51 wickets in the longer format. The right-arm pacer made his Test debut at the age of 16 against Australia in Brisbane in 2019. The pacer rose to fame with his brilliant bowling in Test cricket followed by his dominance in the T20 Asia Cup 2022 and ICC T20 World Cup 2022. On day 4 of the second Test that Pakistan won by an innings and 222 runs, the right-arm pacer set the tone for Nauman Ali who was brilliant with his spell of 7-70. Nauman, 36, made a solid comeback following all the criticism and thrashed the batting line of Sri Lanka after they were trailed by 410 runs. - Agencies

Pakistan strongly condemns recent...

FROM PAGE 01

As urged by the UN Human Rights Council, the relevant countries must address, prevent and prosecute such acts of religious hatred. The international community must raise its collective voice against Islamophobia and work together to promote inter-faith harmony and peaceful co-existence. Pakistan, for its part, will continue to raise the question of Islamophobia at the international level. This issue was a key point of telephone conversations of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari with his counterparts from Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye and with Secretary General of OIC and the UN Secretary General. Issues pertaining to these recurrent acts of Islamophobia are being discussed at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah and the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Swedish PM 'extremely worried'...

FROM PAGE 01

On Wednesday, Sweden accused Russia and other state-sponsored actors of spreading disinformation designed to harm Sweden's reputation and damage the Nordic country's bid to join Nato. Billstrom said he had been in touch with the foreign ministers of Iran, Iraq, Algeria and Lebanon among others as well as the United Nations secretary-general. "And just now I will speak to the secretary-general for the Organisation of Islamic Countries," Billstrom said. "We will discuss these issues and it's important to stress that this is a long-term issue, there are no quick fixes," he said. Sweden has seen several protests in recent weeks where copies of the Holy Quran have been damaged or burned, causing outrage among Muslims.

Pak slams Indian minister's...

FROM PAGE 01

"Everything from history to law and from morality to the situation on the ground belies India's claims about Jammu and Kashmir, which is an internationally-recognized disputed territory. The relevant UN Security Council resolutions stipulate that the final disposition of the territory will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. India would be well-advised to faithfully implement these resolutions, rather than entertaining any notions of grandeur," the statement concluded.

Govt seeks names for caretaker...

FROM PAGE 01

asked to consult their leadership for the name of caretaker prime minister. He said political parties have been asked for the names so that a unanimous decision can be made. "But so far no party including the PML-N has forwarded any name," he added.

Gwadar port to be developed...

FROM PAGE 01

the coalition government managed to lay foundation of development and prosperity in the country especially in Balochistan. Balochistan, he said was rich in huge minerals and other natural resources which needed to be explored and the fruits of the development of the area would be given to the local people. The local people must enjoy all the basic facilities in all sectors including health and education. He said the draft of the Gwadar port was one of the deepest among the world's top ports, however dredging of the port which was a continuous process to prevent accumulating silt, was not ensured by the previous govt.

Briefs

EXIM bank rolls over \$2.4 bln loan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here on Thursday that Chinese Export Import Bank (EXIM) has rolled over US\$ 2.4 billion which were due in next two fiscal years. In a tweet, the finance minister said that US\$1.2 billion were due in fiscal year 2023-24; and US\$ 1.2 billion in fiscal year 2024-25. He said Pakistan will make interest payments only in both years. "Chinese EXIM Bank has rolled over for 2 years principal amounts of following loans totalling US\$ 2.4 billion which are due in next 2 fiscal years: FY2023-24: US\$1.2 billion FY2024-25: US\$ 1.2 billion, Pakistan will make interest payments only in both years," he tweeted.—APP

Israel troops kill Palestinian teen in West Bank

RAMALLAH: Israeli troops killed a Palestinian teenager during an overnight raid in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry and official media said Thursday.

The shooting occurred in the city of Qalqilya in the northern West Bank where the army confirmed it had conducted, what it claims a, "counter-terrorism activity". "The occupation forces had stormed the Naqar neighbourhood in the west of Qalqilya, which led to clashes," the Palestinian official Wafa news agency reported. The occupation forces fired live and rubber bullets, stun grenades and tear gas at residents and their homes." The Palestinian health ministry identified the dead teenager as Fares Abu Samrah, 14, and said he died of bullet wounds to the head. The army said the incident was under review.—APP

Greece races to tackle wildfires as winds set to resume

VÓLOS: Greek fire crews on Thursday scrambled to douse deadly wildfires raging for two weeks around the country before strong winds forecast for the day rekindle blazes. of firefighters backed by European Union reinforcements were struggling to contain the flames on the islands of Rhodes, Corfu and Evia, in addition to a new front that erupted Wednesday in central Greece.

"These are difficult and very sad days," Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said. Mitsotakis said Greece was "mourning four fellow citizens, the two aircraft pilots... and two who could not distance themselves from the inferno in time." Five bodies have been recovered from fire-stricken areas this week, but a police source told AFP that a cattle farmer found burned on the island of Evia on Tuesday had disappeared before the fire and was not listed among the casualties. Around the Mediterranean, fires this week also flared in Croatia and Italy, and flames killed 34 in Algeria in extreme heat that has left landscapes tinder dry.—Agencies

ANF seizes 64 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force while conducting four operations across the country, seized 64 kg of drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here Thursday. He informed that in an operation, two accused including a woman, real brother and sister, resident of Turbat, allegedly trying to smuggle drugs were arrested near Indus Chowranghi in Karachi. The ANF recovered 10 kg hashish and 4 kg heroin from their possession. In the second operation, 3 kg heroin was recovered from the secret cavities of a car intercepted near Gahi Khan Chowk Quetta. Two accused residents of Mastung, trying to smuggle drugs from Mastung to Quetta were netted during the operation.—Agencies

Ethiopia, Pak want to Enhance Cooperation in Aviation Sector

Minister Khawaja Saad lauded the Embassy of the FDRE in Pakistan for its proactive role in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have explored various avenues to expand cooperation in the aviation sector.

In this regard, different proposals came under discussion during a meeting between Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDRE to Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula and Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways H.E. Khawaja Saad Rafique.

Both dignitaries expressed their resolve to bring two nations more close by boosting cooperation in the aviation sector which will eventually improve people-to-people, business to business contacts between the two countries and Africa at large. Collaboration between the Ethiopian Airlines and Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) also came under discussion during the meeting. H.E. Ambassador Jemal Beker extended gratitude to the Minister and his team for their crucial role in commencement of the Ethiopian Airlines operations in Karachi which, he said, would



further strengthen commerce and trade linkages between the two countries. Minister Khawaja Saad

lauded the Embassy of the FDRE in Pakistan for its proactive role in strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Furthermore, he said Ethiopia is the gate way to Africa and HQ of

African Union in which the Ethiopian Airlines can help Pakistan to connect with Africa countries.

Crimea to be brought back under Ukraine control

NEWS DESK

KIEV: In his latest address to the nation Ukraine's president reiterated his desire to see Crimea brought back under Ukrainian control. "We are also preparing a list of de-occupation steps for Crimea," said Volodymyr Zelenskyy, adding they related to security, economics and social factors. "We can quickly reintegrate Crimea into the state fabric of Ukraine. In fact, the occupiers should already consider that while the Crimean bridge is still somewhat operational, they should return home to Russia." Crimea, a small peninsula in the Black Sea to the south of Ukraine, was illegally annexed by Moscow in 2014. It followed the deposition of Russian-backed Ukrainian leader Viktor Yanukovich in the Revolution of Dignity that same year. US calls on African leaders to confront Putin over grain deal Top US diplomat Antony Blinken urged African leaders attending a summit with the Russian president to demand answers over the grain crisis, which has plunged

poorer countries into calamity. Speaking before a Russia-Africa meeting in St Petersburg, Secretary of State Blinken insisted African leaders knew soaring food costs and shortages directly resulted from Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. "They know exactly who is responsible for the current situation," he said in a message aimed at delegations from 49 African countries, including 17 heads of state. Some African leaders have offered tacit support to Moscow or refused to condemn its assault on Ukraine. Speaking to Euronews in March, Paul Rogers, Professor of International Security at the University of Bradford, said there is ambivalence towards the war in the Global South. Especially in sub-Saharan Africa, he said Russia is not seen as "one of the great colonial powers that controlled them for centuries" unlike other Western states. Although the colonial legacy does not create pro-Russian sentiment - with most people acutely aware of how "grievous" the war has been for Ukrainians - Rogers suggested it meant there was "less sympathy for the Western position".

Turkish private sector interested in collaborating with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Thursday said that the Turkish private sector had evinced keen interest in collaboration, joint ventures, and investment with the Pak furniture industry. Mian Kashif Ashfaq who is currently on a Turkiye visit said that fostering better collaboration and attracting foreign investment to Pakistan's furniture sector could have a positive impact on the industry's growth, leading to economic benefits for the country as a whole, said a news release issued here. "Collaborating with international counterparts can open up new avenues for growth, innovation, and increased market access," he remarked. "Moreover, attracting foreign investment could bring in capital, technology, and expertise, which can help enhance the overall competitiveness and productivity of the sector." By holding fruitful meetings with Turkish counterparts, he said, "PFC is working towards strengthening ties with foreign businesses and investors."—Agencies

Soldiers in Niger announce coup

NIAMEY: Soldiers in Niger appeared on national TV late Wednesday to announce the ouster of President Mohamed Bazoum. Calling themselves the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CLSP), they read a coup statement in a video they shot and broadcast on state television ORTN. Bazoum was overthrown and the constitution was suspended due to the worsening security situation and socio-economic crisis the country was going through, according to a statement by Col. Major Amadou Abdramane. The statement noted that a curfew will be imposed between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. and that all borders have been closed. President Bazoum was detained in the morning by elements of the presidential guard. People took to the streets to prevent the coup and called for Bazoum's release. General Omar Tchiani, who has served as the commander of the presidential guard for around 10 years, is allegedly behind the coup. It was alleged that Bazoum recently wanted to dismiss Tchiani, who held the same post under the previous President, Mahamadou Issoufou. "A coup attempt has been underway in Niger. This act of factious officers aims...to call into question our hard-won freedoms, our democracy and the progress made," Hassoumi Massoudou, the interim prime minister of the Bazoum government, said early Thursday on Twitter.—DNA



LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inquires about the health of girl. He promised to send her abroad if needed for treatment.—DNA

Framing the Constitution 1956 of Pakistan

LAIBA YOUSAF



The Constitution is a fundamental document that establishes the framework for governance and the exercise of power. It outlines the powers of institutions and establishes the relationships between various state institutions. It also delineates the limits within which these institutions must operate and defines the nature of the relationship between individuals and the state. During the establishment of Pakistan, an Interim Constitution was introduced, which was a modified version of the India Act of 1935. The responsibility of drafting the future constitution was assigned to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, which was formed in August 1947. In this discussion, we will explore the stages and steps taken in framing the constitution of Pakistan. The process of constitution-making commenced with the passage of the Objective Resolution. This Resolution, passed in March 1949, outlined the fundamental principles and foundations upon which the constitution would be based. It provided guidance to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan regarding the principles they were to uphold while framing the constitution. Essentially, the Objective Resolution not only identified the objectives

and goals to be achieved but also set forth the priorities that needed to be pursued. Once the Objective Resolution was passed by the Constituent Assembly, the next step was to formulate the constitution. The first step following the passage of the Objective Resolution was the establishment of the Basic Principles Committee (BPC), which consisted of members of the Constituent Assembly. The BPC initially comprised 24 members, but it had the flexibility to co-opt additional members if necessary. The committee included both Muslim and non-Muslim members, as well as women. In addition to the BPC, several sub-committees were formed to assist in the constitution-making process. Each sub-committee was assigned specific tasks related to particular issues. For example, one sub-committee addressed the issue of federalism and the type of federal model Pakistan should adopt. This sub-committee investigated the matter and reported its findings back to the BPC. Other sub-committees focused on topics such as the judicial system, fundamental rights, and the rights of minorities within the country. Another significant recommendation was that the head of state, known as the president, should be elected by a joint session of the parliament for a term of five years. This meant that a person could hold the presidential office for five years. The president was given certain discretionary powers, although the authority was primarily to be exercised by the Prime Minister. Regarding legislation, the first report recommended the establishment of two houses of parliament: an upper house and a lower house. The upper house would have equal representation for all provincial units, while the lower house's representation would be

based on population. This meant that provinces with larger populations would have more representation, as was the case with East Pakistan compared to West Pakistan. Powers were equally divided between the two houses. When the report was presented to the Constituent Assembly, it faced criticism both inside and outside the house. One of the main criticisms was related to the issue of representation. It was argued that providing equal representation to all units of the federation would result in the Western part of Pakistan having more representation, as it had more units compared to East Bengal. Additionally, some members of the Constituent Assembly raised concerns about the equal powers assigned to both houses of parliament, as it deviated from the standard principle of giving more power to the lower house. The issue of the national language was another point of criticism, as the report did not make any recommendation on this matter. In response to the criticism, it was decided that the BPC would review the report, taking into account the points raised in the Constituent Assembly. The Constituent Assembly deliberated on the report, incorporating the raised points and criticisms to make the report more acceptable to the representatives. This led to the formulation of the revised or second report. The second report, also known as the revised report, largely followed the same principles as the first report. However, it aimed to address the criticism received by incorporating changes. One significant change was made regarding the issue of representation. The report proposed equal representation for both wings of Pakistan, with 60 members from East Pakistan and 60

members from West Pakistan in the upper house. In the lower house, representation was based on population, with 200 seats for each wing. More powers were assigned to the lower house, which represented the people. The report also emphasized that lawmaking in Pakistan would be in accordance with the principles of Islam. To facilitate this, an advisory board of five religious scholars was established to provide guidance on lawmaking in line with Islamic principles. Similar to the first report, the second report remained silent on the issue of the national language, but it aimed to address the concern of East Pakistan dominating West Pakistan in terms of representation. While the second report addressed some of the criticisms, it received criticism for introducing equal representation. Some argued that equality should be limited to the upper house only, as was the case in the first report. The second report was accused of going against the principles of federalism. Furthermore, during the discussions on the report, a political crisis arose, leading to the removal of Prime Minister Nazimuddin and the appointment of Ch. Muhammad Ali as the new Prime Minister. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Ch. Muhammad Ali, a new set of proposals known as the Muhammad Ali Formula or the Third Report was prepared. This formula aimed to address the issues raised in previous reports and incorporate changes in light of comments and criticism. It introduced a novel procedure for providing representation to different units of Pakistan. The upper house would have equal representation for all units of Pakistan, dividing the country into five units. In the lower house, more representation was given

to East Pakistan due to its larger population. The principle of federalism was followed, with equal representation in the upper house and representation based on population in the lower house. However, during joint sessions of parliament, there would be parity between the two wings of Pakistan. To ensure effective decision-making, a law required at least 30% support from members of both wings to be considered valid. This proposal aimed to incorporate both parity and interdependence in the system. The Muhammad Ali Formula received greater acceptance, but there were criticisms regarding the perceived complexity of the process. Some argued that the division of administrative units and the implementation of parity during joint sessions would complicate matters. Additionally, some questioned the allocation of equal powers to both houses of parliament, as they believed the lower house should have more power since it represented the people. One significant development during this period was the settlement of the language issue. In 1954, the Constituent Assembly decided that Bengali and Urdu would be the national languages of Pakistan, resolving the controversy surrounding the national language. After the formulation of the Muhammad Ali Formula, the Constituent Assembly focused on drafting the constitution. The process faced a setback when the Governor-General Ghulam Muhammad dissolved the Constituent Assembly in October 1954. The matter was taken to the judiciary, leading to the Tameezuddin case in the Sind Chief Court and the Federal Court of Pakistan. Ultimately, the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly was upheld, but the Federal Court directed the election of a new Constituent Assembly.

The second Constituent Assembly, comprising 80 members (40 from East Pakistan and 40 from West Pakistan), was elected in June and July 1955. It resumed the task of framing the constitution, building on the work of the first Constituent Assembly. One significant step taken by the second Constituent Assembly was the integration of the provinces in West Pakistan into one unit. This became known as the One Unit Scheme and reduced the number of provinces to two—East Pakistan and West Pakistan. The issue of representation was resolved through this integration, although there was criticism from smaller provinces and units in West Pakistan. The second Constituent Assembly discussed the draft text of the constitution, which was released on January 8, 1956. After thorough discussions and deliberations, the Constituent Assembly approved the constitution on February 29, 1956. The constitution was signed by the Governor-General Sikander Mirza on March 2, 1956, and came into effect on March 23, 1956, replacing the Interim Constitution of 1947. This marked the successful completion of the constitution-making process in Pakistan. At the end of my piece of opinion, I express my gratitude to the esteemed Sir Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer for his invaluable guidance in composing this piece. He graciously bestowed upon me his time and wisdom, offering me valuable feedback and constructive critique that have greatly enhanced the caliber of my work. His patience, encouragement, and eagerness to partake in profound discussions have served as a true source of inspiration.

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Briefs

Chinese Xi meets Indonesian president

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday met with Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Chengdu, capital city of southwest China's Sichuan Province. Widodo is here to attend the opening ceremony of the 31st summer edition of the FISU World University Games and visit China. Xi noted the opening of a new chapter in building a China-Indonesia community with a shared future last year. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Indonesia. Xi said China is willing to take the occasion as an opportunity to deepen strategic cooperation with Indonesia, set an example for developing countries of sharing a common future, pursuing solidarity and cooperation and boosting common development, and inject more certainty and positive energy into the region and the world. China is willing to maintain regular strategic communication with Indonesia, strengthen the exchanges of state governance experience, initiate the "2+2" dialogue mechanism for foreign and defense ministers of the two countries, and build high-level strategic mutual trust, Xi said. Major achievements have been made in synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative with Indonesia's vision of the Global Maritime Fulcrum, Xi said. - Agencies

Death toll from wildfires in Greece rises to 4

GUMULCINE: The number of people who have died in Greek wildfires that have been raging for days rose to four on Wednesday. A 45-year-old person died in a fire that broke out in the Magnisia region, state broadcaster ERT reported. Also, a woman lost her life in a fire near Platanos village in the Almiros region. Due to a fire that broke out near the city of Volos, the industrial zone and some settlements were evacuated. Meanwhile, fires in Corfu and Rhodes continued and some settlements were evacuated in the region as a precaution last night. Greek and foreign firefighters have been battling the blazes for nine days. On Tuesday two pilots died when a plane deployed to help put out wildfires on the Greek island of Evia crashed in the coastal town of Karystos. The Greek Air Force said pilot Hristos Mulas, 34, and co-pilot Periklis Stefanidis, 27, died in the crash. Several countries, including Türkiye, have reached out to help Greece extinguish the blazes, which have burned houses and forests. - Agencies

Shias in held Kashmir hold procession after 33 year ban

SRINAGAR: Thousands of Shia Muslims marched through Indian-held Kashmir's largest city on Thursday for a major religious procession permitted in the restive territory for the first time since a ban was imposed decades ago. The Islamic calendar is currently in the month of Muharram, the holiest time for Shias across the world when large processions mark the martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussain in the seventh century. But authorities in Kashmir had banned the traditional ceremony in 1990, the year after an armed revolt against Indian rule erupted in the disputed region. Since imposing direct rule on the territory four years ago, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been eager to claim improved security in the territory after decades of unrest.

PMD warns of 'vigorous Monsoon activity' in 3 days

The PMD stated in its press release that heavy rains may generate flash floods in Balochistan and hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan on July 27 (night) and July 28. While the same weather was expected in Kashmir, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla, Buner, Manshera, Abbottabad, Rawalpindi/Islamabad, including (Lai Nullah), from July 27 to 29

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Metrological Department (PMD) Thursday warned that the upper and central parts of the country were likely to experience rain/wind-thundershowers over the next three days (from July 27 to July 30). According to the weather department, monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea are continuously penetrating while a westerly wave is also present in the upper and central parts of the country. Under the influence of these systems, rain/wind-thundershowers (with scattered heavy falls) are expected in Kashmir, (Neelum valley, Muzaffarabad, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber, Mirpur), Gilgit Baltistan (Diamir, Astore, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghanche, Shigar), Chitral, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Buner, Manshera, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Kurram,

At least 5 killed in KP amid heavy rainfall

PESHAWAR: At least five people, including three children, were killed in rain-related incidents as heavy showers wreaked havoc in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials said on Thursday. According to KP Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), a man was killed and two women were injured after the walls of their house collapsed due to a landslide in Abbottabad on the night of July 26. In Mansehra, four people, including three children, lost their lives after a landslide struck their house. The PDMA said the incident occurred on Wednesday night in Potha tehsil due to heavy rainfall. It identified the deceased as 40-year-old Baidar Bibi, nine-year-old Abdul Jabbar, five-year-old Abdul Sattar and two-year-old Halima Bibi. Sadder Station House Officer (SHO) Muhammad Amir said that the family was asleep when the landslide occurred, burying all four individuals underneath the rubble. He further added that roads and bridges were also damaged as rain and strong winds lashed the region on Wednesday night. - DNA

Lakki Marwat, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Karak, Waziristan, Murree, Galliat, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chak-

godha, Khushab, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Bhakkar, Sahiwal, Bahawalnagar and Okara with occasional gaps. It further added that rain/wind-thundershowers (with few heavy falls) is expected in Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbella, Awaran, Kech, Gwadar, Panjgur, Mastung, Sibbi, Naseerabad, Zhob, Sherani, Barkhan, Musakhel, Kohlu, Jhal Magsi, Loralai, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Multan, Khanewal, Layyah, Kot Addu, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan from the night of July 27 to July 28. The PMD stated in its press release that heavy rains may generate flash floods in Balochistan and hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan on July 27 (night) and July 28. While the same weather was expected in Kashmir, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Shangla, Buner, Manshera, Abbottabad, Rawalpindi/Islamabad, including (Lai Nullah), from July 27 to 29. These heavy rains may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad from the night of July 27 to July 29.

Capt Sarwar Shaheed paid tribute

ISLAMABAD: Armed Forces of Pakistan, CJCSC & Services Chiefs pay glowing tribute to Captain Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on his 75th Shahadat Anniversary on Thursday. His matchless chivalry, unwavering resolve & fortitude shall always be remembered. Captain Muhammad Sarwar, the first recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, who demonstrated indomitable courage and valour in defence of motherland and embraced Shahadat at Tilpatra (Azad Kashmir) in 1948. Captain Muhammad Sarwar's martyrdom anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of Pakistan to defend the motherland. Let us remember these heroes who have laid down their lives in defence of our motherland. The nation is proud of its gallant sons. NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf commemorated Captain Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed, who embraced martyrdom in the Uri sector of Kashmir in 1948 while defending the motherland with great reverence. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Honorable Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan and Liaqat Baloch of Jamaat-e-Islami in a meeting. - DNA

Türkiye 'strongly' condemns storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque

ISTANBUL: Türkiye on Thursday "strongly" condemned the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and far-right settlers. "We call on Israeli authorities to take necessary measures in a serious manner to restrain these provocations which violate the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque and its historical status based on the international law, and to prevent escalation of the tension," a Foreign Ministry statement said. On Wednesday, far-right Jewish settlers stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem, according to an official from the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf. More than 340 settlers entered the Haram al-Sharif area under Israeli police protection. For Muslims, Al-Aqsa represents the world's third-holiest site. Jews call the area the Temple Mount, saying it was the site of two Jewish temples in ancient times. Israel occupied East Jerusalem, where al-Aqsa is located, during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. It annexed the entire city in 1980, in a move never recognized by the international community. Israeli forces and fanatical Jewish settlers frequently carry out raids at Al-Aqsa Mosque to provoke Palestinians, and recent years have seen the incursions grow larger and more brazen. Türkiye strongly supports a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, including the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. - Agencies

UN says July to be hottest month ever recorded

PARIS: UN and EU monitors said Thursday that July is set to be the hottest month in recorded history and likely "unprecedented" for thousands of years, warning that this was a taste of the world's climate future. Searing heat intensified by global warming has baked parts of Europe, Asia and North America this month, combining with wildfires that have scorched across Canada and parts of southern Europe. With the first three weeks of July already registering global average temperatures above any comparative period, the World Meteorological Organization and Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said it is "extremely likely that July 2023 will be the hottest July and also the hottest month on record". Carlo Buontempo, Director of C3S, said the temperatures in the period had been "remarkable" in records going back to the 1940s, with an anomaly so large that scientists are confident the record has been shattered even before the month ends. Beyond these official records, he said proxy data records for the climate record - like tree rings, ice cores - suggests the temperatures seen in the period. - APP

Kim Jong, Russian defense chief discuss cooperation

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met with Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu to discuss military cooperation and regional security, state media reported on Thursday. A Russian delegation led by Shoigu was in Pyongyang to attend the 70th anniversary of North Korea's "Victory Day" celebrations. Kim received the delegation at the office building of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee on Wednesday and discussed ways to further boost cooperation between the two countries, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The Russian delegation also attended the mid-night grand celebration ceremony held in the capital Pyongyang. North Korea celebrates the armistice signing date as "Victory Day" in what it calls the Great Fatherland Liberation War. The war started on June 25, 1950, and ended on July 27, 1953, after the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement. - Agencies

Another key policy rate hike likely on Monday

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will likely hike key policy rate again on Monday (July 31) to rein in inflation in line with the conditions of IMF, analysts said on Thursday. The IMF urged Pakistan in a staff report earlier in July to continue its monetary tightening cycle, a week after the lender approved the new bail-out arrangement with Pakistan which helped it avert a debt default. Nine out of 16 analysts predicted the central bank will raise the key rate by

100 basis points (bps) to 23% at its policy meeting next week, while one saw a smaller 50 bps increase and six expected no change. The SBP has raised its key policy rate by 12.25 percentage points since April 2022, mainly to curb soaring inflation. The state bank held rates steady in June saying inflation had peaked at 38% in the preceding month. But before the end of the month, it raised rates by 100 bps at an emergency meeting in an effort to secure IMF funds, citing a "slightly

deteriorated inflation outlook". In the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) that resulted from its talks with the IMF, Pakistan said it stands ready to consider further action at the next monetary policy committee meeting and subsequent ones until inflation and inflation expectations are on a clear downward path. In a statement earlier today, the SBP announced that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet on Monday to decide on key policy rates. Sami Tariq, head of research at Pak-Qatar, said as a preemptive measure to control inflation arising out from an increase in administered utility prices of gas and electricity, the central bank would raise rates by 100 bps. - APP

Saudi-Iran rapprochement blow to Indo-US ambitions

ISLAMABAD: The China-brokered Saudi-Iran rapprochement is a blow to the Indo-US ambitions in the Western Indian Ocean region, especially the Gulf. It also provides an opportunity for Pakistan in terms of benefits beyond economic development, including mitigation of proxy wars and sectarian conflicts. Regional security analysts and academics observed this at a session titled 'Iran-Saudi Rapprochement: New Power Dynamics of the Middle East' organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). The speakers and discussants included Ambassador (r) Javed Hafeez, as the keynote speaker, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman (academics), IPS, Prof Dr Nazir Hussain, former dean, social sciences, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Dr Amna Mahmood, dean, social sciences, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Prof Dr Fakhr-ul-Islam, director research & academic outreach at IPS, and IPS' research fellows Dr Tughrul Yamin, Brig (r) Said Nazir and Dr Azhar Ahmad. The China-brokered Saudi Arabia-Iran rapprochement has rekindled hope for a positive future of the geopolitical environment of the Middle East and its peripheries, and socio-economic progress of the larger region, the experts concurred. Analyzing the significance

of the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Javed mentioned that this development and the peacemaking role of China, in contrast to the war-waging approach of the US, has changed the region's geopolitical landscape. In addition to pushing a diplomatic solution to the conflict, creating a stronger trend in geoeconomics, and fostering a resolution-conducive environment for the regional states, this rapprochement can have far-reaching implications for geopolitics, socioeconomic development, and stability in the region, he said. Regarding the new power dynamics emerging in the region, he said that despite China's mediation and increasing influence, America would not end its presence in the Middle East anytime soon as the US and West have vital interests in this region, i.e., securing the sea lanes for energy export, the security of Israel, combating terrorism, and defense and military equipment deals. Despite the diplomatic restoration has toned down the rivalry, both Iran and Saudi Arabia are still vying for regional dominance and control, said Dr Nazir. Hence, some problems still linger between them and require more cooperative and de-escalatory efforts. Stating the potential of Saudi Arabia as a growing economy and Iran as having a huge trade potential after sanctions are lifted, he proposed that Saudi Arabia and Iran, along with Pakistan and China, can form a consortium to undertake trade and investments.