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China replaces Foreign Minister with predecessor

Detailed News On Page-08

SA deserves peace more than any other region

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ICCI for tapping investment potential in GB

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Briefs

Rana Sana acquitted by ATC

DNA

GUJRANWALA: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Tuesday was acquitted by an anti-terrorism court in a case involving threats to the Punjab chief secretary, his family, and other officers. The court issued the decision after the case's plaintiff altered their statement. The case was originally filed against the senior Pakistanist Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) politician at the Industrial Police Station in Gujranwala on August 25, 2022, after a complaint was lodged by Sheikh Shekhar Aslam, a leader from the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), citing threats made by Sanaullah.

Ali Zafar questions legislation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Ali Zafar of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday stated that legislation is taking place in the parliament, but the law script is not before us. Speaking at a joint session, Ali Zafar said that the majority in parliament does not even bother to read the laws, they simply pass them without understanding their importance. Senator Zafar further added that finding solutions to problems requires mutual consultation, but here it seems like sheep are being herded, and the sanctity of parliament is tarnishing among the public.

Ali Muhammad rearrested

SHAMIM SHAHID

MARDAN: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Ali Muhammad Khan was rearrested after release once again on Tuesday. A district and sessions court in Mardan had ordered the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Ali Muhammad Khan. However, Khan was arrested soon after his release under Maintenance of Public Order. Orders were issued by the district commissioner.

Despite challenges Country out of economic crises: PM

Says PTI Chairman Imran Niazi exploited his own created situation which he used for political gains at the country's cost; claims coalition govt thwarted default threat successfully

DNA

D.I. KHAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said despite the country's most difficult period, the coalition government had steered the country out of economic crisis. During the last 16 months, the incumbent government faced the most difficult challenges like the devastating flood hit the country soon after it took charge of the office, he added. The prime minister was speaking as the chief guest at an inaugural and ground breaking ceremony of eight development projects in energy and communication sectors. "We faced the devastating flood on one side, and inflation, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) pressure, and political crisis on the other. Such challenging problems have never been faced by me in my whole life," he said. He said all the coalition government parties had unanimously decided to ensure economic stability at all costs, including their politics. Such a resolve on their part helped the government to bring the country out of crisis. There was record wheat production in a decade, which saved billions of dollars. However, PTI Chairman Imran Niazi exploited his own created situation which he used for political gains at the country's cost, he added. The prime minister said political opponents had wished for the country's default.

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Pakistan blasts Denmark for Quran desecration

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tuesday slammed the desecration of the Holy Quran in front of the Iraqi embassy in Denmark, which follows a series of similar events in Nordic countries. "The latest incident of desecration of the Holy Quran in front of an Iraqi Embassy in Denmark has left Muslims all over the world deeply anguished," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said in a tweet. Extreme-right group Danske Patriotier in Copenhagen Monday posted a video in which a man is seen desecrating and burning the holy book and trampling an Iraqi flag. The latest video follows a similar event on Friday and others in recent weeks in Sweden's capital of Stockholm. PTI Shehbaz said Pakistanis are in deep pain and distress. "The recurring pattern of these abominable and Satanic incidents has a sinister

Continued on Page 06

Bilawal, Blinken discuss Afghan issue

FM Bilawal, Secretary Blinken underscored the United States steadfast commitment to the people of Pakistan, highlighting that the economic success of Pakistan remains a top priority for US



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken Monday spoke to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari over Pakistan's economy and Afghanistan-related issues. Pakistan has been facing rising cross-border terrorism, with local authorities blaming Kabul for harbouring terrorists - especially the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). According to State Department's spokesperson

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Bilawal, OIC SG discuss Holy Quran desecration incidents

FAISAL SHEKH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday spoke with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Secretary General, Hissain Brahim Yaha over the telephone and discussed recurring incidents of the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and other European countries. Condemning the despicable acts, which were clear violations of international law, the Foreign Minister briefed the OIC Secretary General about the resolution adopted by the Parliament of

Continued on Page 06

ECP contempt case PTI chairman Imran Khan to be indicted next month

The Supreme Court earlier this year had greenlit the ECP's proceedings, and last month the ECP framed charges

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday postponed till August 2 the indictment of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in a contempt case filed against him. Yesterday, the ECP ordered the federal capital police to arrest Khan and present him before the commission in the contempt case, wherein he allegedly used "intemperate" language for the electoral body and the chief election commissioner (CEC). The PTI chairman today appeared before the election commission, resulting in the suspension of his arrest warrants. A four-member bench, headed by Nisar Durran, heard the case today. A member of the election commission said that on August 2, the commission would frame the charge on the PTI chairman and directed him to appear in the next hearing in person. The ECP initiated the proceedings against the PTI chairman, Asad Umar and former information minister Faraz Chaudhry last year.

Continued on Page 06

SC fixes appeal chief's appeal

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday fixed an appeal of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman against the verdict of Islamabad High Court (IHC) in the Toshakhana case for hearing on Wednesday. A two-judge bench comprising Justice Yuhya Afridi and Justice Musarat Hahai will hear the case. The trial court had dismissed the PTI chief's petition against the maintainability of Toshakhana criminal case and the decision was challenged in the IHC. The high court referred the matter back to the trial court, with the instructions to re-decide the case within seven days after hearing the defence said. The PTI's chairman has challenged the IHC's verdict regarding sending the matter again to the trial court. - APP



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates and lays the foundation stone of various infrastructure development projects. - DNA

Cop martyred in Khyber blast

The blast took place when a suicide bomber hid inside the mosque after he saw officials of the law enforcement agency



BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: At least one police personnel was martyred after a suicide blast was reported in the Khyber District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Station House Officer (SHO) Gul Wali said that Additional SHO Adnan Afridi was martyred in the explosion. According to details provided by the police, the blast took place when a suicide bomber hid inside the mosque after he saw officials of the law enforcement agency. KP Inspector General of Police (IGP) Akhtar Hayat Khan said that the suspect blew himself up during the search inside the mosque. According to details provided by the police, the blast took place when a suicide bomber hid inside the mosque after he saw officials of the law enforcement agency. Moreover, SHO Wali said that further details will be provided as it is currently unknown how many people are trapped under the debris of the mosque as it had collapsed during the blast. However, eyewitnesses claimed that the mosque was empty at the time of the incident.

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Bill to be tabled in joint sitting today Electoral reforms bill proposes new powers for caretaker govt

Will have authority to make decisions including pacts with global institutions

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The proposed amendments in the Election Act suggest excessive powers for the caretaker government which includes inking pacts with global players for keeping economy afloat. The draft of The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2023 proposes 54 amendments in The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2020. One of the key provisions in the bill involves sub-clause 2A of Section 230 of the Election Act, granting additional powers to the caretaker government. Under the proposed amendment, the caretaker government will have the authority to make necessary decisions for the country's economy including pacts with global institutions. Moreover, the bill focuses on improving transparency and efficiency in the election process. The presiding officer, responsible for overseeing polling stations, will now be required to promptly send

Continued on Page 06

Opp leader rejects Dar for caretaker PM

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Raja Riaz on Tuesday opposed Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's initially rumoured but now quashed candidature for caretaker prime minister's role, and also downplayed the need of immediate elections in the country. The tenure of the National Assembly is set to expire on August 12 and meetings are under way between the members of the government on the details of an interim setup. If the government is dissolved before

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Russia says it foiled Ukraine drone attack on patrol ship - Page 08

USAID, UNICEF, JICA Invest \$0.588 Billion in 113 projects

ISLAMABAD: The Senate was informed on Tuesday that USAID, UNICEF, and JICA separately funded a total of 113 projects in 2022, amounting to \$0.588 billion, covering diverse initiatives, including both on-budget and off-budget aspects.

In response to Dr Zargu Sahaerwary Taimar's question, the Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Ishaq Dar, informed the Senate during the question hour that United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been supporting a total of 12 on-budget projects and 53 off-budget projects. Since 2022, the disbursements for on-budget projects amounted to US\$ 0.07 billion, while off-budget projects received US\$ 0.12 billion in funding.

During the years 2022 and 2023, UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) has initiated 40 projects with a total value of US\$ 0.36 billion. These projects encompass various thematic areas, including Health, Nutrition, Learning & Skills, Child Protection, WASH & Climate Change, Social Policy, and Social Protection.—APP

Minister Information condemns Jamrud blast

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister Information, Aqsa Hafiz, Religious and Minority Affairs Minister Pervez Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Tuesday strongly condemned the blast in the mosque at Jamal Tashid of Khyber District. The caretaker provincial minister expressed heartfelt condolences and regret over the martyrdom of Additional SHO Adnan Afridi in the blast.

Barrister Pervez Jamal Shah Kakakhel confided with Adnan Afridi's widow and said that the provincial government stands with the bereaved family in this hour of grief. He said that the sacrifices of the police will not go in vain while the anti-state elements and those sabotaging peace of the province will be dealt with iron hands.

PAL, PST to jointly host Islam's novel's introductory ceremony

STAFF REPORTER

The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) in collaboration with the Parveen Shakir Trust (PST) is organizing an introductory ceremony of the eminent fiction writer Muzahid Ismail's recently published novel 'Saras' in Peshawar. The ceremony will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday (Wednesday) in the academy's Parveen Shakir Auditorium. The chairperson of the PST, Parveen Qadir Aga will welcome the guests while Federal Secretary National Heritage & Culture Division will deliver a keynote address on the occasion. Among the participating 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.

Training workshops sensitize local govt reps on educational gender disparity

PESHAWAR: Blue Veins a local NGO working to improve girls' secondary education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with Pakistan Education Champions Network (PECN), on Tuesday organized five training workshops educating 150 local government representatives on the importance and practice of gender-responsive budgeting and tracking to improve girls' secondary education. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faces a significant educational disparity, with 4.7 million children out of school, 2.9 million of whom are girls. This means that 52 percent of girls aged 5-16 are missing out on school. Achieving gender parity in education necessitates increased budget allocations, efficient spending, and a heightened political commitment from the Provincial government. Addressing this issue isn't merely a social justice

concern and a crucial component of regional socio-economic development. The path towards equitable education demands an inclusive approach, involving all stakeholders, educators, policymakers, parents, and community leaders. The training sessions provided valuable insights into the preparation and implementation of gender-responsive budgets and underscored the urgency of prioritizing girls' secondary education schemes in the respective Annual Development Programs (ADPs) of their tehsils and districts. Qamar Nisreen, Program Manager at Blue Veins, endorsed on the initiative, stating, "Through this strategic capacity-building, we aim to equip our local government representatives with the knowledge and tools to effectively allocate, implement, and monitor budgets. Our ultimate goal is to ensure girls' secondary education is not merely an agenda item

but a core priority in district development schemes." This pioneering initiative is seen as a necessary step towards gender equality in education. Intezar Khalid, Chairman of the Neighborhood Council and member of the Capital Metropolitan City Govt, expressed his support for the program, stating, "A nation cannot truly progress unless its girls are empowered. Prioritizing and monitoring the allocation of funds in their budgets. This initiative by Blue Veins and Pakistan Education Champions Network (PECN) offers a viable path to achieving this goal." Blue Veins and the PECN initiative reaffirm their commitment to the cause of girls' education and present a replicable model that can be employed by local government bodies across the country.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A large number of the people are receiving flour from the utility store at Sitara Market as due to the extremely high inflation, common people are suffering a lot across the country.—Online

COMSTECH hosts seminar on biomedical research

The keynote address was delivered online by the Prof. Dr. Yacoub Khalaf, President of UEARS activities and co-convenor of Cairo consensus group on research integrity, United Kingdom

DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized an International Seminar on Integrity in Biomedical Research and launched the proceedings of International Workshop on Integrity in Biomedical Research at COMSTECH on Tuesday.

In his welcome address, the Co-ordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary said that COMSTECH is working closely with international partners for the promotion of respon-

sible science in OIC countries. He said that the today's launching of the proceedings of the international workshop on integrity in biomedical research organized last year in Cairo is the continuation of this plan. Prof. Choudhary emphasized the importance of the extraction of the research of integrity in biomedical research and stressed the authenticity and transparency of the entire research process right from the beginning of the research to the publication of the results. He also asked over 150 participants to observe highest ethical principles in their scientific research.

The international seminar was addressed by the Prof. Dr. Khalaf Saood Khan, COMSTECH distinguished scholar, distinguished investigator, University of Granada, Spain. He quoted many examples of the extraction of the research and emphasized the need of integrity and transparency in the biomedical research. The keynote address was delivered online by the Prof. Dr. Yacoub Khalaf, President of UEARS activities and co-convenor of Cairo consensus group on research integrity, United Kingdom.

He thanked the participating experts in both events and stressed the need of integrity and transparency in any research work in the field of biomedical research. He also appreciated the consistent efforts of COMSTECH for the promotion of science and technology capacity in Muslim world.

The seminar and launching ceremony was attended by more than 80 participants online from around the OIC region and about 50 participants from the field of biomedical attended the event in-person at COMSTECH.

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CM-led moot reviews measures for higher crop yield

DNA

LAHORE: A meeting held under the chairmanship of Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday reviewed sustainable measures for higher crop yield and promotion of agriculture. During the meeting, suggestions regarding high-quality seeds and agrochemicals to achieve better crop yield were considered. It was also agreed to allocate special zones for agriculture in the special economic zones. The chief minister asked for a workable plan to increase the production of gram and pulses in Punjab. "By increasing the production of pulses, a valuable amount of foreign exchange can be saved every year," he pointed out. "The promotion of agricultural exports along with self-sufficiency in agriculture is our common mission. Facilities are being created for investment in the agriculture sector. One window facility will be provided to the investors," he added. "We are also working with the private sector to promote corporate farming. Large-scale reforms are being brought for the prosperity of farmers and the development of agriculture," he claimed.

He further makes progress, Pakistan will make progress," he highlighted. "Credit goes to Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his team for the record increase in the area under cotton cultivation in Punjab," the agricultural expert said. "Workable measures are indispensable for the development of value-added agriculture industries. Implementation of the water management plan for crops and the proportionate use of fertilizers should be ensured," they stressed. The chief minister assured the participants of the implementation of feasible proposals. Provincial ministers, officers concerned and the representatives of the local and multinational companies were present in the meeting.

The representatives of the companies appreciated the efforts of the Punjab government for the promotion of agriculture.

ANF seizes 265 kg drugs in six operations; arrests six

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 265 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 60 ice-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a Qatar-bound passenger,

resident of Azad Kashmir who was going on flight QR-833 from Islamabad International Airport. On the point of the accused, a facilitator was also arrested along with a vehicle near Bahra Town Rawalpindi, 624 grams heroin was recovered from the accused resident of Azad Kashmir. In another operation at Islamabad International Air-

port, narcotics was recovered from the possession of a Riyadh-bound passenger, resident of Upper Dir, going on flight NP-753. In third operation, 93.2 kg hashish and 73.2 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Kot Abdul Malik Motorway Toll Plaza Sheikhpura. During the operation, the accused resident of Islamabad was



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar at Naval Headquarters.—DNA

Thar Coal Energy Board approves coal tariff

KARACHI: The Thar Coal Energy Board in its 25th meeting held under the chairmanship of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murrat Ali Shah approved a levelized tariff of \$37.36 per ton for the financial close stage petition for 7.8 million tons per annum of Block-I and a levelized tariff of \$39.40 per ton for Contract stage petition for 11.2 million tons per annum of Block-I. The meeting was held at CM House and was attended by Federal Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal (through video link), Sindh Energy Minister Intiaz Sheikh, Sindh Minister for Mines & Mineral Shabbir Bizarani, Sindh Minister for Education Sardar Shah, Advisor Law Martaza Wahab, Secretary Energy Ahsanul Madani, MD Thar Coal Energy Board Khadim Hussain Channa and other officers concerned. The Minister Energy Intiaz Shaikh while briefing the Chief Minister regarding the progress of SECMC and SSRL mines operating in Thar Coalfields, said that the mines were currently producing 15.4 million tons of coal per annum and were being mined to scale up to 19 million tons per annum over the next eighteen months if the board approved the proposal. The board approved the proposal. The coal being produced from the mines is powering 2640 MW of electricity, equipping more than seven million households from Thar Coalfields. Moreover, power generated from the Thar Coalfields also has one of the lowest cost of power generation in the country. It may also be noted here that power generated from Thar Coalfields is considerably cheaper than imported coal, whereas also providing greener energy security, and saving precious foreign exchange reserves for the country.—DNA

DPO Manshera suspends SHO

DNA

MANSEHRA: District Police Officer (DPO) Manshera Zahoor Babar Afridi Tuesday response to alleged negligence and failure to handle the case professionally and promptly, and suspended all officers involved and ordered them to report police lines. Following the suspension of officers, an investigation against them has been started and a charge sheet has been issued, with a response expected from the involved within seven days. According to the details, Inspector Ajmal Khan and Head Constable Yaseer, among others, have been suspended and ordered to report police lines. The move came as the case remained unresolved, causing anguish to the family and raising concern among the public. DPO Zahoor Babar Afridi has announced that the bereaved family members of the deceased child will be allowed to be present during the investigation proceedings. He vowed to leave no stone unturned in pursuing justice for the victim and their family and assured the community that the investigation would be conducted meticulously, and the culprits responsible for this heinous crime will be held accountable based on the evidence presented.

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Briefs

Zardari expresses concern over heavy rainfall in the country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Pakistan and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari has expressed deep concern over the heavy rains in the entire country, including Sindh. Zardari has directed all ministers belonging to the Party to reach their constituencies. He further expressed the need for the local bodies' chairmen, deputy chairmen, mayors, deputy mayors and councillors to play their role to such a dire time. Asif Ali Zardari extended condolences to the bereaved families of the victims in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan who have lost their lives due to the devastating situation.

Pak-China Floriculture cooperation to boost Pakistan's economy

DNA

BEIJING: Pak-China Floriculture cooperation to boost Pakistan's economy, said Political Counsellor at the Embassy of Pakistan in China, Pakistan is a country of small farming households with a long history and rich experience in floriculture. There is a huge potential for cooperation between China and Pakistan in the flower industry," said Naeem Iqbal Cheema said adding Floriculture is a high-profit industry. In recent years, multiple related programs started in Pakistan to encourage farmers to plant flowers. Greater Pre reported on Tuesday Hashopie Garden in Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the examples. "We want to show people that flowers are not only used for beauty, for weddings and funerals, but also an important economic crop. Farmers can get maximum income from a small area through floriculture crop production," said GM Saqib, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture, Sagar, Gilgit-Baltistan. Now, the new cash crop, flower, is gaining popularity among local farmers. "Here you will find more than 40 flower varieties in Hashopie Garden. It is a very profitable business that we should bring people to. For instance, one kanal of land can produce 10,000 stalks of lily flowers, and one stick can sell for 400 rupees in the market of Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: First Lady Begum Samina Alvi planting a sapling as part of Monsoon plantation season, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.—DNA

Judge wife booked for 'torturing' 14-year-old girl

Civil judge brushes aside allegations; As per the text of the First Information Report (FIR), the complainant had sent his 14-year-old daughter to work as a domestic help on Rs10,000 monthly salary, with the reference of an acquaintance named Chaudhry Mukhtar, seven months ago

FAYSAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: A case has been registered against the wife of Civil Judge Asim Hafeez for allegedly subjecting a 14-year-old girl, employed as a domestic help at her house, to severe torture, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police said on Tuesday. The harrowing case of the 14-year-old girl being brutally beaten up regularly came to light when the victim was shifted to a hospital in Lahore with serious injuries, with the family accusing Judge Asim Hafeez's wife, Sonia, of torturing the child. The case was registered at Police Station Humak on behalf of the girl's father, Manga Khan, under Section 506 (committing offence of criminal intimidation) and Section 342 (wrongfully confining a person) of the Pakistan

Penal Code (P.C). As per the text of the First Information Report (FIR), the complainant had sent his 14-year-old daughter to work as a domestic help on Rs10,000 monthly salary, with the reference of an acquaintance named Chaudhry Mukhtar, seven months ago. The girl's parents came to know about her being subjected to torture at the judge's house on Monday (July 23) when they went to meet her. It may be noted that the victim's parents have said that they hadn't met her during these seven months but talked to her on the phone sometimes. "When we [complainant, his wife and her brother] entered the gate, we heard my daughter crying. Hearing that made me concerned so we went towards the room and found my daughter in wounded condition [...]" the complainant stated in the FIR.

He alleged that his daughter was subjected to severe torture by the judge's wife, and there were torture marks all over the child's body. Upon examining her condition, the parents found several injuries on the girl's entire body, with serious wounds on the head, which were "infested with maggots". The major injuries described by the complainant include swelling on lips and eyes, broken teeth, and ribs and strangling marks on the neck. As per the FIR, the complainant has accused Sonia of torturing and keeping his daughter in illegal custody since the day she started working at the judge's house and sought action on the matter. Meantime, Islamabad police said that action is being taken for the arrest of the suspect. They said that the case investigation would be done on merit and that all requirements of justice would be fulfilled. Meanwhile,

Civil Judge Hafeez, when asked about the alleged torture, brushed aside the accusations, saying that the wounds on the girl's body were a result of eating soil from the planters kept in his house. "The girl was a house help at our home. She ate soil from the planters a month ago, which damaged her skin," the judge said while speaking to Geo News. He said that he had got the diagnosis of the "skin condition" and treatment done from a doctor in Gujranwala, but the girl would be dropping off the child back to her home, she hanged her head on a wall. He also said that he didn't know about the condition of the wounds on the girl's head as she kept her head covered with a scarf. "The girl used to

tell us that if she went back, her mother would beat her so she did not want to go home but we left her there," Hafeez added. "I am against physical abuse and torture incidents never happened in front of me," claimed the judge. Hafeez said Sonia had told him the girl didn't work, so they left her with her parents in their house in Sargodha. "My wife along with the driver dropped off the girl at her home in Sargodha," said Hafeez claiming that the mother started beating the child in front of his wife as she dropped her off. On the accusation of stealing jewellery, the judge contested that his wife complained to him about not finding her jewellery but "did not" accuse the child of stealing. He said he was going to Lahore, where the girl was undergoing treatment, and he wanted her to get well soon.

IRSA releases 499,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 499,700 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 595,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1530.00 feet and was 132.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1208 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 335,600 cusecs and 301,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jehlum at Mangla Dam was 1218.70 feet, which was 168.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet. Water inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 71,500 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Thanes, Gauda and Sukkur was recorded as 360,100, 395,200, 228,800 and 181,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 83,900 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 86,600 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Pak-China automobile brand to display their first electric car in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD, July 25 (Pak-China): Huanu Green Energy Pvt Ltd will display their first electric car in Islamabad next month. The launching will be done for the marketing and public awareness of the company's new Electric Vehicle (EV). Talking to Gwadar Press, Khalid Mehmood, CEO of Huanu Green Energy Pvt Ltd and Alfaiah EV Motors, said that the electric car could be easily charged at any place. The vehicle assembling plant is expected to arrive from China in October while the manufacturing will start in November 2023. He noted, "our government has already approved the plot allocation for the vehicle manufacturing factory in Hattar Special Economic Zone, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. We plan to start the booking process of EVs in January 2024".

Desperate youth risk their lives to find work abroad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Hanif Maghal, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday said that the worst economic conditions are forcing people to

flee the country to find jobs abroad. Desperate youth are risking their lives to find work abroad, while the exodus of highly educated and highly skilled people poses a major threat to the economy, he said. He said that according to official data, 832,000

people have left the country in search of employment in six months this year, half of whom are educated, and about 100,000 are highly educated and experts in their fields. These figures do not include those who have illegally left the country for America,

Europe, the Middle East, or the Gulf countries, he added. In a statement issued here today, Dr. Hanif Maghal said that the brain drain is a major threat to the country as it will affect many sectors, including health, education, industry, IT, and services.

Smooth, uninterrupted power being provided

ISLAMABAD: The IESCO on Tuesday said that smooth and uninterrupted power supply was being provided to all circles of the company owing to the availability of

the required electricity quota from the national grid system. In a statement issued here, the IESCO spokesman said that 2,150 MW of electricity was being supplied to

IESCO against the current demand of 2,114 MW. He said that operation staff was available in their respective fields to address individual complaints.—APP

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles for a Disease-Free Future

FATIMA RIAZ



It is fascinating to consider that the human body is a remarkable creation of Allah. The human body is composed of billions of small structures, forming a single structure. While all systems of the human body operate on auto mode, it is intriguing to note that humans themselves can be the primary cause of this self-regulating system. The increase in human health issues can be attributed to our declining interest in pursuing healthy lifestyles. It wouldn't be inaccurate to say that we are our own worst enemies when it comes to compromising our health through our own choices. This is particularly evident among the youth, who often suffer from major health issues due to their unhealthy lifestyles. One of the prevalent health issues today is heart disease, which is primarily caused by an unhealthy routine and lifestyle. Heart disease encompasses various issues and diseases under its umbrella. Coronary artery dis-

ease (CAD), which affects blood flow to the heart, is the most common type of heart disease in the United States, Pakistan, India, and many other countries. Reduced blood flow can lead to heart attacks and blockages in the heart's veins. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a general term referring to heart or blood vessel diseases, which can result from blood clots (thrombosis) or the buildup of fatty deposits inside arteries, causing hardening and narrowing (atherosclerosis). If a blood clot is not promptly removed, it can be fatal. Undoubtedly, increasing age is a major factor in the development of heart disease. High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is a significant cause of heart disease. Hypertension can damage arteries by reducing their elasticity, thus impeding blood and oxygen flow to the heart and increasing the risk of heart disease. Other major contributors to heart disease and mortality include elevated LDL (low-density lipoprotein) levels, an unhealthy diet, high cholesterol levels, smoking, and obesity. Smoking, in particular, is a significant cause of heart disease. Research has shown that smoking increases heart rate, constricts major arteries, and can lead to irregular heart rhythms, all of which place additional strain on the heart. Smoking also raises blood pressure, thereby increasing the risk of stroke. Moreover, smoke damages the heart and blood vessels, accelerating

the development of plaque in coronary arteries, which can impede blood flow and increase the likelihood of heart attacks. Unfortunately, smoking rates among youth are increasing, leading to numerous cases of heart attacks and premature deaths. It is crucial for the government to take strict action against smoking and protect the health of our future generations. Unhealthy diets and routines contribute significantly to the multitude of health issues we face today. Fast food, also known as junk food, tops the list of unhealthy diets. It contains excessive fat, unhealthy oils, and other detrimental substances that harm our health. Raising awareness among the younger generation about the dangers of these unhealthy habits is of utmost importance. Recognizing the symptoms of heart disease is also crucial. Common symptoms include chest pain (a classic sign of a heart attack), nausea, stomach pain or indigestion, sweating, leg pain, arm pain, jaw or back pain, and a choking sensation. If anyone experiences any of these symptoms, they should consult a doctor without hesitation. Every negative aspect has its own precautions and preventive measures. By following preventive measures, we can avoid many diseases. To prevent heart disease, it is essential to consume plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables and reduce processed foods. Foods high in saturated and trans fats should be limited, while high-fiber, low-sat-

urated fat, low-cholesterol diets can help prevent high cholesterol levels. Several tests are available to assess heart problems, such as an electrocardiogram (ECG), which records the heart's electrical activity and helps identify any rhythm or rate irregularities. Taking care of our health is paramount, and promoting a healthy lifestyle should be our priority. As the youth, we have a responsibility to raise awareness and educate others about these issues. An interesting fact about heart attacks in the United States is that someone experiences a heart attack every 40 seconds, with about 805,000 people having a heart attack each year. Of these cases, 605,000 are first heart attacks, while 200,000 occur in individuals who have previously experienced a heart attack. Excessive alcohol consumption and increasing smoking rates contribute to these alarming statistics in the United States. Aside from heart disease, we face numerous other health issues such as tuberculosis (TB), cancer, hepatitis, malaria, and more. Lack of awareness within our society plays a significant role in the prevalence of these diseases. Some of these diseases are contagious, emphasizing the need for precautions and preventive measures. Implementing awareness programs regarding current health issues is imperative and will undoubtedly be beneficial for the population. Our immune system is

already strong, requiring no additional reinforcement. However, maintaining a healthy lifestyle enhances its resilience to fight against antigens and foreign particles. Therefore, it is essential for everyone to adopt a healthy lifestyle to safeguard their lives from the diseases our country is currently grappling with. While our immune system is inherently strong, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is crucial to ensuring its optimal functioning. A healthy lifestyle, including proper nutrition, regular exercise, and avoidance of harmful substances, allows our immune system to effectively combat pathogens and foreign particles. Promoting a healthy lifestyle among the young awareness about prevalent health issues are vital steps in addressing the challenges faced by our country. By making conscious choices and adopting preventive measures, we can protect ourselves and contribute to a healthier society. Ultimately, our health is our greatest asset, and it is our responsibility to safeguard it. At the end, I thank to Respected Sir Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaher who has shown in my growth as a writer. His belief in my abilities and their dedication to helping me succeed has been an invaluable source of motivation. His mentorship has empowered me to explore new perspectives, challenge my own assumptions, and develop a stronger and more confident voice.

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Religious intolerance against minorities

An Ahmadi place of worship was vandalised in Karachi's Drigh Road area within the limits of Shah Faisal Colony, police and spokesperson for the community said on Tuesday. Karachi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Tariq Nawaz told Dawn.com that around four persons damaged the minarets on Monday. He said that police had taken cognizance of the matter and asked a member of the community to lodge a first information report (FIR). The senior officer said that a person identified as Bhal was in touch with the Shah Faisal Colony station house officer (SHO) till Monday night and officials had advised him to lodge a report. He said that police had received an application regarding the vandalism, adding that the complainant stated that an FIR would be registered after consulting with the Ahmadi community. Amir Mahmood, a spokesperson for the Ahmadi community, also said that an application for registering a FIR had been submitted to the police. The spokesperson said around a dozen people had entered the place of worship at around 3:45pm on Monday and destroyed the minarets with hammers and put "hateful graffiti on the walls". He recalled that a few months ago, two places of worship in Salfar and Martin Quarters were vandalised. He said that FIRs were registered in both the cases but police had put to inform them of the progress in either of them. He said that the place of worship in Drigh Road had existed since Pakistan was created. "The government has utterly failed to provide security to Ahmadi places of worship," Mahmood said. Religious intolerance against minorities is an inescapable force that breeds division, hatred, and prejudice. It threatens the very essence of harmonious coexistence that our societies should be built upon. It is essential to recognize that every human being has an inherent right to practice their faith and belief system freely without fear of persecution or discrimination. History is rife with examples of how religious intolerance against minorities has led to violence, oppression, and the marginalization of communities. From religious wars to genocides, the pages of our shared past are stained with the consequences of intolerance. Yet, it seems that we have failed to learn from these dark chapters and continue to perpetuate religious hatred and bigotry in our present time. One of the most concerning aspects of religious intolerance is that it can manifest itself in various forms, ranging from subtle prejudices to outright persecution. These insidious attitudes can infiltrate educational institutions, workplaces, media, and even the political sphere. When left unchecked, they erode the very fabric of our societies, driving wedges between communities and stifling the exchange of ideas that fosters progress and growth. Moreover, religious intolerance not only impacts the targeted minority communities but also tarnishes the reputation of the majority population. It creates a distorted image of the majority as intolerant and closed-minded, perpetuating further animosity. This misperception can hinder cooperation and understanding between different religious groups, hindering collective efforts towards common goals such as eradicating poverty, promoting education, and addressing environmental challenges. To combat religious intolerance, we must strive to foster empathy, understanding, and inclusivity. Education plays a pivotal role in challenging misconceptions and promoting respect for diversity. School curriculums should include comprehensive teachings on various religions, emphasizing the similarities that bind humanity together rather than focusing solely on differences.

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Violence against teenage house maids

Islamabad police have registered a case against the wife of a civil judge for allegedly torturing a teenage girl working as a maid at her home, it emerged on Tuesday. In a tweet late on Monday night, Islamabad police said that a case had been registered on the complaint of the victim's father. "Efforts are being made to arrest the accused," police said, adding that the case would be investigated on merit. "All legal requirements will be met. The law is equal for all," police said. The first information report (FIR), was registered at Islamabad's Humak police station on the complaint of the victim's father, Manga Khan. The complaint was registered under sections 506 (criminal intimidation) and 342 (punishment for wrongful confinement) of the Pakistan Penal Code. Khan said that he was a resident of Sargodha and had sent his teenage daughter, between 13 to 14 years of age, to work at the civil judge's home in Islamabad for a monthly salary of Rs10,000. He said that on July 23, his wife and a relative went to visit the child but when they entered the judge's home, they heard her cries coming from a room. "All three of us went to the room and saw that my daughter was injured and was sobbing. When I saw my daughter, there was a wound on the back of her head as well as other small wounds which had become infested with maggots," Khan said. Domestic violence against home workers is a stark manifestation of the gross power imbalances that persist in our societies. These workers, predominantly women, children, and individuals from marginalized communities, enter homes with the hope of earning a livelihood. However, they find themselves trapped in situations of exploitation, abuse, and humiliation, rendering them voiceless and defenseless. This abhorrent practice is perpetuated by the lack of legal protections and enforcement mechanisms for home workers. In many regions, domestic work is excluded from labor laws, leaving these individuals without recourse or access to justice. Without the shield of legal protection, perpetrators of violence feel emboldened, knowing their actions are unlikely to face serious consequences. Furthermore, the isolation of domestic work adds another layer of complexity to this grave problem. Home workers often toil in remote locations, far from their families and support networks, leaving them even more vulnerable to abuse. With limited avenues to seek help or report abuses, their suffering remains shrouded in secrecy. We must recognize that domestic violence against home workers is not just a personal tragedy; it is a societal failure. As a society, we cannot turn a blind eye to this issue, brushing it off as a private matter. It is a matter of human rights, gender equality, and social justice. We must stand united against all forms of abuse and exploitation, regardless of the masses for which they were being voted to power. On the political front, we must start by shining a spotlight on domestic violence against home workers and demanding immediate legal protections. Governments and lawmakers must act swiftly to extend labor laws to cover domestic work, providing these workers with the same rights and protections enjoyed by others in the formal labor sector.

Shahbaz's fifteen months in power

Waheed Hussain



The exposed trick of our successive governments had been that when they came into power, they blamed the previous government for the price hike and other ills in the country. Imran in 2018 held PML (N) responsible for the inflation and so was the strategy of this government accusing Imran Khan of all troubles that we as nation are facing. People have always been clueless how to find the solution to their problems and get relief. One argument of this government is very valid that for addressing numerous issues including

Fifteen months of performance of the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif coalition government has mixed kind of marks sheet. His fragile administration is struggling to overcome challenges like political instability, economic recession, worse law and order situation in the country, while the terrorists (TTP and other groups) and criminals focus were on the tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa bordering Afghanistan and Baluchistan. Imran Khan was and still is the political challenge to present outgoing multiparty government, it's not that Imran is Nansel Mandela (the leader who liberated the South African nation from the decades old apartheid) his political opponents lack clarity of ideas, self-confidence, and future course of action. Shahbaz Sharif with his economic and financial team tried to give support to the sliding economy. The dollar unrivaled jumps put both Miftah Ismail and Ishaq Dar as finance Ministers, in the catch twenty-two situation. Even though before taking charge of finance ministry, Ishaq Dar, bitterly castigated his own party senior member, Miftah Ismail for failing in controlling the depreciation of rupee against dollar. During his interviews with the media from London, he used to say that the actual price of a dollar should be less than 200 rupees, meaning by that he was challenging the competency of his own finance minister (Miftah Ismail). What happened, when he took over the charge of the ministry, the dollar which was trading around Rs. 223 suddenly jumped up to Rs. 285. The actual problem was that the country was short of dollars. The State Bank of Pakistan, Foreign Exchange Reserves were depleted to such a low level that for many months the imported goods were stuck at the Karachi Port, and the government was not allowing the Letter of Credits to be issued as the amount was supposed to be paid in the dollars, which could further put pressure on the foreign currency in the country. So that was one of the biggest challenges to Shahbaz administration. His government tried to convince the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to resume the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program signed by the PTI government in 2019 and release the due tranche, however, the Fund kept this government in waiting for almost over 10 months. To satisfy the IMF, the government continues burdening the masses with new taxes in the energy sector, including petroleum products. The electricity and gas prices including the petroleum products were increased many times. But the irony was that the mistress (IMF) was not willing to agree resuming the program and release the direly needed dollars. The fund was pushing the government for more financial discipline, reducing budget deficit, restruc-

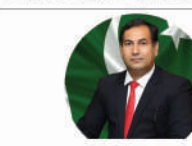
turing the economy, market-based exchange rate, tied monetary policy, reducing energy sector circular debts, and most importantly increasing (FBR) revenues. IMF gave a very tough time to this government. Due to the government agreement with the IMF, it has been increasing the price of electricity. In the current month of July consumers paid hundreds of billions of rupees extra as compared to the previous months' bills to the power companies. A family which lives in two bed apartments with only one air conditioning facility had to pay Rs. 45000 bills, which used to be Rs. 5000-8000 a couple of years back. The other day the Prime Minister of Pakistan defended the decision of increase in the electricity tariff, with the argument that it was due to IMF conditionalities. So, like PTI, this government totally relied on the IMF and friendly countries to provide dollars, increased prices of all products especially food items, and accused Imran Khan government of inflation. The exposed trick of our successive governments had been that when they came into power, they blamed the previous government for the price hike and other ills in the country. Imran in 2018 held PML (N) responsible for the inflation and so was the strategy of this government accusing Imran Khan of all troubles that we as nation are facing. People have always been clueless how to find the solution to their problems and get relief. One argument of this government is very valid that for addressing numerous issues including the economy, a government needs at least full one tenure that is five years' term for the government to complete. In this situation the then the PDM government must rethink their decision of removing Imran from government through a referendum. What they did was not the real solution, the fact is, that the present government failed to provide relief to public from inflation and this will haunt it in the any future elections. There is a strong impression among the masses that Shahbaz's and other PDM political parties' leaders took over the power to clear themselves from corruption cases, through either new legislation/laws or changing the constitution. The fact is, that the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, his sons and other family members have been declared innocent from all the corruption and money laundering cases. Similarly, Maryam Nawaz was also cleared by the courts. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's lifelong disqualification would be over, as the government has introduced a law where the disqualification of any public office holder would be only for a period of five years. Some analysts believed, PTI did not oppose this law, as if the PTI chairman was disqualified in any one of the cases, that he has been fac-

ing in various courts, the punishment under the newly enacted law would automatically end in five years' time. The problem in our political structure is that one day a politician and public office holder is being accused of corruption and mismanagement of resources, misuse of official authority in power, while another day the other hand PDM government wanted to settle scores with Khan and benefited from all the blunders Imran made in the last fifteen months. Though there were some contacts between the PTI and PDM government, neither of them was serious about talks. If we look at the series of events that took place during the last 15 months, we can easily say that Imran Khan's stubborn attitude of political instability in the country. His superman-like approach and irresponsible public speeches/media talks polluted the whole environment. He wanted to conquer Constitution Avenue by running over the state institutions. Imran Khan's use rather misuse of social media created a vacuum in his decision-making process. His unilateral decision making like a civil disobedience or unlimited problems for him and his party. May 9 was an ill-calculated decision. The party's disintegration process continues. The problem is that the political uncertainty is affecting the economy and masses. Although the Prime Minister has announced that interim setup will take over the government next month but still there are doubts and misgivings about the political future of Pakistan. Until there is political stability, the economic stability and prosperity will remain a dream. There is confusion, hopelessness, uncertainty among the public. People have been listening to many promises in the past. They are sick with the hollow slogans being made by the politicians. They need bread and butter with respect and honor.

—The writer is a senior print and broadcast journalist. He has anchored talk shows on leading Pakistani channels.

How Pakistan's Universities can help to build a resilient future

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir



This is threatening coastal communities and infrastructure. Extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts, and cyclones, are becoming more frequent and intense. The impacts of climate change are having a devastating impact on Pakistan's economy

Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. The country is already experiencing the effects of climate change, including more extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and melting glaciers. These impacts are having a devastating impact on Pakistan's economy, environment, and people. In 2022, Pakistan experienced its worst floods in history. The floods killed over 1,700 people and displaced millions more. The country's glaciers are melting at an alarming rate. This is causing water shortages and increasing the risk of flooding. Sea levels are rising along Pakistan's coastline. This is threatening coastal communities and infrastructure. Extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts, and cyclones, are becoming more frequent and intense. The impacts of climate change are having a devastating impact on Pakistan's economy, environment, and people. Climate change is costing Pakistan billions of dollars each year. The floods of 2022 caused an estimated \$30 billion in damage. The agriculture sector, which employs over 40% of the population, is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Climate change is causing widespread crop losses and degradation in Pakistan. The melting glaciers are threatening the country's water supply, and the rising sea levels are inundating coastal areas. The country's forests are also being degraded, which is leading to soil erosion and flooding. Climate change is having a disproportionate impact on the poor and marginalized in Pakistan. These groups are more likely to be affected by extreme weather events and to lack the resources to cope with the impacts of climate change. Universities can play a key role in helping Pakistan cope with the challenges of climate change. Universities can conduct research on climate change and its impacts on Pakistan. Universities have the expertise and resources to conduct cutting-edge research on climate

change. This research can help to inform policy decisions and to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies. Universities can train the next generation of climate scientists and experts. Universities are the training ground for the next generation of climate scientists and experts. Universities can help in helping Pakistan to cope with the challenges of climate change. Universities can develop and implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Universities can work with governments and other stakeholders to develop and implement climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. These strategies can help to reduce the impacts of climate change and to build a more resilient future for Pakistan. Universities can raise awareness of climate change and its impacts on the public. Universities can play a role in raising awareness of climate change and its impacts on the public. Universities can help to build public support for climate action. In addition to these specific roles, universities can also help to build a more resilient future for Pakistan by promoting sustainable practices. Universities can promote sustainable practices on their own campuses, such as using renewable energy, reducing waste, and conserving water. They can also educate students and faculty about sustainable practices, and encourage them to adopt these practices in their own lives. Universities can incubate new businesses that are focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation. These businesses can help to create jobs, stimulate the economy, and reduce Pakistan's reliance on fossil fuels. Universities can engage with communities that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This engagement can help to build resilience and to ensure that these communities are not left behind. Universities can collaborate with other academic institutions, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and industry

partners to address climate change. These collaborations can involve joint research projects, sharing resources and expertise, and developing solutions together. Pakistani universities are also contributing to providing valid data and solutions to the problems due to climate change. For example, the University of Karachi is conducting research on the impacts of climate change on the Indus River Delta. This research is helping to inform policy decisions about how to protect the delta from flooding and sea level rise. The National University of Sciences and Technology is training the next generation of climate scientists and engineers. These students are working on projects to develop new technologies to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology has also introduced and implemented modern agri technology in South Punjab for water preservation. It is also working in collaboration with international organizations to address the problems of agriculture and climate change. The Aga Khan University is working with communities in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to develop climate-resilient agriculture practices. These practices are helping farmers to adapt to the changing climate and to reduce their vulnerability to drought and floods. In conclusion, it is candid that climate change is a growing threat to Pakistan. The country is already experiencing the effects of climate change, and these impacts are only going to get worse in the future. Universities can play a key role in helping Pakistan cope with the challenges of climate change. By conducting research, training experts, and raising awareness, universities can help Pakistan build a more resilient future.

—The writer is the Vice Chancellor Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Rahim Yar Khan

Briefs Country out of economic crises: PM

FROM PAGE 01 which by the blessings of the Almighty reverts due to the efforts of incumbent government. He said that the former regimes fully utilized the country's rich resources such as hydro power the country might have affordable and clean energy, and stressed to overhaul the faulty power transmission system causing over \$8,400 billion annual losses to the national exchequer. PM Shehbaz vowed to break the begging bowl by curtailing the government expenses. A comprehensive plan of the Pakistan Green Initiative had been undertaken to take the country to new heights of development and prosperity. Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman thanked the prime minister for his personal interest in ensuring development of the area. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had laid the foundation of many mega projects, which the PTI government seized hampering economic development, he added. Fazl said industrial estates being established in Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan would change the fate of the people of the area.

Pakistan blasts Denmark...

FROM PAGE 01 design: to hurt interfaith relations, damage peace and harmony and promote religious hatred and intolerance. The prime minister called upon the governments and faith leaders, in particular, to put an end to such abhorrent practices. "Let us not allow a handful of misguided and evil people to hurt the emotions of billions of people. Let them not dictate their nefarious agenda," he said. Iraq, in front of whose embassy the Quran was burnt, "strongly condemns, again, the repetition of the burning of a copy of the Holy Quran." Iraq's foreign ministry said such acts allow "the virus of extremism and hate" to "see a real threat to the peaceful coexistence of societies." Thousands have protested across Muslim nations against the desecration of the Holy Quran, with violent protests taking place in Iraq. Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said he condemned the Quran burning.

PTI chairman Imran...

FROM PAGE 01 But the three raised the issue in various high courts, arguing that Section 10 of the Elections Act 2017 was "unconstitutional." However, the Supreme Court earlier this year had overruled the ECP's proceedings, and last month the ECP framed charges. When the trio failed to appear before the commission despite repeated summons, it issued arrest warrants for Khan and ex-party leader Chaudhary, accepting Umar's plea and exempted from the hearing. During today's hearing, Khan's legal counsel Shaheeb Shaheen requested that the hearing be adjourned until September. "We have only one month of vacation, and since you asked for a personal appearance, we have appeared," Shaheen said.

Cop martyred in Khyber blast

FROM PAGE 01 The security forces and police overtook the area soon after the deadly incident. Senior Minister of Religious Affairs and Information Barister Feroze Jamal Shah condemned the suicide blast, saying that the sacrifice carried out by the police would not go in vain. "The miscreants and the enemies of peace will be dealt with an iron fist," he added. Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar Ashiq Anwar said that a suspicious person has been arrested from the site of the incident. Prevailing details about the incident, he said that the additional SHO called for police officials to carry out a search operation after receiving information about suspicious persons in the area.

Antanters clinches Women's Squash premier League

Pakistan number 1 national player Noor ul Ain of Warriors defeated her strong rival Mehwish Ali of tigers in the marathon four sets match of the league. Noor played the aggressive game and never allowed her opponent to come back game to win the match by 13-11, 11-8, 6-11 and 11-8

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Team Panthers led by debutant Farah Baloch clinched the first edition of Pakistan women's squash premier league 2023 after getting 11 points in the league matches here at the Mushaf Squash Complex Islamabad on Tuesday. Team Tigers were led by Mehwish Ali got the second position with 9 points while team Warriors led by Noor ul Ain secured the third position with 8 points during the league organized by the Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) with the collaboration of Women in Sports (WIS) and Serena Hotels. Team Shaheens was the declared the lowest team in the league due to their captain Roshni Mehbob, who is on fourth in national ranking but failed to play a single match during the league due to her fitness problem costing the bottom position of team Shaheens in the premier league. Pakistan number 1 national player Noor ul Ain of Warriors defeated her strong rival Mehwish Ali of tigers in the marathon four sets match of the league. Noor played the aggressive game and never allowed her opponent to come back game to win the match by 13-11, 11-8, 6-11 and 11-8. In the other match, Tayyaba Abbas of Shaheens outclassed Matina Manzoor of Tigers



IN STRAIGHT SETS OF THE MATCH BY 11-8, 11-5, 11-6 while Fajar Hamid of Panthers beat Faiza Khan of Shaheens by 13-11, 11-4, 11-8 respectively. Zaina Zubair of warriors lost the close match against Zainab Zafaryab of Tigers by 11-9, 11-8, 10-12, 11-8 points. Secretary Pakistan Squash Federation Group Captain Zafaryab Iqbal was the chief guest on this occasion while Pakistan national coaches Faheem Gul, Farhan Zaman and Safia Gul (squash organizer) and a large number of spectators also witnessed the concluding ceremony. 16 players were divided into four teams namely Warriors, Tigers, Shaheen and Panther in a two day women's squash league event.

Bilawal, Blinken discuss Afghan issue

FROM PAGE 01 Matthew Miller, Secretary Blinken reaffirmed a "productive US-Pakistan partnership" in a phone conversation with FM Bilawal. The secretary noted the Pakistani people have suffered tremendously from terrorist attacks and affirmed the United States' commitment to continued partnership with Pakistan on counterterrorism. The secretary and foreign minister also discussed the destabilizing effects of Russia's war against Ukraine as well as the United States and Pakistan's shared interest in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. The call came hours after US Central Command (Centcom) chief, General Michael Erik Kurilla, discussed the regional security situation with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir during a meeting in Rawalpindi. Apart from the regional security situation, matters of mutual interest and defence cooperation were also discussed, the military's media wing mentioned in a statement.

Bilawal, OIC SG discuss Holy Quran...

FROM PAGE 01 Pakistan in a joint sitting on July 6, 2023, and observance of 'Youm-e-Taqdus a Quraan' across Pakistan on 7 July 2023, reflecting the aspirations of the people of Pakistan to safeguard the sanctity of the Holy Quran. The Foreign Minister appreciated the sincerity with which OIC was responding to these reprehensible acts, under the stewardship of the Secretary-General. He commended the OIC Executive Committee on 2 July 2023, in Jeddah, and issuance of comprehensive Communiqué after the meeting. The Foreign Minister also welcomed the OIC decision for holding Emergency Ministerial Meeting on this issue and briefed the Secretary-General about his telephone calls with the Foreign Ministers of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye in this regard.

Electoral reforms bill proposes...

FROM PAGE 01 The election results to both the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Returning Officer (RO). The commission will be bound to provide the voter list of the constituency to the RO 30 days before the polling. In case of internet unavailability, the voter list will be personally delivered to the actual result. To ensure timely declaration of results, the bill proposes a deadline of 15 days for the election officer to provide the pre-polling officer to announce the results. If there is any delay, a concrete reason must be provided. The final results must be declared by 10am the next day.

Opp leader rejects Dar for...

FROM PAGE 01 The National Assembly completes its term on August 12, elections would be held within the next 90 days. If the assembly completes its tenure, the Election Commission of Pakistan is bound to hold polls within the next 60 days. Earlier this week, reports emerged that as a possible candidate for the caretaker prime minister's slot. However, the PML-N a day ago appeared to be backpedaling on the idea, apparently in the wake of its outright rejection by both its ally PPP and the opposition PTI. "The election will not be held for two years if Ishaq Dar becomes the interim prime minister," said Raza, who is a member of the parliament on PTI's ticket despite severing ties with the party and openly acknowledging that he would contest the next elections on PML-N's ticket. Raza said no one would accept the validity of the general polls if they were held under a caretaker premier, adding that Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had also given a "clear stance" on the issue.

Philippines in historic WC win but Norway suffer double blow

WELLINGTON: The Philippines won a World Cup match for the first time as they stunned co-hosts New Zealand on Tuesday but former champions Norway suffered a double blow to leave their hopes in the balance. The Philippines coach Alan Sta-jic said on the eve of the New Zealand match his side wanted to "scrub the slate" and they did just that with a gutsy 1-0 victory in front of 32,357 fans in Wellington. Sarina Bolden scored the only goal with a header in the first half for a famous Philippines win - the country's first at either a men's or women's World Cup. In the second half, Norway - who last star striker Ada Hegerberg moments before the start of the match - then drew 0-0 in the Hamilton rain, leaving the Swiss in the driving seat in Group A. Switzerland are top with four points, one ahead of



New Zealand and debutants the Philippines. Norway have scored no goals and garnered just one point. Switzerland still need to avoid defeat against New Zealand on Sunday to reach the last 16. The Philippines could join them in a fairy tale stage in the knockout stages, but no matter what happens next up against Norway at the weekend, leaving the Women's World Cup hopes will live long in the memory. "I can't believe what we have achieved," said fearful Philippines midfielder Sara Egevik. In contrast, the

Norway in World Cup peril amid Hegerberg injury

HAMILTON: Norway coach Heger Riise was left sweating on news of an injury which forced star striker Ada Hegerberg out of Tuesday's goalless Women's World Cup draw with Switzerland. Riise's problems were exacerbated due to tensions in the squad with Caroline Graham Hansen unhappy at being left out of the lineup. Winger Graham Hansen, a Champions League winner last month with Barcelona, was dropped by Riise for the game in Hamilton following Norway's 1-0 defeat to co-hosts New Zealand in the opening match of the World Cup. Meanwhile, former Ballon d'Or winner Hegerberg had lined up on the pitch for the national anthem before heading back towards the dressing room injured, with Sophie Roman Haug coming in as a last-minute replacement. The Norwegian Football Association said Hegerberg had left a pain in her groin in the final sprint of the warm-up, with Riise admitting she only realized a change would need to be made at the last moment. "We were quick to have (the lineup) changed so Sophie could come in and not use a substitute," said Riise, who did not provide any further update on the extent of Hegerberg's injury. Graham Hansen's frustration at not starting might be a more pressing concern for Riise with Norway now needing to win their last Group A game against the Philippines just to stand a chance of reaching the last 16. According to Norwegian media, Graham Hansen complained she had not been shown respect after being left out of the starting XI. "These are things we will handle internally," Riise said when asked about the player's reaction. "There is a lot of frustration that we didn't win, Caroline is entitled to be frustrated and to express an opinion, but since I arrived in this position I have always said the team is the most important thing. - Agencies

Norway fighting to stay in World Cup after draw

MELBOURNE: Former winners Norway are fighting to stay in the Women's World Cup after a draw against Switzerland left them bottom of Group A with one game to go. After being on the receiving end of a shock defeat by co-hosts New Zealand on the opening day, Heger Riise's side needed to respond but failed to score for the second straight game. They lost star player Ada Hegerberg, who was named on the team sheet, moments before kick-off. The six-time Champions League winner walking down the tunnel amid reports she suffered a groin injury in the warm-up in Hamilton. This was after Caroline Graham Hansen, another huge talent, did not make the starting lineup. Norway had their chances, with captain Marlene Middeltved blazing over from close range before a header by Sophie Haug - Hegerberg's replacement - was clawed away by Switzerland keeper Gaëlle Thalmann. Switzerland, 2-0 winners over the Philippines in their first match, had chances of their own on a wet surface. Ana-Maria Crnogorac fired narrowly over after creating space, while Nadine Riesen's awkward cross was just about kept out by keeper Aurora Mikalsen. At the other end, Haug forced another fine save from Thalmann in the second half before substitute Graham Hansen had an attempt turned behind on a hugely frustrating night for Norway who could not make the breakthrough. Norway must defeat the Philippines in their final group game in Auckland on Sunday (08:00 BST) to stand any chance of going through. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian ambassador to Pakistan, Jemal Bekere meets with Minister for Narcotics Control Minister Nawabzada Shazain Bugti. - DNA

Paris olympics 2024 faces host of challenges

PARIS: The Paris Olympics begin with a spectacular ceremony on July 26, 2024 but with a year to go, organisers face a series of challenges. Organisers will press there is no repeat next summer of the riots that raged around France earlier this month after a policeman shot dead a 17-year-old youth at a traffic stop. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said this week that he expects the Paris Olympics would take place "in a peaceful environment", even though much of the trouble flared in parts of the French capital where Games events will take place next year. "We can note that these riots were not related to the Olympic Games in any respect," Bach told reporters. "We can feel the great support of the French people

right to compete because of their government's actions is tantamount to denying them their human rights. "It seems to me the entire sports community is shouting that Russian athletes have no place at the Olympics as a 'neutral' team without official team colours. The unprecedented opening ceremony on the River Seine will set the tone for the Games. Instead of the traditional setting in a stadium, the teams will parade down the river on 115 boats, with the spectacular backdrop of the Eiffel Tower and the Paris landmarks and up to half a million spectators lining the river. "It will be a little bit like the signature of Paris 2024,"

the head of the Games' local organising committee, Tony Estanguet, said. The nature of the ceremony also presents heightened security challenges - security forces have undertaken the threat from drones. The local organising committee was rocked in July when its offices were raided by police as part of an investigation into contracts awarded for the Games. The homes of Etienne Thiebaud, the former French Olympic Chief Executive Officer of Paris 2024, and Edouard Donnelly, the executive director of operations, were also raided. The investigation will not stop the Games taking place but it is an embarrassment. The organising committee says it is one of the most audited and scrutinised bodies in France and that no wrongdoing has been proven. While com-



Paris, and Bach stubbornly ignores the opinion of the majority," Anna Ryzhykova, a three-time European Championships 400m hurdles medalist, told AFP. If Russians do compete in Paris, it will undoubtedly be

Briefs EU gives Ukraine another \$1.65B

BRUSSELS: The European Union has disbursed 1.5 billion (\$1.65 billion) to Ukraine following the latest Russian airstrikes. "I firmly condemn the Russian strikes on Ukrainian grain storage and export infrastructure," EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a tweet on Tuesday, adding that the EU continues to support Ukraine. "Today we paid another 1.5 billion, to help keep the state running and repair infrastructure. More will come," she also said. Russian missile strikes in Ukraine have intensified since last week, after an explosion at the Henry Bridge, which connects Russia to the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014. At least one person was killed and 22 others injured in an overnight Russian missile strike in the southern Ukrainian city of Odesa, police said on Sunday. The historical Transfiguration Cathedral was also damaged by the strikes. The Odesa City Council said. The building is said to be Odesa's largest Orthodox Christian church. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv will retaliate.—AP

Ecuador announces state of emergency

QUITO: Ecuador has announced a state of emergency in three provinces after a shooting left two people dead, including the mayor of a major city. In announcing the measure on Monday, Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso paid tribute to the two victims, Agustín Intriago and Ariana Estafán Chancay. "No mother should have to bury her children and no child should grow up without their parent, much less because of a criminal attack," Lasso wrote on Twitter. "Today Ecuador is in mourning." Lasso added that a suspect in the shooting has been taken into custody while investigations were under way. The shooting took place on Sunday in the port city of Manta, where Intriago, 38, had recently begun a second term as mayor in May. He had been re-elected in February. Chancay, a young football player for the Las Dragones team, had approached the mayor to talk when the shooting broke out, according to the newspaper El Universo. She also died from her wounds. Four additional people were injured in the attack, as security officers around the mayor returned fire. No motive has been released for the shooting.—DNA

Indian police arrest 74 Rohingya migrants

NEW DELHI: At least 74 Rohingya migrants were arrested in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, officials said. Those arrested included 55 men, 14 women and five children who were living in six districts of the state "after crossing the border illegally," police said in a statement. A statewide campaign was recently launched against the Rohingyas, a persecuted Muslim community driven out from Myanmar. Hundreds of Rohingyas are being in India with ongoing cases in the Supreme Court against their deportation. Rohingyas enter India through various routes. But the most common ones are the India-Myanmar-Bangladesh trijunction and the India-Myanmar border. Rohingyas activists in India have campaigned against the arrests, urging the government to uphold commitments to human rights and democratic credentials. "We need to protect the dignity of those detained. Rohingyas are human beings, survivors of a genocide, and deserving of basic freedom and dignity given to everyone else," said Sabher Kiyam Min, the director of the Delhi-based rights group FORIRingya. "Those detained have sought asylum in India, not committed any crime. International laws, previous judicial judgments, and India's Constitution are obligated to protect them.—DNA

South Asia deserves peace more than any other region

Welcoming the team and receiving the peace torch, the High Commissioner lauded the Peace Run initiative and the idea of using peace torch and running from places to places to promote peace and foster unity and friendship among the people of all faiths, cultures and walks of life.



OTTAWA: Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada Zaher Al-Jayusi has hoped the South Asian region will be free from conflicts and the people of the region will be able to live their lives in peace and harmony. He made these comments while speaking to members of the Sri Chinnay Oneness-Home Peace Run team that visited the Pakistani Commission in Ottawa while relaying a peace torch from its birthplace in New York to the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago. Welcoming the team and receiving the peace torch, the High Commissioner lauded the Peace Run initiative and the idea of using peace torch and running from places to places to promote peace and foster unity and friendship among the people of all faiths, cultures and walks of life. He said Pakistan needs peace more than anyone else as it is situated in a region that has been ravaged by conflicts for a long time. He particularly referred to the oppressed people of Kashmir who were in dire need of peace after having endured 70 years of occupation. "We need to end conflicts and let the people move on with their lives," he added. Earlier, members of the Peace Run team were served with drinks and refreshments after they arrived at the Pakistan High Commission. The team leader presented peace torch to High Commissioner who thanked organisers of the Peace Run for letting Pakistan High Commission be part of their peace efforts. Later, the High Commissioner holding the peace torch aloft in his hands, joined the runners and ran some distance with the Peace Run team to show support and solidarity for the cause of peace.

IMF nudges up 2023 economic outlook but warns of slowing growth

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund has slightly upgraded its outlook for global growth this year on the back of resilient service sector activity in the first quarter and a strong labor market, the lender said Tuesday. But despite the mildly better economic outlook, global growth is expected to slow to three percent this year and then stay there, held down by weak growth among the world's advanced economies, the IMF announced in a new report. "We're not out of the woods yet and growth remains on the low side," IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas told AFP in an interview ahead of the report's publication. The global growth forecast for 2023 was raised by 0.2 percentage points from the IMF's last forecast in April, putting the world economy on track for 3.5 percent growth in both 2023 and 2024. This is down from global economic growth of 6.3 percent in 2022, and 3.5 percent last year, the IMF announced in its update to the World Economic Outlook (WEO). The IMF published its latest medium-term forecast since the 1990s, citing slowing population growth and the end of the era of economic catch-up by several countries including China and South Korea. On Tuesday, the IMF said the global inflation picture has improved somewhat, with consumer prices now forecast to increase by 0.2 percentage points from 6.8 percent this year, down 0.2 percentage points from the previous forecast in April. This is "largely on account of subdued inflation in China," the IMF said, adding

that global inflation remains well above its pre-pandemic levels of around 3.5 percent. The IMF has lifted its outlook for US growth this year to 1.8 percent, up 0.2 percentage points from April, citing "resilient consumption growth in the first quarter." The still-tight labor market in the world's largest economy "has supported gains in real income and a rebound in vehicle purchases," the IMF said in its report. The Fund sees US growth slipping to 1.4 percent next year as savings accumulated during the pandemic dry up and the economy loses momentum. "We are cautiously prudent that the US economy could avoid a recession and, you know, glide towards its inflation target without having a recession in its future," Gourinchas told AFP. "But it's a very, very narrow path," he added. As with the April forecast, much of the global growth this year is forecast to come from emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) like India and China, with economic activity in ad-

UN begins pumping oil from decaying tanker off Yemen

HOEDELA: The United Nations said on Tuesday it had begun transferring one million barrels of oil from a rusted super-tanker off war-torn Yemen, in a bid to avert a catastrophic spill. The United Nations has begun an operation to defuse what might be the world's largest " ticking time bomb." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. "A complex maritime salvage effort is now underway in the Red Sea off the coast of war-torn Yemen to transfer one million barrels of oil from the decaying FSO Safer to a replacement vessel." The transfer of 1.1 million barrels of Marib light crude from the 47-year-old FSO Safer to the new vessel is expected to take "less than three weeks," David Gressly, the UN's resident coordinator for Yemen, said on social media. Experts say success is far from certain, as scorching summer temperatures, ageing pipes and sea mines lurking in surrounding waters all pose potential threats to the operation. "Because it is the start of the emergency phase of the project to remove the oil, we need to be very cautious," Sarah Bel, spokeswoman for the UN Development Programme, told reporters in Geneva. The UN hopes the \$143 million operation will eliminate the risk of an environmental disaster that it estimates would cost \$20 billion to clean up. Because of the Safer's position in the Red Sea, a spill would also cost billions of dollars per day in shipping disruptions through the Bab al-Mandab Strait to the Suez Canal, while devastating ecosystems, coastal fishing communities and lifeline ports. The Safer is a floating storage and offloading facility, has been moored around 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the port of Hodeida since the 1980s. It has not been serviced since war broke out eight years ago between Yemen's Huthi rebels, who control the capital Sanaa and the waters where the Safer is positioned, and a Saudi-led coalition backing the internationally recognised government based in the southern Yemeni city of Aden. The ageing vessel, with its corroding hull, is carrying four times as much oil as was spilled in the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster off Alaska.—DNA

Thai Parliament postponed PM vote

MANILA: Thailand's parliament on Tuesday postponed a vote to choose a new prime minister, prolonging the kingdom's political deadlock for more than two months after an election won by opposition parties. Reformist candidate Pita Limjaroenrat, whose party won the election, failed to get enough votes in a first parliamentary sitting to select a prime minister on July 13 — a move backed by military and pro-establishment senators. He was refused a second ballot on July 19, but this decision is now being challenged at the Constitutional Court. House speaker Wan Muhamad Noor Ma said the new vote for premier, scheduled for Thursday, had to wait for the court's decision. "We have to cancel because the Ombudsman is about to send a case to the Constitutional Court," Wan told reporters. "If we go ahead with the sitting on July 27, before the court has ruled, it could cause problems." Pita's Move Forward Party (MFP) rode a wave of young and urban support espousing change to win a shock victory in May's election. But their campaign promises of reform to the kingdom's strict royal defamation laws and monopolies provoked intense opposition from the conservative establishment. "I am aware of the postponing of the parliament meeting," Pita told reporters.—DNA

S. Turkey rocked by magnitude 5.5 earthquake

ANKARA: A magnitude 5.5 earthquake shook the southern Turkish province of Adana, striking just under six months after the devastating quakes that killed more than 50,000 people in Turkey and Syria. The second of a series of seismic monitoring centers in Istanbul said the quake occurred at 8am (05:00 GMT) on Tuesday. Its epicentre was in the city of Adana, about 64km (40 miles) from the city of Adana and located near the Syrian border. The European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said the earthquake was at a depth of 12km (7.4 miles). No injuries or damage have been reported so far. Seismologists estimate that earthquakes of a magnitude between 5.4 and 6.0 can cause slight damage to well-designed buildings and potentially major damage to poorly constructed buildings over some regions. The quake comes months after February's devastating earthquakes, which reached a 7.8 magnitude that caused a significant destruction in the region and parts of northern Syria. In Turkey alone, more than 50,000 people died, and tens of thousands of buildings were destroyed. Many of the houses that were damaged in the February earthquakes have yet to be fully demolished.—AFP

Tunisia protest marks two years since Saied's power grab

TUNIS: Some 300 protesters rallied in Tunis Tuesday to mark the second anniversary of President Kais Saied's adoption of sweeping powers and demand the release of some 20 detained opposition figures. "Down with the coup, freedom for all the prisoners," the protesters chanted as they gathered in the heart of the capital bearing banners that topped 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in response to a call by the main opposition coalition, the National Salvation Front. The opposition has kept up its protests against Saied's dramatic July 25, 2021, move sacking the government and suspending parliament, despite the arrest in February of more than 20 opposition, media and business figures on charges of "conspiracy against state security." Writer Chama Issa and former minister Lailah Akremi were released earlier this month but the others remain in custody despite the appeals of human rights groups. The leader of what had been the largest bloc in parliament, the Islamist-leaning Ennahdha party, Rachid Ghannouchi, is also in custody, serving a one-year prison sentence on terrorism-related charges following his April 17 arrest. Rights groups have condemned "what has happened" and "pressing" freedom of opinion in the North African country which had been the sole democracy to emerge from the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011.—DNA

Niaz Founder meets Consul General of Pakistan in Dubai

DUBAI: Hussain Odhwani, founder of Niaz, met with the Honorable Consul General of Pakistan in Dubai, Rahim Ullah Khan, and discuss the Niaz initiative. Niaz is a non-profit social enterprise that works to mobilise persons with disabilities in Pakistan. Mr. Odhwani briefed the Consul General on the structure of Niaz and its mission. He highlighted the organization's work in providing customised wheelchairs to persons with disabilities, as well as its efforts to raise awareness about disability rights in Pakistan. The Consul General was impressed by the work of Niaz and assured Mr. Odhwani of his full support. He pledged to raise awareness about Niaz among overseas Pakistanis in Dubai and encouraging them to get involved in the organization's work. "I am grateful for the support of the Consul General," said Mr. Odhwani. "With the help of Pakistan Consulate in Dubai, we can expand our outreach in Dubai to create awareness and meaningful impact in the lives of persons with disabilities in Pakistan."



New heatwave hits Greece as wildfires rage

RHODES: Greece sweltered in a new wave of soaring temperatures Tuesday, as wildfires raged on several popular tourist islands, forcing mass evacuations. Many regions of the country were on "red alert" in Rhodes, supported by two helicopters and two planes. A source at Rhodes airport operators Fraport on Tuesday said the situation had normalised, with traffic levels consistent with the height of the summer season on one of Greece's prime travel destinations. The Greek transport ministry said over 2,100 people had flown home on emergency flights on Sunday and Monday. Fires were also raging on Greece's second largest island of Evia, where Greek fire protection authorities

issued an overnight evacuation order in one northern locality. Mitsotakis said Greece's state apparatus faced a "major challenge" as the prolonged heatwave and successive wildfires had officials on a 24-hour alert looking for "several weeks." The mercury hit 46.4C in Gythio, in the southern Peloponnese peninsula on Sunday, though failed to reach the hottest temperature nationally on record of 48C. Mitsotakis has warned that the country faced "another three difficult days ahead" before high temperatures are forecast to ease from Thursday. The severe heatwave in Greece has also been reflected across much of southern Europe and Northern Africa. In Algeria at least 34 people have

died as wildfires raged through residential areas, forcing mass evacuations. In southeastern France officials Monday issued a fire warning at the highest level in the Houches-du-Rhone region, warning that the heat could increase the risk of flames "very high compared to normal summers." The exceptional temperatures in Greece have forced key tourists sites such as the Acropolis in Athens to close at the hottest times of the day. Vassilis Kiliadis, Greece's civil protection minister, said crews had battled over 500 fires around the country for 12 straight days. The fires are particularly devastating on very tourist islands such as Rhodes and Corfu where the season is in full swing and hotels are often full. Visitors have come to the aid of foreign tourists in the north of the island where nearly 200 people are still camped out at a school after being evacuated from the fires on Saturday. "I can't believe they are so nice, they gave so much in every way," said 69-year-old British tourist Christine Moody, who was spending her first vacation in Greece when the fires hit. "I am very moved," she said. In the village of Yag in the southeast of the island, local mayor Vassilis Kalabodakis said that the impact on the region was "tragic." "The village has been ordered to evacuate but we can't abandon it," he said. "We are leading the fight to protect our home."—Agencies



Briefs

3 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces

DNA

OCCUPIED WEST BANK: Three Palestinians have been shot dead by the Israeli military in the northern occupied West Bank, the latest deaths in a surge of violence in the territory since early last year.

Three Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the northern occupied West Bank, the latest deaths in a surge of violence in the territory since early last year. "Three Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the northern occupied West Bank, the latest deaths in a surge of violence in the territory since early last year."

Palestinian media described the killings as an ambush following the Palestinians' alleged attack on Israeli forces near a Jewish settlement overlooking Nablus. Palestine TV showed footage of a military vehicle blocking access to the area of the incident, including an ambulance, as soldiers appeared to conduct an inspection. The Israeli military said it confiscated three M16 rifles and other equipment from their car. The occupied West Bank is currently experiencing a period of increasing violence, marked by repeated Israeli raids which have shown no signs of abating. Earlier this month, Israel pounded the Jenin refugee camp with drones and missiles while hundreds of soldiers swarmed the area. Twelve Palestinians, including three children, were killed, along with one Israeli soldier.

North Korea fires two more missile

PRONGYANG: In yet another attempt to show strength amid rising regional tensions, North Korea launched two ballistic missiles off the east coast Monday, according to the South Korean military, as US nuclear-capable submarine enters Seoul's naval base. The Japanese defence ministry also reported a launch of ballistic missiles by North Korea, both of which fell outside its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The ballistic missile firing comes as the region is witnessing heightened tensions with Korea exchanging nuclear threats and the US expressing its resolve against Pyongyang if its allies were attacked. Both the US and its allies are increasing their military cooperation to meet any aggression from North Korea, with military drills and combat readiness. Last week, US nuclear-capable submarine arrived in South Korea coast citing tensions with North Korea. North Korea responded aggressively with a nuclear threat saying such a deployment could meet the criteria for its use of nuclear weapons on Seoul. The United States said it was consulting closely with its allies about the North Korean missile launches, which it described as being destabilising. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: A large number of the employees of Diplomatic Enclave are suffering from a week due to the Government Policy regarding the entering of Bikes to Constitution Avenue from 1st Muharram till 10th, in Federal Capital. - Online

Ukraine-Russia war
Russia says it foiled Ukraine drone attack on patrol ship

Tensions have escalated in the Black Sea over the past week after the expiration of the deal securing safe passage of Ukrainian grain shipments

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russia says it has repelled a Ukrainian drone attack on a military patrol ship in the southwestern part of the Black Sea, in what comes after Russia's withdrawal from the patrol ship's mission for Ukraine grain export ships. In a statement released on Tuesday, the Russian Defense Ministry said that last night, two Ukrainian naval drones had attempted to target its patrol ship, the Sergey Kotov, but the attack was neutralized. "The Ukrainian armed forces unsuccessfully tried to attack patrol ship 'Sergey Kotov' of the Russian Black Sea Fleet that is controlling ship traffic in the southwestern part of the Black Sea," the statement read. The ministry added neither the Russian vessel nor its crew were harmed, noting that the patrol ship continued its mission. Tensions have escalated in the Black Sea over the past week after the expiration of the deal securing safe passage of Ukrainian grain shipments. The Black Sea Grain Initiative is a UN-brokered agreement between

Russia raises age for compulsory military service

MOSCOW: Seeking to replenish its front-line soldiers lost in its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Russian State Duma's lower house passed a bill raising the upper age limit for military conscription and banning draftees from leaving the Russian Federation. If implemented, beginning Jan. 1, 2024, "citizens aged 18 to 30 will be called up for service," without resorting to another unpopular mobilization. At a plenary session on Tuesday, July 25, passed the new bill in the lower house. It still must be approved by the Duma's upper house and signed by Putin. Under current Russian law, all men aged 18-27 are required to complete a one-year term of compulsory military service, a requirement that has been in place since before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This third reading version would go into effect on Jan. 1, 2024. An earlier version would have phased in the new law from 2024 to January 1, 2026 and raised the lower age from 18 to 21 as well as the transitional period were deleted. - Agencies

Russia and Ukraine which was signed on July 22, 2022. It has allowed Ukraine to export grain and other agricultural products that had been blocked since Russia's special military operation in mid-February 2022. Moscow refused to extend the deal, arguing that parts of the agreement concerning Russia's exports were not fulfilled. Russia said it will not extend the deal as long as obstacles to Russian food and fertilizer exports under

the accord remain in place. In another development on Tuesday, Ukrainian officials reported a new Russian drone operation in Kiev and parts of central and northern Ukraine. Kiev regional governor Ruslan Kravchenko said there had been no reports of damage or casualties although falling debris set off a fire in a field. Ukraine's Air Force spokesperson Yuriy Ilnat said air defenses had been engaged in three regions in the country's north. "About 10 drones were recorded, the information is being clarified," he added, saying up to five were destroyed. The drone strikes came one day after Russia warned of "rough retaliatory measures" against the backdrop of drone strikes on the capital Moscow and Crimea. Russia launched a military operation in Ukraine in February 2022, with President Vladimir Putin saying the goals were "demilitarization and de-Nazification" of the East European country. The US and European countries have been supplying weapons to Ukraine, fueling the flames of the war. Recently, Washington sent Kiev cluster munitions which are banned in more than 120 countries.

'Desecrators not representative of any faith'

The Church of Pakistan and the Pakistan Ulama Council support the position of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

LAHORE: Muslim and Christian leaders have decided to initiate a global peace mission against the burning of the Holy Quran and heavenly books. Leadership of different religious and religious schools of thought strongly condemned the burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark. A joint press conference was held at Warris Road Church for the sanctity and respect of the Holy Quran and for the respect of all the heavenly books. The Muslim and the Christian religious leaders have decided to initiate a joint global peace mission against the burning of the Holy Quran and the heavenly books. Addressing a joint press conference here

on Tuesday, leadership of various religions and religious schools of thought strongly condemned the burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark, saying that those who desecrate the Holy Quran and holy books are not representatives of any religion. Pakistan Ulama Council and Church of Pakistan announced to carry-out joint struggle to take forward peace mission across the world to make an end to the desecration of the holy things and to wage joint efforts for the cause of religious harmony and inter-faith tolerance in the world. All the heavenly books and the Prophets are respected and desecrating of the holy things is not permissible under any circumstances. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation and United Nations should make effective efforts in this regard. While addressing a press conference followed by a meeting organized by Pakistan Ulama Council and Church of Pakistan with leaders of all the religious sects and religions, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashraf, Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council and President Church of Pakistan Bishop Azad Marchal, Archbishop Sibeline, Bishop Ervin Samuel, Bishop Aleem Anwar, Pastor Emmanuel Khokar, Pastor Shiraz Qad, Pastor Saleem Akhtar, Bishop Khurram, Maulana Asadullah Pirroo, Maulana Ibrahim Hanfi, Maulana Aslam Siddiqui and other religious leaders said that the leaders of all religions and the religious sects living in Pakistan condemn the burning of the Holy Quran and the permission to burn the Gospel in Sweden and Denmark are denouncing. - DNA

NOW IN PAKISTAN

Invisible Braces
Dental Implants



China replaces FM with predecessor

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China named veteran diplomat Wang Yi as its new foreign minister on Tuesday, removing former rising star Qin Gang after a mysterious one-month absence from duties barely half a year into the job. Qin, 57, a former aide to President Xi Jinping and envoy to the US, took over the ministry in December but has not been seen in public since June 25 when he met visiting diplomats in Beijing. The ministry has said he was off work for health reasons but given no detail, sparking speculation and drawing attention to the secrecy often surrounding China's Communist leadership and decision-making. Qin's successor Wang, 69, was also his predecessor, holding the post from 2013-2022 as ties frayed with rival superpower the United States to a point Beijing described as an all-time low. He has filled in for Qin during his absence and was this week representing China at a national security advisers' meeting of BRICS countries in Johannesburg, South Africa. State media



did not report why Qin was removed from office and China's foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment. "The lack of an explanation opens more questions than provides answers," said Ja Ian Chong, associate professor of political science at National University of Singapore. "Developments surrounding Qin suggests that no one is infallible. It also underscores the opacity and unpredictability, even arbitrariness in the current political system." Qin was one of China's youngest foreign ministers, enjoying a meteoric ascent that analysts partly attributed to his closeness to Xi. He was twice foreign ministry spokesman, between 2006-2014, and chief protocol officer from 2014-2018, overseeing many of Xi's contacts with foreign leaders. He headed to Washington to take up the post of ambassador in July 2021, after a period of unusual public vitriol between US and Chinese officials. Wang, who served as foreign minister before Qin, was promoted to the portfolio of the Chinese Communist Party, one of China's top leadership bodies. He takes the foreign ministry

FM Bilawal Bhutto felicitates Wang Yi on his appointment as Chinese FM

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday congratulated Wang Yi on his appointment as China's Foreign Minister. On his Twitter handle, the foreign minister praised Wang Yi as "an astute and seasoned diplomat" with whom he had the distinct pleasure of interacting twice in last year. "I'm confident that under his watch our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership would grow from strength to strength," he further added. - DNA
try post as China and the United States remain at odds over issues from Ukraine, Russia and Taiwan to trade and technology disputes. "I think the main point here is China wants to avoid the embarrassment of continuously having Wang Yi appearing at these foreign minister level meetings without having the appropriate titles," said Won-Ti Sang, a political scientist at the Australian National University.

Ahmadi place of worship vandalised in Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: An Ahmadi place of worship was vandalised in Karachi's Digh Road area within the limits of Shah Faisal Colony, police and spokesperson for the community said on Tuesday. Karachi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Tariq Nawaz told Dawn.com that around four persons damaged the minarets on Monday. He said that police had taken cognizance of the matter and asked a member of the community to lodge a first information report (FIR). The senior officer said that a person identified as Bilal was in touch with the Shah Faisal Colony station house officer (SHO) till Monday night and officials had advised him to lodge a report. He said that police had received an application regarding the vandalism, adding that the complainant stated that an FIR would be registered after consulting with the Ahmadi community. Amir Mahmood, a spokesperson for the Ahmadi community, also said that an application for registering a FIR had been submitted to the police.

Thousands of Afghan salons close as Taliban deadline bites

KABUL: Thousands of beauty parlours across Afghanistan closed permanently on Tuesday following an order by Taliban authorities that cuts off one of the few revenue streams available to women, as well as a cherished space for socialising. Since seizing power in August 2021, the Taliban government has barred girls and women from high schools and universities, banned them from parks, fountains and gyms, and ordered them to cover up in public. But an order issued last month forces the closure of thousands of salons nationwide run by women - often the only source of income for households and one of the few remaining places for them to gather away from home. - DNA