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Alex Morgan unhappy despite RO16 spot

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Briefs

Open to talk to India, says PM

Says elections to be held on 2023 census

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In his bid to further regional development, PM Shehbaz Sharif reiterated his willingness to collaborate with neighbouring India, emphasizing that Pak harbours "nothing against anyone". Despite a history of strained ties between the two nations, marred by three wars since their independence in 1947, the premier seeks to promote valuable engagement. However, bilateral relations have remained seriously impacted since India's decision to revoke special status of IIOJK.

Govt to leave after week

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Marriyam Aurangzeb on Tuesday made it clear that the government will leave after a week. Addressing a presser, Aurangzeb said, "We have served the country for 15 months with the blessing of the Higher Power. The SIFC will pave the way to boost the country's economy." She made it clear that the government will leave after the week. "The interim government will take power after that," stated the information minister. Aurangzeb took a swipe at PTI, saying, "The PTI-led government had left no stone unturned for the country to default."

Fawad urges Imran to reconcile

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan should end the bitterness with the establishment and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif before the elections, IPP leader and former information minister Fawad Chaudhry has said. The remarks of the IPP leader, who parted ways with PTI following the events of May 9, came while he was speaking to the media outside the ECP in Islamabad.

Revival of economy Army urges stakeholders to play role

The army chief General Asim Munir says there are vast mining opportunities in Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has called upon all stakeholders to fulfil their social responsibility of contributing towards the revival of the country's economy saying, "We must never lose hope". Addressing the "Pakistan Minerals Summit" in Islamabad on Tuesday, the army chief invited foreign investors to play their due role in exploring the hidden reserves of Pakistan and to fully utilise this potential as the country is blessed with rich mineral resources. The army chief said there are vast mining opportunities in our country that will be realised through joint efforts. He said the authorities will ensure an investor-friendly system to soften terms and avoid unnecessary delays. Gen Munir said Pakistan's first mineral summit laid down new rules of ease of doing business for domestic and foreign investors in Pakistan as mineral projects are keys to success. He said the government of Pakistan in collaboration with all the institutions assured the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which brings all the stakeholders on one platform. He said it is our social responsibility to play our role in unison for the country's economy. The summit was attended by federal ministers, foreign delegates, ambassadors, experts, relevant authorities, and investors.

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PM underlines need to learn from past

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed the need to learn from the bitter experiences of past 75 years and move ahead with strenuous efforts, collaboration and dedication by exploring the untapped resources including the vast natural minerals and reserves and developing the agriculture, information technology and industrial sectors. Addressing a "Dust to Development" summit, the prime minister referred to keynote addresses of various speakers and said if these suggestions and proposals were translated into letter and spirit, he was convinced that the nation would find its lost place in the next few years through hard work and untiring efforts. The PM regretted that the country's journey of 75 years was dotted with bitter

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Witnesses' accounts Imran says statements recorded in his absence

Imran tells court he was provided copy of statements during holidays

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said on Tuesday that witnesses' accounts in the Toshakhana reference were recorded in his absence and his representative's statement was also not jotted down properly. Speaking at District and Sessions Court in Islamabad during the hearing of the reference, he argued that since the law did not allow that witnesses' statements were recorded in the absence of the defendant, therefore, these statements could not be read out in front of him in the court. Imran told the court that he was provided copy of these statements during the Ashura holidays. He further said he had provided to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) details of his assets between 2017 and 2021. "In this National Assembly speaker had sent a reference to the ECP, which was done with a mala fide intent," he said, adding this was because the relevant law was not

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Toshakhana case SC forms 3-member bench to hear plea

Justice Yahya Afridi to head the bench

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan Tuesday constituted a three-member bench to hear a petition filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman against his trial in the Toshakhana case. Justice Yahya Afridi would head the bench, comprising Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Musarrat Hilali, would hear the plea of the former prime minister on August 2 at 11:30am. A day earlier, the PTI chief again filed the appeal,

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Info Minister defends hike Govt hikes petrol, diesel prices by more than Rs 19

PM says decision taken with a heavy heart

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday announced a massive Rs19 per litre increase in the price of petrol and diesel, which he said was done in line with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demands. The revised prices have come into effect immediately. The Information Minister Marriyam Aurangzeb in a presser termed the hike inevitable as according to her prices of oil had increased in the international market. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the decision was taken with a heavy heart. The announcement was due on July 31, but the government did not issue new rates as the officials tried to maintain or reduce the rates - keeping in view the impact of the price hike on inflation-weary people. Dar, who made the announcement as the finance minister for the last time as his government's term ends on August 12, said the increase was inevitable as Pakistan

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PTI, masses reject unbearable hike

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) strongly rejected the unbearable escalation in petrol, diesel and LPG prices and said that it would further augment the miseries of the poverty-stricken and inflation-ridden masses, who were crushed by the criminal rulers under the burden of back-breaking inflation. PTI spokesperson said that the puppet and inept government opened the floodgate of inflation, result in fueling poverty, hunger and cost of living to beyond the manageable level before the end of its tenure. He said that in the wake of the skyrocketing prices of electricity and gas, the increase in the prices of petrol,

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Army Chief General Asim Munir along with foreign delegates during 'Dust to Development' summit. - DNA

CPEC Bank of China opens branch in Islamabad

Step to cement fiscal ties with Pakistan: China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "The opening of the Islamabad branch of the Bank of China is another milestone in deepening financial and economic cooperation between the two countries and holds great significance in expanding bilateral economic and trade cooperation," highlighted Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. Speaking on behalf of the Government of Pakistan at the opening ceremony of the Bank of China branch in Islamabad, the minister congratulated the Bank of China on further expanding its service network in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported. He added that "the Pakistani government will

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NA passes bill Three-year jail term for disclosing intel officials' identities

The bill says that any person who "abets, incites, conspires or attempts to commit the offence shall be liable to the same punishment"

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly passed a bill on Tuesday to amend the Official Secrets Act, 1923 which proposes up to three years in jail for anyone who discloses the identity of members of intelligence agencies, informants or sources. The bill, titled "Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023", was moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill says, "It is imperative to amend the Official Secrets Act, 1923, and make it more effective in view of the changing social milieu to ensure the safety and security of official documents." The bill proposes adding Section 6-A (unauthorised disclosure of identities) to the act, under which "a person shall commit an offence who intentionally acting in any manner prejudicial to public order,

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Military trials SC reserves verdict on fresh plea

FAISAL SHEKH

ISLAMABAD: A six-member bench of the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday reserved its verdict on a fresh petition seeking the formation of a full court to hear pleas challenging the military trials of civilians. The bench comprised Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya

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BUSINESS CLASS PASSENGERS CAN STAY 2 NIGHTS FOR FREE IN A 5 STAR HOTEL

Rule of law, investment friendly regulations key for economic revival

ISLAMABAD: Economic researchers have stressed the importance of strong political will, the rule of law, low-rated broad-based taxes, spending restraint, a robust currency, and business-friendly regulations to attract investments and foster economic growth in the country. In a Twitter space discussion titled "Can IMF Stand-By Arrangement and Budget 2023-24 Spark Economic Revival," hosted by PRIME, (Policy Research Institute of Market Economy), an economic expert Rizwan Rowji emphasized the importance of eradicating corruption and achieving sustained economic growth of over 8 per cent plus as key to minimising economic woes. He emphasized that economic revival is unattainable without strong political will, judicial reforms and ensuring the rule of law. The focus of the discussion was the latest addition of PRIME's latest quarterly economic report titled Prime Plus released on July 24. Dr Idrees Khawaja stressed

the importance of crucial reforms to revive the economy and tackle uncertainties. He emphasized the critical role of a robust judiciary and the rule of law in attracting investment. Swift dispute resolution and increased awareness about corruption in schools and colleges are equally vital. Ali Salman, the Executive Director of PRIME, remarked that the budget follows previous patterns with a few reforms and positive indicators. Nevertheless, there are no significant reductions in public expenditures, and the impact of privatization is limited. Increased taxes on the salaried class have led to tax evasion issues. The differentiation between filers and non-filers continues to pose challenges. With the sales tax set at 18 per cent, Ali Salman suggests lowering it to 5 per cent as it is too high. Additionally, the tax exemption regime is doing more harm than good. According to Tuaha Adil, a research economist at PRIME, the country's

annual expenditures shown in the budget amount to 14.46 trillion rupees, representing a significant increase from the previous year's 10 trillion. Debt servicing saw a 50 per cent rise due to currency devaluation and higher interest rates. The government aims to reduce long-term inflation to five to seven per cent by 2025. Additionally, ongoing efforts are focused on enhancing the business environment, he stated. According to Zeeshan Merchant, a tax and corporate law consultant, the government should reduce tax rates, but it is doing the opposite, resulting in corporate entities paying less tax than individuals. He finds the current tax system highly unjustified and suggests introducing new taxpayers. Zeeshan also believes that taxing the retail and agriculture sectors is necessary, as their contribution to the national economy is less than one per cent and it impacts other sectors adversely.—Agencies

Govt focusing on country's youth future

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiative Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that the government was focusing to uplift the future of country's skillful youth. Talking to a PTV news channel, he said the government was committed to refining the skills of the youngsters by training them with new computer technologies. So that every youth could handle the digital economy which must be given the right direction by giving them such opportunities so that they can contribute to the country's development, he said. Ahsan informed that, "A grant ranging from Rs5-20 million to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. Youth to utilize their capabilities for the country's development through innovative ideas, besides promoting the culture of entrepreneurship to create more employment opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled workforce in the country.—APP

SSP conducts Khuli Katchery

RAWALPINDI: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigation Rawalpindi, Zunera Azfar here on Tuesday held a 'Khuli Katchery' in Police Lines Headquarters to address public complaints.

According to a Police spokesman, the SSP issued directives to the officers concerned to take action and submit detailed reports on the complaints submitted by the citizens in 'Khuli Katchery'. She said that negligence on part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated. 'Khuli Katcheries' were being held to provide the citizens immediate relief and address their complaints besides it also helped improve standards of policing, she said and issued orders to the officers to complete inquiries and send reports within the given time frame. All-out efforts should be made to ensure the dispensation of speedy justice purely on merit to the people and improve service delivery standards in the district, she added. The spokesman informed that the Senior Police Officers under the Punjab government's open door policy were holding 'Khuli Katcheries' here to provide relief to the citizens.—APP

Dr Jamal directs to suspend Director Labour

Apart from this, due to the timely desilting of the Nulla Lai, the favourable environment for dengue larvae was also reduced due to the drainage of rainwater

RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Care Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Tuesday directed the officials concerned to issue the suspension orders of the Director Labour Department, Rawalpindi over his negligence from duty. Presiding over a meeting to review anti-dengue arrangements along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha, he said that dengue was a national issue and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. The minister directed the allied departments to ensure their performance satisfactory up to 100 per cent during the next two weeks else strict action would be taken against them. Taking notice of the fake entries, he directed to issue show cause notices to those involved in the bogus activities reports. Dr Jamal Nasir further directed the Chief Executive Officer of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company to spray insecticides daily in 3,400 garbage bins placed across the city and send the proposal of constructing at least three transfer stations in the city immediately. Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Liaqat Ali Chhatta informed that the grubbing of 150 graveyards by the District Council and 75 graveyards by the Municipal Corporation had been completed to control the larvae breeding sites. Apart from this, due to the timely desilting of the Nulla Lai, the favourable environment for dengue larvae was also reduced due to the drainage of rainwater. He said that 102 encroachments on Nulla Lai and 79 encroachments identified on the tributaries were being removed. He said that a third-party validation team from Lahore had arrived at Rawalpindi which will issue a detailed report soon on which institutions or officials' negligence would be held accountable. Liaqat added that only 37 confirmed cases had been reported in the district so far which were less than compared to other districts. However, he directed the relevant officials to expedite anti-dengue surveillance at graveyards and junkyards which were vulnerable palaces for dengue larvae breeding. He said that the availability of necessary medicines was being ensured at the government health facilities and asked the health department to create awareness among the people about the use of mosquito repellents to avoid mosquito bites. On the occasion, health official briefed the meeting that the health authority in collaboration with allied departments, had registered 492 FIRs, sealed 150 premises, issued Challans to 312, and a fine of Rs 727,000 imposed on violations of dengue SOPs from January 1 to date. He informed that two Union Councils including Gulistan Colony and Chamanzar Colony had been declared high-risk areas for dengue spread as 13 cases had been reported from these areas. Deputy Commissioner Dr Hasan Waqar Cheema, Additional Commissioner (Coordination) Syed Nazarat Ali, Director General RDA Saif Anwar Jappa, Chief Health Officer, Director Health Dr Ansar and heads of allied departments participated in the meeting.—DNA

Rivers Indus, Ravi run in medium, low flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that River Indus is flowing in medium flood at Guddu & Sukkur and low flood at Taunsa Barrage (upstream Guddu) while River Ravi at Head Sidhni and Sutlej at Suleimanki & Islam are experiencing low flood. According to daily FFC report on Tuesday, rest of the major rivers (Jhelum & Chenab) are flowing with normal flows. Tarbela Reservoir has attained water level of 1537.79 feet (12% storage space still available) whereas, Mangla Reservoir is at an elevation of 1229.35 feet (13.4% storage space still available). A Well-Marked

Monsoon Low has developed over Northeastern Bay of Bengal (India) with a fresh trough of Westerly Wave presently prevailing over Northern parts of Afghanistan. Seasonal Low earlier over Northwestern Balochistan now lies over Northern Balochistan resulting into penetration of mild moist currents into upper parts of Pakistan up to 3000 feet. For the ensuing 24 hours, mainly dry weather has been predicted by FFD, Lahore over most parts of the country. However isolated wind thunderstorm/rain of light to moderate intensity may occur over Islamabad, Punjab

(Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Lahore & D.G. Khan Divisions), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (D.I. Khan Division) and Northeastern Balochistan including upper catchments of all the major rivers of IRS during the same period of 24 hours. During the next 48 hours, rainfall activity is likely to increase slightly over Northern & Northeastern Punjab including upper catchments of all the major rivers. Further a fresh wet spell of moderate intensity with heavy falls at scattered places may occur over upper catchments of all the major rivers of IRS from 5th to 7th August 2023.—APP

PM Shehbaz, COAS visit Peshawar, inquire injured personnel

DNA

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and COAS General Syed Asim Munir visited Peshawar. During the visit, the Prime Minister was briefed on the overall security situation in the province with focus on the Khar Suicide Blast, status of investigations under process and counter terrorism efforts being undertaken to dismantle the terrorists' network by disrupting the linkages between planners, executioners, and abettors. The Prime Minister noted with concern the involvement of the Afghan citizens in the suicide blasts and liberty of action available to the elements hostile to



Pakistan in planning and executing such cowardly attacks on innocent civilians from the sanctuaries across the border. "Interim Afghan government should undertake concrete measures

towards denying its soil to be used for transnational terrorism", the Prime Minister stated. The Prime Minister also appreciated the emergency efforts undertaken by the Army in

the evacuation of wounded personnel from Khar to Peshawar, saving many lives. Prime Minister and COAS also visited the wounded personnel under treatment at Combined Military Hos-



ISLAMABAD: Wife and daughter of Ambassador of Morocco posing for a picture with the guests on the occasion of the 24th Anniversary of the Accession to the Throne of King Mohammed VI.—DNA

'Existence of Khan unacceptable to elites'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan said that the government of thieves was making all-out efforts to remove PTI Chairman Imran Khan from their path but it would be unnatural act, which would not be acceptable to the people of the country. In a statement on Tuesday, PTI CIS said that in the government of robbers, murderers and merchants, the existence of a tall and internationally respected figure like Imran Khan was unacceptable to the corrupt elite. Raouf Hasan said that that was the reason, they were making all-out efforts to remove him from the path in total disregard of ethics, law and justice.

Rescue 1122 Abbottabad saves lives

ABBOTTABAD: The dedicated team of Rescue 1122 in Abbottabad, led by District Emergency Officer Muhammad Arif Khattak Tuesday while issuing the monthly performance report disclosed that they responded to a total of 664 emergencies, providing timely and professional assistance to those in need. The report further revealed that during July, Rescue 1122 Abbottabad received an overwhelming number of calls, totaling 38,700. Among these, 17,387 were identified as unnecessary calls, while an alarming 20,649 calls were fake. The team demonstrated remarkable responsiveness, with an average response time of just 7 minutes.

The emergencies attended by Rescue 1122 in Abbottabad during the past month varied in nature. There were 52 medical emergencies due to road traffic accidents, 536 fire incidents, and 65 other critical situations, including recoveries. Unfortunately, seven people lost their lives in the course of these incidents, highlighting the importance of the swift and efficient rescue efforts the report stated that, a total of, 664 people were affected by these emergencies, and Rescue 1122 managed to rescue and provide initial medical aid to them. Additionally, 969 patients were rescued provided first aid and shifted to hospitals for further medical attention.—APP

NA passes three govt., other private members' bills

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Tuesday took up legislative business and passed three government bills as well as other legislative proposals sponsored by a private member. The House transacted the government business on private members' day after passage of the motion while private members' agenda was also taken up in routine. Moved by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi, the House passed a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023. The House passed the bill after the Chair directed to circulate the copies of the bill among the lawmakers. According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill, it is imperative to amend the official Secrets Act 1923 and make it more effective in view of the

changing social milieu to ensure safety and security of official documents. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi moved the Toshakhana (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2023 and the Pakistan Airports Authority Bill, 2023. Both bills were passed by the House as the Senate has already approved both legislative proposals. The Toshakhana Management and Regulation Bill 2023 passed by the house today envisaged that the existing and future gifts to be received in Toshakhana shall be disposed of through an open auction. The proceeds of such an auction shall be kept in a separate account and will be utilized for promoting female primary education in the most backward areas of the country. Three private members' bills passed by the House included the Promotion and Protection

of Gandhara Culture Authority Bill, 2023; the Margalla International University Bill, 2023 and the Thar International Institute Bill, 2023. All these bills were sponsored by MNA Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani. The Chair deferred the Kings University Islamabad Bill, 2023 while another private member's bill – the Babrak Institute of Science, Art and Technology Bill, 2023 – was opposed by the Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain who suggested to refer the bill to the committee. The Chair directed for voting on a motion for consideration of the Akhuwat Institute Kasur Bill, 2023 which was sponsored by MNA Tahira Aurangzeb. However, it was not concluded and the House was adjourned to meet again on August 2, 2023 (Wednesday) at 11 am.






Bizenjo vows to eradicate polio diseases

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo on Tuesday said that incumbent provincial government was committed to eradicate anti-polio diseases through contribution of public and polio teams. In his message issued here on the occasion of seven-day anti-polio campaign across the province, he said that with the efforts of the government and all stakeholders, we have reached the aim of complete purging of polio. "The commitment to make Balochistan polio-free will be fulfilled", he said adding that the aim of the anti-polio campaign was to protect the future generation from physical disabilities. The CM further underlined that the role of scholars, media and civil society in anti-polio campaign has key saying that unfortunately, whenever a polio campaign was launched, misconceptions were spread among the public which were being foiled by positive efforts of government. He said that we have to play role to secure the future of our next generation saying that parents must give polio drops to their children during the anti-polio campaign.—APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

August

Aug 01/China Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzerland National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Syria Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Bukino Faso National Day

Aug 09/Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea Independence Day

Aug 15/India Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland Armed Forces Day

Aug 17/Indonesia Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine Independence Day

Aug 25/Uruguay Independence Day

Aug 30/Turkey Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/Kyrgyz Republic Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia National Day

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Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police...9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
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DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



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CDA.....9208301-04
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RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

NA debates G 14 issues

Compensation already given to owners of G-14 land

The CDA was also directed to provide compensation to the affectees of E-12 as per the current rate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Housing and Works Syed Mehmood Shah on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that compensation and plots had already been given in 2005 to residents/owners of 4880 kanals land acquired in sub-sectors 1 and 2 of sectors G-14. Re-

plying to a Calling Attention notice raised by Qadir Khan Mandokhel and others regarding nonpayment of compensation to residents/owners as per current market rates for build-up properties (BUPs) after fresh assessment of residential units constructed there, he said compensation of land and buildings/houses were paid to the residents in 2005 and 2009 respectively

as per the then market rates. Later, under the decision of the federal cabinet, plots were also given to them, he added. Some of them also file a writ in the court of law but the court had decided that very high compensation had been paid to the residents/owners of the land, he added. He said now these people were again demanding compensation as per current

rates. Around 1200 people have passed away who had given the plots, he said. Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani said that imposing of section four by Deputy Commissioner or Capital Development Authority (CDA) created such issues. The DC and CDA enforced Section Four without realizing the ground reality resulting emergence of such land issues, he added.

He said compensation should be given as per the existing market rate if it was not paid earlier. The Deputy Speaker directed the CDA and Federal Housing Authority to provide alternate plots in lieu of lands of the owners besides BUPs as per current market rates. The CDA was also directed to provide compensation to the affectees of E-12 as per the current rate.

Alvi emphasises exploring new trade avenues with Malaysia



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Malaysia, Syed Ahsan Raza Shah, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. —DNA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that Pakistan greatly valued its historical and brotherly ties with Malaysia and wanted to further improve bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy, education, and culture. The president expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Malaysia, Syed Ahsan Raza Shah, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Talking to

the high commissioner, the president emphasized the need for further improving trade, investment, and economic relations with Malaysia by fostering linkages with the Malaysian business community and chambers of commerce. He said that bilateral trade had witnessed a substantial increase during the last years, however, efforts should be made to further enhance Pakistan's exports to Malaysia through value-added products. He highlighted the need to explore new opportunities

for trade and economic co-operation with Malaysia, adding Malaysian entrepreneurs should benefit from the investment-friendly policies of Pakistan. President Alvi asked the high commissioner to work for the facilitation and welfare of the Pakistani workforce in Malaysia, besides making efforts to further strengthen and diversify Pakistan-Malaysia bilateral relations. He also underscored the need to highlight the human rights abuses and the atrocities being committed

by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as well as the mistreatment of minorities in India. The president thanked the Government of Malaysia for supporting Pakistan's efforts in implementing the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. He also asked the envoy to convey his best wishes to the government and people of Malaysia. The president congratulated the high commissioner on his appointment and wished him a successful tenure in Malaysia.

FTO Coordinator hails CPEC-decade celebrations

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis on Tuesday highlighted the significance of the 10-year celebrations of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) held in Pakistan in a remarkable way. He said the celebrations, for which Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng specially arrived in Pakistan, would help further promote economic cooperation between the two countries besides accelerating the pace of infrastructure development under CPEC. Speaking at a seminar titled 'One Decade of CPEC' held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said

such healthy events play a crucial role in strengthening bilateral ties and fostering further progress, said a news release issued here. He said Pakistan and China had strong bilateral relations characterized by economic, military, and diplomatic cooperation which are often referred to as 'all-weather friends'. He said, "Both have engaged in various joint projects, such as the CPEC, which aims to enhance connectivity and trade." "It is a significant infrastructure project aiming to connect Gwadar Port in Pakistan to China's Xinjiang region through a network of highways, railways, and pipelines." The project aimed to enhance connect-

ivity, promote trade, and boost economic development in Pakistan and the broader region, he added. Meher Kashif said, "This multi-billion dollar mega project is expected to have various impacts on Pakistan's economy and will potentially attract foreign investment, create job opportunities, and improve infrastructure, which may lead to increased economic activity." "Pak-China economic relations have been historically strong and continue to be significant said adding that both countries have maintained a close economic partnership, with China being one of Pakistan's major trading partners and a key source of foreign direct investment." —APP

Pharmaceutical goods' export increases

ISLAMABAD: The export of pharmaceutical goods from the country has witnessed an increase of 21.98 per cent during the fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period last year. Pakistan exported pharmaceutical products worth US\$ 328.208 million during the period from July-June (2022-23) as compared to the export of US\$ 269.070 million during July-June (2021-22), showing a growth of 21.98 per cent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the export of pharmaceutical goods also rose by 85.62 per cent from 29,593 metric tons to 54,929 metric tons. —APP

CDNS collects Rs15 bn through Islamic investments

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has collected an investment of Rs15 billion in the month of July 2023-24 through Islamic investment bonds. The directorate has set a target of Rs 75 billion for the new financial year 2023-24 for Islamic finance bonds, a senior official of CDNS told APP here on Tuesday. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS's aim was to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. He informed that CDNS had reviewed and set a target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market. "Islamic finance has a very important role in the global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," he said. Replying to another question, he said the CDNS has set a target of Rs 1743 billion for the current Fiscal Year 2023-24, to promote the saving culture in the country. This is Rs 443 billion additional annual targets than the target of Rs1300 billion for the previous financial year 2022-23 he said. He informed, "The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) attained the target of issuing Rs 1.48 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year (2022-23)." "The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.3 trillion for the current financial year (2022-23) which will promote the savings culture in the country." He said that at present, work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced." He said, "at this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users." Replying to another question, he said, "The CDNS has digitized National Savings Certificates (NSCs) for the convenience of consumers and to modernize the institutional process." The CDNS and Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDCP) signed an agreement to start a pilot project to digitize and dematerialize the NSCs last week, he added. —DNA

CPI inflation slides down to 28.3pc in July

ISLAMABAD: The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation came down to 28.3 percent during the month of July 2023 as compared to 29.4 percent recorded during June 2023, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Tuesday. According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at 24.9%. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 3.5% in July 2023 as compared to a decrease of 0.3% in the previous month and an increase of 4.3% in July 2022. The CPI inflation Urban increased to 26.3% on year-on-year basis in July 2023 as compared to an increase of 27.3% in the previous month and 23.6% in July 2022. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 3.6% in July 2023 as compared to an increase of 0.1% in the previous month and an increase of 4.5% in July 2022. CPI inflation Rural increased to 31.3% on year-on-year basis in July 2023 as compared to an increase of 32.4% in the previous month and 26.9% in July 2022. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 3.3% in July 2023 as compared to a decrease of 0.8% in the previous month and an increase of 4.2% in July 2022. Meanwhile, the Sensitive Price Indicator based inflation on YoY increased to 29.3% in July 2023 as compared to an increase of 34.9% a month earlier and 28.2% in July 2022. On MoM basis, it increased by 2.8% in July 2023 as compared to an increase of 0.2% a month earlier and an increase of 7.3% in July 2022.

Germany's unemployment rate rises to 3.1% in June

ISLAMABAD: Germany's unemployment rate rose to 3.1% in July, from 2.9% in the same month last year, the country's statistical authority said on Tuesday. Destatis said that the number of unemployed people was 1.38 million as of June, up 119,000, or 9.5%, on an annual basis. "Roughly 45.7 million persons resident in Germany were in employment in June 2023," it said, adding that the number of employed people was up by 0.7% on a yearly basis. "A year-on-year comparison shows that the long-term upward trend on the labour market continued in June 2023, but at a slower pace," it added. —APP

Interior ministry asked to renew all old armed licenses

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani on Tuesday directed the interior ministry to renew all old armed licenses irrespective of their dates of issuance. Giving a ruling in response to points raised by Chaudhary Faqir Muhammad and Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, the Deputy Speaker said that it was the duty of the interior ministry to renew all old licenses no matter how they were old. He said on the directives of Speaker NA, a representative of the interior ministry remained present in the Parliament House to deal with the armed licenses matter of parliamentarians. He also asked the Chairman of the House Special Committee on Arms Licenses to convene a meeting today and urged the members to attend it. Earlier, speaking on point of order Chaudhary Faqir Muhammad requested the chair to give a ruling to the ministry for the issuance of all pending armed licenses.

RRR to help resolve traffic problems

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division/Project Director Rawalpindi Ring Road (RRR), Liaquat Ali Chatta here on Tuesday while presiding over a consultative meeting of all the stakeholders said that Ring Road project would help resolve traffic problems of the twin cities. Director General, Rawalpindi Development Authority, Saif Anwar Jappa, Presidents of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rawalpindi, Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bus and Transport Union, Rawat Industrial Estate and representatives of Anjuman-e-Tajran Rawalpindi participated in the meeting. Rawalpindi Ring Road is a very important project which would be taken forward on priority basis, the Commissioner said. RDA had signed an agreement with a Turkish company for third party validation consultancy services for the best route of the Rawalpindi Ring Road. —APP

Water Management vital for stability of Pakistan

CHAUDHRY M. LATIF



It is a recognized principle "Those who want to govern must know to listen". Experts on water management have all along been expressing their valuable ideas in the print media. Climate hazards have also been highlighted. The change of pattern of rains has caused havoc in last year flood. There is no denying the fact that conservation of water resources of the country is pre condition for food security. The incumbent PDM government is faced with shortage of food commodities and their price hike despite the fact that we have predominantly

an agrarian economy. The PDM government has assigned the major role to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister to face economic challenges. Whereas, the gigantic responsibility necessitates a team effort. Luckily the coalition government stands represented by most of the major political elements of the country with considerable experience and collective wisdom with common political fate and future. The country needs a government which could generate consensus of the political leadership to address the issue of Kalabagh Dam. In our view Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman, head of PDM, enjoy the support of his devotees in all provinces. He has sound footing in Baluchistan and KPK. If he makes it a mission to launch a movement for construction of the said vital dam he has the acumen and skill of dealing with political leaders. It goes without saying that the Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif, is genuinely struggling for good governance, to improve and reform the economy of country,

and provide maximum relief to common man. He has developed admirable relations with comity of nations. It is also just and logical to admit that major decisions made by coalition government in this short span of their rule were launched without adequate homework, planning and without taking into confidence the stakeholders and also without appreciating the existing administrative structure available to the government. The sudden directive of Free Atta Scheme during the holy month of Ramzan is an example costing 89 billion of rupees. They could have supplemented the already available Cheap Atta Scheme in the field as the clientele was the same. So the outcome was not as had been envisaged. With the change of global climate, technology, and political scenario, the developing nations have to be updated to coup with unforeseen vistas. The old traditional mode of governance has to be reviewed. The annual tree plantation ceremonies should be re-

placed with new projects of water management with the same provision of funds. Each forest enclosure should undertake construction of lakes which could meet water requirements in addition to facilitating fire fighting in forest fires and conservation of water. Alarming fires in Algeria and some other countries are eye openers. There has been colossal loss of life and infrastructure in addition to wildlife. There is a boom of housing schemes with consequent need of tube wells. So there should be a directive for all housing schemes to manage water resources in their respective catchment areas. We have a substantial potential of saving water by huge gathering of Tablighi Jamiat whose volunteers have proved to be effective in maintaining law and order without any help of government agency. They can save water and use it for tree plantation, vegetables and vegetation. Saving water and raising fruit trees are perfectly in consonance with Islamic teachings. If they modify

their mandate and undertake participation in social welfare activities and help the nation in fighting with the havoc of calamities like floods, earthquakes etc. They can surpass any welfare and charitable organization due to their ideal discipline. The expert studies reveal that we have only water storing capacity of 14 million hectares of water out of 145 million hectares available. The unforeseen and unexpected over flow of flood water release by India in 3 rivers namely Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej should be treated as a windfall instead of taking it as water terrorism. Why we cannot undertake studies to manage the additional source of water. The budget allocation for flood relief and rehabilitation should be diverted to save aforesaid 3 rivers surplus water and utilize for our agrarian objectives. Every year the people of Bahawalpur eagerly await the arrival of Sutlej river. Four years back when the Sutlej overflowed its banks people were jubilant and threw flowers into the river

near Empress Bridge. The issue here lies in India's highhandedness whereby it has deprived the dry regions known as Cholistan, Rohi from its due share of water. India has constructed the world's second largest dam on Sutlej river through which the eastern regions of Pakistan yearn for even a drop of this water. We must insist that Sutlej river flows its original course which passes through Cholistan. Secondly our objection could be that India must not discharge polluted water from its industries as it damages the environment, pollutes underground water, and spreads dangerous diseases such as cancer and bone deformities. At the same time we should commence micro level water saving projects such as roof rain water as has been done by the several countries of the world like France and USA. In rural regions small nullahs should be converted into mini dams and lakes. The writer is retired Additional Chief Secretary AJK and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.

Briefs

PM conveys condolences

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, on Tuesday conveyed heartfelt condolences on the loss of precious lives in the torrential rains in Beijing. On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who lost their loved ones. Pakistan and China are enduring friends and partners sharing weal and woe. The entire Pakistani nation stands by our Chinese brothers and sisters in this hour of grief." The prime minister also extended his best wishes for the ongoing relief and rescue efforts and extended all possible assistance. According to CCTV, the Chinese state broadcast, and other global media, at least 11 people were killed and 27 others were reported missing after the torrential rains lashed the Capital city causing massive deluge in its outskirts.—APP

Six died in road mishap

ISLAMABAD: At least six people died and ten others sustained injuries in a head-on collision between a passenger coach and a car in Loralai District, here Tuesday morning. According to Rescue sources, the passenger coach was on its way when a car hit it due to over-speeding. As a result, six people including women died on the spot, a private news channel reported. Police and rescue team reached the spot and shifted the bodies to the hospital. According to the rescue sources, the incident took place due to the overspeeding of the car. "More details will be shared later after the completion of the investigation," the sources added.—APP

ANF recovers over 33 kg drugs; arrests three

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting three operations recovered over 33 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters here on Tuesday. He informed that in a joint operation conducted by ANF and ASF at Islamabad International Airport, over 10.2 kg heroin was recovered from the possession of a Sri Lankan passenger. The accused was departing for Sri Lanka by flight number QR-613. In another raid, five kg hashish and one kg heroin were recovered from a vehicle intercepted in Mangopir area of Karachi. Two accused residents of Karachi were also arrested during the operation. In third operation, 17 kg hashish concealed for the purpose of smuggling was recovered in Jarobi, Zakhakhel area of Khyber. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.—APP

Efforts underway to protect women's rights; Commissioner

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatta on Tuesday said that the government was well aware of the problems faced by businesswomen in the current economic conditions and efforts were being made to provide relief to them in every possible manner. He said this while addressing the participants of the National Women Workers Convention on Gender-based Violence (GBV) held at Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with the Rawalpindi Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He said that the United Nations Convention in 1979 on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access and opportunities in political and public life including the right to vote and to stand for election as well as education, health and employment. "States parties agree to take all appropriate measures, including legislation and temporary special measures so that women can enjoy all their human rights.—APP

ICCI terms hike in petroleum prices a blow to economy

The decision would badly squeeze the purchasing power of the already crushed common man leading to a sharp decline in the growth of business activities

FASISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the government has made a massive hike of almost Rs.20 per litre in the prices of petrol and diesel, which would prove to be a blow to the economy. He said this while addressing a meeting of the business community.

He said that it would unleash a new wave of high inflation and further increase the cost of doing business in the country. The decision would badly squeeze the purchasing power of the already crushed common man leading to a sharp decline in the growth of business activities. The government has also hiked electricity price by Rs.7.5/unit that would multiply the production cost. He said that the price of petrol has



jumped from Rs. 227/litre on 1st August 2022 to almost Rs.273/litre on 1st August 2023. Similarly, the price of diesel has surged from Rs.245/litre on 1st August 2022 to more than Rs.273/litre on 1st August 2023. This unprecedented hike in POL prices would multiply the energy and transport costs and further increase the cost of doing business

due to which trade and industrial activities would badly suffer. He urged that the government should reconsider such decisions to save people, businesses and the economy from their devastating consequences. Ahsan Bakhtawari said that the SBP has already increased the policy interest rate to 22 percent, making credit cost unaffordable for the business com-

munity. The recent hikes in POL and electricity prices would make our products very uncompetitive in the international market and cause decline in our exports. He wondered who would do business and invest in Pakistan in an environment of frequent hikes in the utility tariffs and POL products. He stressed that the government should make drastic cuts in all

non-development expenditures and reduce the profit margins of OMCs instead of putting an unbearable burden on the masses and the businesses. He urged that in these difficult times, the government should avoid taking harsh measures and focus on promoting ease of doing business to improve exports and steer the economy out of current challenges.

Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President and Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI said that the repeated hikes in the POL prices and utility tariffs would shatter the confidence of investors who needed stable prices and tariffs to make long-term investment decisions in Pakistan. They urged that the government should reconsider the latest hikes in POL and electricity prices to save the masses, businesses and the economy from further troubles.

PML-N ready to take allies on board, Talal ch

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senior leader Talal Chaudhry Tuesday said that senior leadership is ready to take all allies on board before reaching a final decision over the matters of caretaker setup. Pakistan Muslim League-N always believed in democracy and has always tried to strengthen the rule of law in the country, he said while talking to a Private news channel. Proposals from the coalition parties would also come under discussion, he added. Replying to a query, he replied that it was the beauty of the democracy that if any political party has a difference of opinion with each other, adding, the caretaker prime minister should be a neutral and non-controversial figure to ensure that the election results are accepted by all. He also stated that the next elections could not be delayed for any reason and final decision on selecting the name of the interim prime minister would be made after the consensus of coalition parties. To another question, he said the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), is bound to follow the Constitution and conduct general elections 2023 in a transparent manner.—APP

IRSA releases 304,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 304,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 393,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1537.79 feet and was 139.79 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 218,600 cusecs and 172,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1229.35 feet, which was 179.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 52,700 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 198,800, 357,500, 443,400 and 144,900 cusecs respectively.—APP

Chinese workers' role in implementing CPEC highly commendable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Vice Premier He Lifeng and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif lauded CPEC for its profound positive impact on Pakistan's socio-economic development and the progress of both nations. They acknowledge the exceptional efforts of Pakistani and Chinese experts, engineers, and workers for their commendable contributions to the timely completion of all CPEC projects in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported Tuesday. Pakistan and China celebrated the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Islamabad. A special event was meticulously organized to commemorate the completion of the first decade of this vital initiative. Distinguished leaders from both countries, including Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping's Special Representative, Vice Premier He Lifeng, graced the ceremony with their presence. During the event, they underscored that, as the flagship project of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has notably transformed Pakistan's economic landscape by effectively addressing critical infrastructure challenges and power shortages. Expressing their contentment with CPEC's achievements, both leaders reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to build upon the progress of the last decade and foster continued cooperation to elevate CPEC to exemplify the highest standards of the Belt and Road Initiative. The ceremony also acknowledged the exceptional efforts of Pakistani and Chinese

experts, engineers, and workers for their commendable contributions to the timely completion of all CPEC projects in Pakistan. Vice Premier He Lifeng conveyed a special message from President Xi Jinping, congratulating the government and people of Pakistan on the successful completion of the first decade of CPEC. To commemorate the significance of this milestone, a special Postal Stamp, Commemorative Coin, and First Day Cover were issued. Additionally, both sides unveiled a memento to celebrate the achievements made during the first decade of CPEC and to envision its future potential. The event artfully showcased various aspects of Pakistan's diverse and progressive culture, emphasizing the deep civilizational affinity and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Chi-

na. Having commenced in 2013 following the Chinese Premier's visit to Pakistan, CPEC has witnessed the successful completion of multiple projects in energy, transport infrastructure, port/airport development, and digital connectivity over the past ten years. The substantial benefits of CPEC for Pakistan include the creation of over 200,000 jobs, the addition of 8,000 MW of power to the national grid, the construction of 510 kilometers of highways and 932 kilometers of road network, and the laying of an 820-kilometer-long optical fiber line. Under Phase-II of CPEC, both countries have expanded their cooperation into new areas, such as rural revitalization, agricultural development, industrialization, green development, and science and technology.

CPEC to boost investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Sharmila Faruqi Tuesday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would attract the largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan. "The project will play an important role in facilitating the development of the country's economy and in creating millions of new jobs in coming years," she added. Under CPEC, the two countries initiated and completed multiple projects including energy, transport infrastructure, port, airport development, and digital connectivity, she said while talking to a private news channel. "Under Phase II of CPEC, both countries will now further expand cooperation to new areas including rural revitalization, agricultural development, industrialization, green development, and science and technology," she mentioned. "The friendship of both countries is going to prosper further in the coming years," she said. "CPEC is a game changer for the economic and social development of the region." It was unfortunate that work on this important project of economic and social development was stalled by the previous government of PTI, she regretted. Sharmila highlighted that the China was a time-tested and trusted friend of Pakistan who had supported Pakistan in difficult times. Replying to a question, she said that PPP was the first government that had initiated the multi-billion dollar project CPEC but some elements started negative propaganda against the project but failed to scare our future Chinese partners. To another question, she appreciated that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was playing a leading role in reviving the foreign policy of Pakistan which was ruined by past governments and he represented young Pakistani talent in the field of global diplomacy. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visits in various countries had taken world leaders into confidence and his diplomatic efforts in a short span of time are appreciable, she hailed.—DNA

Reports of differences on issue of a caretaker PM are baseless

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Tuesday that the rumours that the ruling coalition is divided on the question of the caretaker prime minister are unfounded. He said that the interim Prime Minister should be a politician with extensive experience dealing with international organisations as the country is on the brink, while a failed politician wants anarchy in Pakistan that should lead to bankruptcy. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the country is still in the red and the situation requires tough decisions leading to economic and political stability; therefore, an active political figure should be made caretaker prime minister. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that an active and energetic PM would continue difficult negotiations with the lenders, undertake re-

forms, and ensure work on the CPEC and the Special Investment Facilitation Council to "facilitate the promised investments" from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, and other Arab investors. The business leader said that the parties involved in the ruling alliance have shown great unity under the leadership of Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif in the last 14 months, and it is expected that the coalition parties will also consider the issue of a caretaker prime minister amicably. All the parties are trying to understand the sensitivity of the situation and will continue to cooperate with each other before and after the election, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the head of the IMF has expressed good expectations about Pakistan, the vice president of China is visiting Pakistan, and several MoUs have been signed. The stock market is also increasing, but an unwise political group wants to see Pakistan as a failed state to fulfil its agenda. He further said that the interest rate is still 22 percent and there is a strong possibility of a


further decline in the value of the rupee, which will make people more worried and businesses destroyed, so all the political forces should fight to save the economy instead of trying to get a lion's share. The standby programme of the IMF is a temporary relief, and the economy will only progress when there is political stability, so this programme should not be derailed by political conflicts. The next IMF review will be held in November, and if successful, the loan tranche will be received in December. Therefore, the caretaker government will have to work hard to ensure the success of this review, for which the presence of a dynamic political caretaker prime minister will be a prerequisite. The dire economic conditions of the country are proving to be a blessing in disguise for some people, and they are trying their best to create uncertainty and make the country default. Like the present government, the caretaker government also has to stop such conspiracies and efforts to spread chaos; otherwise, the situation may deteriorate, he warned.

14 private members bills introduced in NA

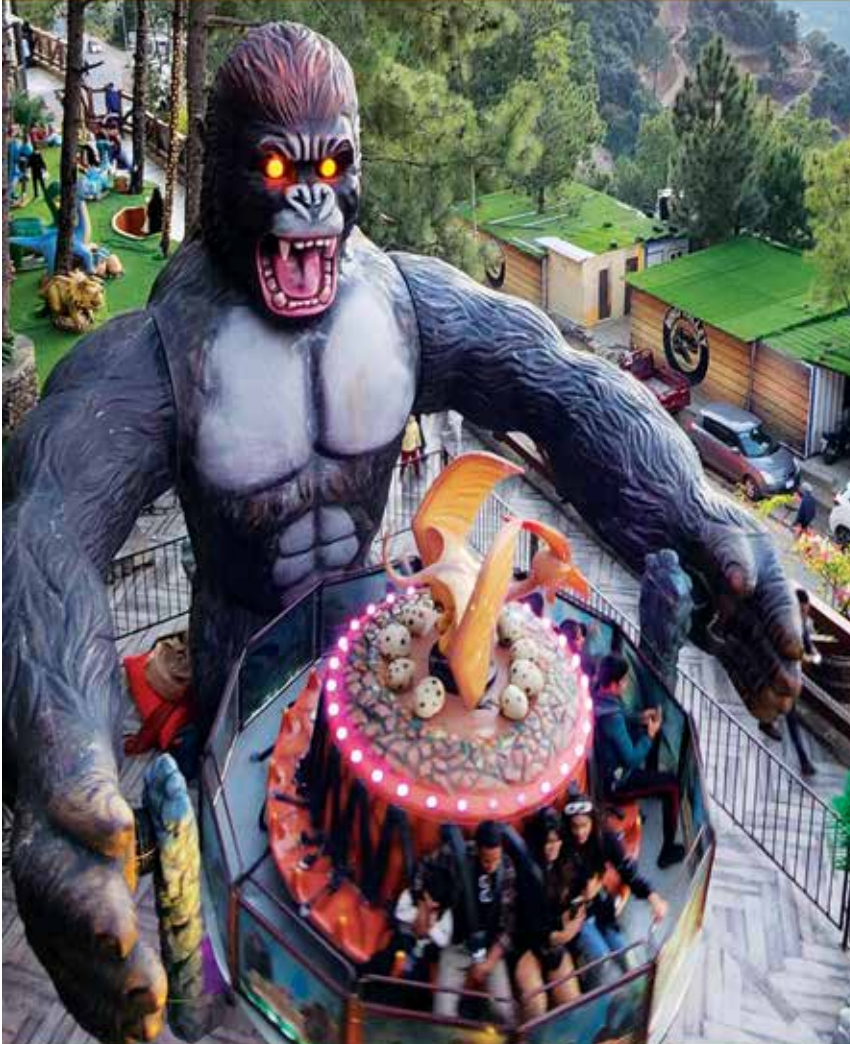
ISLAMABAD: As many as 14 private members bills mostly related to setting up new universities and educational institutions were introduced in the National Assembly (NA) on Tuesday. The bills included the Promotion and Protection of Gandhara Culture Authority Bill, 2023, the Margalla International University Bill, 2023, the Thar International Institute Bill, 2023, the King's University Islamabad Bill, 2023, the King's Institute of Higher Education Bill, 2023, the Babrak Institute of Science, Art and Technology Bill, 2023, the Akhuwat Institute Kasur Bill, 2023, the Monarch Institute Bill, 2023, the Chenab Institute Bill, 2023, the Institute of Gujrat (IOG) Bill, 2023, the Falcon University of Sciences and Technology Bill, 2023, the Islamabad Metropolitan University, Bill, 2023, the Modern International University of Sciences, Bill, 2023 and the Islamabad University of Health Sciences and Emerging Technologies, Islamabad Bill, 2023. The bills were moved by Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Dr Zulkifur Ali Bhatti, Qaiser Ahmed Shaikh, Qadir Khan Mandokhail, Tahira Aurangzeb, Chaudhary Armaghan Subhani and Wajihah Qamar in the House.—APP

Women can play important role in development of society

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta here on Tuesday said that empowered women could play an important role in development of the society. Speaking as chief guest at National Women Worker Convention, the Commissioner said that the convention on empowering women is a good step. Women would get awareness through such conventions regarding women empowerment, he added. Such conventions should be held at all levels, he said. Harassing women is not only against the law but also against 'Shariat', the Commissioner said adding, the role of media is positive.—APP



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Leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The students of the China Fellowship Program AIERD visited the Institute of Regional Studies on Monday, 31st July 2023. The visitors attended the lecture of Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay CEO of the Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization Research and De-

velopment (AIERD). Mr. Ramay highlighted the key aspects of the leadership of Chinese President Xi Jinping in his address. The visitors were welcomed by the Research Analyst Ms. Nabila Jaffer who leads the China program at the institute. Later, the Editor publication at the Institute Mr. Aarish Khan introduced the aim of the institute to the

visitors. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay opened up with the modern history of China. He noted, China can be studied through four periods of its history starting from 1840 till 2012. The period was China's century of humiliation, he said. China was exploited in this period with unequal agreements.

Mr. Ramay noted that the Chinese Communist Party was formed in 1921. That era was full of awareness and mass mobilization, he noted. Unlike, Karl Marx, he said, President Mao Zedong was convinced that farmers will bring the revolution. This provided strength to the Chinese to fight back finally taking independence in 1949.

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Investigating a migrant tragedy

For the relatives of the hundreds of migrants who drowned in June when a fishing trawler packed with human cargo capsized off the coast of Greece, there has been no body to mourn and no prospect of closure. Eighty-two bodies were recovered after the sinking, and 104 people managed to survive. But as many as 750 migrants were on board the *Adriana*, which never got close to Italy – its theoretical destination. The news agenda has moved on. But those lost to the sea must not be forgotten. The Council of Europe was therefore right last week to urge the Greek prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, to step up efforts to locate the missing, presumed drowned, and to identify the dead. Just as important was its demand for a transparent, thorough and independent investigation into the events of 13-14 June – the worst migrant shipwreck for many years. Why was this appalling disaster not averted despite the *Adriana* being under observation for about 15 hours before it sank? At a time when European policymaking on irregular migration appears to be focused exclusively on deterrence and prevention, it is vital that such an investigation takes place. The need to do everything possible to safeguard the lives of migrants imperilled at sea is, or should be, a non-negotiable obligation for all civilised states. But in recent years, harassment of NGOs dedicated to that goal has been accompanied by a rise in illegal pushbacks in Greece and elsewhere. The circumstances surrounding the shipwreck of the *Adriana* are extremely murky. In interviews, multiple survivors have testified that the Greek coastguard attempted to tow the overcrowded trawler towards Italian waters, causing it to topple over. Coastguard officials have denied this. Separately, it has emerged that, on three occasions, the Greek authorities turned down offers of assistance by Frontex, the EU border and coastguard agency. The coastguard vessel eventually dispatched from Crete to assist the migrants failed to film its operation, meaning no footage of the catastrophe is available. Other vessels, much closer by, were not sent to lend capacity to a potential rescue operation, although distress calls were being made by some migrants to activist groups. According to the coastguard, those on board the boat resisted offers of help and were determined to head to Italy. Responding to the Council of Europe, the Greek minister for migration and asylum, Dimitris Kairidis, cited a judicial investigation into the disaster that is currently under way. But he also deplored a “frenzy” of politically motivated criticism of Greece, allegedly orchestrated by advocates of “open border” policies. Rightly, the European ombudsman last week announced a Brussels investigation into the part played by Frontex in the tragedy in June. One coastguard source told the *Guardian*: “It should have been a send everything you’ve got situation.” The families of those lost deserve to know why that didn’t happen.



West's role in food shortage cannot be ignored

The panic buying of rice in some countries dependent on imports for food, after India, Russia and the United Arab Emirates suspended their rice exports recently, is an acute reminder of how delicate the world food security situation is. Although there are weather causes – heavy monsoon rains causing serious crop losses in India – geopolitical reasons should be held accountable for this. As was predictable, the West attributes the looming food shortage around the world to Russia, after Moscow refused to renew the Black Sea Grain Initiative on July 17, the day the one-year deal expired. It accuses Russia of imposing a technical blockade of Ukraine's grain exports through the Black Sea, and some have urged the developed economies to form a NATO-type of organization in grain production and trade in response. That accusation is unfair, and that proposal is absurd. To begin with, the West has failed to deliver on a promise to free up Russian agricultural exports that have been blocked by its sanctions. Although Russia's food and fertilizer exports are not under sanctions, the West's sanctions-related restrictions on Russia's banking, transit and insurance make its trade in agricultural products untenable. The West shouldn't force the less-developed countries, mostly those in Africa, to pay the price for its Ukrainian-proxied offensive against Russia. The United Nations is obliged to hold emergency meetings on the extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative to make it reflect the appeals of the two conflicting sides in a more balanced manner. That is crucial to preventing the initiative that was originally made to minimize the Ukraine crisis' impacts on world food security from being exploited as a new part of the conflict. That's actually what the responsible countries should have done even before Moscow signaled its intention to withdraw from the initiative. It is a pity that none of the Western countries has shown any interest in doing that. These countries' studied silence over Moscow's complaint that their cross-board sanctions have affected Russia's food exports is a telling sign that the sanction imposers are well aware that the “green channels” they opened for Russia's grain trade were only to forestall any flak that might come their way. They don't want to be held responsible for the food crisis because of their actions in instigating and prolonging the Ukraine conflict. Yet the greater the moral burden they try to put on Russia's shoulders, the more their own actions come under scrutiny. The agricultural and food companies of the West already dominate the world grain market and food industry. If the developed countries are allowed to go further to form a “grain NATO”, they will effectively hollow out such world food bodies as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the UN World Food Programme. In doing that, they will gain control of the industries and technologies related to food as well as the policymaking and decision-making mechanisms related to world food security. The West's culpability for the global food shortage is both clear and callous.

SIFC brings “dust to development”

Qamar Bashir



The SIFC selected the mining, information technology, and agriculture industries as economic drivers solely on the basis of their merit. Pakistan has the world's second largest coal reserves, estimated at 185 billion tonnes. Pakistan has the fifth largest copper reserves in the world, estimated at 5.9 billion tonnes in Reko Dik only. Pakistan has the sixth largest gold reserves in the world, estimated at 42.5 million ounce in Reko Dik alone. Pakistan has the fifth largest chromite reserves in the world, estimated at 1.2 billion tonnes. Pakistan has the 12th largest iron ore reserves in the world, estimated at 1.8 billion tonnes. Pakistan is home

Within a month, Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has launched its fourth high value flagship project, “Dust to Development,” with the goal of garnering \$6.1 trillion in investment in the country's mining sector. Two friendly countries have already pledged investment of \$ 40 billion and \$ 22 billion, respectively, with an immediate commitment of \$ 10 billion ready to be inked. These investments are mostly in Balochistan; thus, the SIFC envisions the establishment of cutting-edge mining infrastructure, such as building new roads and railways to access mineral deposits and developing new mining technologies, as well as providing maximum employment to the local population by opening schools, hospitals, and providing quality urban infrastructure to Balochistan's cities and towns, in order to bring the hitherto neglected areas of Balochistan at par with the developed regions of the country. The SIFC selected the mining, information technology, and agriculture industries as economic drivers solely on the basis of their merit. Pakistan has the world's second largest coal reserves, estimated at 185 billion tonnes. Pakistan has the fifth largest copper reserves in the world, estimated at 5.9 billion tonnes in Reko Dik only. Pakistan has the sixth largest gold reserves in the world, estimated at 42.5 million ounce in Reko Dik alone. Pakistan has the fifth largest chromite reserves in the world, estimated at 1.2 billion tonnes. Pakistan has the 12th largest iron ore reserves in the world, estimated at 1.8 billion tonnes. Pakistan is home to a variety of gemstones, including rubies, emeralds, and topaz. It was also the right time to choose the mineral sector for seeking investment as the global demand for minerals and metals is growing, and they contribute significantly to the global economy. By 2022, the mining industry had generated approximately \$940 billion in revenue. In addition, the sector employs more than twenty million people globally. The mining industry is anticipated to grow in the coming years. This increase will be fueled by the rising demand for minerals and metals as well as technological advancements that will make mining more efficient. However, the high global demand for metals was not the only reason that Pakistan attracted \$ 62 billion in mining sector investment. A new mining and investment policy devised by SIFC and approved by the Cabinet was the main reason for attracting investment in the mining sector. Since this policy has the consent and agreement of prospective investors, the International Seminar on mining, which is being held on August 1, 2023, has attracted participants from over 30 countries, some of whom are represented at the ministerial level, some of whom are representatives of top mining companies, legal firms, and engineering firms who will spend their entire time in Pakistan developing and fine tuning the investment regime, loan structure, and financial closure mechanisms. The new mining policy, which was developed with input from all countries interested in the mining sector, has four main pillars: creation of a one-stop shop for mining investors to streamline the process of obtaining licences and permits and make it easier for investors to do business in Pakistan; introduction of a mineral exploration fund to provide financial support to companies exploring for new mineral deposits in Pakistan; and relaxation of foreign ownership restrictions. The implementation of these measures, which appears simple in theory but is challenging in practice, will make Pakistan a more attractive destination for foreign investment, increased mineral production, and exports, thereby boost-

ing the economy of the country. In addition, investors will receive investment security, immunity from any litigation process, and assurance that there will be no policy change by any succeeding government, but in exchange, they will be required to mine the mineral, develop smelting plants in and around Gwadar, and develop downstream industries in Balochistan to transform the raw mineral obtained from smelting into value-added products for export. This will guarantee the development of the community, improve the socioeconomic outlook of the province, develop cities and urban centres, and transform Balochistan into an economic hub for Pakistan, its regional neighbours, and the rest of the world. SIFC has also introduced the slogan “From Red Tape to the Red Carpet.” It implies that the entire bureaucracy, from top to bottom, will be reoriented from its master-servant relationship with its clients to providing doorstep services to their clients. In the new paradigm, all employees, departments, organisations, regulators, and ministries involved with or pertinent to the investment will receive the investors on their own, providing them with a single point of contact for all their documentation, registration, and licensing needs. According to the news system, as soon as the investor registers its interest with SIFC, the investor will no longer be responsible. SIFC will oversee the conclusion of legal, licencing, registration, and NOC requirements on its own, without the investor's involvement. He will also be provided with the utilities and basic materials necessary for the success of his investment, whereas the new law will provide the investor with all the security, permanence of policies, and future investment protection. SIFC also intends to consolidate all laws pertaining to foreign investment into a single law, which will provide much-needed respite and encourage investors to invest in Pakistan. Members of the SIFC are members by designation rather than by name, which implies that the SIFC will not be reconstituted after each change in government, but any new government member with the same designation will automatically become a member of the SIFC. Furthermore, because the SIFC has representation from the federal and provincial levels, as well as the Army chief, it is the ideal forum for resolving issues, developing consensus, and speeding up the decision-making process without delay or communication gaps. Once an agreement is reached within SIFC, the project will be referred to the Executive Committee, which will ensure that all requirements are met on behalf of the investors, and the ball will be passed to the Implementation Committee, which will ensure that the investment is applied on the ground without delay, utilities are provided within the timeline allocated, roads and transport needs are met, and the investor is not harassed. The new policy will also be applied to the Reko Dik project. The project will begin producing 400,000 metric tonnes of copper and 400,000 ounces of gold per year by 2025, which, when converted into monetary value as of July 31, 2023, the value of 400,000 metric tonnes of copper is \$3.7 billion and the value of 400,000 ounces of gold is \$718 million, for a total annual value of \$4.418 billion. This output will be doubled following the installation of all machinery and equipment, which is expected to be completed by 2028, implying that the facility will generate around \$8.828 billion per year. Taking into account the project's whole life span of 40 years, the total aggregate profit from this project will be \$ 353.12 billion. In an interview with a

prominent TV programme today (31st July), the project manager of Barrick Company made the following interesting remarks. Reko Dik is one of the world's largest and finest undeveloped copper-gold deposits, owned 50% by Barrick, 25% by three federal state-owned firms, 15% completely supported by the Province of Balochistan, and 10% free carried by the Province of Balochistan. The province's stake in the mine will be completely funded, which means that Balochistan will receive the earnings, royalties, and other benefits associated with its 25% stake without having to contribute financially to its development or management. The Reko Dik project was reconstituted in December 2022, which was a critical step towards developing Reko Dik into a world-class, long-life mine that would significantly expand Barrick's strategically significant copper portfolio and benefit its Pakistani stakeholders for generations to come. The firm is currently reevaluating the feasibility study completed by the previous Tethyan Copper firm (TCC) because technology has evolved, necessitating a re-evaluation of the full feasibility study. Reko Dik, a truck-and-shovel open pit operation with processing facilities generating a high-quality copper-gold concentrate, is expected to last at least 40 years. Construction is projected to be completed in two phases, with the first phase completed by 2024 and the first production scheduled for 2028, with a combined process capacity of 80 million tonnes per annum. Meanwhile, the corporation is substantially investing in the community's socioeconomic outlook. To uplift and improve the living conditions of the communities in and around Reko Dik, it is constructing hospitals, schools, water, electricity and gas supply schemes, as well as schools and vocational training centres. It has already repaired the airfield and residential facilities to meet the project's transportation and accommodation needs, as well as identified aquifers for water supply. It is in the process of establishing a 150 megawatt fuel-powered power project and a 150 megawatt solar power project, and it is also looking for dead or live volcanoes in and around the area to generate power from thermal energy as one of the creative solutions to provide the enormous energy required to run and operate the entire facility at peak efficiency. Reko Dik will be a significant contributor to Pakistan's economy, with a transformative influence on the undeveloped Balochistan province, where, in addition to economic benefits, it will create jobs, stimulate regional economic growth, and invest in development programmes. These pledges, forecasts, and promises appear very promising and mouth watering, but as we all know, every government makes such promises shortly after coming into or leaving power, but those promises fade quickly after the government is embroiled in its own survival and all promises and priorities are pushed aside, swept under the rug, or taken over by the instinct of survival first. The policies of previous governments were never bad, nor were their intentions, but none of their promises could be translated into reality, despite the fact that we have abundant natural resources. We always fell short of achieving political stability, providing a strong legal framework, a favourable tax regime, reliable infrastructure, access to skilled labour, and a red carpet for investors. None of these conditions are out of reach; we simply need to choose national interest over personal interests. Let us hope that this time, national interests triumph over vested interests.

India's Supreme Court on Trial

Air Commodore Khalid Iqbal (Retd)

The matter was last heard in March 2020 before going into limbo. After a four years' hiatus, the timing and the indecent haste of hearing is rather intriguing. Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory; it is one of the longest pending disputes on the United Nations' agenda. There are numerous UNSC resolutions acknowledging its disputed status; the latest such resolution came in June 1998. Parties to this dispute are: China

After nine years of Mr Narendra Modi's rule, the Supreme Court of India is timid, tentative, fragmented and vulnerable, wary of hurting the central executive which has grown mighty in strength. As an electoral facilitation service to the ruling RSS-BJP duo, the top court of India has decided to conduct “day-to-day” hearings on 23 petitions challenging the abrogation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir's (IIOJK) special status from August 2. The matter was last heard in March 2020 before going into limbo. After a four years' hiatus, the timing and the indecent haste of hearing is rather intriguing. Jammu and Kashmir is a disputed territory; it is one of the longest pending disputes on the United Nations' agenda. There are numerous UNSC resolutions acknowledging its disputed status; the latest such resolution came in June 1998. Parties to this dispute are: China, India, Pakistan, the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir; and above all the UNSC, whose responsibility is to ensure that all UN resolutions are implemented by all members, both in letter and spirit. Packed by the judges of far right mind-set by the BJP-RSS nexus, the top court has chosen to hear the case when election bell are ringing in India. The judicial trajectory of India's Supreme Court is quite disappointing, especially when adjudicating matters where Muslims are a party. Verdicts on the desecration of Babri Masjid and building of Ram temple in its place, and death sentence of Afzal Guru are two contemporary cases where the Indian top court did “mob” trials. Moreover, all those convicted by trial courts in high profile cases like Gujarat pogrom 2002, and burning of Godra train & Samjhota Express have been systematically absolved by India's superior judiciary. An emerging trend seen in the Indian Supreme Court during the Mr Modi's rule is the evasion of decision-making by delaying the hearing of high profile cases where judgement is likely to displease the Union government. For example, after the announcement of demon-

etisation in November 2016, several petitions were filed in SC challenging the decision. The petitions had raised substantial legal points such as whether the decision was unilaterally announced by the government without proper consultation with the Board of the Reserve Bank of India. The hearing remained pending for quite some time. Another disturbing concern stems from the revelations made by the Supreme Court judges regarding the Executive's interference in the matters of judiciary. Hints regarding this were dropped at the historic press conference held by four senior judges of the top court, on January 12, 2018. Justice Chelameswar, who did most of the talking at the presser, said that administration of justice was not in order and that “many things which are less than desirable have happened in the last three months”. The judges handed over to the media a letter written by them to the then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, which, among other things, stated that “cases having far-reaching consequences for the nation and judiciary were selectively assigned to benches of preference without any rational basis”. More clarity on this issue was provided by Justice Kurian Joseph, who in a post-retirement interview to *Times of India* said that there was “outside influence” in judiciary. Condemning such practices Justice Chelameswar asserted that “bonhomie” between the judiciary and the government “sounds the death knell to democracy”. Controversies emanating from the court make it look like a divided house and has resulted in the erosion of moral authority it once enjoyed among the public. The pre-2014 apex court was not hesitant in going against the Central Executive in matters involving high political stakes. But post-2014 Indian Supreme Court presents a meeker version when it comes to dealing with cases that could prick the political interests of the ruling party. India's 2014 elections had thrown up an interesting political mosaic. For the first time in the past 30 years, the electorate had returned a mandate with absolute majority.

Since then, India's Supreme Court has not been able to stand on its feet and assert its independence in the face of new found aggressiveness exhibited by the Union government having a far right mind-set. In 2019, the BJP had outstripped the special status of the IIOJK by repealing Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution. This unilateral decision by India threw open the IIOJK territory for external meddling and demographic interventions. This move has opened flood-gates of people from all over India to acquire property and settle in the occupied state, impacting its populace balance and property rights of the locals. The constitution of India had guaranteed that no outsider would get a Kashmiri domicile, and would not own property in Kashmir. This constitutional guarantee was stamped through a berserk act of parliament, which is illegal under all norms of law. Commenting on the hearing, a former chief minister of the IIOJK, Mehbooba Mufti, took to twitter to express her apprehensions about the top court's decision to take up the pleas after “remaining silent for four years”. “There are legitimate apprehensions about why SC has taken up the Article 370 with such alacrity... After remaining silent for four years the decision to hear the case on a daily basis does evoke misgivings,” she said. Headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud, the “honourable” judges will be in the spotlight of history as they go on to interpret a politically-motivated decision by a hard-line government regarding annulment of Article 370 and 35A, which has literally stripped the Kashmiris off their identity bestowed by the constitution. Actually, this is the trial of 23 constitutional petitions, rather, it is the Supreme Court of India which is on trial. This is where the top-line judiciary of India will always be quoted and remembered, this way or that way. Will the Indian top court do justice to Kashmiris? Let us hope against hope!

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Briefs

Army urges stakeholders to play role

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The army chief was included in a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) formed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for economic revival in June this year. The military's inclusion in the body – led by the PM and also comprising federal ministers – is aimed at complementing the government's efforts to deal with economic challenges facing the country. The government unveiled an elaborate 'Economic Revival Plan' with a view to capitalise on Pakistan's untapped potential in key sectors, fast-track the development projects and facilitate investment in a bid to steer the country of economic crisis.

PM Shehbaz underlines need to...

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factors as they could not fully exploit the precious natural deposits estimated at worth \$6 trillion. "The day gives an opportunity to self-contemplation over a journey of last 75 years and the reasons due to which Pakistan landed into this situation with a begging bowl," he added. Elaborating his viewpoint, he said with Russian support, Pakistan Steel Mills was established during the 70s while in Reko Diq a hefty penalty of \$10 billion was imposed on Pakistan and if it was enforced, the entire country's foreign reserves would have been depleted.

Three-year jail term for disclosing...

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safety, interests, or defence of Pakistan, or any part thereof, discloses in such a manner that exposes the identity of such undisclosed persons in any manner the identity of the members of intelligence agencies, informants or sources thereof". It proposes imprisonment for a term of up to three years and a fine extending to Rs10 million. The bill says that any person who "abets, incites, conspires or attempts to commit the offence [...] shall be liable to the same punishment".

SC reserves verdict on fresh plea

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Afridi, Justice Sayeed Mazaah Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Ayesha A. Malik. Earlier, the apex court had rejected the federal government's plea to constitute a full court for the case. However, a fresh application pertaining to the matter was moved yesterday by senior counsel Faisal Siddiqi on behalf of civil society members. "The full court should include all judges willing and available for the adjudication on the fundamental and complex constitutional and legal questions," it said.

Bank of China...

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promote the development of Pak-China cooperation with more firm determination and more effective measures and will continue to consolidate and deepen the all-weather strategic partnership." Xuan Changneng, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China, pointed out that the opening of the Islamabad branch of the Bank of China on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a positive step to strengthen financial ties and deepen financial cooperation between China and Pakistan. He also highlighted the broad prospects for cooperation between the two countries. Liu Jin, president of the Bank of China, stated that the Bank of China will continue to leverage its advantages in global operations, actively promote the high-quality co-construction of the "Belt and Road Initiative," and play a greater role in supporting Pakistan's infrastructure construction, industrialization transformation, and int'l trade development.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner-designate Jane Marriott posing for a selfie with one of the staff members on the occasion of her interaction with the High Commission staff. – DNA

Holdings United States stumble into last 16 but Dutch rampant

US coach Vlatko Andonovski attempted to put a positive spin on what was an alarmingly poor performance by the team ranked number one in FIFA rankings

AUCKLAND: Holders the United States squeezed into the last 16 of the Women's World Cup on Tuesday with a nervy 0-0 draw against Portugal but England and the Netherlands powered through with big wins. The United States came to Australia and New Zealand as favourites – ahead of European champions England – to win an unprecedented third World Cup in a row. But they have been nothing like the team that has dominated international women's football for so long and they will need to be a lot better if they are to go much further at the tournament. Debutants Portugal came within inches of the win they needed

to progress – and dump out the Americans – when substitute Ana Capeta hit the post in injury time in front of almost 41,000 in Auckland. But the US held on and are likely to face a Sweden team in the last 16 who thrashed Italy 5-0 in their last match. US coach Vlatko Andonovski attempted to put a positive spin on what was an alarmingly poor performance by the team ranked number one in the FIFA rankings. "The most important thing was to get the job done," he said. "This is a fairly new team that have not been together for a long time. "The more time they spend together the more chances will go in." The Netherlands, who drew

1-1 with the US last week in a re-run of the 2019 final, racked up the biggest win of this World Cup with a 7-0 demolition of already eliminated Vietnam. Esmee Brugts and Jill Rorod both scored twice for the Dutch, who topped Group E with seven points. The US were second with one win and two draws – they have never before won just one group game. In Group D, England overran China 6-1 to sail through as group winners and set up a meeting with Nigeria in the last 16. Denmark join them from the group after defeating Haiti 2-0 and will face co-hosts Australia. Chelsea star Lauren James got

a brace for England and was at the centre of everything that was good about Sarina Wiegman's team. She called it "what dreams are made of". "I felt free, whether I am on the wing or the middle I am just happy to be on the pitch. I think like last game, I thought, why not hit it and see what happens?" said James, who scored a cracker in the win over Denmark. "Yeah (Nigeria will be) very tough, every team has been tough – teams are catching up with each other." After stodgy 1-0 wins over Haiti and Denmark, England let loose, albeit against limited opposition in Asian champions China. "I am very delighted. What I said before the game, we are going to

do things a bit different. It shows how adaptable this team is. I think today it worked really well, players felt comfortable," said Wiegman. "I don't think they expected us to play this way and they didn't find a solution." On Wednesday, Brazil will need to beat Jamaica to guarantee their place in the knockout rounds. Jamaica only need a point. Football legend Marta was moved to tears as the Brazilian reflected on her career and legacy on the eve of what could be her final World Cup appearance. The 37-year-old Marta – nicknamed "Pele in a skirt" by the late football great – has already said this will be her last World Cup. – Agencies

Imad Wasim to play for Trent Rockets in The Hundred

WEB DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan's all-rounder Imad Wasim has been signed by Trent Rockets for the first three games in The Hundred, starting today. Imad has replaced Afghanistan's Rashid Khan who has pulled out of the tournament due to injury. The left-arm spinner will be in action for Rockets against Southern Brave (today), Birmingham Phoenix (August 5), and Northern Superchargers (August 9). He will then fly to West In-



event. He will be joined by his compatriot Mohammad Amir in the team. Pakistan's Azam Khan, who played for the Barbados Royals last year, will represent Guyana Amazon Warriors. Khan has been signed by Guyana with a contract worth \$120,000, which makes him the highest-paid Pakistan cricketer in the league. The upcoming edition of CPL will run from August 17 to September 24 in Saint Lucia, St Kitts & Nevis, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago and Guyana.

Shaheens' bowlers outclass Renegades

MELBOURNE: Pakistan Shaheens' bowlers rattled Melbourne Renegades' batting line to win their second consecutive match in the ongoing Top End T20 series in Australia. Arafat Minhas and Ali Asfand bagged three wickets each to help Shaheens bowl out Renegades for paltry 85 runs after they were set to chase 94. The bowling duo captured almost the whole batting

line of Renegades. Dylan Brasher scored highest 19 runs for his team. Earlier, Shahwaiz Irfan scored 34 runs followed by useful last-wicket partnership between Faisal Akram and Ali Asfand helped Shaheens score 94. On a bowling-friendly wicket, Renegades got complete control in the first innings as their bowling charge was led from the front by

Ruwantha Kellapotha. He took three wickets followed by two wickets each from Fergus O'Neil and Tom Rogers. Shaheens, who lost their first match against NT Strike, will play their next match against Melbourne Stars tomorrow (August 2). They will play their last league match against PNG on August 4. The final of the series is scheduled on August 6. Shaheens will also play two one-day matches during this series, first against PNG and second against NT Strike. – Agencies

PSB approves participation in CW Youth Games

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has approved the participation of the Pakistani Contingent in the 7th Commonwealth Youth Games to be held in Trinidad and Tobago from August 4 to 14. It was approved in the 28th meeting of PSB held here on Tuesday. This would provide a remarkable opportunity for young athletes to showcase their skills on an international platform. During the meeting, multiple crucial agendas were discussed and approved. The Board also unanimously approved the regularization of daily wages employees, taking a significant step towards promoting fairness within the organization. To support sports initiatives and improve facilities, the Board approved the budget estimate for the Pakistan Sports Board for the upcoming financial year 2023-2024. The Board also granted permission for the Pakistan Contingent to participate in the 2nd Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Games scheduled to be held in Belarus from August 4 to 14. – DNA



Alex Morgan unhappy despite US securing round of 16 spot

DOHA: The United States advanced to the round of 16 in the ongoing FIFA Women's World Cup on Tuesday in Auckland but co-captain Alex Morgan was unhappy with the goalless draw against Portugal since her side missed many chances. The four-time champions struggled to get going against the event's debutants and nearly lost as Portugal forward Ana Capeta hit the post in stoppage time. "(We) should have solved problems a little bit better on the field, made a little bit better decisions... and taken advantage of the opportunities given to us," said Morgan. "We didn't do that in a lot of ways in the game and that's why the scoreline was the way that it was." US finished in second place in Group E behind the Netherlands, whom they held to a 1-1 draw after defeating Vietnam 3-0 in the first match. US fans are more used to seeing their team finish at the top of the table but the same can't be said for Morgan, who was in the team that finished behind Sweden in the group stage in 2011. – Agencies

Govt hikes petrol, diesel prices by...

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had agreed with the IMF on slapping petroleum development levy (PDL) to the rates. "...we tried to either reduce or see what could be adjusted in its working. But we all know about our commitments with the IMF on the petroleum development levy," Dar mentioned. The finance minister said the government, had it not been in an agreement with the IMF, would have reduced the PDL to provide relief to the masses. Dar said he would not resort to moves that the previous government did as it decreased the petrol price and breached the commitments made with IMF. The finance minister mentioned that the price of high-speed diesel had moved up significantly in the international market, resulting in the government's decision to hike local rates.

PTI, masses reject...

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diesel and LPG would trigger a tsunami of inflation in the country. PTI spokesperson said that the cost of production would witness an extraordinary upsurge due to the recent massive increase in fuel prices, adding that the unbearable cost escalation would completely cripple the already paralyzed economy. He recalled that before the regime change conspiracy, petrol was available at Rs.150 per liter but this fascist government escalated petrol price by over 80% during the last 16 months. PTI spokesperson stated that flour was available at 78 per kg in March 2022; however, its price witnessed alarming increase and surged to 170 per kg in July 2023. Similarly, he said that in March 2022, sugar was available at Rs 80 per kg, which sold Rs 170 per kg now, adding that ghee, which was available at Rs 300 per kg in March 2022, witnessed two-fold increase in its price and rose to Rs 650 in July 2023.

Imran says statements..

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correctly interpreted in the reference. PTI chairman went on to say that in the reference there was a mention of the properties he owned between 2017 and 2019. "But the election commission later also had an access to details of my assets which were of latter years which shows bad intention on the part of the present government," he added. He told the court that he had never said he deposited Rs58 million in a private bank. Furthermore, Imran said, it was not mandatory to give details of gifts since there was no column on the ECP's Form-B for the purpose. He complained he was not consulted at a time when documents related to gifts were being prepared. "I would like to say just one thing that there can be no mention of these documents in the questionnaire," he said.

SC forms 3-member...

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requesting the apex court to stop proceedings of recording his statement under Section 342 in the case, which was initiated after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) found him guilty of not declaring the gifts he had retained from the state depository in his asset declarations. He said the proceedings should be halted until the Islamabad High Court (IHC) announces its ruling on the jurisdiction of the trial court. He cited a previous decision of the top court that says the jurisdiction of the court must be decided first. This is the second time the PTI chief has moved the apex court against the Toshakhana case. Last week, a two-member bench, headed by Justice Yahya Afridi, had turned down a petition filed by him seeking an order to restrain trial in the Toshakhana case.

Air chief hails World Junior Squash Champion

The Chief of the Air Staff also thanked and appreciated the Chief of Army Staff for taking a special interest in the uplift of sports in Pakistan. Hamza expressed his gratitude towards the Chief of the Air Staff for his support in revitalizing the sport of Squash and making his dreams a reality

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force (PAF), Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu has lauded the brilliant performance of young Squash sensation Hamza Khan saying the nation was proud of the WSP World Junior Squash champion. Hamza, who returned to Pakistan on Tuesday following a remarkable triumph in World Junior Squash Championship in Melbourne, Australia, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu during his visit here at Air Headquarters, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion Chief of the Air Staff, who was also the President of the Pakistan Squash Federation, lauded the brilliant performance of the young Squash star. "The nation is proud of Hamza Khan who brought laurels to the country by winning the World Championship after 36 years. Such players are an asset to the country and a beacon for other youngsters to emulate. We have introduced a systematic profiling process of young talent which would go a long way in professional grooming of

our squash players through assessment of their physical and technical skills, as well as their mental and emotional attributes," he said. Air Chief also gave special instructions to the Director General Administration to provide all-out logistic



and administrative support to the rising star in order to facilitate his training as per modern parameters to prepare for the upcoming World Squash Championship in the month of November 2023. Air Chief wished Hamza Khan all the best for World Squash Championship and hoped that Hamza would be able to replicate his success in the upcoming tournament as well. Chief of the Air Staff reiterated his resolve that the Pakistan Squash Federation under the patronage of Pakistan Air Force would continue to take revolutionary steps for the promotion of Squash in the country. Air Chief Marshal commended the hard work put in by the coaching staff for providing international standard training and coaching facilities to the young players. He also appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in making concerted efforts for bringing back the lost glory in the game of Squash and hoped that Pakistan, with the sheer hard work and sincere efforts of its players like Hamza Khan, would once again rule the world of Squash. – APP

Briefs

PSX stays bullish, gains 195 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 195.91 points, a positive change of 0.41 percent, closing at 48,230.51 points against 48,034.60 points the previous trading day.

A total of 556,930,694 shares were traded during the day as compared to 491,874,957 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 15.946 billion against Rs 17.884 billion on the last trading day. As many as 357 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 223 of them recorded gains and 107 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 27 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Telecard Limited with 39,642,890 shares at Rs 8.72 per share; Cnergico PK with 37,858,029 shares at Rs.3.51 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 33,223,087 shares at Rs 1.35 per share. Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 147.97.00 per share price, closing at Rs8,797.97 whereas the runner-up was Nestle Pakistan with an Rs 50.00 rise in its per share price to Rs 7,000.00. —APP

17 killed as crane collapses in Maharashtra

NEW DELHI: At least 17 workers were killed and three others injured Tuesday after a crane collapsed at a road construction site in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, officials said. The incident occurred near Shahapur in Thane district, about 71 km northeast of Mumbai, the capital city of Maharashtra, and India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams were rushed to the spot. "Our search and rescue operation is still underway," said Sarang V Kurve, a senior official of the NDRF. According to the NDRF, 17 bodies have been recovered from the spot. The three injured were moved to a nearby hospital. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed grief over the deaths and announced monetary compensation for the victims' families. —Agencies

Sinopec begins fuel delivery to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Aug. 1 (Xinhua/APP) —Sinopec, a leading international petroleum company which signed an agreement with Sri Lanka, brought its first cargo of fuel to be distributed in the local market, Power and Energy Minister Kanachana Wijesekera said on Tuesday.

The minister said on his Twitter that the second cargo would arrive on Wednesday. He noted that the entry of such suppliers into the domestic market would ease the foreign exchange requirements from the local financial institutions since they would bring stocks from their principal investors on a 12-month credit facility. Sinopec will start fuel distribution in Sri Lanka through 150 filling stations throughout the country under the agreement signed with the Sri Lankan side. —APP

China issues new COVID-19 vaccination plan

BEIJING, Aug. 1 (Xinhua/APP) —China's State Council inter-agency task force for COVID-19 response has issued a plan for a new round of COVID-19 vaccination for the country's elderly and other key groups.

As the XBB subvariants of Omicron have become predominant in the country, the plan prioritizes the inoculation of vaccines that are effective against the highly immune-evasive XBB subvariants to brace for the upcoming autumn and winter season. The plan targets key groups, including people aged 60 and above and those aged between 18 and 59 with serious underlying conditions. —APP



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Barrick Gold led by CEO Mark Bristow calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.—DNA

Myanmar junta cuts six years from Suu Kyi's 33-year jail term

The country has been ravaged by violence in the two years since Suu Kyi was deposed in a coup and hit with 19 criminal cases ranging from corruption to breaching Covid-19 rules

YANGON: Myanmar reduced ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi's 33-year prison sentence by six years in a partial pardon on Tuesday, as the junta struggles to quell bloody resistance to its rule.

The country has been ravaged by violence in the two years since Suu Kyi was deposed in a coup and hit with 19 criminal cases ranging from corruption to breaching Covid-19 rules. There have been concerns for the 78-year-old Nobel laureate's health and the junta moved her from prison to a government building last week. "Six years imprisonment will be reduced," junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun told reporters after it was announced she had been pardoned in five cases. Suu Kyi still faces 14 cases despite the pardon.

Rights groups have condemned the legal battle against her as a sham designed to remove a popular democratic leader from the public eye. Former Myanmar president Win Myint, who was also removed in the 2021 coup, was granted a four-year reduction in relation to two cases, the junta spokesman said. Tuesday's announcement was part of an amnesty of more than 7,000 prisoners to mark Buddhist Lent, including 125 foreigners who are to be released and pardoned.

An unspecified number of prisoners facing the death penalty also had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment, the announcement said. David Mathieson, an independent analyst on Myanmar, said the partial pardon was

"a cynical ploy to tell the world that there might be some kind of political resolution coming. When we know that there is not." "I think they are just playing cruel games with a political prisoner," Mathieson told AFP. "All the charges against her are absurd and shaving six years off 33 isn't mercy." Human Rights Watch's Asia division deputy director Phil Robertson said the junta aimed "to create the impression of moderation and dialogue when in fact there really is none on offer". Joe Freeman, a spokesman on Myanmar for Amnesty International, said the reductions showed the arbitrary nature of the junta's military courts. "Those swept up in its clutches never know what may happen to them," he told AFP. Suu Kyi was detained on the

night of the coup in February 2021 and has only been seen once since — in grainy state media photos from a bare courtroom in the military-built capital Naypyidaw. She was required to attend almost daily hearings in the junta court to hear cases against her ranging from corruption to possession of illegal walkie-talkies and flouting coronavirus restrictions. In July, Thailand's foreign minister met Suu Kyi, the first known meeting with a foreign envoy since she was detained. Details of what they discussed are not known. Suu Kyi remains popular in Myanmar, even after her international image was tainted by a power-sharing deal with the generals and her failure to speak up for the persecuted Rohingya minority. But

many of those fighting for democracy since the coup have abandoned her principle of non-violence and taken up arms to try and permanently root out military dominance of Myanmar's politics and economy. As a result, much of the Southeast Asian country is in armed conflict, with thousands killed since the coup, more than a million displaced according to the United Nations, and the army struggling to assert its dominance. According to a local monitoring group, more than 3,800 people have been killed since the coup, a figure the junta puts at 5,000. The junta announced on Monday it would extend a state of emergency by six months, which is likely to delay elections promised for August. The military cit-

ed alleged widespread voter fraud during November 2020 elections as a reason for its coup, which sparked huge protests and a bloody crackdown. Those polls, won resoundingly by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, were described as free and fair by international observers. Myanmar regularly grants amnesties to thousands of prisoners to commemorate holidays or special Buddhist dates.

The junta released some 23,000 prisoners after the 2021 coup, although rights groups feared it was an attempt to free up space for military opponents. More than 24,000 people have been arrested since the military's coup, according to a local monitoring group, and almost 20,000 remain behind bars. —Agencies

Pakistani students laud China-SCO institute of Economy

DNA

BEIJING: "The China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade has provided us international students with a broader platform to acquire helpful general knowledge and we have more choices in our study and career," said Ahmer Bilal, a Pakistani student who recently completed his Ph.D. in Geology at Shandong University of Science and Technology (SDUST). During the inauguration ceremony of the International Exchange Center at the China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade held last week, Ahmer Bilal highly appreciated the joint efforts of the institute and Chinese universities in offering comprehensive and practical training, including language, business,

and preparatory courses. "As a science student, the curriculum was designed to be easily understandable and interesting. My university fellows and I all wish we could attend more of these courses," he said in an interview with China Economic Net. Inauguration ceremony of International Exchange Center, China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade The China-SCO Institute of Economy and Trade was established following Chinese President Xi Jinping's announcement on September 17, 2021, during the 21st meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. President Xi Jinping announced the opening of the institute to promote business and trade cooperation among SCO countries. It was inaugurated in Qingdao in January

2022. The institute, which is based on the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area, aims to have a national influence and serve SCO countries and the countries along the "Belt and Road" initiative. Its objectives include nurturing international economic and trade talents, training international officials and technical personnel, conducting research on countries' economies and trade, fostering international economy and trade exchanges and cooperation, and becoming a top-tier university specialized in cultivating talents in foreign economics and trade. As of June 2023, the institute had successfully organized 141 training courses on Chinese foreign aid training and economic and trade training, covering topics such as international logistics and transportation.

UAF signs Lol with QAU to promote Pak-China agro collaboration

BEIJING: The University of Faisalabad (UAF) signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with QAU to carry out academic exchange and cooperation in teaching, research, and training for the advancement and dissemination of learning. Both institutions agree to encourage exchanges of faculty and staff, students, joint research activities, and the exchange of academic materials based on their respective resources and needs, Gwadar Pro reported. During the signing ceremony, Prof. Dr. Tian Yike, Vice President of QAU, presented an overview of the university's discipline building, personnel training, and international cooperation efforts. He expressed QAU's willingness to engage in in-depth cooperation and exchanges with UAF to contribute jointly. —APP

TDAP secretary visits SCCI

SIALKOT: Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Secretary Dr Fareed Iqbal Qureshi visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Tuesday. On this occasion, President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik acknowledged the role of the secretary TDAP in facilitating the business community of Sialkot as evidenced by approvals of a number of trade delegations and international exhibitions. In an appeal to the secretary, Malik sought expedited processing and execution of essential projects, urging the provision of expedited support from the esteemed trade and investment officers. The president SCCI expressed a desire to empower the local TDAP office, enabling it to competently handle matters concerning Sialkot's value-added sectors. Secretary TDAP Dr Fareed Iqbal Qureshi recognized and commended the spirit of the industrial city, acknowledging its pivotal role in upholding the nation's economic sustainability for years. Reaffirming his unwavering commitment to working hand-in-hand with the Sialkot Chamber, he asserted that the shared agenda of export promotion would remain the focal point of their collaboration. With a generous spirit, the secretary offered his assurance that all necessary interventions would be undertaken to facilitate the dynamic export sector. He shared the exciting news of TDAP's forthcoming initiatives, signaling the formation of the National Compliance Centre, the long-awaited release of pending funds for CLEP, and the establishment of an illustrious Expo Centre in Sialkot. Additionally, he extended a supportive hand in securing funding for the much-anticipated WE-EXHIBIT from the esteemed EDF. —DNA

Thousands urged to evacuate in southern Japan ahead of typhoon

TOKYO: A powerful typhoon sweeping towards southern Japan on Tuesday triggered the cancellation of hundreds of flights, with officials urging hundreds of thousands of people to seek shelter.

Typhoon Khanun was packing maximum sustained wind speeds of 180 kilometres (112 miles) an hour as it crossed the Pacific Ocean towards the Okinawa region. The Japan Meteorological Agency said the storm, which it described as "very strong", was about 170 kilometres southeast of the regional capital of Naha at 0600 GMT. The centre of the typhoon was expected to brush past Okinawa late Tuesday or early Wednesday before crossing to eastern China later in the week. Cities across Okinawa advised more than 760,000 people to leave their homes as the weather agency warned waves of up to 12-metres (39-feet) high could pummel the group of islands. The typhoon was expected to bring fierce winds and heavy rain.

"Many people stay at home because their houses are concrete," a disaster management official at the Okinawa regional government told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But we are asking people who live alone or in wooden houses in low-lying areas to consider seeking shelter before the typhoon gets bad." More than 500 flights were cancelled on Tuesday, while regional ferry and bus services were suspended ahead of the typhoon, national broadcaster NHK reported. Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways said more than 74,000 passengers in total would be affected by flight cancellations on Tuesday and Wednesday. —APP

France to evacuate nationals from Niger

NIAMEY: France will "very soon" start to evacuate its nationals from Niger, where a coup last week has unleashed anti-French protests, Paris's embassy in Niamey said Tuesday. "In the face of a deteriorating security situation in Niamey, and taking advantage of the relative calm in Niamey, an operation of evacuation by air from Niamey is being prepared," said a message sent out by the embassy to French citizens, adding that the evacuations "will take place very soon in a very limited span of time". In Paris, the foreign ministry confirmed that "an evacuation is being organized and will take place very quickly". Niger became the third Sahel country in less than three years, following neighbors Mali and Burkina Faso, to be shaken by a military coup, when President Mohamed Bazoum was toppled last week by elite troops from his own Presidential Guard. In all three nations, jihadist insurgencies have strained fragile governments, stoked anger in the military, and rained economic blows on some of the world's poorest countries. —Agencies

Rethinking Pakistan's Economic Landscape

UZMA RANA



75 years and not a single successful economic policy. What a chaos! Core Inflation Rate in Pakistan increased by 18.5% in June 2023. Inflation rate rose to 38% in May and this was a record-breaking jump. Weekly inflation rate has reached all times high 38%. We don't have money to pay for imports stuck at ports. Floods of last year still having its effects on shaking economy, striving to get back to some stability. We suffered \$30bn financial loss, with 3 crore people displaced due to floods. People are afraid of predictions about getting clos-

er and closer to default situation. Energy crisis is getting horrible. Lawlessness in country is making things even worse over all. Things might be new, but revising pages of history we never find such thing as a stable economic policy in this country. Absence of a sustainable economic policy is always been an unfortunate to this country. Among many reasons, one is of course the never completing tenure of any democratic government. Every preceding government replaced the policies of previous one to prove them wrong. It seemed like their first priority to prove their rivals wrong in every capacity, at the cost of national damage. Then this 'new government' comes up with their 'new policies' from the lowest starting point again and the cycle continues. Since 1947, we have experienced a complete roller coaster of policies over policies, not getting us any long term good, for a long span of time. We did not have a constitution for first 9 years of creation of Pakistan. Whatever the reasons were there, we were a nation with no future layout, not knowing anything what we were looking for. Our economy went through

different phases back and forth. In phase I 1947-77, we name it Era of experimentation, we saw, Ayub Khan came up with Harvard Trickle Down Model, a capitalist model. This model was then replaced by Bhutto's socialist model that was built on idea of nationalization. Later, we enter second phase, Era of twisted economy, lasted from 1979-2000. Zia ul Haq followed the footsteps of his ideological father, Ayub, and again revived the capitalist mode of economy in country. This was the time period of Soviet war in the region. Pakistan was clearly a queen of chess in the game. Our economy was booming up on 'aids' from America. Benazir Bhutto became then prime minister of Pakistan, saving the pieces of democracy in country. The war has ended. The aid is cut. Now we were having nothing at hand to run a state by its own. We once again asked for help from IMF in the form of, of course, loan. The series of changing government between Benazir and Nawaz Sharif kept on going and so was the seeking of loans from IMF until 2000. Here, we entered a new era, Era of Problematic Economy, started from 2000 and we still getting through tough

times. A big change comes once again breaking repeating cycle of Bhutto and Sharif's loan seeking policy, in the form of another military general, Musharraf. In 2000, Gen. Pervez Musharraf introduced Model of Subsidized Scheme, in which Gen. gave loans to educated youth for small level domestic business or entrepreneurship. This never-ending search for a stable and strong policy needs many serious initiatives towards a strong Pakistan. This is 23rd time since 1947 we have begged before IMF for loans and aids. IMF, WB or whatever the monetary body, they give us loan just for their own benefits. We need to understand the fact that a state can never be run on loan money for a longer period. Core issues of Pakistan's economy mainly include policy framework, inconsistent policy doctrines, agricultural problems, industrial issues, fiscal policy problem, taxation problems, monetary policy problems, neoliberal structural programs, Pakistan development paradox, poverty and inequality issues, issues of class policies, bureaucracy issues, bad governance structure, and many others. One major issue today seems to me

is wrong investment in agriculture department and ignoring the space of development in industrial sector. Pakistan invests 45% of its population input in agriculture every year and it yields only 19% output in GDP. On the other hand, 19% our population is involved in industry and it yields almost 30% output in GDP. It clearly depicts our wrong directions of economic investments towards progress. Moreover, Lack of mechanization, water issues, commercialization of agricultural land, lack of agricultural education, no facilities for farmers are also factors deteriorating agricultural sector. Pakistan Textile Industry, for example, is one of the largest industries of the country and is badly ignored since years. Another reason of worse economy is malfunctioning of our state-owned enterprises. These are the companies that are directly owned by state and they make incentives for state. PIA, WAPDA, PTCL, steel mills, are major among them. According to stats, our state-owned enterprises are losing in millions on daily basis. PIA- has lost 600bn rupees, and steel mills lost 500bn rupees in last 3 years. Steel mill loses 5m rupees per hour, when

working. Pak-railways lose 50bn rupees per year. PTCL, WAPDA, PTV, xyz also follows the trend as well. Reason behind may be lack of technical and professional operating hands in industrial sector. Technical and professional supervisors are being replaced by politicians, bureaucrats, or retired military officers who have no background knowledge of subject, causing heavy loss in industries. Brain drain is also the reason we have no competent expertise left behind in country to boost the economy. There is a long series of problems one can enlist, but every problem comes with a solution. FBR decentralization, knowledge economy, strong local government, better tax collection mechanism, digitalization, economic driven policy, tourism, services lead economy, strong IT sector, CPCC execution, Hi-Tech manufacturing, education are still the options helpful for survival of economy of Pakistan. It is never too late to mend the ways. We all hope we play our part in better future.

—The writer is Lecturer at University of Okara uzmarana70@gmail.com

Briefs

Inflation comes down for a second month

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation came down for the second month in a row in July, according to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Tuesday. The CPI inflation (General) was 28.3% on a year-on-year basis in July 2023 compared to 29.4% in the previous month and 24.9% in July 2022, the data showed. On a month-on-month basis, the headline inflation increased 3.5% in July 2023 compared to a decrease of 0.3% in the previous month, the PBS said attributing the increase to food prices. Inflation hit a record 38% in May but the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) a day earlier decided to keep the key interest rate unchanged at 22% in view of declining inflation. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) particularly noted that year-on-year inflation is likely to remain on a downward path over the next 12 months, which implies a significant level of positive real interest rate. Years of financial mismanagement have pushed Pakistan's economy to the limit, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a global energy crisis and record floods that submerged a third of the country last year.

PTI kicks out Buzdar, Khusro and 20 other leaders

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has terminated the basic membership of 22 leaders, including former Punjab chief minister Usman Buzdar and ex-federal minister Khusro Bakhtiar, who had jumped ship after the May 9 mayhem. The PTI leaders were notified of the termination of their membership by the party's secretary general Omar Ayub through a letter issued on July 31. Almost all the letters were identical but the only edit done in them was that each leader was informed about the day they came on media and distanced themselves from the Imran Khan-led party. The PTI has asked these leaders to "refrain" from using the party's name and warned that if the advice is not heeded then they will face legal action. Here's the list of leaders kicked out from PTI: Several politicians jumped the PTI's ship during the mass exodus, with many claiming to leave the party and bidding adieu to politics. Many of the former PTI members have joined the newly-formed IPP, led by the senior politician Jahangir Tareen, while some are exploring alternative options or distancing themselves from the party following the disruptive events of May 9.

Zubair Tiwana appointed as new FBR chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana, a grade-21 officer of the Inland Revenue Service (IRS), has been appointed as the new chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), sources told media on Tuesday. According to a summary forwarded in this regard, three candidates' names were proposed for the coveted position: Rashid Mahmood Langrial, an officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service group; Amjad Zubair Tiwana, presently serving as FBR member IRS Operations; and Syed Nadeem Rizvi, member administration and most senior among the contenders. However, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved the appointment of Tiwana as the new head of the tax collection body. Asim Ahmed, who was appointed as the tax body's chief by the Shehbaz-led government on April 27 last year, completed his tenure and retired after reaching the age of superannuation on July 30.

Diplomacy on track with global engagements: FM

The foreign minister, to a question, further said that they expected the Afghan interim government to take actions against the terrorist organizations and honour their commitment made with the international community not to allow their soil for terrorist activities against any country under the Doha Agreement

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that through extensive engagement with the international community, Pakistan achieved substantially on the diplomatic front during the past fifteen months. Addressing a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after launching 'Digitised system under Foreign Minister's Change Management Reforms', the foreign minister said that through intensive engagements with the international community, they could now claim "diplomacy is back". It was also an appropriate response to those who were touting about Pakistan being isolated at the global level, he added. The foreign minister said that due to consistent global engagements under his stewardship, and with the countries in the Middle East, the United States, China, and other members of the United Nations, they had increased Pakistan's outreach and viewpoint on different issues, leading to success at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

after the country was removed from the grey list and climate change issue. He said during the floods last year and afterward, in the post-flood scenario, the international community came to support Pakistan in the relief and rehabilitation efforts. The UN General Assembly members focused on Pakistan during the relief efforts and subsequently, they successfully arranged the Climate Resilient Pakistan summit in Geneva receiving 'a substantive and qualitative response'. Foreign Minister Bilawal, to a media query, reiterated that Pakistan was not keen to join the 'bloccs policy' and would take decisions in the larger national interests. Pakistan had stressed upon resolution of all world issues through dialogue and diplomacy, he added. Responding to another question regarding terrorist organizations, he maintained that writ of the state would be established at all costs and the government would not take steps to appease the militant or terrorists outfits. He said that he had suggested to the prime

minister to convene an Apex Committee meeting to address the issue of terrorist and criminal incidents in the country. He said that there was an increase in the terrorist incidents after the fall of Kabul. The latest arms and ammunition left behind by the foreign forces had fallen into the hands of terrorist outfits and criminal organizations, and even with the dacoits which posed a challenge to the government, he added. The foreign minister, to a question, further said that they expected the Afghan interim government to take actions against the terrorist organizations and honour their commitment made with the international community not to allow their soil for terrorist activities against any country under the Doha Agreement. He said Pakistan's stance was clear and it had demanded the Afghan interim set up to curb terrorism, as cooperation against the menace of terrorism was in the interest of both countries. Afghanistan had no standing army, anti-terrorists force or border management force

which caused the capacity issues to face terrorism, he opined. "In the past, we had faced the threats and together will face them," he added. Pakistan, he said, was ready to assist them as they had the capacity issues to deal with such threats. The foreign minister, to another question, said that the Pakistan Peoples Party believed that decisions regarding the interim set-up and elections should be taken to strengthen the civilian institutions and the democratic system in the country. They believed that all issues confronted by the country could be addressed through a democratic dispensation which would ensure the political and economic stability, he said, adding the general polls should be held on time so that the people could exercise their right. About reforms introduced in his ministry, the foreign minister said that different initiatives under the key four components were launched which would improve functioning of the ministry by making it more agile, nimble and efficient to face the new emerging challenges. - APP

IHC removes objections on Imran's petition

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday removed the objections of the registrar and fixed the case for hearing, filed by the PTI Chairman challenging FIA inquiry in a matter of cipher. Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition along with the objections raised by the registrar's office. Sardar Latif Khosa said that an objection had been raised against the petition stating that a similar case was already pending. The previous petition was pertaining to the bail, he said. Sardar Latif Khosa argued that the matter of cipher couldn't be raised as the prime minister had immunity under Article 248 of the constitution. Chairman PTI had appeared before the FIA and was interrogated for three hours but the same day one more notice was served. The court removed the objections of the registrar's office ordering to fix the case for hearing. It may be mentioned here that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had initiated an inquiry against former prime minister Imran Khan in a matter of cipher.

Political crisis distracts from urgent climate challenge

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The ongoing political turmoil in Pakistan is distracting its government and the public from the critical challenge of climate adaptation. One of the key challenges being neglected is the aftermath of last year's August floods, which displaced nearly eight million people in Pakistan. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre named the floods the world's largest disaster displacement event in 10 years. But ever since April 2022, when the former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan lost a no-confidence motion, the country has seen violent face-offs and heavy-handed state action. The shift in attention has been most evident in how official periodic updates on the state of flood-affected people stopped in November 2022, resulting in a lack of transparency regarding rehabilitation efforts.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Amjad Khan Niazi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

PM Shehbaz, Naval Chief discuss professional affairs

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed the professional matters pertaining to the Pakistan Navy. The Chief of Naval Staff informed the prime minister about the strategy of the local production of weapons and warships for the Pakistan Navy. He also apprised of the ongoing steps to make Pakistan self-sufficient in terms of defence and acquisition of modern technology under the strategy. - APP

2 cops martyred in attack on polio team

QUETTA: Two cops were martyred in a gun attack on a polio vaccination team in Quetta's suburban area of Kili Nawa, police said on Tuesday, the first day of the immunisation drive in Balochistan. Extremist outfits have repeatedly targeted polio teams administering the crucial drops to children, with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) also being involved in the attacks. Police said that the volunteers - two women - in the polio vaccination teams remained safe but both the cops deployed at their security died on the spot. Taking notice of the unfortunate incident, Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Quddus Bizenjo condemned the attack and expressed grief over the martyrdom of the policemen. The chief minister termed the incident a conspiracy against the healthy future of the children. "Anti-national elements want to fail the polio campaign to fulfill their evil ambitions," he said while seeking a report on the matter. He directed the authorities concerned to utilise all the available resources to catch the culprits involved in the attack. - Agencies

China, Pakistan to build CPEC into exemplary project: Xi

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has said that China will work with Pakistan to build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into an exemplary project of the Belt and Road Initiative to achieve sustainable development for a shared future in the new era. Xi made these remarks in a congratulatory message to the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor celebration event held in Islamabad, Pakistan. Xi pointed out that CPEC is an important pioneering project of the Belt and Road Cooperation. Since its launch in 2013, China and Pakistan have been advancing CPEC under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, and have achieved a number of early harvests. This has added new impetus to the economic and social development of Pakistan and laid a good foundation for regional connectivity and integration, he said, adding that it is a vivid testament to the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, and provides an important underpinning for building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. Stressing that China and Pakistan will continue to improve overall planning and expand and deepen cooperation, Xi said no matter how the international landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan. Xi added China and Pakistan will continue to work hand in hand and forge ahead in solidarity to carry forward the ironclad friendship, coordinate development and security, pursue the cooperation of higher standards, broader scope, and greater depth. - DNA

Drone hits tower housing Russian ministries

MOSCOW: A high-rise building in Moscow's business district that houses three Russian government ministries was struck by a drone for the second time in three days on Tuesday, in what Russia called an attempted Ukrainian "terrorist attack". A Ukrainian presidential adviser said Moscow should expect more drone attacks and "more war". The building that was hit is known as the "IQ quarter", which houses the ministry of economic development, the digital ministry and the ministry of industry and trade. Video obtained by Reuters showed a section of its glass facade, high above the ground, had been destroyed by the impact. "At the moment, experts are assessing the damage and the state of the infrastructure for the safety of people in the building. This will take some time," Darya Levchenko, an adviser to the economy minister, said on Telegram. She said staff were working by video-conference. Moscow has come under repeated drone attacks since early May, when two drones were fired at the roof of a building in the Kremlin complex. While the incidents have not caused casualties or major damage, they have provoked widespread unease and sit awkwardly with the Kremlin's narrative that Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine is proceeding according to plan. "Indeed, a threat exists, it is obvious, but measures are being taken," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, declining to comment further. Ukraine has drawn satisfaction from the attacks, though without directly claiming responsibility for them. "Moscow is rapidly getting used to a full-fledged war," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak wrote on X, the social media platform previously known as Twitter. - Agencies

Amb Hassan bids farewell to Secy General of ASEAN

Dr Kao also looked forward to working closely with the incoming Ambassador of Pakistan to ASEAN



DNA

JAKARTA: Secretary-General of ASEAN Dr Kao Kim Hourn received Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Muhammad Hassan in a farewell call at the ASEAN Secretariat. They exchanged views on ways and means to revitalise the ASEAN-Pakistan Sectoral Dialogue Partnership, including through joint cooperation projects and the convening of the 7th ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee Meeting scheduled on 18 September 2023. Dr Kao also looked forward to working closely with the incoming Ambassador of Pakistan to ASEAN to further enhance the cooperative relationship between ASEAN and Pakistan.

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