



Islamabad POST

Thursday, August 03, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Erdogan urges Putin not escalate Ukraine war tensions

Detailed News On Page-08

Conflict with China to result in disaster

Detailed News On Page-06



Gardner gains big in Women ICC rankings

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Iranian FM in Pakistan on 1st visit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Iran, H.E. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, is undertaking his first bilateral visit to Pakistan from 02-04 August 2023. On Thursday, Foreign Minister Abdollahian will hold talks with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The wide-ranging agenda includes discussion on all aspects of bilateral relations and the emerging regional situation. Foreign Minister Abdollahian will call on the Prime Minister of Pakistan for an exchange of views on the consensus between the leadership of the two countries for taking this relationship forward.

JI writes letter to PM about census

DNA

KARACHI: Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, Jamaat-e-Islami's Karachi Chief, wrote a letter to the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif regarding the irregularities in the census. The letter stated that Karachi was the largest city in the country and its population was half in the 2017 census adding in various blocks, the population of Karachi was shown to be zero or insignificant while clearly mentioning the mala fide intention of the Sindh government in this while process.

Constitution, law gasping for life

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Sheikh Rashid - the chief of his own faction of Muslim League - said on Wednesday the constitution and the law were on their last legs due to utter political, social and economic devastation in the country. Who would sign any agreement with a government carrying out the inflation march while having just 10 more days in the office, he questioned in a tweet posted on a microblogging website, Twitter, which Elon Musk has now renamed as X.

MILGEM-IV warship launch Shehbaz hails Pak-Turkiye fraternal ties

Pakistan had a unique place in the hearts of Turkish people as both stood by each other throughout the centuries: Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz

NAZIR SIYAL / DNA

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday lauding the leadership role of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said that it was high time for Pakistan and Turkiye to enhance their bilateral strategic cooperation for the prosperity of the two nations. The prime minister, addressing the launching ceremony of the fourth MILGEM Class Corvette - PNS Tariq here, said the joint venture project was an example of cooperation and support between the two brotherly countries. Earlier, the prime minister and visiting Vice President of Turkiye Cevdet Yilmaz launched the fourth MILGEM warship. Initiated in 2018, the MILGEM project envisages the construction of four Corvettes for the Pakistan Navy - two in Pakistan and two in Turkiye. The prime minister said Recep Tayyip Erdogan was a great leader which was reflected by his "wonderful" victory in the recent poll. Therefore, the prime minister said it was high time for both countries to enhance their strategic cooperation and add more joint ventures in other fields. The prime minister earlier attended the launching ceremony of the third Naval Corvette, PNS Khyber, in Istanbul, in November 2022. The first two Corvettes, PNS Babur and PNS Badar were launched in Istanbul and Karachi, in August 2021 and May 2022 respectively.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, Turkiye agree to boost coordination

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan and Turkiye have agreed to continue close coordination through well-established mechanisms with the upwards trajectory of bilateral relations. The bilateral relations were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and visiting Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz in Karachi on Wednesday. During the meeting, wide-ranging issues encompassing bilateral relations, the regional situation and other areas of mutual interest came under discussion. Appreciating the strong bilateral cooperation, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of transforming the brotherly relations into mutually rewarding trade and economic ties. He underscored the importance of enhancing people-to-people contacts and joint collaborations in IT, energy, infrastructure, food security, tourism and mining sectors.

ECP warns

PTI could be declared ineligible for symbol
ECP summons PTI bigwigs for not holding intra-party elections

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has warned the former ruling party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), that it could be declared ineligible to obtain election symbol over its failure to hold intra-party elections. In a notice issued on Wednesday, the top electoral body summoned PTI Chairman Imran Khan to appear before it on August 4 (Friday) at 10am "failing which the Commission under Section 215 (5) of the Elections Act, 2017, may declare your political party ineligible to obtain election symbol for future election(s)". Referring to its earlier notices, the ECP said the PTI's intra-party elections were due on June 13 in 2021 under the party's constitution. It said the PTI was intimated/reminded to conduct intra-party elections within the timeframe provided under sections 208, 209 and 215 of the Elections Act, 2017 but the party failed to

Continued on Page 06

PTI kicks out 13 more members

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) kicked out 13 more party members including Raja Riaz and Noor Alam Khan for violating the party discipline and issued show-cause notice to Malik Shaukat Ali, ex-MPA Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (PK) to explain his position within two days for attending the newly announced party meeting. PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan issued the termination notices to the party's deserters and directed them to refrain from using party name and designation in any manner whatsoever or else legal action would be taken against them. Omar terminated the basic

Continued on Page 06



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Turkiye's Vice President Cevdet Yilmaz and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi cutting a rope to launch into sea Pakistan's 4th MILGEM Class Corvette "PNS Tariq" in Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works. (Another picture on Back Page) - DNA

People stand by Nawaz Sharif: Marriyum
Says former PM removed through a conspiracy



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said the people, voters and legislators of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) firmly stood by its Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif due to his ideology. However, those who hatched conspiracies against the country could not face the people today, the minister said while addressing a news conference after his visit to the Shalimar Recording and Broadcasting Corporation. She said the people fully knew that it was Nawaz Sharif who could steer the country out of the crises. The three-time elected prime minister, she said, was removed in 2017 through a conspiracy which culminated into the "Project Imran" that was imposed on the nation in 2018 and the journey of development came to a grinding halt, the minister regretted. She said many uplift projects started by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government were stopped, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was put on the back burner, achievements against terrorism went in vain and the masses faced the worst inflation during the four-year

Continued on Page 06

Civilians trial in mily courts SC rejects govt full court plea

The detainees are being given the right to a fair trial including that of meeting their families and to have a lawyer. No one's crime in the May 9 incidents is punishable by life imprisonment or the death penalty, SC informed

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected the plea seeking the formation of a full court for hearing the case of civilians' military trials and adjourned further hearing of the case till Thursday. Pronouncing the decision reserved on Tuesday, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial maintained: "Summer vacations are in progress, so full court formation is not possible until September." CJP Bandial further said the six-judge larger bench currently hearing the case will continue to proceed. "The objections will be removed with the formation of the full-court bench," Faisal Siddiqui Advocate said while presenting his arguments in the court a day earlier.

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Elections not possible in 90 days: minister

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said Tuesday that the 90-day deadline could not be met if elections are held on the basis of the latest census results. The coalition government has been in a fix as Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) - a key partner in the ruling alliance -

Continued on Page 06

PLA's 96th anniversary

'Chinese, Pakistani Armies are brothers in arms': COAS

General Asim Munir says Pak-China relationship is unique that has proven its resilience



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir has said that bilateral ties between Pakistan and Chi-

na are "unique" and the militaries of the two countries are "brothers in arms". He made these remarks while addressing the 96th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China, which was commemorated at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Wednesday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The military's media wing said the army chief was the chief guest on the occasion while Pang Chunxue, Chargé d'Affaires of the embassy of the People's Republic of China, Major General Wang Zhong, Defence Attaché, Chinese Embassy officials and officers from tri-services of Pakistan attended the event. While highlighting various facets of the deep-rooted ties between the two states, militaries, and the people, the COAS was quoted as saying: "Pakistan-China relationship is unique and robust that has proven its resilience in the face of all challenges." "The PLA and Pakistan Army are brothers in arms and our relationship will continue to contribute towards

Continued on Page 06

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Inside...

Govt constructs 37 small dams for storage of rains, flood water - Page 02

E&TD ready to set up Vehicles registration desks in markets - Page 03

Workshop on development of animal disease kicks off - Page 04

CPEC: Long live Pak-China Friendship - Page 05

Diani hat-trick earns France win after Panama scare - Page 06

Transformation towards digital economy facilitates women - Page 07

Trump faces criminal charges for efforts to overturn election - Page 08

Govt constructs 37 small dams for storage of rains, flood water

24 small dams with accumulative water storage capacity of 75,008 AF having 49,523 acres CCA were being built in different districts of KP with assistance of Federal government

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has constructed 37 small dams for storage of flood and rains water to bring arid lands under agriculture cover. The spokesman of Small Dams Directorate, Irrigation Department told APP on Wednesday the designs of seven medium dams including Barwasa and Sher Dara Swabi, Sumri Payan Kohat, Surkhaway Mardan, Naki Nowshera, Shaheed Banda Charssadda and Tora Warae Hangu having a total accumulative water storage capacity of 13,014 AF with 14,935 acres CCA were completed. He said 24 small dams with accumulative water storage capacity of 75,008 AF having 49,523 acres CCA were being built in different districts of KP with assistance of Federal government. He said that 37 small and

medium dams were constructed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including 15 operated by the provincial government while 11 supervised by WAPDA and ten were constructed in merged districts having 0.1377 million-acre cultivated (CCA) and 0.3414 Acres Feet (AF) water storage capacity. He said that about 46,000 big and small dams were constructed in the world including 22,104 dams by China, 5,334 by India and only 150 dams by Pakistan since its independence. He said small dams could easily be constructed in a short span of two to three years while big dams mostly require 10 to 15 years, adding that Pakistan would require additional 76 MAF water by 2050 which was only possible by constructing small and medium dams. Besides completion of

Pezu dam in Lakki Marwat, Khattak Bandhan dam in Kohat, and Makh Banda dam in Karak by the federal government, he said Ichar and Manchura dams at Mansehra, Chashma Akora Khel dam in Karak, Sarozai dam in Hangu, Sanam dam in Lower Dir, Bada dam and Ulta dam in Swabi were also constructed jointly by the federal and provincial governments. He said that seven medium dams including Bara dam in Khyber, Tank Zam in Tank, Shiekh Haider Zam, Chaudwan Zam, Daraban, and Kora Nullah in Dikhan and Larzan small dam in Tank with water storage capacity of 520,884 AF covering 171,748 CCA besides 31.5-megawatt power generation capacity were in design stage and practical work on it would start soon.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastagir, talking to media Persons after meeting with the officials of K. Electric.—DNA

KP Govt requests federation to increase gas quota

PESHAWAR :Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Advisor to Chief Minister on Energy and Power Himayatullah Khan has requested the Federal government to reallocate the gas quota for the industrial sector of the province to meet the demand. In a letter, available with this agency, the Minister said that the provincial government had already requested the then Prime Minister to direct the Ministry of Energy to submit a summary to ECC for reallocation of 100 MMCFD gas to KP industrial sector but no step was taken. The CM's aide requested the Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik to intervene in the matter and submit a summary to ECC for reallocation of additional 100 MMCFD gas to the industrial sector. He said that the KP industries were consuming about 40 MMCFD gas while 18 MMCFD is an additional requirement to fulfill the demand of pending new industrial gas connections. He said that the provincial government was developing two more economic zones including Rashakai.—APP

Khurram Dastagir says Power related issues to be taken up at federal level

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Energy Khurram Dastagir on Wednesday said the concerns of the citizens of Karachi regarding power supply and its tariffs would be discussed at the federal level and all-out measures would be taken to provide relief in this regard. Talking to official media after holding a meeting with KE management at the KE head office, he said the government was taking steps to address the issue of non-payment of bills and power theft so that the consumers who pay bills should not face power shortages.

The minister said the concerns were expressed by the MQM leadership on behalf of citizens of Karachi that since KE was a private power distribution company, it had no role in the circular debts of the country, so the KE should not charge the consumers in this respect. He said the government was taking all-out measures for ensuring a smooth power supply across the country. Khurram Dastagir said the meeting discussed different matters including better and uninterrupted power supply to the citizens, regularity in supply system, issues pertaining to supply in different areas, policies

of KE and others. Speaking on the occasion, MQM Pakistan Member Rabita Committee and former federal minister Farooq Sattar said the federal minister for Energy had assured to raise the issues of Karachiites regarding power supply at the federal level. He said KE was a private entity so it shouldn't be allowed to charge in respect of circular debts, and citizens be provided relief. Federal Minister for Information Technology Syed Ameen-ul-Haque, MQM Pakistan Deputy Convener Syed Mustafa Kamal and management of KE was also present on the occasion.

K Electric will soon be under the control of Asia Pak Investments

KARACHI: Good news for the citizens of Karachi from the new owner with 54% shareholders of K Electric, Head of Asia-Pak Investment Shehryar Chishti announced to give cheap electricity to the citizens of Karachi. Shehryar Chishti told the media on Wednesday. In the meeting, it was said that the control of K Electric will soon come to Isha Pak because Isha Pak has acquired 54 percent of the shares of K Electric. Shehryar Chishti said that in the next five and a half to three years to get cheap electricity for Karachi. Billions of dollars will be invested. He said that for cheap electricity, investments will be made in coal, wind and solar and firstly the imported coal power plant in Jamshoro will be shifted to Thar coal, 660 MW Jamshoro plant is ready and Jam A plan is also ready to transfer Shoro coal plant to generate electricity.—APP

SCCI rejects massive increase in fuel prices

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry acting President Ijaz Khan Afridi while rejecting the recent massive increase in fuel prices and fearing the government move will prove detrimental for the national economy, businesses and industrial growth. In a statement issued here on Wednesday, Ijaz Afridi said the economy, businesses and industries are reeling owing to flawed economic policies of the incumbent government. On the other hand, he said consistent increase in prices of power, gas and petroleum products has further pushed the country toward economic instability and added to miseries of the business community.

The SCCI's acting chief expressed fear that a new wave of inflation will come after the historic increase in the fuel prices, resultantly, the move will affect all traders' community, poor masses and different segments of the society. He continued that the abrupt increase in price of petroleum commodities is highly unjustifiable and incomprehensible, which is unacceptable to them. He said cost of living and industrial production would increase after the whopping increase in fuel prices that could further push up prices of essential commodities, which were already out of the purchasing power of the common man. Ijaz Afridi asked the government to avoid implementation of

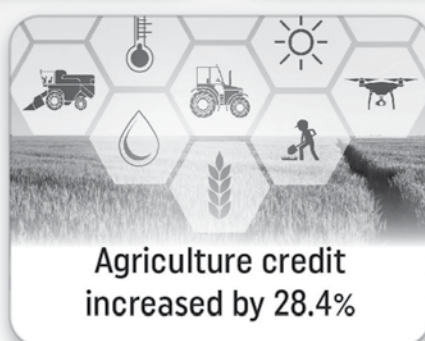
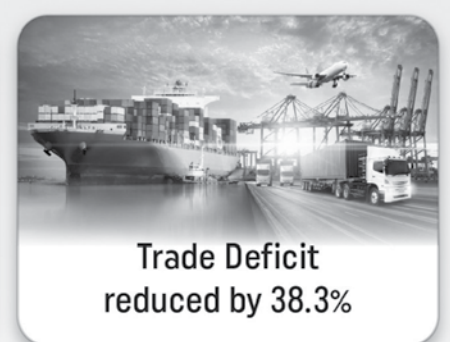
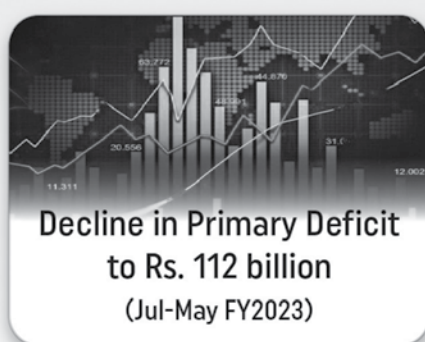
anti-businesses policies and take practical steps for ease of doing business. He was of the view that the government has multiplied problems of the business community and common man by consistently accepting demands of the IMF. The chamber's president said a rapid negative growth was seen in the economy, businesses and industries under the prevailing circumstances. He blamed the government's policies for making it difficult to put the national economy on the right track. Ijaz Afridi urged the government to take back its decision and bring down fuel prices in the line of the international market. Otherwise, he warned SCCI along with traders' community will force a protest.

DG LDA directs to fix timeline of projects

LAHORE: Commissioner and Director General Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Wednesday directed officers to fix timeline for ongoing projects in their respective departments to achieve targets. The DG LDA chaired a meeting on LDA-related issues and ordered officers that unreasonable delay in achieving the target would not be tolerated. He directed the officers concerned to submit their performance report regarding development projects on daily basis. In the meeting, the Additional DG Housing gave a briefing on the issues related to Housing Wing while Director Finance highlighted the goals and performance of all departments in the current financial year.—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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Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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MH.....5611116
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RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
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Shifa International 4603666



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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Toddlers are attending class at Islamabad Model College for Girls of Sector F-8/2 as the schools are resumes after the summers vacation in Federal Capital.—Online

E&TD ready to set up Vehicles registration desks in markets

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that trackers should be embedded in the number plates of vehicles to control their theft

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) lauded the reforms initiatives of Excise and Taxation Department (E&TD) of the Islamabad Capital Territory to facilitate the people in vehicles registration and making significant increase in its revenue. He urged that the FBR should emulate the good performance of E&TD to facilitate the taxpayers and improve its tax revenue. He said this while talking to Bilal Azam, Director, Ex-

cise & Taxation Department ICT during his visit to ICCI. Ahsan Bakhtawari said that trackers should be embedded in the number plates of vehicles to control their theft. He said that a penalty should be imposed on those buyers who delay the registration of vehicles to ensure their timely registration. He said that the department should set up facilitation desks in ICCI and markets to facilitate the business community in registration of vehicles. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with E&TD in raising better awareness about its services in the business community. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Bilal Azam, Director, Excise & Taxation Department of ICT briefed the business community about various reform initiatives introduced by him due to which the tax revenue of E&TD has increased from Rs.4.6 billion to Rs.19 billion in just 3 years. He said E&TD is ready to set up vehicles' registration desks in markets in collaboration with ICCI. He said that with the introduction of technology, the motor vehicles registration has increased to 1.5 million. He said that a mobile app has been launched to facilitate people in payment of token tax. He said that 400 stolen vehicles have been recovered by in-

tegrating E&TD data with the Safe City Project of Islamabad Police and NADRA. He said that vehicle registration facilities have also been provided in various parks of Islamabad including Islamabad Club. He said that E&TD was also providing vehicle registration service at the doorsteps if called on the helpline. He said that E&TD would continue introducing more reforms to facilitate the taxpayers. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that all the departments of ICT should focus on automation and digitization to promote transparency and improve service delivery. Khalid Iqbal Malik,

Group Leader ICCI lauded the reforms brought in E&TD and urged that other departments should emulate its performance to improve service delivery. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG said that ICCI was ready to give awards to honest and top performing government officers who have brought innovative reforms in their respective departments. Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Saif ur Rehman Khan, Rizwan Chheena, Ashfaq Chatha, Asad Aziz, Babar Chaudhry and others also spoke on the occasion and lauded the good performance of E&TD.

Turi urges action on domestic workers' mistreatment

Seminar Sheds Light on Mistreatment of Domestic Workers and Calls for Stronger Protections C-189

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Resources and Overseas Pakistanis, Sajid Hussain Turi, highlighted the concerning issue of mistreatment of domestic workers, stating that such incidents do not align with the values of our society and tarnish the country's global reputation. During a seminar organized by the Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) in Islamabad, supported by the International Labor Organization (ILO), Sajid Turi stressed that our religious and societal customs emphasize the rights and respect of domestic workers. However, he lamented that cases of abuse predominantly occur in educated urban households. Turi informed

the audience that the government has taken a step towards safeguarding workers' rights by implementing the Social Safety Act in the federal capital, with plans to extend it nationwide soon. Addressing the gathering, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, underlined the urgent need for robust legislation to protect the rights of domestic workers, highlighting their vulnerability and the importance of addressing their concerns. The seminar provided a platform for Parliamentarians, ILO representatives, Civil Society Organizations, workers' rights federations, unions, academia, and media representatives to discuss and explore essential themes, including the ICT Domestic Workers Act, Social Protection for Do-

estic Workers, eradicating child labor in domestic work, and expanding social security benefits and services for domestic workers. The event aimed to raise awareness about domestic workers' rights and promote the ratification of the ILO Convention C-189. It fostered a collective commitment to ensuring fair treatment, recognition, and protection of domestic workers in Pakistan. Both the PWF and ILO expressed their dedication to collaborating with all stakeholders to enhance domestic workers' welfare and contribute to the broader economic and social development of the nation. The speakers at the seminar underscored the urgency of stronger legislation for the rights and protection of domestic workers.

Education Minister inaugurates AIOU Model Study Centre

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain, on Wednesday inaugurated the Model Study Centre of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in Dalbandin, District Chaghi, Balochistan. Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Deans, Principal Officers, and faculty members were present on the occasion. Rana Tanveer Hussain said that promoting education in remote and backward areas of the country is a sacred mission of AIOU which is appreciable. He congratulated the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, and his team for the expansion of the regional network in the backward areas. VC AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that collecting revenue is not our goal, but educating children is our top priority. He said that the AIOU is striving hard to eradicate illiteracy in the country and we provide free matriculation education in Balochistan, merged districts, and Gilgit-Baltistan. Dr. Nasir said that AIOU has allocated 6 crore rupees for scholarships and financial assistance, out of which 2 crores have been allocated only for the students of Balochistan. The Vice Chancellor further said that AIOU has laid a special focus on promoting education in Balochistan and interior Sindh. He shared that the number of local and international admissions is increasing every semester. Allama Iqbal Open University has become an important source of education for students living across the country and around the world. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that this center will benefit the students of Chaghi. Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmad Khan, and Director Administration, Prof. Dr. Syed Amir Shah also addressed the ceremony.

PTI to celebrate Independence Day with fervor

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) decided to celebrate Pakistan Independence Day with renewed zeal and fervor. The PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan presided over an important meeting pertaining to the nationwide events on Pakistan's Independence Day. The meeting was held in the light of the directives of Chairman PTI Imran Khan to hammer out a strategy to observe the day best possible way. PTI Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan and other officials also participated in the meeting. The party leadership gave final touches to the recommendations regarding Independence Day celebrations and preparations, which would be announced formally within 48 hours after the approval of PTI Chairman Imran Khan.



ISLAMABAD: Children taking part in the Swiss national day celebrations, at the Swiss embassy. The Swiss embassy invited only the Swiss nationals and their families for the National Day reception.—DNA

Police arrest seven for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police on the directives of Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted seven accused for possessing illegal weapons. According to a police spokesman, Gungmandi, Sadiqabad, Naseerabad, R. A. Bazar and Gujjar Khan police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and arrested seven namely Gul Muhammad, Ajmal, Umar, Sikandar, Ansar, Sohab, and Adnan and recovered five 30 bore pistols, a 9mm pistol and ammunition. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process. The SSP said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against the lawbreakers and operations against aerial firing and illegal weapon holders would continue.—APP

National Assembly passes many bills

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Wednesday addressed its legislative agenda and passed five government and seven private members' bills considered as supplementary agenda. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi moved the Gas (Threat Control and Recovery) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which was passed by the House. Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri moved the Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Apostille Bill, 2023 which were passed by the House. The House passed a motion to refer the Trade Organization Bill, 2023 to the joint sitting of Parliament. A report of Standing Committee on Interior on the Federal Prosecution Service Bill, 2023 was presented in the House. Moved by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb, the House passed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Press Council of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill, 2023 along with amendments. Both bills were presented for the third reading in the House after presentation of the reports by the Standing Committee on them. The House also took up private members' agenda after passing a motion and approved seven private members' bills which were the Akhuwat Institute Kasur Bill, 2023; the Quaid-e-Azam Institute of Management Sciences, Sardogha Bill, 2023; the Islamabad University of Health Sciences and Emerging Technologies, Islamabad Bill, 2023; the Falcon University of Sciences and Technology Bill, 2023; the King's Institute of Higher Education Bill, 2023; the Monarch Institute Bill, 2023 and the Public Institute of Science, Arts and Technology Bill, 2023.

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Briefs

Pakistan stands with Kashmir

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira Wednesday said that entire Pakistani nation stands beside their Kashmiri brethren till they achieve freedom. Pakistan has a deep-rooted relationship with Kashmiris and their just struggle for the liberation of Indian Occupied Kashmir will continue, Advisor to PM said in an exclusive interview with PTV news.

He further highlighted that youngest foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari is not shy away from raising the voice for Kashmiris rights at all world forums, adding, he had exposed Indian prime minister Narendra Modi at international forums, adding, he had fulfilled the rights of Kashmiris the way he raised his voice for Kashmiris.

He urges the international community and organizations to take practical steps to hold India accountable for its gross and widespread human rights violations in IIOJK. In a message on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day on August 5, he said we should pay tribute to the unparalleled commitment of the Kashmiris to the attainment of their legitimate right to self-determination. "Every Pakistani is firmly standing with Kashmiris, he said, adding, it is our firm belief that the Kashmiris will soon succeed in their valiant struggle to secure freedom from oppression and illegal occupation".

Pakistan's every citizen will continue playing its constructive role toward a peaceful solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, he added. On behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan, I reaffirm Pakistan's firm commitment to a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the protection of their fundamental rights, he added. "We will always stand by our Kashmiri brethren until the realization of their right to self-determination", he mentioned. Replying to another question, he paid tribute to brave Kashmiris for courageously and steadfastly facing the state terrorism of India. He also reassured Kashmiri leadership that Pakistan will continue to extend the maximum possible assistance to Kashmiris in their just struggle for the right to self-determination.—APP

President phones father of sepoy

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday telephoned the father of Sepoy Muhammad Nasir who was martyred in an attack that took place in the Kacchi Canal area of Balochistan on July 13. The president paid tribute to the martyred sepoy for sacrificing his life for the country's security and saluted him for his services to the country, patriotism, and commitment to duty. The president also conveyed gratitude, on behalf of the entire nation, to the family of the martyred. The father of the martyred soldier expressed his desire to rename a government school in Bhakkar district after his son Sepoy Muhammad Nasir Shaheed.—APP



ISLAMABAD: a delegation of Young leaders Parliament, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House. —DNA

Workshop on development of animal disease kicks off

The event is hybrid, and is being attended by six foreign scholars from Afghanistan, Iran, Yemen and Uganda along with 46 local researchers at COMSTech and more than 60 participants from different OIC member states are attending the workshop online.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Three-day international workshop on the development of animal disease models for metabolic disease inaugurated at COMSTech on Wednesday. The workshop is being delivered by COMSTech distinguished scholar, Prof. Dr. Hafizur Rahman, Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Dhaka International University, Bangladesh. The Coordinator General COMSTech, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary said in his welcome remarks that this is an important event in the context of challenges we are facing today. He said we live long but we live with chronic diseases. Prof. Choudhary mentioned that we think that the pharma industry is designed to develop new drugs to treat diseases, but the

reality is different. They design and develop drugs as a business. Prof. Choudhary informed that we think that the diseases cannot be treated from current therapies. He said many diseases currently are managed and are not treated, like diabetes. Prof. Choudhary emphasized the need of develop-

ing of our own drugs. In his opening remarks, Prof. Dr. Hafizur Rahman said that this workshop is timely and the need of the hour. He said everyone nowadays can live long, but by managing some diseases. Prof. Rahman said that the diabetes is a metabolic disease and it cause many problems.

He informed that the drugs are designed and developed by the western countries to address their own needs. He said that one drug can't be effective all over the world. He emphasized the need of developing localized models and medicines. Dr. Hafizur Rahman is Chairman, Department of Bio-

chemistry & Molecular Biology, Dhaka International University, Bangladesh. He has more than 60 publications in international journals. He has also received MEXT fellowship from Japan for the PhD program and has been awarded several research grants. He has a wonderful connection with researchers of Japanese Universities, and has received MIN6 cells as a Gift from Osaka University, Japan for PCMD, ICCBS, University of Karachi, Pakistan. Recently, Dr. Hafiz was awarded "COMSTech Distinguished Scholar" title. The event is hybrid, and is being attended by six foreign scholars from Afghanistan, Iran, Yemen and Uganda along with 46 local researchers at COMSTech and more than 60 participants from different OIC member states are attending the workshop online.

BA'TIE GIRL
First Pakistan-China co-production film

ISLAMABAD: While China and Pakistan are celebrating the first decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), BA'TIE GIRL, the first Pak-China co-production film will be released in the cinemas on August 4 (Friday). BA'TIE GIRL is the first Sino-Pak feature film based on friendship between the people of Pakistan and China. The film is coproduced by China Film Administration & Hunan Kada Films of Pakistan, featuring Wang Jia Jia, Shaiza Chana, Suraj Arman Khan, Yue Ye, Asif Shah and others, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. BA'TIE GIRL, which means "Dost Larki" in Urdu, is a story of a young, passionate girl from a small village of Pakistan with dreams and talent for football. It is a story of empowerment of the young

girl brought on by a woman from another nation. A nation (China) Pakistan has put its trust and friendship in for decades. Their story, much like, the "Pak Cheen Dosti" is perfused with compassion and progression. In the film, football has been used as a stimulus for social change. Sports have always brought entire cities, provinces, and nations together. BA TIEGIRL unravels in such a way where two tribes with ancestor rivalry come together, women's rights are recognized, and the fate of society is trusted upon

the shoulders of a bunch of young girls; while all of this is happening in a small village of Pakistan. The plot of the film follows two female leads, a Pakistani teenager, Nasa, 13, with a passion for football, and Lu You, a once highly regarded Chinese female footballer now settled in Pakistan, whose experience and determination become wings for Nasa's dreams. The film beautifully portrays a community formed of two mixed races and how both contrasting cultures can not only coexist peacefully.—DNA

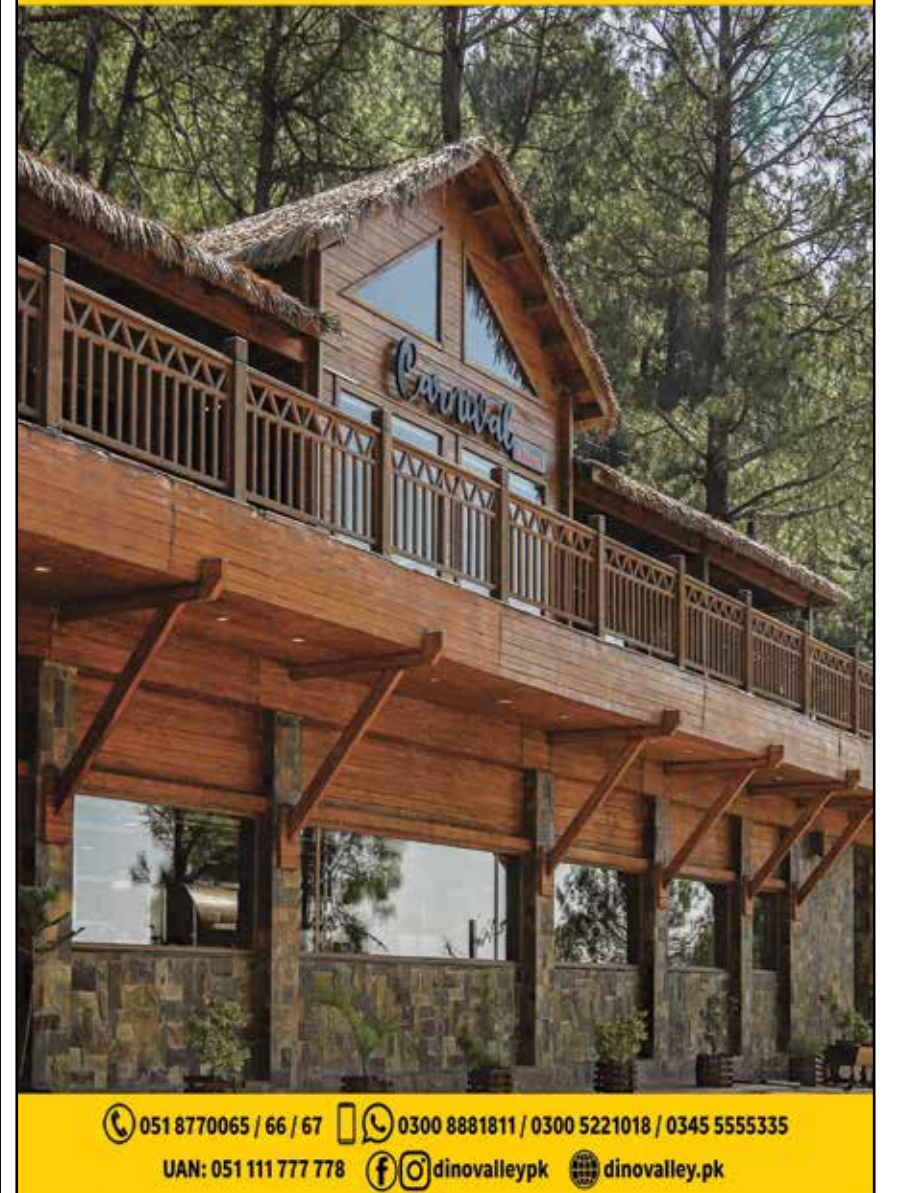


'Daniyal Aziz, Talal Chaudhry punished as they told truth': Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Wednesday that both Daniyal Aziz and Talal Chaudhry were punished only because they were telling the truth at that time which was not acceptable to those who wanted to minus Nawaz Sharif from politics. In a tweet, she congratulated both the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leaders for emerging as real leaders in front of history and the masses. "Both of them faced extremely unfavorable conditions but did not leave the path of truth nor did they leave the people of the constituency, and stood by their position, leadership and party", she maintained. She congratulated Daniyal Aziz, Talal Chaudhry, and the people of their constituency.—APP

SAPM holds PTI govt responsible for current crisis

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Wednesday held the PTI chief responsible for the current crisis in the country, saying the PDM-led government has saved the country from economic default and shattered his "dream". The current government had taken tough decisions to improve the economy, even risking its political capital, he said while talking to a private news channel. These steps were vital to stabilize the economy and the government was supported in these measures by the PDM coalition partners, he added.—APP



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IESCO resorted to carry out 2 hour load-management

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has resorted to carry out two hour temporary power load-management across its all circles due to gap in demand and supply of electricity.

The company was getting 2,250 megawatts (MW) against demand of 2,375 MW from the national grid system, the IESCO said in a statement issued here Wednesday.

He said the load-management would be ended once power supply from the national grid became normal. Staff remained available at the concerned field office for addressal of individual complaints, he added. The consumer could lodge complaints at toll free number 118 or concerned complaint office.—APP

ANF recovers 113 kg drugs in five operations; arrests four

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country recovered 113 kg of drugs and arrested four accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in three operations at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore, ANF recovered drugs and arrested four accused including a woman. In an operation, two Thailand-bound passengers, husband, and wife, going on flight number TG-346 were arrested and ANF recovered 46 heroin-filled capsules from their possession.

In another operation, a Doha-bound passenger, a resident of Bhakkar, going on flight number QR-621 was netted with 40 Ice-filled capsules. The third Doha-bound passenger, a resident of Lahore going on flight number QR-620 was rounded up on recovery of 675 grams cocaine. In the fourth operation conducted in Nalant, an area of Gwadar, 100 kg charras concealed in bushes to smuggle abroad were recovered. The spokesman informed that in the fifth operation conducted in Jarobi Zakakhail, an area of Khyber.—DNA

4th August a Day to be celebrated in the memory of Martyred Forces

SAYED SAJID
SHAH BOKHARI

The world is experiencing worst kind of terrorism in the current century of science and technology. How we can claim that man is civilized now, when he is targeting innocent people for the lust and power. The mighty world power still exercises their power to subjugate states and people by hook or by crook and to gain their objectives. It is shameful that still the world is waiting for another war called, world war 3 which will be fought with Atomic arsenals and Hydrogen Bombs. Since 1999, just after the incident of 9/11 the Muslim countries all over the world were indulged in to a war by anti-Muslim lobby to create panic and chaos. On this pretext Pakistan was also included in the list to fought war against the terrorists. The world particularly the Muslim

countries had disintegration and dissolution history when they fall one after another in Arab sprung starting from Tunis in 2010. After the cold war and disintegration of U.S.S.R in 1991, the political, social, economic situation changed the scenario at all. The two rivals like USA and Russian then came with a new strategy, called new world order. Pakistan was kept in front line against terrorism in the South Asia. Pakistani soldiers paid high cost of blood and property to save humanity. The Anti-Muslim lobby and particularly India felt the need to destabilize Pakistan and deprived it from its Atomic power arsenal. They deemed the world that Atom in Pakistan is challenge and threat for the rest of the world and so they instigated them. The MOSSAD, RAW and other intelligence agencies played dynamic role to provoke the world and create panic inside Pakistan. Since then the forces of Pakistan along with

innocent people had experience of shelling, killing bombing every day. They did not spare a religious spots Mosques, bazars, community centers, Police Barakes, army headquarter even. Pakistan being a peaceful country was chosen and indulged in to a war as partner to combat with the terroristic organization worldwide. For the last three decades Pakistan victims of war cannot be calculated both in Armed Forces and Pakistani police besides huge loss to community. Being in front line the Khyber paktonkwa police received its first blow in 1999, with huge loss to its force. Since then no day, and week month and year went without the sacrifices of police jawans in the line of duty. The services of police and their martyrdom was exemplary in the history however, from 1999 to 2023, more than 1963 police men paid the cost on their blood to protect the land its people and property.

Still the police could be found more vulnerable and they need more protection, support, sophisticated arms and capacity building. There shall be a way to end the war because it is not the solution to all the problems. Although the sacrifices of police are beyond the limits and their belief in Allah for the reward of paradise is hundred percent true and greater than all the other wishes but this is not the way actually to be followed in future. The world is turning to peace, prosperity and development and we must also follow them. The celebration of 4th August is actually feelings for the families of martyred policemen as part of honor. The general public, society, community members, lawyers, admire their role, services for community with respect always. We still believe that we are in debt of police blood which they shed to save us. Actually they are not dead, they are alive in the way of Islam (Allah ST) but we cannot see them.

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'Global boiling era' comes as coop lacking

Wildfires in Greece. Heat waves across the US Southwest. The highest temperature ever recorded in China – 52.2 C in Turpan in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. All these in July marked the planet's hottest month on record. Scientists at the World Meteorological Organization and the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service came to the conclusion last week, even before the month ended, based on calculation, that the Earth's temperature had already averaged 16.95 C through the first 23 days of the month, one-third of a degree C hotter than the previous record in July 2019. Normally records are broken by hundredths of a degree C, maybe a tenth at most. Though temperature records could be traced only to the middle of the 19th century, scientists believe the past July was likely "unprecedented" for at least thousands of years. "The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, while calling on world leaders last week, in particular those of rich nations, to do more to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. To avoid the very worst of climate change, the Paris climate accord sets the goal of limiting the temperature increase to 1.5 C above preindustrial levels. The past July has made it almost impossible to realize the goal, given that temperatures were already 1.5 C higher than pre-industrial levels for 16 days last month, an unprecedented phenomenon. The WMO has predicted that it is more likely than not that global temperature will temporarily rise 1.5 C above the benchmark for at least one of the next five years. Yet in the face of the mounting risks facing the future of humanity, slow progress has been made in terms of funding and implementation of actions aimed at helping vulnerable nations adapt to the climate emergency. Adaptation needs in the developing world are set to skyrocket to as much as \$340 billion a year by 2030. Yet adaptation support today stands at less than one-tenth of that amount. "Accelerating temperatures demand accelerated action," Guterres said. China, which has pledged that it will peak its greenhouse gas emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, is stepping up its pursuit of green development to play its part in the global fight against climate change. And its progress in this regard should help inject confidence that the world can attain a better climate future. Yet no matter what China does, or any country does, it will not be enough on its own. Countries must work together to make climate-friendly actions more than just the sum of their parts. Lip service has too often been paid to this cause. But unless there is a genuine commitment to practical cooperation and targeted collaborative actions, especially among the major economies and largest emitters, the world will pay an increasingly unbearable price for the indulgence in parochial gamesmanship.



South Pacific needs supports, not high walls

A new provision in the maritime law enforcement agreement between Papua New Guinea and the United States will allow US Coast Guard officers to board and search a vessel in the PNG's exclusive economic zone on the PNG's behalf, without the requirement for a PNG law officer to be present as a "ship rider". This is the second such agreement the US has struck with a Pacific island country. It agreed a similar provision with the Federated States of Micronesia last year. After China and the Solomon Islands signed a policing pact last year, the US is seeking to strengthen its security presence in the region in a bid to undermine China's growing influence. That the latest move is targeted specifically at China was made explicit by the US Coast Guard, which said that any fishing vessel fishing in the PNG's exclusive economic zone may be boarded – "that is, any flagged vessel, including Chinese flagged". Yet at a meeting of the agriculture and fishery ministers of China and Pacific island countries in Nanjing in May, where the two sides reached a consensus on cooperation in agriculture and fisheries, Papua New Guinea's Minister for Agriculture Aiya Tambua spoke favorably of his country's cooperation with China and its willingness to expand it. Papua New Guinea and China have long-standing friendly relations. It established diplomatic ties with China in 1976, three years ahead of the US, and it was the first country in the region to sign a cooperation agreement with China under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. That agreement reached in 2018 was highly praised by former PNG prime minister Peter O'Neill in an interview on July 4, in which he said that it was driving economic growth and improving people's livelihoods. That the US views Papua New Guinea, which is the largest country in the Pacific island region, as strategically important is clear. The US and PNG governments signed a defense agreement in May, which, according to PNG media reports, allows the US military to station troops, warships and aircraft in six key locations in Papua New Guinea, and to carry out "activities agreed upon by both parties", including surveillance, reconnaissance, refueling of ships, and troop build-up and deployment, without hindrance. Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape has sought to quell fears that the US' renewed interest in the country is really about positioning forces in the region targeting China, saying, "This is not about setting up for war", and the US does not need the PNG as a launch pad for any offensive anywhere in the world, pointing to "the cascading benefits that link to (our) economy and, more importantly, key economic infrastructure". Yet the US undoubtedly has its own plans. These plans will serve the US' interests only and any benefits reaped by Papua New Guinea will be incidental. The Pacific island countries should be aware that all too often when the US has its eyes on a region, its actions are like winds before a storm.

CPEC: Long live Pak-China Friendship

Waheed Hussain



The Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng landed in Islamabad with a clear message from the people and leadership of China, that it would stand with Pakistan in any kind of situation both at regional and international level. A great message for both East and West. The Chinese Vice-Prime Minister visit was in connection to 10 years celebrations of the beginning of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which was launched in 2013, the initiative which has invested around \$25 billion in various projects including infrastructure, communications, energy, Gwadar

In the middle of fast changing regional and international political and economic landscape, Pakistan-China close association means to sow a seed of friendship and cooperation based on mutual respect and trust, resulting in benefiting the peoples of the two great nations.

The Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng landed in Islamabad with a clear message from the people and leadership of China, that it would stand with Pakistan in any kind of situation both at regional and international level. A great message for both East and West. The Chinese Vice-Prime Minister visit was in connection to 10 years celebrations of the beginning of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which was launched in 2013, the initiative which has invested around \$25 billion in various projects including infrastructure, communications, energy, Gwadar Port, telecommunications and industrial infrastructure (establishment of industrial zones). The Chinese are also helping in the field of agriculture to enhance our per acre yield (production) to meet food and grains requirements. During his stay in Islamabad the Chinese Vice-PM held very constructive meetings with the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir to open up the second phase of the CPEC. During a meeting with the visiting Chinese Vice-Prime, the Pakistan's prime minister Shahbaz Sharif said "today we can claim that under CPEC, more than \$25 billion investment took place in power, road, hydel power and public transport. We signed certain important documents, which will further enhance cooperation and help begin the second phase of CPEC under a new model," the prime minister elaborated. PM Shahbaz thanked the Chinese President Xi Jinping for sending his special envoy to Pakistan and showing solidarity for people-to-people friendship and showing to the world that both countries were bound in a great and unique relationship. "We are all-weather friends and iron brothers. This friendship will continue and will not tolerate any kind of obstacle in the way of further strengthening of ties," he remarked. President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi decorated the visiting Chinese guest with the Pakistan's second-highest civil award, Hilali-Pakistan (Crescent of Pakistan). Which was a sign of respect and importance extended to the China's Vice-PM.

In the second phase B to B projects will be encouraged and promoted to involve the business community of the two countries to take maximum benefit of the CPEC. During the visit Pakistan and China signed six documents on the Joint Cooperation Committee on CPEC including a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on establishing an export exchange mechanism within the framework of CPEC;

a protocol of phytosanitary requirements for export of dry chillies from Pakistan to China and a document on the final report on the feasibility study of realignment of KKH Phase-II. Both sides also signed through diplomatic channels an MoU on the industrial workers exchange programme as well as minutes of the 21st conference of a technical committee to promote the strategic ML-1 project. The most important message on the CPEC celebration was of the Chinese President Xi, who said no matter how the international landscape may change, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan.

Actually, the Chinese have proved that they are the most trustworthy and loyal friends. They are really the time-tested friends. Recently, the Chinese Exam Bank has roll over \$2 billion. The amount strengthened our depleting foreign reserves. Since the coming of PDM in power in April 2022, the IMF was reluctant to release the tranche under EFF program, the country was facing serious balance of payment crisis, but the Chinese timely helped Pakistan to cross the bridge. Otherwise, there was a call for the default. China has deep-rooted defense cooperation with Pakistan. Production of modern weapons like state-of-the-art tanks, joint venture of JF thunder fighter plans and other modern defense equipment reflects the closeness of the two neighbors.

If we want to make CPEC a success story. If we want to get maximum benefit from the Chinese One Belt One Road initiative under which CPEC, we have to set our own house in real order. Firstly, the project experienced lot of speed-breakers during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government. Many questions were raised on the transparency and financial viability of various projects. The way messages were conveyed annoyed the Chinese friends. The statement of the federal ministers created distress.

Secondly, there were certain projects which the government ministries and institutions both at federal and provincial levels were supposed to completed. Unfortunately, our internal political fights kept the governments busy in useless leg pulling, while, the relevant decision making were delayed. Thirdly, our poor financial and economic management was a big hurdle in the way of progress and development. Due to mismanagement, corruption and bad governance, country's institutions were facing total collapse. The energy sector has around Rs. 4000 billion losses, PIA, Pakistan Railways, Steel Mills and other Public Sector Enterprises (government owned and run organizations) have around Rs. 2000 billion losses.

Our foreign debts are \$140 billion, while, the internal debts have no estimates. The IMF, other international financial institutions and friends like

Chinese have been advising us for the reforms, privatization and transparency in decision making process. However, every government speaks too much of reforms, good governance and transparency, but on the ground none of them did anything to set the house in order. At the end of government tenure, they left the country in worse condition. Rulers instead of putting the country on the right track, they were more interested in power grabbing and money making for themselves, their families and friends. They damn cared about the state, its economy and public. Public is a tool to be used either at the time of voting or protesting to regain the power. Until our political elite change itself, all can't be done by friends like "Chinese." This has to be done by our own political parties' leadership, which remained in power or aspirant to be either re-elected or selected in future too. Since 2008 on ward all the three main political parties (PTI, PPP, PLM (N)) were in power both at federal as well as at the provincial levels. In last fifteen years our country internal and external debt increased in billions of dollars. The value of rupee went down, while the debts kept on swelling. Rupee devaluation and foreign debts have broken the back of our economy. Why our successive governments failed to give a right direction to the economy? They were playing tracks with the masses accusing each other for the economic destruction and enjoying the power without any remedy to the financial and economic ills. PPP remained in power in Islamabad for 5 years and ruled Sindh for 15 years, PML (N) remained in power for six and half years at Islamabad, and ruled Punjab for 10 years, PTI ruled KPK for 10 years and remained in power at federal level for around four years. In these 15 years approximately \$200 billion were allocated by federal and provincial governments for the development and other projects from their annual budget allocation, simple question was where the money has gone?

Our main and regional political parties must understand this fact that whatever was the political situation in the country, ultimately, they have to gain the power, both at center and provincial levels. They have to change their approach towards decision making and governance. The status quo would not be able to bring the country out of the quagmire, it has been thrown by the successive governments, and none of them are will to accept their failure. The CPEC is a golden opportunity, we are grateful to our friends in China, but their efforts to lift us up would be meaningless until we must open up our eyes, stop behaving like teenager kids and plan for the future of 240 million people of Pakistan. Only cosmetics cannot turn the ugly face of our economy into a mesmerizing beauty. Long live Pak-China friendship.

Decoding Chapter Pakistan'23

Muhammad Amir Khan



According to International Monetary Fund, Pakistan's economic challenges are not only complex and multifaceted but also prone to exceptionally high risks. Even to get the country running and payments dilemma in equilibrium, as inflation and external debt crush in, it has found itself in a vicious cycle

The gloomy paradox of potential wealth, the promises of awaiting prosperity and the reality check of disabilities - the state of Pakistan has run too deep into the obnoxious pit. The murky economic splashes, faulty social orientation, political Chaos, inefficient state apparatus for smooth governance, human rights violations and the prevailing sense of lawlessness are home to all miseries in the hems of the country's structural challenges. Chapter Pakistan'23 speaks of itself aloud. Even the answers seem to be distorting and confusing. Pakistan has never been seen tripled and trod over to such a low.

According to International Monetary Fund, Pakistan's economic challenges are not only complex and multifaceted but also prone to exceptionally high risks. Even to get the country running and payments dilemma in equilibrium, as inflation and external debt crush in, it has found itself in a vicious cycle. The remittance influx this fiscal year remained comparatively quite low than that of last cycle. In the recent Pakistan Governance Forum, even the federal minister, Ahsan Iqbal acknowledged the dire necessity of financial reforms to restructure the economy. On the flip side, the government's preeminence is an ironic mockery of its self-claimed perspective, as has anyhow been the case in both recent governments. Instance, it is the laurels of Pakistan's social class stratification and the wealth distribution that it is referred to as the "One per cent State" for reasons well known. The regressive economic configuration proves to be the pushing

factor of the unlike wealth distribution in social classes. The tale to be told is certainly ironic. The country's top tier relishes leisure in subsidized city clubs and golf courses while the poor standstills in hectic long lines to secure some mill floor or even to get the permit to leave the country for some bare minimum standard life-style abroad. It is indeed one more aspect of the dysfunctional economic state of the country - the country's brain drain has seen an exceptional rise in threat to its ailing economy. As inflation hits, the dreams shatter and the ambitious ideal of life sweeps down. The psychological consequence on potential youth seems daunting. The strain to cope with inflation and retain life normal and sprinting look like an insane job nowadays... The perplexity and frustration in the general public seem unusual. Much of the skilled labour now looks for opportunities beyond the border. The sole issue is not just the crumbling economy, but it also entails political mayhem, poor governance, and social unrest.

Pakistan is expected to run into elections this October. In case the National Assembly gets dissolved before due time, the elections must be held no later than the period of the max of 90 days. The Khan government had passed the bill that allowed the general elections to be held under the EVMs. The then-opposition coalition deemed it to be an unfair move and nullified the Elections Amendment Bill when came into power. Political consciousness has spun a blur in the murky nebulousity of the judicial and executive clashes and their functions overlaid. The funds to hold elections are provided by the Fed-

eral Consolidated Fund. However, the executive office has failed to comply with the Supreme Court's verdict in the case of polling in two of the provinces Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The political turmoil has worked as fuel to exacerbate the miseries. The Pakistan Tehreek Insaf has disintegrated into multiple factions. Imran Khan is banned from mainstream media and faces scores of charged cases, including corruption and terrorism. The party's core has alienated itself. The politician has blamed the military establishment for the political engineering. There appears no prospect of any healthy indication of a genuinely democratic political environment and Imran Khan's political sensation if the trends stay as such. The alarming needles of lawlessness are another vexing stress. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in particular, Peshawar has recently shared some traumatizing militant ventures. The credibility of law enforcement agencies has stood once again questioned. All in all, the causes and reasons to elucidate the current state of Pakistan are many and there comes off less point in emphasising just one. The build-up is a perfect example of the cumulative effect of structural failures and inadequate on-ground policies. A complete focus to re-work incremental negligences must be the new go-to preference. Where things have bent grave hope must not die. As hope is what keeps us all alive, moving and striving. A toast to hope...

—The writer is an undergrad student at School of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad. He can be reached at m.amirkhan0702@gmail.com.

Briefs

Shehbaz hails Pak-Turkiye fraternal ties

FROM PAGE 01

The MILGEM project represents an enduring symbol of Pakistan-Turkiye collaboration in the maritime domain. It is a tangible step towards self-reliance and indigenization and would fulfill the critical security needs of the Pakistan Navy. The prime minister said that Pakistan and Turkiye were tied with the commonality of faith, heritage and civilisation with both sharing perspectives on regional and global issues. Referring to the tremendous support by the people of the subcontinent during Khalifat Movement, the prime minister said the bilateral ties predated the establishment of Pakistan.

"We celebrate each others' success stories and also stand together in the face of challenges... This is the level of our relations as we share each others' bounties and sorrows," he remarked.

'Chinese, Pakistani Armies...

FROM PAGE 01

safeguarding our collective interests", Gen Muneer added. Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese diplomat thanked the army chief for hosting the event for the 96th anniversary of the founding of the PLA.

"This all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan has stood the test of time and change of international landscapes", the Chinese diplomat remarked. "China & Pakistan have just jointly celebrated the 10th anniversary of the launch of CPEC and in the past months, COAS and other military leaders paid successful visits to China, which has strongly promoted the relationship between the two militaries", she added.

The COAS felicitated the PLA and lauded its role in China's defence, security and nation-building, the ISPR statement concluded. Last week, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng arrived in Islamabad on a three-day official visit to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

SC rejects govt full court plea

FORM PAGE 01

On the other hand, the lawyer for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman objected to the formation of a full-court bench. "At this time, forming a full-court bench is tantamount to prolonging the suspension of fundamental human rights," the PTI's lawyer said. After apex court's decision on the full court plea was announced on Wednesday, Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Usman Awan came to the rostrum and informed the bench: "Yesterday, Faisal Siddiqui's plea for the full court was heard. As far as this case is concerned, all assurances including those of providing facilities to all the detainees have been given so far." "The detainees are being given the right to a fair trial including that of meeting their families and to have a lawyer. No one's crime in the May 9 incidents is punishable by life imprisonment or the death penalty," he added.

Elections not possible in 90 days...

FROM PAGE 01

has clearly stated that they will not allow elections on old enumeration, raising concerns on timely elections. However, other parties in the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) were not in agreement with MQM-P and had announced the digital census will not be notified, citing multiple legal hurdles. On Tuesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif surprised everyone when he said the elections would be held on the basis of the latest census exercise. This sudden change of mind left everyone looking for the reasons behind the new development.

Diani hat-trick earns France win after Panama scare

Sweden beat Argentina to set up USA last-16 clash

DOHA: France manager Herve Renard warned his players "not to take anything for granted" as they survived a scare to beat Panama and finish top of Group F at the Women's World Cup. After Panama led through Marta Cox's superb free-kick, France took control in Sydney with Kadi Diani scoring a hat-trick. But Panama pulled two goals back, and Renard was unhappy his side eased off.

"I just think they were looking for easy way out tonight," he said.

"We were 5-1 up, with the game in the bag... you see this often in football. It was poor attitude from the girls for a few minutes. "The devil is in the detail in games like this, and this shows the younger girls not to take anything for granted." Renard rested captain Wendie Renard and all-time top scorer Eugenie Le Sommer among five changes from the 2-1 win over Brazil, and he felt some of the incoming players had failed to impress.

"We rested a lot of players, and it shows those who want to be part of the XI need to pull their socks up, as it wasn't good enough at times tonight," he said. France



will face the runners up in Group H - possibly Germany - in the last 16. Meanwhile, debutants Panama, already eliminated from the tournament before this game, have lost all three matches at their first World Cup. The route to the last 16 has not been

smooth for France at this World Cup - they were held by Jamaica in their opener, needed a late winner against Brazil and were shell-shocked by Cox's brilliance here. But they reacted well to the early scare and quickly established dominance, and when

Deysire Salazar sliced Maelle Lakrar's header into her own net, it came after a sustained spell of France pressure. Vicki Becho was just the latest France player to open up Panama out wide and she pulled it back for Diani, who almost scored with a backheel before she lifted the rebound over covering defender Wendy Natis on the line and in via the crossbar.

The three points and top spot were sealed when Pinzon handled in the box, allowing Diani to stroke home the penalty, and it was four before half-time when Lea Le Garrec's deep cross evaded everyone including keeper Yenith Bailey to nestle in the top corner.

Stand-in captain Diani, who had surgery on her collarbone in April and looked half-fit against Jamaica, is a growing threat and completed her hat-trick from the spot after the break following Natis' handball. In the 10th minute of stoppage time, 19-year-old Becho flicked home her first senior international goal to conclude a nine-goal thriller. After a couple of false starts France look set to be a real threat in the knockout stages. - Agencies

Gardner makes significant gains in rankings

ISLAMABAD: Australia's Ashleigh Gardner has made significant gains in the latest update of the MRF Tyres ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings following Australia's 2-0 ODI series win over Ireland in Dublin this past week. With the opening match rained out, Australia beat their hosts comfortably in their last two fixtures, thanks to Gardner's all-round heroics and centuries from Annabel Sutherland and Phoebe Litchfield, said a press release.

Gardner, who is also the ICC Women's Player of the Month for June 2023, reached career-best ranking in all three lists starting with

jumping five slots from 21st to 16th and 579 rating points in the batters list after a quick-fire 65 from 39 deliveries in the second match. She then moved one place to a personal best fourth in the bowlers list, with 673 points after taking three wickets for 38 in the third fixture, which culminated in her best ranking of number two and 389 points (from fourth place) in the all-rounders list, that continues to be topped by England's Natalie Sciver-Brunet, who also continues her stronghold over the top batting position.

Her teammates, Sutherland and Litchfield smashed a century each

in their 10-wicket victory in the third match to rise to their own, career-best rankings of 36th (up 13 slots with 418 points) and 51st (up 22 with 357 points) respectively.

Ellyse Perry's 99-ball 91 saw her rise to eighth position among the batters, one up from her previous seventh, with 686 rating points, while Georgia Wareham also made significant gains in all three lists, reaching her personal best in the batters (66th from 80th) and all-rounders (22nd from 30th) lists. She has also risen four slots to 25th in the bowlers list, five places shy of her best, at 20th.

Ireland have also seen several personal best gains in this week's update. Gabby Lewis rose two places to 21st in the batters list with 557 points, followed by Amy Hunter who jumped nine slots to 54th and 338 points.

Georgina Dempsey leaped 18 slots to a career-best 50th from 68th in the bowlers list (336 points) and seven places to 50th among the all-rounders. Her teammates Laura Delany, Laura Canning and Orla Prendergast rose two slots to 57th, 21 spaces to 92nd and nine slots to 94th respectively in the bowlers list. Prendergast also jumped 11 places to 45th in the all-rounders list.

England, Australia docked crucial ICC WTC points

WEB DESK

LONDON: England and Australia have been docked crucial ICC World Test Championship (WTC) points for slow over-rate during Ashes Men's Test series. "Australia have been docked 10 WTC points from the recently-concluded Ashes series for a slow over-rate in the fourth Test at Old Trafford, while England lost 19 points combined for falling behind in four of the five Tests," ICC said in a press release issued on Wednesday. Australia retained the Ashes title after the five-match series ended in a 2-2 draw. The fourth Test of the series remained resultless due to rain on the last day. "England fell two overs short in the first Test at Edgbaston, nine in the second Test at Lord's, three in the fourth Test at Old Trafford, and five in the last and final Test at The Oval," ICC mentioned. "Australia were handed a 50 percent fine of their match fee (five percent for each over short with a maximum of 50 percent) for 10 overs in Manchester (fourth Test)," the statement added. "England have been fined 10 percent for the first Test, 45 percent for the second, 15 percent for the fourth, and 25 percent for the fifth of their match fee for slow-over rate offences in the first two and the last two Tests respectively," the statement concluded.

Conflict with China would have 'disastrous results'

TAIPEI: A Chinese invasion of Taiwan would have "disastrous results" for the world, Foreign Minister Joseph Wu told AFP in an interview Wednesday, citing the island's strategic importance for the semiconductor industry and global shipping lanes. Wu's warning comes as democratically ruled Taiwan heads towards a presidential election next year, while facing increased military and political pressure from China across the Taiwan Strait. Beijing claims Taiwan as its own territory and has vowed repeatedly to take it one day - militarily, if necessary. Wu said any act of force against Taiwan would have global reverberations. "What we need to do is to explain to the international community that if there's any conflict involving Taiwan, it's going to have disastrous results for the rest of the world," Wu said, pointing to the food and fuel shortages, and spiralling inflation, that resulted from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The commercial consequences of a cross-strait conflict would be enormous - more than 50 percent of the world's shipping containers pass through the 180-kilometre (110 miles) wide waterway separating Taiwan from mainland China. Freedom of navigation is therefore one of the "crucial elements of international security and prosperity", Wu said. Taiwan also holds a near-monopoly on producing semiconductors, the microchips that are the lifeblood of the modern economy and power everything from simple coffee machines to complex weaponry such as missiles and defence infrastructure. - Agencies



RAWALPINDI: A vendor displaying and selling 14th August related stuff to attract customers at his roadside setup in the city. - APP

Shaheen Afridi to feature in Int'l League T20 next year

ILT20 was launched last year and was considered one of the richest leagues after the IPL

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistani star bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi has got permission to feature in the International League (IL) T20 next year, sources told media. As per sources, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has given permission to the bowler to play in the league for one week.

ILT20's second edition will be played just before the ninth edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) next year. Apart from Shaheen, other Pakistani players will also be seen in action during the UAE-based league. It must be noted that no Pakistani player was part of the inaugural season of the event, which was played in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah earlier this year. Pakistani players including Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Mohammad Rizwan were offered a whopping USD 900,000 alongside a three-year captaincy contract. However, then-PCB chairman Ramiz Raja wasn't interested in sending the players to ILT20. Instead, he asked compensation from the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) in exchange for releasing their players. ILT20 was launched last year and was considered one of the richest leagues after the Indian Premier League (IPL). The league has a huge investment from India. Dubai Capitals, Abu Dhabi Knight Riders, MI Emirates, Sharjah Warriors Gulf Giants, and Desert Vipers competed in the inaugural edition of the ILT20. Giants, under the leadership of Colin Munro, beat Vipers in the final to lift the trophy on February 12 this year. - DNA

Asian Hockey CT: Hanan upbeat of finishing on podium

Pakistan, who are ranked 16th on the FIH Rankings, will take the field after a long gap of eight months in the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy in Chennai, India, which begins tomorrow. The senior team's last outing was in the FIH Nations Cup in December 2022 in South Africa, where they finished in seventh place in the eight-team event

DNA

KARACHI: Hockey is Pakistan's national sport, although I won't blame you for thinking it's cricket, is not even a shadow of what it was keeping in mind its rich history in the game. Pakistan's hockey has descended into a bottomless pit of mediocrity over the last decade despite winning multiple gold medals in the Olympics and the World Cup in the past. The decay can be judged from the fact that Pakistan failed to book their spot in back-to-back Olympic Games, 2016 and 2022, while also missing out on the 2023 World Cup. The absence of profession-

als in the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), lack of emphasis on fitness and sports sciences, and financial instability are some of the major reasons behind Pakistan's gradual decline in the sport. Some of the players have also been forced to quit Pakistan hockey and ply their trade abroad due to lucrative financial opportunities. Pakistan, who are ranked 16th on the FIH Rankings, will take the field after a long gap of eight months in the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy in Chennai, India, which begins tomorrow. The senior team's last outing was in the FIH Nations Cup in December 2022 in South Africa, where they finished in

seventh place in the eight-team event. Despite the obstacles, Pakistan's star forward Abdul Hanan Shahid is confident about putting up a good show during the Asian event. Hanan has scored 10 goals for Pakistan in 21 senior appearances. He also has nine goals in 10 caps at junior level. He was also declared Player of the Tournament during the Junior Asia Cup 2023. Hanan also bagged the award for Emerging Player of Asia earlier this year. The youngster also said that India will have an edge over other teams in the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy. "The competition will be tough during the tourna-

ment but we have tried to tick all the boxes in the training camp and the players are confident ahead of the event," Hanan told Geosuper.tv in an exclusive interview. "India will have an edge over Pakistan because of the home crowd and the fact that they are also participating in the Hockey Pro League, which included all the top hockey nations in the world." However, it is also important to see which team plays better on the day. Our players are motivated to do well and I'm hopeful that Pakistan team will finish on the podium." Hanan also said that he is focused on representing the national side despite

getting multiple offers from clubs in Europe. "I get many offers from clubs in England, Belgium and Germany but my first priority is to serve the national team. Whatever I have achieved in the game is because of the Pakistan Hockey Federation," he said. "I also would like to mention that we only get good offers from top clubs when we are playing with the national team, only lower-division clubs approach us. "I currently have no plans about leaving the national team for club hockey in the future. I hope things also get better in Pakistan hockey. If we win medal in Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

and the Asian Games this year, it will give boost to our hockey." Pakistan and India have won the Asian Champions Trophy thrice each, which makes them the most successful teams in the event. Korea are the defending champions of the event after winning the title in 2021 after beating Japan on penalties in the final in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The 2023 edition of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy will be played between August 3 to 12. All six teams will each play five matches in the round-robin stage with the top four set to qualify for the semi-finals. The last four matches will be held on August 11, with the final on the next day.

PTI could be declared ineligible for symbol

FROM PAGE 01

"provide the requisite certificate to this effect". The polls organising authority also said it issued final notice to the PTI in May last year for ensuring the conduct of intra-party elections "on or before 13.06.2022 (extended date), with the observation that no further extension shall be allowed". Subsequently, the notice PTI submitted a copy of the amended party's constitution which was deemed "insufficient" by the electoral body.

The ECP referred to Section 209(1) of the Election Act saying every registered political party is bound to provide the ECP with a certificate regarding the conduct of the intra-party elections as provided by law.

"[...] if any political party fails to comply with the provisions of the said section 209, this Commission is empowered to declare the said political party ineligible to obtain an election symbol," the notice added. Last month, the ECP instructed political parties to submit their applications for the allotment of election symbols ahead of general polls in the country scheduled for later this year.

PTI kicks out 13 more members

FROM PAGE 01

PTI membership of Raja Riaz Ahmad, Noor Ahmad Khan, Ramesh Kumar Vankani, Ms. Nuzhat Pathan, Ms. Wajiha Qamar, Sardar Riaz Mehmood Khan Mazari and Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon.

Moreover, Nawab Sher, Mahkdoomzada Syed Basit Ahmad Sultan, Afzal Khan Dhandla, Muhammad Abdul Ghaffar Wattoo, Aamir Talal Gopang and Ahmad Hussain Deharr were also expelled from the party.

They were served with show cause notices dated March 19, 2022, but they failed to provide a satisfactory reply within the given stipulated time; therefore, they were expelled from the party. Similarly, Malik Shaikat Ali was served with show-cause notice to explain his position for violating the party policy by attending the meeting of the newly announced party. The notification reads: "In view of these reported activities, you are hereby called to explain yourself in writing within two days of this notice. If your reply is unsatisfactory or you do not respond, further action will be taken as per party policy and rules."

People stand by Nawaz...

FROM PAGE 01

tenure of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regime. In the last 15 months, she said, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with his allies brought the country out of crisis created during the four-year inefficient and incompetent rule of the PTI. She remarked that the PTI chairman was "an enemy of the country", who first signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on tough conditions, then violated and suspended it for petty political gains jeopardising the economy and prestige of the nation.

Marrimum said the PTI regime was bent upon auctioning the national institutions, however, it was the current government which had completely transformed them by initiating reform programmes.

The minister congratulated PML-N leaders Talal Chaudhry and Daniyal Aziz as their five-year disqualification period had come to an end. The two leaders, she said, stood firm with Nawaz Sharif and the party in difficult and tough times. "Talal Chaudhry and Daniyal Aziz fought against the odds and remained steadfast as political workers," she added. The minister said the National Assembly had approved the PEMRA Amendment bill today, expressing her gratitude for the media workers and stakeholders for supporting the bill. After the passage of this bill, she added, minimum salary of media workers would now be as per the government's guidelines, and the issue of delay in the payment of salaries would also be resolved.

Briefs

Palestinian boy killed by Israeli soldiers

RAMALLAH: A 15-year-old Palestinian boy was killed late Tuesday by Israeli soldiers as he attempted to carry out a stabbing attack near the southern West Bank city of Hebron, Palestinian and Israeli sources said. The Palestinian Health Ministry said in a statement that it was informed by the Palestinian liaison (security coordination office) with Israel that Mohammed Al-Za'arir was killed by Israeli soldiers near Al-Samou village close to the city. Palestinian security sources said the Israeli army forces prevented the Palestinian ambulances from reaching the body of the boy. Israel Radio reported that the incident happened when an Israeli army officer stopped at a bus station to check a Palestinian suspect, who was holding a knife and tried to stab the officer. Another Israel soldier in the area opened fire and killed the suspect. Al-Za'arir is the second Palestinian killed in the day by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.—DNA

Russia strikes Kyiv and grain export route on Danube

KYIV: Russian drones on Wednesday damaged infrastructure at a Ukrainian port on the Danube, as Moscow targeted strikes against facilities vital for grain shipments from Ukraine following the collapse of an export agreement. Kyiv was also targeted with drones from several directions in the latest wave of attacks aimed at Ukraine overnight, leaving several floors of a glass high-rise damaged. "The enemy attacked port facilities and industrial infrastructure of the Danube," the Ukrainian general prosecutor's office said in a statement. A grain elevator, silos and warehouses were damaged or destroyed, it said. The prosecutor's office in the district of Izmail, where a key Danube river port is located, had opened a probe into the strike, the statement added. There were no reports of casualties following the strike despite a blaze breaking out at port facilities, Odessa regional governor Oleg Kiper said.—Agencies

Trade deficit narrows by 41% in July

ISLAMABAD: The trade deficit witnessed a decline of 41.16 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The trade deficit during the month under review was recorded at \$1.607 billion against the deficit of \$2.731 billion in July 2022, a decline of 41.16 percent. The exports during the month were recorded at \$2.057 billion against \$2.250 billion last year, showing a decline of 8.57 percent. On the other hand, the imports witnessed a sharp decline of 26.44 percent by falling from \$4.981 billion last year to \$3.664 billion during July 2023. On a month-on-month basis, the exports during June 2023 declined by 12.68 percent when compared to the exports of \$2.356 billion in June 2023. The imports into the country declined by 13.15 percent in July 2023 when compared to the imports of \$4.219 billion in June 2023, according to the data. Meanwhile, the deficit in services trade during the last fiscal year (2022-23) declined by 87.68 percent during compared to the corresponding period of fiscal year 2021-22. The services trade deficit was recorded at \$1,036.334 million against the deficit of \$5,840.11 million the previous year. The services exports during the period increased by 2.78 percent by going up from \$7,102.35 million in 2021-22 to \$7,300.13 million in FY2022-23, according to PBS data. On the other hand, the imports declined from \$12,942.46 million to \$8,019.58 million in FY2023.—DNA

Transformation towards digital economy facilitates women

Ambassador Masood Khan made these remarks while talking to a group of researchers from John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) who recently undertook a study on "How Pakistani Women Use Technology Solutions to Overcome Barriers to Entrepreneurship"

DNA

WASHINGTON: Pak Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has said massive transformation towards digital economy and changing societal norms are contributing towards incremental increase and visibility of women entrepreneurs in Pakistan. "Nearly 191 million mobile cellular subscribers in a population of 240 million provides a solid base for exponential growth of not only women entrepreneurs of the country but also for fintech and IT companies to expand their business and provide technology solutions to overcome traditional and non-traditional barriers that have hampered full participation of women in the workforce," he continued. Ambassador Masood Khan made these remarks while talking to a group of researchers from John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) who recently undertook a study on "How Pakistani Women Use Technology Solutions to Overcome Barriers to Entrepreneurship."



The group comprised Estelle Thomas, Fatimata Ndiaye, Ishani Srivastava and Yiran Zha. The project was undertaken in collaboration with South Asia team at the Atlantic Council and the American Pakistan Foundation. The group briefed the Ambassador

about their visit to Pakistan, their meetings with women entrepreneurs, the methodology adopted for the research along with findings and recommendations of the study. The study showed that Pakistani women were employing technology to jumpstart

their entrepreneurial ventures, promote their businesses, and facilitate financial transactions. It recommended increased access to smartphones and the internet, leveraging financial technology products to facilitate financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs,

and to create direct linkages between social media platforms and women entrepreneurs. In the long-term, promoting and implementing gender sensitization of regulations and business ecosystem, as well as adoption and acceptance of gender-positive norms and change in societal attitudes also constituted the recommendations of the study. The Ambassador thanked the students for their research on a topic which constituted a priority area for the Government of Pakistan. He also highlighted significant strides being made by the women of Pakistan in various fields and winning laurels for the country. Masood Khan said that tapping women potential was among the foremost priorities of the Government and steps were being taken to financially empower them by facilitating their maximum access to technology and IT-based solutions. He further said that rising trend towards women entrepreneurship had created a huge opportunity for fintech companies to introduce customized products to facilitate financial inclusion of women especially in the remote areas of the country.

Kashmiris urge to observe August 5 as 'Black Day'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: General Secretary of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Moulvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani, has said that Kashmiris would observe August 5 as a 'Black Day' in IIOJ&K to send a clear message to India to show undeterred commitment to the right of self-determination. According to Kashmir Media Service, he said that New Delhi is an illegal occupier in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir territory and Kashmiris reject its illegitimate occupation of their homeland. Moulvi

Bashir in a statement issued in Srinagar said that 'August 5 is the blackest chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir'. It is a very painful and gruesome day when Modi government humiliated the entire humanity by snatching all the basic human, political, social, and religious rights of Kashmiris. He said that since August 5, 2019, the Modi government committed such barbaric atrocities on innocent Kashmiris that are unprecedented in history. Irfani said that the worst crackdown on the media in the occupied territory is going on, and no one is allowed to

report the atrocities of the Indian army. Anyone who dares to report is imprisoned under black laws like the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. He said the Modi government is using notorious agencies NIA and SIA to terrorize Kashmiris, confiscate their lands and properties, and demolish houses. At the same time, a large number of Kashmiris have been dismissed from government jobs, adding that the Modi government is changing the Muslim majority status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He appealed to the entire Kashmiri people to observe 5th August as Black Day to

make it clear to India that they will not give up the struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination. Hurriyat organizations including Tehreek-e-Istehkam Jammu and Kashmir, Muslim Conference, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Shabab Muslimeen and Al Falah Party in their statements in Srinagar said that August 5 is a grim reminder of the day when India abolished the special status of the occupied territory. The statements said that the Modi government was paving the way for non-locals to settle in occupied Kashmir.

Winning party in Thai election excluded from coalition

BANGKOK: The reformist party that won Thailand's general election was excluded Wednesday from a coalition trying to form the next government, as lawmakers seek to overcome resistance from pro-royalist senators. The Move Forward Party (MFP) won the most seats in May's election, riding a wave of support from young and urban Thais, but it fell well short of a majority. An eight-party coalition including MFP's closest rival, Pheu Thai, was not enough to get its leader Pita Limjaroenrat elected prime minister, leaving the kingdom in political deadlock. Harvard-educated Pita, 42, was blocked from the top job by the senate - whose members were handpicked by the last junta - because of his determination to reform Thailand's tough royal defamation laws. After weeks of backroom haggling, Pheu Thai leader Chonlalan Srikaew announced that MFP was out of the coalition. "The formation of the new government will not include MFP," he told reporters. "Pheu Thai will work to get enough votes, MFP will be in opposition, and we will work in a new dimension that is beneficial to the people.—DNA

Pakistan's Nabeel breaks another Indian Guinness World Record

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Nabeel Hasan has once again etched his name in history by breaking another Guinness World Record. On August 1, he was officially confirmed to have achieved the title of "Most three-digit flash numbers memorized -40 sets" that's an astounding 120 numbers, Nabeel coach Sania Alam told APP in a statement. In an impressive display of memory prowess, Nabeel memorized 40 sets of random 3-digit flash numbers, with each set consisting of three numbers. These digits were rapidly flashed on the screen at the interval of 1 second, and with amazing precision, Nabeel recalled them in an accurate sequence. Nabeel's journey of enhancing his memory skills has been nothing short of remarkable. His rigorous training under Coach Sania Alam, at the institute of Futuristic Learning USA, has honed his abilities to an extraordinary level. This dedication to improvement has led Nabeel to participate in numerous international mind sports competitions, including the World Memory Championships. Notably, in 2019, he earned the esteemed title of Junior UK Memory Champion and earned Bronze Medal in the UK Mind Mapping Championship. This Guinness World Record was previously held by India at 37 sets. Moreover, in 2022, Nabeel achieved another Guinness World Record, the "Longest Number Sequence Memorized in Four Seconds," which was previously held by India as well. His lightning-fast memory allowed him to memorize 30 random numbers in a mere 4 seconds, and accurately recall them in sequence, surpassing India's previous record of 28 numbers set in March 2022. "Through right and dedicated training, I am living proof that anyone can unleash the power of their memory," Nabeel said. Nabeel's success is not only a testament to his personal achievements but also highlights the remarkable expertise of Coach Sania Alam. It may be mentioned that Sania has coached students who have gone on to become World Memory Champions, World Speed Reading Champions, and World Mind Mapping Champions (junior), along with achieving four other Guinness World Records.—DNA

China-Pakistan Joint Marine Geological Survey



DNA

BEIJING: A handing over ceremony of China-Pakistan Joint Marine Geological Survey Data was held here at China Geological Survey (CGS) Headquarters. Pakistani Ambassador to

China Moin ul Haque, Dr. Xu Xueyi, Vice President of China Geological Survey, and other senior officials from the Embassy and CGS and Qingdao Institute of Marine Geology attended the event. Xu gave a detailed brief about the China Geological Survey's history and its co-

operation with Pakistan, according to Gwadar Pro. The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the field of Marine Sciences in 2019, which provides a useful basis for cooperation in marine scientific fields and associated research, es-

pecially for tapping the natural mineral and hydrocarbon resources within territorial waters of Pakistan. In his remarks, Haque thanked China Geological Survey and Qingdao Maritime Institute for arranging the ceremony of handing over of Joint Marine Geological Survey Data.

Tourism promotion event on China's "home of pandas" held in Egypt

CAIRO: The China Cultural Center in the Egyptian capital of Cairo on Tuesday held an event on promoting tourism to the "home of pandas" in southwest China's Sichuan Province. Two framework agreements on tourism and cultural cooperation were signed during the event, named "Home of Panda, Pure Land Aba," which introduced the natural beauty of the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture. Yang Ronghao, the cultural counselor of the Chinese embassy in Egypt and director of the China Cultural Center in Cairo, said Aba is famous for its spectacular natural landscapes and scenic views, such as snowy mountains, meadows, colorful lakes, and large rivers. "Today we gather in Cairo to seek development, cooperation, and friendship at the same time," Liu Ping, secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Committee of the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, said in his speech at the event. Aba, located at the southern foot of the Tibetan Plateau, boasts three Natural World Heritage sites, namely the Jiuzhaigou Valley, the Huanglong Lake, and the home of the giant pandas in Sichuan Province, Liu said. "I strongly welcome the people of Cairo to visit Aba and invest in it, and to enjoy the splendor of the mountains, ice and snow, the quiet life on the plateau, and the distinctive ethnic customs," he said. Amr El-Kady, CEO of the Egyptian Tourism Authority, said China's rich history and stunning natural scenery are a source of admiration for the whole world.—DNA

Pakistan Street Child wins game in Norway

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Street Child Football team goes on to win its third consecutive victory in the ongoing World Youth Football Cup 'Norway Cup', when it downed Norwegian club Skjold by 2-0 on Wednesday. The national street child football team has won all three group matches in the tournament. Ahmad Raza and Skipper Tufail Shinwari scored one goal each in the first half for the national team. Pakistan Street Child Football team beat Norwegian club Frigg Oslo FK in their first match while outplayed Arvoll IL club in their second game. The Pakistani community living in Norway also celebrated team's victory. The Pakistan squad includes Forwards: Tofail Shinwari, Faisal, Shamir Ali, Saud; Midfielders: Abdul Wahab, Muhammad Ali, Ali Asif, Ahmed Raza; Defenders: Muhammad Adeel, Abid Ali, Obaidullah, Asad Nasir; Goalkeeper: Abdullah, Sahil. It may be mentioned that Pakistan team has been runner-up in the Street Child Football World Cup held in Qatar and has secured the second position in Norway Cup 2015 while got third position in Norway Cup 2016.—DNA

Indonesia post-pandemic economic growth remains solid

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Online Internship Program being jointly organized by the Indonesian Embassy and the Bahria University, Islamabad with speaker Anastuty Kusumawardhani at its 5th session explored "Central Bank's role in maintaining financial stability during crisis" on Monday, August 01, 2023. The speaker who is the Head of Bank Indonesia Representative Office in Singapore, began her lecture with the history of Bank Indonesia in carrying out its duties as the central bank and said that it has undergone an evolution of functions and duties since 1963 and outlined the task and role of the central bank of Bank. "Bank Indonesia is committed to become the foremost digital central bank that creates tangible contribution to the national economy and be the best central bank amongst

emerging market countries towards an advanced Indonesia" the speaker underscored. Sharing achievements and experiences, the speaker underlined Bank of Indonesia's role in maintaining financial stability during the COVID pandemic and highlighted the policy synergy between the bank and government that expedited the economy recovery. Regarding, the implementation of the Indonesian National Economic Recovery Program (PEN), she praised President Jokowi guidance on key legislation through PERPPU No 1 of 2020 and highlighted the importance of data availability and quality in policy formulation, coordination between central and regional governments, armed forces, and increased efficiency through digital technology in achieving recovery program targets, she added. About recent economic development, the speaker expressed

confidence and said that "economic growth in Indonesia remains solid and the domestic economy in the second quarter of 2023 is expected to outperform with annual growth being projected at 4.5-5.3% range underpinned by higher household consumption and investment". About investment in the country, she informed that it was on the rise in line with the positive

export performance and ongoing streaming efforts. "I express my great optimism that investor perception concerning the national economic outlook is also improving as reflected by an upgrade to Indonesia's sovereign credit rating by the R&I rating agency from a stable to positive outlook with a BBB+ rating," the speaker added. In her presentation Anastuty Kusumawardhani

said that Indonesia's BOP continues to support external resilience as the trade balance in the second quarter of 2023 recorded a narrower surplus due to lower international commodity prices and global economic moderation. Regarding reserve assets, she mentioned that at June 2023's end they were \$137.5 billion, equivalent to 6.1 months of imports. BOP performance is expected to remain sound, with a manageable current account and capital and financial account supported by FDI and portfolio investment, she added. "The inflation has returned to the target earlier than previous projected and predicted to remain under control at 3% this year and 2.5% in 2024 with ample liquidity at 27.5% in June 2023 positively impacting interest rates in the banking industry," the speaker shared with participants. About Bank Indonesia's policy mix direction in 2023-2024, the

speaker inform the participants of the OIP that Bank Indonesia stays committed to stimulating bank lending/financing on the supply side to accelerate sustainable economic growth. "The Bank Indonesia monetary, macro prudential and payment system policy mix will be focused on sectors with stronger multiplier effect on economic growth and job creation, particularly in downstream sectors such as mineral and coal mining, agriculture, livestock, housing sector, tourism, inclusive sectors including MSME loans, people business loans and as well as the green economy and finance" she elaborated. Making special reference to digital economic and financial transactions she said that "Bank Indonesia continues accelerating payment system digitalization for greater economic and financial inclusion and cross border cooperation", the speaker concluded.



Briefs

Saudi rejects coup against Niger's President

DNA

JEDDAH: The Saudi cabinet on Tuesday said it rejected last week's coup against Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum last week. The cabinet renewed the Kingdom's demand to give priority to the national interests of Niger, to stop the military escalation. The African Union, the UN, the EU and other powers have condemned the junta's overthrow of elected President Mohamed Bazoum – the seventh military takeover in less than three years in West and Central Africa. During the meeting, chaired by King Salman, the cabinet reviewed the outcome of the extraordinary meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which discussed the repeated attacks on copies of the Holy Qur'an in Sweden and Denmark. It affirmed the Kingdom's stance on the need for dialogue and respect between peoples and cultures, while rejecting anything that spreads hatred and extremism. It called on the international community to promote these principles.

US vows to work with Pak to tackle 'shared' terror threats

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States has slammed "in the strongest terms" Sunday's suicide bombing in Bajaur District of Pakistan, reaffirming Washington's commitment to work with Islamabad to deal with the "shared" terrorist threats. In his daily news briefing in Washington, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said: "No country should have to suffer such acts of terror." The death toll from the deadly terror attack, which targeted a JUI rally, has risen to 56, with 83 injured. "We condemn in the strongest terms the attack in northwestern Pakistan on Sunday during a political rally," Miller said and added "We are deeply saddened by the loss of life and injuries sustained from the explosion and share our heartfelt condolences with those affected by the attack. The Pakistani people have suffered greatly at the hands of terrorists. No country should have to suffer such acts of terror." Miller went on to say that the US remains "committed to working with Pakistan to address the shared threat posed by terrorist groups throughout the region and support the Pakistani Government's efforts to combat terrorism in a manner that promotes the rule of law and the protection of human rights."

Toshakhana case: SC asks Khan to wait for IHC verdict

DNA

ISLAMABAD: With no immediate relief in sight in the Toshkhana case, PTI Chairman Imran Khan was Wednesday turned away by the Supreme Court, which asked him to await a verdict from the Islamabad High Court, as he sought a stay on the case's trial. Khan requested a halt to the proceedings until both the SC and the high court issued their respective decisions. The three-member bench hearing the case, led by Justice Yahya Afridi and comprising Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi and Justice Musarat Hilali, made these remarks during the hearing of Khan's petition against the Toshkhana case. Justice Yahya Afridi, when addressing PTI chief's counsel Khawaja Haris, said the SC will take up the case once the high court has issued an order. "We believe that the high court can issue a better order than us. It is possible that it will give the order to stop the trial tomorrow," he said.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Vice President of Türkiye Mr. Cevdet Yilmaz cutting a cake to celebrate the launching of Pakistan's 4th MILGEM Corvette "PNS Tariq" in Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works on 2 August 2023. – DNA

Trump faces criminal charges for efforts to overturn election

The ex-president claims he has "never had so much support" after being charged with plotting to overturn the 2020 election

DNA

WASHINGTON: Former United States President Donald Trump has been criminally indicted for trying to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, with prosecutors accusing the Republican politician of attempting to obstruct "a bedrock function" of democracy in order to cling on to power. The 45-page indictment, filed in Washington, DC on Tuesday by Special Counsel Jack Smith, detailed four felony charges against Trump, some of which carry penalties of up to 20 years in prison. They include one count of conspiracy to

defraud the US, one count of conspiracy against rights, one count of conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding and one count of obstructing an official proceeding. The charges – Trump's third criminal indictment since March – stemmed from Smith's sprawling investigation into allegations that the former president sought to reverse his loss to Democrat Joe Biden. In the indictment, prosecutors alleged that Trump pushed fraud claims he knew to be untrue, pressured state and federal officials – including Vice President Mike Pence – to alter the results and finally incited a violent assault on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, in a desperate attempt to undermine the

country's democracy and cling to power. In a brief statement to reporters, Smith placed the blame for the violence squarely on Trump's shoulders. "The attack on our nation's Capitol on January 6, 2021, was an unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy," Smith said. "It was fuelled by lies – lies by the defendant, targeted at obstructing the bedrock function of the US government," he added. Trump was ordered to make an initial appearance in federal court in Washington, DC on Thursday. The case has been assigned to US District Judge Tanya Chutkan, who was appointed by Trump's predecessor Barack Obama. Trump, who is the frontrunner in the 2024

Republican presidential contest, said the latest charges amount to election interference. He is already scheduled to go on trial in Florida in May 2024 for allegedly mishandling top-secret government documents. The former president went on to allege that "the lawlessness of these persecutions is reminiscent of Nazi Germany in the 1930s, the former Soviet Union, and other authoritarian, dictatorial regimes". The Trump campaign meanwhile called the charges "fake" and asked why it took two-and-a-half years to bring them. "President Trump will not be deterred by disgraceful and unprecedented political targeting," it added. Trump was the only person charged in Tuesday's indictment.

Erdogan urges Putin not escalate Ukraine war tensions

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in a call on Wednesday not to further escalate tensions, after Moscow struck facilities vital for grain shipments from Ukraine. Erdogan was a key player in the now collapsed deal that allowed for safe passage of Ukraine grain shipments on the Black Sea, and has positioned himself as an intermediary in the conflict. The Turkish leader said "no steps should be taken that will escalate tensions in the Russia-Ukraine war." He emphasised the significance of a grain deal that he called a "bridge for peace," the office added. The accord, brokered by Turkey and the United Nations, allowed Ukraine to export grain via its Black Sea ports, but it ended last month after Moscow withdrew. Ukraine said Wednesday that Russia had struck port infrastructure in Ukraine's southern region of Odesa, targeting facilities used to export grain since the collapse of the deal allowing shipments from the Black Sea. As a result of the attack, a grain elevator, grain silos and warehouses were damaged or destroyed, prosecutors said. – DNA

Senate refers Secrets Bill to committee amid opposition

The bill was tabled by Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar in the upper house of parliament. The bill, however, saw strong opposition from the treasury and the opposition benches in the house

ISLAMABAD: After fierce opposition from parliamentarians, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjirani on Wednesday referred the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 to its relevant standing committee for debate in order to reach

a consensual decision over the matter. The bill was tabled by Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar in the upper house of parliament. The bill, however, saw strong opposition from the treasury and the opposition benches in the house. The former ruling party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the ruling alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement's component party Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and the National Party opposed the bill in the Senate. Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) senior leader and former Senate chairman Raza Rabbani and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Afnan Ullah Khan also voiced against the proposed amendments to the Official Secrets Act 1923. The members were also demanding of the Senate chairman to reject the bill immediately. A day earlier, the outgoing government get the bill passed through the National Assembly. The bill seeking to amend the law was tabled in the house by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi. – DNA

Green Legacy Initiative of Ethiopia's Prime Minister launched in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in Islamabad on Wednesday launched the Green Legacy Initiative which is a brainchild of the Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, designed to address climate related issues, reduce poverty, preserve environment and ensure sustainable development. The Embassy held a tree plantation ceremony in premises of Ethiopia's Embassy in Islamabad which was attended by H.E. Khaja Saad Rafique, Federal Minister of Aviation and Railways, H.E. Nawabzada Shazain Bugti, Federal Minister of Narcotics Control, H.E. Romina Khurshid Alam, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, H.E. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, representative of diplomatic corps, senior officers from the Climate Change Ministry, religious leaders, youth association, and media outlets. During the event, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDRE to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, alongside Federal Ministers and business representatives, planted diverse species of trees, including Jacaranda, Avocado, Pine, Olive, Terminalia, and Ficus carica, among others. Speaking at the ceremony, H.E. Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula praised the

visionary leadership of Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed and commended the Green Legacy Initiative for its significant impact in addressing climate challenges, conserving the environment, generating employment opportunities, and ensuring food security in Ethiopia.. He said 25 billion seedlings of trees, fruits, and cattle feeds were planted during first phase of the Green Legacy Initiative which was launched by PM H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed in 2019. On 17th July 2023, the second phase commenced under the theme "Let's plant our future

today," aiming to plant another 25 billion seedlings across Ethiopia. Notably, he said the FDRE achieved a remarkable feat on 17th July 2023 by planting over 550 million seedlings in one day which was an accomplishment that garnered immense support from more than 32 million people of Ethiopia participating in the initiative this year. The ambassador said this far-reaching initiative had also made significant strides in job creation, contributing to over 1 million jobs in Ethiopia, while the number of nurseries in the country surged to 145,000, thanks to

the Green Legacy Initiative. Beyond national borders, he said the Green Legacy Initiative earned recognition at the international and regional levels, inspiring neighboring countries to undertake massive tree plantation campaigns to shield the African continent from the adverse impacts of climate change. Highlighting the global nature of climate change and the necessity for cooperation among nations, H.E. Jemal Beker expressed Ethiopia's willingness to share its experiences, knowledge and skills with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He said the Green Legacy Ini-

tiative exemplified a collective effort toward environmental conservation and served as a testament to Ethiopia's commitment to combat climate change and foster a sustainable future for generations to come. Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways H.E. Khawaja Saad Rafique extended gratitude to the FDRE Government for supporting Pakistan in carrying out flood relief activities in the country in the recent past. He welcomed the Green Legacy Initiative in Pakistan and vowed cooperation with the FDRE Government in this regard.

The Minister extended sincerest regards to PM H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed for extending the initiative to Pakistan and stressed on taking more initiatives to strengthen people-to-people relations between the two countries especially through cooperation in aviation sector. Former President of ICCI and President of Africa-Pakistan Association, Zafar Bakhtawari also lauded the FDRE Government for its resolve to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries and urged the business community in Pakistan to support such initiative. – DNA



PDM govt raises petrol price by 82pc in 15 months

DNA

LAHORE: Since the incumbent PDM government has come to power, there has been 82 per cent increase in the petrol prices. As for the other governments, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf increased the petrol price by 57 per cent from 2018 to 2022, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government increased it by 12 per cent and the Pakistan Peoples Party's government increased the prices by 64 per cent. According to the Pakistan State Oil statistics, petrol price increased by 12 times, decreased by eight times and remained stable 14 times in the past 15 months. It should be noted that the petrol was sold at Rs150 per litre which was increased to Rs273 by changing it for 12 times. PTI's government increased petrol by Rs55 and sold it at Rs150 per litre from the previous Rs95 – it changed petrol price for 68 times. Moreover, during the same era, petrol was sold at maximum of Rs160 in February 2022 and at minimum, it was sold at Rs75 on June 1, 2022. As for the PML-N's government, the per litre petrol was sold at Rs100 when it came to power in 2013 which reduced to Rs88 per litre in 2018 at the end of its tenure – it changed price 64 times and petrol was sold at maximum at Rs113 per litre on Oct 1, 2013 and minimum at Rs63 on March 1.

NA passes five govt, seven private members' bills

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Wednesday addressed its legislative agenda and passed five government and seven private members' bills considered as supplementary agenda. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi moved the Gas (Theft Control and Recovery) (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which was passed by the House. Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri moved the Zakat and Ushr (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Apostille Bill, 2023 which were passed by the House. The House passed a motion to refer the Trade Organization Bill, 2023 to the joint sitting of Parliament. A report of Standing Committee on Interior on the Federal Prosecution Service Bill, 2023 was presented in the House. Moved by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb, the House passed the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Bill, 2023.