



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Babar smashes match winning century in LPL

Detailed News On Page-06

Masood seeks US, China help for stability

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Rahul Gandhi returns to Parliament

Detailed News On Page-07



Gen. Munir attends tribal Jirga Army Chief warns Afghan nationals against terror acts

Says surge in terrorism is futile effort by terrorists to get talks re-initiated, warns they either have to submit to the writ of state or get decimated



SHAMIM SHAHID / DNA

PESHAWAR: Army chief General Asim Munir on Monday said the recent surge in terrorism was a "futile effort" by terrorists to resume talks and warned them to submit to the "writ of state of Pakistan before they are decimated". According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the army chief issued the warning when he met the tribal elders and notables from the newly merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The "interactive session" was held during the chief of army staff's (COAS) visit to Peshawar. "The surge in terrorism in recent past is a futile effort on the part of terrorists to get the talks re-initiated, however, there is no option

for these terrorists except to submit to the writ of state of Pakistan before they are decimated, if they persist on their wrong path," Gen Munir was quoted by the military's media wing. The army chief reiterated the resolve of the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC) and other law enforcement agencies in their fight against terrorism. "He [Gen Munir] showed resolve to finish peril of Narco which is becoming a lifeline for these TTP khawaraj," said the ISPR. Gen Munir also stated that "propaganda by inimical forces" against the armed forces will be dealt with as per the law. Paying tribute to brave tribesmen, officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army, FC, Levies, Khasadars and police, the COAS vowed that the sacrifices of the martyrs will not go in vain and

complete peace will return to Pakistan. The ISPR said that during the session the army chief also lauded the "supreme sacrifices of brave and resilient" tribals of Pakistan. He also appreciated their "indomitable resolve for standing shoulder to shoulder with the security forces" in the fight against terrorism. "With the unflinching resolve of the nation, Pakistan is successfully countering terrorism to enable a stable and peaceful environment for socio-economic development in the area," the army chief told the tribal elders. Gen Munir reiterated that "terrorism has no place in Pakistan, adding that Afghan nationals involvement in terrorism in Pakistan was "detrimental to regional peace, stability and deviation from the Doha Peace Agreement" by the Taliban government. "Pakistan has concerns over sanctuaries available to banned outfits and liberty of action they enjoy on Afghan soil. Pakistan will spare no effort to dismantle terrorist networks and protect its citizens at all costs," he added. On the other hand, tribal elders assured the army chief that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and its ideology will never be acceptable to any tribe and they will continue to stand with the state during the thick and thin.

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ISLAMABAD: Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar meets newly appointed High Commissioner of UK Jane Marriott. - DNA

Objections removed NA passes Secrets Act 2023

The official secrets bill was re-tabled in the National Assembly

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Monday passed Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 with a majority vote, a day after the upper house of parliament green-lighted the legislation after the coalition government removed contentious provisions. The official secrets bill was re-tabled in the National Assembly after the legislation with controversial clauses already sailed through the lower house of parliament last week but failed to get Senate's nod and was referred to the upper house's standing committee after it drew strong criticism from parliamentarians. Subsequently, Senate on Sunday passed Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 by a majority vote after the government made changes to the bill, removing a clause that sought to empower intelligence agencies to carry out raids or make arrests without warrants. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, who tabled the bill in the Senate on behalf of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, informed the senators that the government withdrew the provision to empower intelligence agencies to carry out raids or make arrests without warrants. "The objection has been removed, the arrest without warrant clause has been withdrawn," the minister added. He also emphasised that the revised legislation empowered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to

One window facility for investors PM lauds Chinese investment of \$30 bln in Pakistan

Says the Chinese investment changed the entire economic landscape

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif conferred awards upon the prominent Chinese companies for their valuable services in fostering China Pakistan Economic Corridor and other development projects in Pakistan. Addressing the ceremony, the Prime Minister said Chinese investment changed the entire economic landscape of Pakistan. He said the Chinese companies made more than thirty billion dollars investment in different development projects in Pakistan, which is highly commendable. He said it is a moment of great pleasure for him to meet Chinese companies' representatives, who contributed immensely towards Pakistan's industrial promotion in various walks of life. The Prime Minister said the cooperation extended by

'Economy stabilized with allies support'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said without the support of allies, the government could never have done the difficult task of reviving the country's economy alone. Talking to former Prime Minister Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and member National Assembly Ali Musa Gilani here, Shehbaz Sharif thanked Pakistan Peoples Party for supporting all decisions of

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Briefs Nawaz okays interim PM name

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme leader Nawaz Sharif, has reached a significant milestone in the appointment of the caretaker prime minister as he finalizes the candidate's name. The process has now entered its final stages. In a series of consultations, Nawaz Sharif engaged with prominent political figures, including Asif Ali Zardari and Fazlur Rehman, to discuss the appointment of the caretaker prime minister. Recently, he also consulted with his younger brother and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on this crucial matter. Following the consultations, Nawaz Sharif forwarded three names to PM Shehbaz Sharif.

FM urges constructive politics

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged all the political forces to engage in positive and constructive politics to maintain hope in the youth. Taking the floor in the National Assembly, he said the people of Pakistan have become fed up with the politics of hatred and enmity. He said we have to give hope to the youth of the country as it has to lead the country to serve the masses. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said all the political forces and institutions should either go for a new charter of democracy or sit together under the previous one to engage in a dialogue.

Wants A Class for Imran PTI moves SC against Toshakhana verdict IHC also urged to order shifting of Khan from Attock to Adiyala Jail

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf approached the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday to declare Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSS) Humayun Dilawar's judgement in Toshakhana case "null and void". According to the petition filed by the PTI in accordance with Article 184(2) of the Constitution, the PTI chief wasn't granted a fair trial hence the Toshakhana case should be reheard. "A fundamental right under Article 10A, The Right to a Fair Trial, has been denied to PTI chairman in relation to his conviction in the Toshakhana case," the petition read. The PTI chief was detained and sent to Attock jail on August 5 after being found guilty by a district and sessions court in Toshakhana case. ADSS Dilawar issued an arrest warrant for Khan and sentenced him to three years in prison and imposed a Rs100,000 fine. The PTI claimed that the ruling was rendered hastily, in PTI's chief absence and "in complete disregard" of the

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ECP rubbishes report about Imran Khan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday categorically rejected reports claiming that the electoral watchdog had decided to strip Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan of his party's chairmanship following his conviction in the Toshakhana reference. A district and sessions court in Islamabad on August 5 convicted the former prime minister for corrupt practices related to the state gift depository - allegations which he denies. Earlier, reports started circulating on social media and

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Govt announces to withdraw PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023

PML-N respects the right of expression and no compromise will be made on the freedom of expression and constitutional rights of the masses: Info Minister

ISLAMABAD: Following the protest of journalists, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday announced to take back the PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023. The minister made the announcement during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information. Speaking in the meeting, Marriyum Aurangzeb said the government wanted to abolish the "black laws" of PEMRA and added she respects the reservations raised by the journalists' community on the few sections of the bill. The minister said PML-N respects the right of expression and no compromise will be made on the freedom of expression and constitutional rights of the masses. Ms. Aurangzeb said the bill was prepared with consultation of the stakeholders while being in opposition. It is worth mentioning here that Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb moved amendments in the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory

Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which were passed by the National Assembly. An amendment in clause 2 proposes to ensure "fair, transparent and independent rating to the broadcasters for their TV channels." Through an amendment in Section 4, a new sub-section was added after sub-section (3) that proposes "the Authority by registering rating companies shall ensure that fair, transparent, and independent forums shall issue rating to the licensees". The minister suggested substituting clause 8 of the bill as reporting by the standing committee by following, "8. Amendment of Section 20, Ordinance XIII of 2002.- In the said Ordinance in Section 20 " (a) in clause (e), the expression "and such content will be in addition to preamble and the licensee will also submit an annual compliance report to the is effect or as and when required by the Authority;" shall be added. - DNA

Chinese textile manufacturer to install dry dyeing plant

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Challenge Fashion Ltd., a Chinese company involved in textile manufacturing in Lahore, will install its first non-water-based dyeing plant in 2024 at its recently-approved Challenge Fashion Economic Zone in the capital of Punjab province.

The plant will be the first of its kind in Pakistan, as the CEO of Challenge Group informed officials of the Commercial Section of the Chinese Consulate during their visit to the Group along with Pakistani media. Dry dyeing technology saves water, energy, and the environment, and prevents water pollution while providing higher output and color consistency. According to an update by the company, the delegation visited Challenge Group to commemorate the achievements of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and to highlight the diligent efforts of Chinese investors in industrialization, technology transfer, job creation, and their contribution to Pakistan's economy through foreign exchange remittances. The delegation received an overview of the Group's accomplishments, globally-acknowledged undertakings, and its plans for the future. The CEO of Challenge Group shared their contributions to the textile industry and the usage of non-traditional and synthetic fabrics like polyester and Marino wool. The CEO also expressed the desire to become a pioneer in Pakistan's textile industry and to introduce digitalization, which would revolutionize the sector in the country.

Govt disburses Rs1,057 million for farm scheme

ISLAMABAD: The government has provided Rs1,057 million for mark-up subsidy and a risk-sharing scheme for farm mechanization to enhance per-acre farm income in the country. The amount was disbursed among 507 borrowers by the end of the last fiscal year under Prime Minister Kissan Package, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. He said that under the scheme, Rs992 million was provided to about 477 farmers in Punjab Province, and 13 borrowers of Sindh were provided Rs28 million under the scheme, he said adding that an amount of Rs15 million was disbursed among six farmers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Rs22 million was provided to 11 borrowers from Balochistan. "Meanwhile, the government has disbursed Rs12,817 million under Prime Minister Youth Agriculture Loan Scheme in order to encourage youth towards agriculture entrepreneurship as well as promote the agriculture and livestock sector in the country." The official said that over 24,776 applications were approved and out of that 23,857 applications were disbursed, adding that an amount of Rs14,917 million was approved and Rs12,817 million disbursed among the applicants. Meanwhile, he said that the government under the Kissan Package had provided Rs3,830.9 million in interest-free loans by June to landless farmers.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters buy face masks of 14 August from street vendor at Faisal Avenue during the preparation of Independence Day in Federal Capital. —ONLINE

Ist ASEAN-Pak business opportunity moot concludes

DNA

LAHORE: The historic "ASEAN-Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference 2023" came to a successful close here Monday, marking a significant step towards strengthening economic ties between the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Pakistan. The event featured the commencement of the visit by a 50-member delegation from various ASEAN countries.

The conference was the starting point for a series of impactful engagements aimed at enhancing trade collaboration and fostering mutual growth between the participating nations. With a record-breaking turnout, this

event witnessed the largest-ever delegation from ASEAN to grace Pakistan's business landscape. A pivotal highlight of the conference was the dynamic and engaging Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings that followed the inauguration. More than 400 productive meetings took place, facilitating direct conversations and interactions between the visiting ASEAN delegation and representatives from diverse sectors within Pakistan. Sectors including textiles, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and food, information technology, and construction materials were represented, underscoring the breadth of opportunities under discussion.

The primary objective of this landmark conference was to pave the way for enhanced trade relations between ASEAN member states and Pakistan. The visiting delegates demonstrated a keen interest in exploring trade and investment avenues that promise to be mutually beneficial for both Pakistan and the ASEAN region. On the Pakistani side, over 100 companies participated in the conference, engaging in conclusive B2B meetings with delegates from their respective sectors. In his welcome address, Zubair Motiwala, Chief Executive Officer of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), underscored the substantial trade potential inherent in Pakistan's economy, reaffirming the commitment to nurturing collaborative economic growth. Zulfiqar Ali, Director Gen-

eral of the Board of Investment, provided a detailed presentation on the investment opportunities awaiting potential investors in Pakistan. His comprehensive insights shed light on the country's diverse sectors, positioning Pakistan as an attractive destination for foreign investment. Aftab ur Rehman, Managing Director of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), captivated the audience by showcasing the mesmerizing and diverse landscapes that Pakistan has to offer. He highlighted the untapped potential of the country's tourism sector. Zeeshan Rehman Khattak, Chief Commercial Officer of Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), offered an in-depth exploration

of Pakistan's digital landscape. He gave a detailed briefing on the country's thriving information technology sector and the numerous avenues for collaboration. The success of the ASEAN-Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference 2023 sets the stage for a new chapter in economic cooperation between ASEAN and Pakistan. The event not only provided a platform for meaningful business interactions but also established a foundation for future partnerships that promise growth and prosperity for both regions. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and Pakistan Mission in Jakarta played instrumental roles in ensuring the resounding success of this event.

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Resident Representative UNDP calls on Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Resident Representative United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Samuel Rizk, called on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs warmly welcomed Rizk, who has recently joined UNDP Pakistan, as Resident Representative in July 2023 and appreciated UNDP's continued dedication in fostering socio-economic progress in Pakistan, said a press release issued here. Sadiq reiterated the government's strong resolve to collaborate with the UNDP in implementing projects that yield tangible results and positively impact the lives of the people.

Both Rizk and Ayaz Sadiq acknowledged the importance of aligning development efforts with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reaffirmed their commitment to working together towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The minister appreciated the valuable role of UNDP in the areas of Governance, Economy, Climate Resilience and Gender Equality through their interventions and recognized the contribution and support of UNDP especially in the forum of International Partners Support Group (IPSG). Both Sadiq and Rizk discussed the way forward after one year since devastating floods hit Pakistan in 2022. Rizk reiterated the role of UNDP in post floods fundraising process as well as other areas highlighted in the country programme including gender and climate change. The minister assured that the Economic Affairs Division will extend its full cooperation and support for UNDP interventions in Pakistan and continue to work in close collaboration.—DNA

Chief of Staff of Omani Armed Forces visits Air Headquarters



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Vice Admiral Abdullah Bin Khamis-Al-Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces of Oman, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. During the meeting, key areas of mutual interest, geo political environment and regional developments were discussed. Chief of the Air Staff briefed the visiting dignitary as regards to the overall framework of PAF's modernization drive through smart procurements, induction of niche technologies and re-vamping of training in line with contemporary trends. The Air Chief reiterated his sound determination to further elevate the existing ties in areas of military cooperation and training especially in

the domains of cyber, electronic warfare, space and computing. Chief of the Air Staff emphasized, "Pakistan highly regards its robust diplomatic, economic and defence ties with the brotherly country Oman which are based on the strong foundation of alignment on all significant matters concerning regional peace, security and stability."

Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu also highlighted that both the countries have always supported each other in testing times and Pakistan Air Force is dedicated to continuing provision of training and support for the Royal Air Force of Oman.

Chief of the Air Staff reiterated the need to focus on shared training goals in order to address future warfare challenges and reinvigorate the training domain between the two Air Forces. Vice Admiral Abdullah Bin Khamis-Al-Raisi lauded

the exceptional professionalism of the PAF personnel and acknowledged the impressive strides made by Pakistan Air Force in developing indigenous capabilities in aviation industry.

The visiting dignitary reiterated that the cooperation will further strengthen in multiple fields for the mutual benefit of both the countries. Both sides expressed their commitment to exploring new avenues of collaboration with special focus on training and knowledge sharing. Both Commanders also agreed to explore possibility of respective Air Forces to engage for conduct of air exercises while staying on own soil. The meeting serves as a testament to the commitment between the Armed Forces of both the countries in working together to address common challenges and opportunities in the realm of defence and military cooperation.

SIFC is a ray of hope

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the policy of promoting consumerism in the country without expanding the industrial sector has caused irreparable damage to the economy. This policy did not benefit the local industries, but the industrial

sector of other countries with Pakistan's resources, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the relentless imports of luxury goods, manufactured goods, and luxury vehicles are living examples of this. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that it is necessary to give priority to the industry over trading and real-estate sectors while creating a practical and feasible policy to increase the tax base because Pakistan still needs to collect Rs4000 billion more in taxes. Pakistan can widen

the tax base and enhance collections, for which a plan is needed to relieve the country of its unbearable deficit. Enhanced tax collection can help the government provide relief to the poor and fund developmental as well as mega projects, he added. The business leader said that last year, Pakistan collected taxes of 7200 billion rupees, while 7500 billion rupees were required for debt servicing. Mian Zahid Hussain said that debts and liabilities have grown beyond manageable limits.

HEC Trains Sindh varsities representatives

Over 100 focal persons of 51 eligible universities from Sindh, including 21 public and 30 private universities took part in the four-day sessions. The sessions covered necessary skills to understand the ranking data collection process, parameters and online system, and attachment of substantial evidence in support of data submission

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: Following successful completion of orientation sessions on ranking criteria and data collection software in Islamabad and Lahore, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan organised comprehensive training sessions on ranking parameters for Sindh universities.

Over 100 focal persons of 51 eligible universities from Sindh, including 21 public and 30 private universities took part in the four-day

sessions. The sessions covered necessary skills to understand the ranking data collection process, parameters and online system, and attachment of substantial evidence in support of data submission. Managing Director, National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Ms. Noor Anna Malik, who was chief guest of the inaugural sessions, remarked that the resumption of university rankings is a great moment. "It symbolises our shared commitment to academic excellence, research, and societal engagement," she

stated. She appreciated the Higher Education Data Repository Division of HEC for imparting comprehensive training on understanding the ranking data collection system in collaboration with NAHE. She highlighted the role of Quality Enhancement Cells (QECs) in accurate data collection and submission to HEC. She said the QECs may apprise their respective Vice Chancellors of the urgency of this activity. "Together, let us embrace this opportunity for positioning our universities as signs

of awareness, innovation, and knowledge creation," she remarked. Director General, HEC HEDR Division, Mr. Ghulam Nabi welcomed all the participants and briefed them about the history of the previous six rankings announced by HEC. He informed them that the HEC National University Ranking 2023 criteria were finalised after considering input from institutions and national and international experts in order to ensure a thorough and inclusive ranking process in line with the different

demands of the country's higher education community. Sharing his views on the upcoming ranking, Director-Technical (HEDR) Mr. Abdullah Fayyaz Chhattha said it will be an important turning point to pave the way for improvement in academic quality and research. He said the training covers thorough instructions on how to use the EduStats programme to upload data. He said the software simplifies the procedure, ensuring efficiency and accuracy in the collecting of ranking data.

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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/Burkina 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

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi. 5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Omani Military chief meets Naval Chief Adm. Niazi

The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives to ensure maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrols. The visiting Admiral acknowledged and lauded Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Staff Sultan Armed Forces Oman, Vice Admiral Abdullah Bin Khamis Al Raisi visited Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaborations and regional maritime security environment were discussed. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives to ensure maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrols. The visiting Admiral acknowledged and lauded Pakistan Navy's



efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. Oman is a maritime neighbour of Pakistan and both countries have a common maritime boundary. The ships of both countries routinely operate close to each other's coasts and accordingly provide support to each other in terms of medical evacuations, cooperation in maritime law enforcement and logistics support. Both the navies enjoy very close relations and are very forth coming to support each other. The visit of Chief of Staff Sultan Armed Forces Oman will further enhance bilateral collaboration between the two countries.

Organizing committee of nobel fest IT Minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD The organizing committee of Nobel Fest VI to be held in Islamabad met with the Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Syed Amin ul Haque. The meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Mr. Maxat Kurbenov, founder and CEO, Nobel Fest, Senator Dr. Serik, Deputy Head of Organizing Committee, Nobel Fest, Prof. Dr. Khalid M. Iraqi, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, and Mr. Haris Akram, Program Manager, COMSTECH.

The Nobel Fest VI will be held during 29-30 November 2023 at COMSTECH. The theme of this year festival is "Bridging Science and OIC Countries in the Digital Future". The organizing committee briefed the Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication on the mission, objectives and program of the Nobel Fest. The minister appreciated the festival's noble mission and expressed gratitude for hosting the event in Islamabad. He emphasized to focus on capacity building of Pakistan's youth, and supporting least developed countries of OIC through skill development in the

field of science, education, IT, and digital economy. He assured full support from his ministry and the institutions under the umbrella of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication. This year's Nobel Fest will focus on scientific discoveries and technological innovations, with a particular focus on key topics such as the future of medicine, digitalization in education, disruptive technologies, efforts to combat climate change, and strategies for socio-economic development through science. Nobel Fest is a unique and one of the most impactful educational and techno-

logical gatherings with an annual audience of 5K offline, 800K online participants from more than 500 universities, and 100 countries. Since 2020, 15 Nobel Laureates, 15 breakthrough winners, eminent experts, innovators, leaders of international organizations and global businesses have participated in the yearly event of the Nobel Fest. The Nobel Fest event planned to be held in Islamabad, it is expected that several Nobel Laureates, and CEO's of global tech giants will join as speakers to interact with young students from Pakistan and other OIC member states through physical and virtual studios.

PTI ascendency in KP LG polls proves people want Imran

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Central Information Secretary Raouf Hasan said that the PTI ascendency in the recently-held local bodies elections in Peshawar and Havelian proved yet again that people of Pakistan wanted PTI Chairman Imran Khan and former prime minister Imran Khan back in power. PTI CIS said: "PTI ascendency in local bodies elections in Peshawar and Havelian proves yet again the electoral choice that people of Pakistan have decided about." He said that no amount of terror and fascist tactics can deter them from this path, as they wanted Imran Khan back in power and they shall have their say whenever elections were held. Raouf Hasan stated: "Pakistan has never witnessed such single-minded devotion to a leader and the cause he espouses: a genuinely independent Pakistan committed to the welfare of those who deserve it the most." He made it clear: "They shall have it their way. Pakistan shall triumph."

Pak earns US \$935m from travel services' export

ISLAMABAD: The country earned US \$935.172 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the first eleven months of the fiscal year 2022-23. This shows a growth of 86.99 per cent as compared to the US \$500.130 million worth same services provided during the corresponding period of the last fiscal year 2021-22, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the period under review, personal travel services increased by 86.48 per cent, from US \$497.560 million last year to US \$927.872 million during July-May 2023. Among the personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure surged by 33.02 per cent to US \$4.190 million from US \$3.150 million while the education-related expenditure also rose by 3.64 per cent from US \$ 10.170 million to US \$10.540 million. Meanwhile, the PBS data revealed that the exports of business services grew by 184.05 per cent, from US\$ 2.570 million to US\$ 7.300 million. It is pertinent to mention here that the exports of services from the country, witnessed an increase of 2.78 per cent during the fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, it added. The exports of services during July-June (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 7,300.13 million against the exports of US\$ 7,102.35 million during the same period of last year. The imports of the country witnessed a decline of 38.04 per cent, falling from US\$ 12,942.46 million last year to US\$ 8,019.58 million during the period under review.

Int'l Day of the World's indigenous people on Aug 9

ISLAMABAD: International Day of the World's Indigenous People will be observed on August 9 (Wednesday) across the globe including Pakistan to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection. Indigenous cultures across the planet are recognized on International Day of the World's Indigenous People. People from different nations are encouraged to participate in observing the day to spread the UN's message on indigenous peoples. Activities may include educational forums and classroom activities to gain an appreciation and a

better understanding of indigenous peoples. Events may include messages from the UN secretary general and other key leaders, performances by indigenous artists, and panel discussions on reconciliation. The International Day of the World's Indigenous People is celebrated on August 9 each year to recognize the first UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations meeting in Geneva in 1982. On December 23, 1994, the UN General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous People should be observed on August 9 annually during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In 2004 the assembly proclaimed the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

(2005-2014). The assembly also decided to continue observing the International Day of Indigenous People annually during the second decade. The decade's goal was to further strengthen international cooperation for solving problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic development. In April 2000, the Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution to establish the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council. The forum's mandate is to discuss indigenous issues related to culture, economic and social development, education, the environment, health and human rights.

IRSA releases 342,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 342,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 407,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1546.00 feet and was 148.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 239,800 cusecs and 210,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1235.40 feet, which was 185.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 45,200 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 215,300, 224,100, 191,300.—APP

Chatha directs to ensure best treatment facilities at BBH

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chatha on Monday visited the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients there. He interacted with the patients and their attendants and inquired about the treatment facilities provided to them at the hospital. Chatha also visited the hospital's children's ward, dengue ward, eye-ward, blood bank and operation theater and directed the concerned to keep functional all the medical equipment and Air Conditions of the hospital so that public grievances could be redressed. He further directed the management of the BBH to ensure best cleanliness arrangements in the hospital else strict action would be taken over poor cleanliness. On the occasion, the BBH officials briefed the Commissioner that the renovation of the emergency block had been completed that would be fully functional by next week. The commissioner was briefed that the contract of old contractor of the parking fee had been terminated over various complaints and an FIR had been lodged against him. Apart from this, tenders for 40 new air-conditioners (ACs) and beds had been awarded while presently 70 ACs were non functional out of total 370 installed at the hospital. The BBH officials further briefed that as many as 2800 to 3000 patients daily visit hospital's OPD while 40-55 surgeries, 150 ultrasounds and around 4000 lab tests were conducted. Similarly, the average daily number of patients reported in the emergency department was around 1300-1500. Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Dr. Hasan Waqar Cheema, Vice Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University Prof Dr Muhammad Umar, Medical Superintendent BBH and other administrative officers were also present on the occasion.—APP

Chinese delegation visits AIOU

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A four-member academic delegation from China visited Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) here on Sunday. The Chinese delegation included Shao Xiujuan, Dean of International Education College, Shenyang Urban Construction University, Xu Danwei, Dean of International Education College of Liaoning Communication University and Sun Yu, Admissions Officer, International Education College, Shenyang Urban Construction University and Abdul Khaliq Khan discussed educational and training matters with Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood. The visiting delegation discussed the possible collaboration in research, training, faculty, and student exchange programs and the "1 + 3" program between Chinese universities and Allama Iqbal Open University.



ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi, UAE Ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan met with Ibrahim Al Madani, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to bid farewell to him on completion of his tenure in Islamabad, and wishes him success in his future life.—DNA

Pakistan & Oman for increasing bilateral cooperation

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Oman have reiterated their desire to further enhance bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interest. Both sides underscored the need to further increase cooperation in the areas of trade, defence and culture. This was discussed at a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the Omani Chief of Staff of Sultan's Armed Forces, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Raisi, who along with the members of his delegation called on the President, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Welcoming the delegation, the President said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with Oman as the two countries supported each other on various issues at international fora and were bound together by a common religion, history, and cultural heritage. He informed the delegation that Pakistan offered investment opportunities in various sectors of its economy, particularly agriculture. He added that cooperation in the agriculture sector was highly important for the food security needs of the two countries. He also suggested to start a ferry service between Gwadar and Muscat to bring the two countries further closer. The meeting admired the leadership of Iran and the Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, over the normalization of relations, terming it a significant development for the prosperity of the region. The two sides also stressed the need to increase high-level contacts to further cement bilateral ties. The President also briefed the delegation about the grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He thanked the Sultanate of Oman for supporting Pakistan's stance on the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute. During the meeting, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Raisi highlighted that there was a lot of room for enhancing bilateral cooperation. He conveyed warm regards of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq bin Taimur to the President. He also expressed his heartfelt condolences over yesterday's train accident in which precious human lives were lost.

10 held, huge amount of drugs recovered

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) during seven different operations across the country against drug traffickers here Monday, arrested ten accused and recovered 91 kg of drugs from their possession. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an operation near Sangjani Toll Plaza, Islamabad, ANF nabbed an accused, a resident of Mardan besides recovering 15.6 kg of hashish from his possession. In another operation, 1 kg of ice was recovered from the possession of an accused near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad. The accused, a resident of Landikotal, was arrested from a passenger bus. In the third operation, Sindh Rangers and ANF raided Gul Ahmed Colony Karachi and seized 39.3 kg hashish and 12.7 kg opium from a house. Two accused, residents of Swabi were arrested. In the fourth operation, 10 kg heroin was recovered from secret cavities of a bus near Northern Bypass Karachi. During the operation, two accused residents of Turbat were netted. The spokesman further informed that in the fifth operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore, 49 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of a passenger. The accused, a resident of Sahiwal was leaving for Mali by flight number QR-609. In the sixth operation, 35 ice-filled capsules were recovered from a Do-ha-bound passenger resident of Hangu, and rounded up at Peshawar Airport. The accused was going on flight number PK-285.—APP

Briefs

'D-8 determined to embark upon untapped opportunities'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The D-8 Organization for Economic Co-operation was determined to embark upon untapped opportunities for economic advancement and further growth of its member countries, said H.E. Isaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General G-8. He was addressing a gathering organized in his honor at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Monday. He identified the scope and the mandate of the organization and said that the D-8 was an organization, extremely keen to work on the areas of marine transportation, energy, ICT, health, education, social protection, food security and most importantly, eco-tourism. The Secretary General also expressed great resolve for expanding engagement with Pakistan while citing the already existent collaborations, primarily with COMSATS University Islamabad and Agriculture University Faisalabad. H.E. also commented on the challenges that hampered smooth engagement among D-8 countries in addition to engagement with other non-member countries. He seemed amenable on the prospect of collaborating with other countries on existing development projects, such as the CPEC. President IRS, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz graciously thanked His Excellency for his visit to the IRS. He said that the areas of cooperation as a member of the D-8 were quite dynamic encompassing food security, climate change, marine protection and development of effective trade routes in addition to a comprehensive E-commerce framework, to name a few.

Pakistani and Chinese companies signed MoC to foster education

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Chinese companies signed Management of Change (MoC) to foster agriculture and education, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. According to the report, Belt & Road Consultants (Pvt) Ltd (BRC) from Pakistan and HUAZHN International Group - Run Zheng Fanghua (Qingdao) Co.Ltd from Shandong, China, proudly announced the formation of a groundbreaking partnership aimed at driving transformative change in agriculture and education. The signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on the Effective Date marks the beginning of a dynamic collaboration between the two visionary entities. With a shared vision to promote sustainable agricultural development and facilitate knowledge exchange between Pakistan and Shandong, China, the companies will focus on key areas of cooperation, including hybrid seed development, agriculture technology and machinery, education, and scholarships. Mr. Muhammad Asif Noor, CEO of Belt & Road Consultants (Pvt) Ltd, expresses his enthusiasm for this strategic alliance: "We are thrilled to join hands with HUAZHN International Group. This partnership marks a significant milestone in enhancing agricultural practices in Pakistan and beyond. By leveraging our collective expertise, we aim to introduce cutting-edge technologies that will revolutionize the industry and contribute to food security."



ISLAMABAD: August 07 – Heavy machinery being used for repairing the Islamabad Expressway during repairing work in Federal Capital.— APP

ICCI asks CDA to include Bara Kahu in ICT'S Municipality

Ahsan Bakhtawari assured that as a CDA board member, he would play a role to resolve the key issues of Bara Kahu's traders. He said that he will try his best to convince Chairman CDA to visit the Bara Kahu market so that he can see the on-ground problems himself and take necessary steps to solve them quickly

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Bara Kahu has become one of the largest commercial centers of Islamabad but due to lack of attention, the traders of the area are facing multiple problems. He emphasized that the CDA should include Bara Kahu in Islamabad's Municipality to ensure its better development. He said this while addressing a delegation of Bara Kahu Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajirani that visited ICCI led by its President Raja Zahid Dhaniyal. Vice President of Anjuman Shah Anwar, Secretary General Syed Hasnain Shah, Naveed Abbasi, Masood Baloch and others were in

the delegation. Ahsan Bakhtawari assured that as a CDA board member, he would play a role to resolve the key issues of Bara Kahu's traders. He said that he will try his best to convince Chairman CDA to visit the Bara Kahu market so that he can see the on-ground problems himself and take necessary steps to solve them quickly. He assured the delegation that ICCI would fully cooperate with their Association in its efforts for the betterment of Bara Kahu traders. Speaking on the occasion, Raja Zahid Dhaniyal, President, Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajirani, Bara Kahu, said that Bara Kahu is still considered a rural area, due to which it is facing problems in prompt resolution of issues. He demanded that to ensure better development of Bara Kahu, it should be

included in the municipal limits of Islamabad. He said that there are serious sewage problems in Bara Kahu while the drainage system is also not functioning properly, so there is a need for CDA to address these problems immediately. He said that the condition of Simli Dam Road has deteriorated and CDA should repair it soon. He further said that the bypass has been opened at Bara Kahu but the road under the bridge has become dilapidated so CDA should focus on its urgent repair and carpeting. He said that the sanitation arrangements in Bara Kahu are almost non-existent, while Bara Kahu market is also in dire need of a filtration plant and public toilets. He demanded that CDA and MCI should improve sanitation arrangements in Bara Kahu and ensure availability of filtration plants and

public toilets. He said that there is no parking facility available in Bara Kahu market due to which the traders are facing difficulties so he urged that CDA should construct a multi-storied parking plaza in Bara Kahu. He assured that Bara Kahu Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajirani will cooperate with ICCI to resolve the issues of traders. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG said that a large number of traders are engaged in promoting trade activities in Bara Kahu and this market is providing jobs to thousands of people. He stressed that CDA and MCI should try to develop Bara Kahu on modern lines. Former senior vice presidents of the chamber, Khalid Chaudhry and Jamsheed Akhtar Sheikh, Maqsood Tabish and others were also present on the occasion.

PM awards Rs1m to SSC topper

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday announced a Rs 1 million reward for a student who topped the Secondary School Examination of Gujranwala Board, besides announcing a monthly stipend of Rs 30,000. The prime minister made the announcement as Jamsheed Ali, the SSC topper met the prime minister along with his mother, teacher Waheed Ashraf and Chairman of the Gujranwala Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Naveed Haider Sherazi. Minister for Federal Education and Training Rana Tanveer Hussain also attended the meeting. The prime minister appreciated the student for his excellent performance and announced Rs 1 million reward for his encouragement. The prime minister instructed that the government should bear all of the educational expenditures of Jamsheed Ali till his master's degree. He sought a commitment from the student to keep up showing excellence in his educational career ahead. "The bright students like you are the pride of the nation. The credit for your success goes to the hard work of your parents as well as teachers. You are also a role model for other students of the country," the prime minister remarked.—APP

Mayor Karachi visits Abbasi Hospital

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Monday said that all possible medical assistance was being provided for treatment of the injured in the road accident on the Northern Bypass here. The Mayor Karachi visited the injured along with Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad on Monday at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital here. Speaking on the occasion, Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the accident was a great tragedy and we share the grief of the dead and injured.—APP

Trade Org, dispute resolution bills sail thru joint sitting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Joint Sitting of the Parliament on Monday passed two bills including the Trade Organization (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023 with certain amendments. Both the bills were piloted by Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar in the House. The minister moved amendments which were accepted by the House. Moving the Trade Organization (Amendment) Bill, 2023 in the House, Syed

Naveed Qamar said that the bill aimed at extending the tenure of chambers of commerce and industry and Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry from one year to two years. The bill would streamline elections process for the Chambers and Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, he said. He said now the elections would be held in same year. The Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023 provides for the establishment of a comprehensive regime in Pakistan for the swift and effective

resolution of disputes relating to the export and import of goods and services including through E-Commerce. The statement of objects and reasons of the Trade Dispute Resolution Bill, 2023 says that as Pakistan embarks upon trade liberalization and expansion so does the probability of the trade dispute arise between trading parties. If left unsupervised and unguided, such disputes could lead to serious conflicts between governments in addition to damaging private sector business interests. In absence of proper Trade

Dispute Resolution Mechanism in Pakistan is adversely affecting its ranking in ease of doing business. In order to overcome this, a dedicated government body, legally mandated to resolve international trade dispute was approved by the Cabinet of Pakistan under the Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF). Trade Dispute Resolution Organization has been established as an attached department of Ministry of Commerce. It is platform which helps to prevent the detrimental effects of unresolved international trade conflicts.

Pak-China hospital unveils 37 job openings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar has unveiled 37 job openings. Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar is a state-of-the-art medical facility that not only provides free and high-quality treatment for the local residents but also offers

employment opportunities to the coastal community. The hospital extends an invitation to individuals driven by excellence and guided by vision to join its team, contributing to the advancement of this noble endeavor, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. The hospital has unveiled 37 vacancies across

various departments, encompassing roles such as senior consultants, registrars, specialists, and junior technicians. Gwadar Development Authority (GDA)'s Pak-China Friendship Hospital is a state-of-the-art health facility under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), serving the people of Gwadar and Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Federal Minister for Human Rights Riaz Hussain Pirzada.—DNA.

Ambassador of Iran called on HR Minister Riaz Peerzada

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada Monday in Islamabad. Both sides discussed centuries-old deep strategic and brotherly relations between two countries. Welcoming the ambassador, Minister said that Pakistan

greatly values its relations with Iran rooted in cultural, historical and religious bonds. He emphasized to enhance these relations in various areas particularly in economy, energy, culture and human rights. Ambassador H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam also reciprocated the same about historical bilateral relations and expressed that the people

of Iran and Pakistan are tied with the knot of love. They have been living peacefully for centuries without any dispute. Both countries have been supporting each other in the UNO and Iran is now supporting Pakistan in IMF. He said that Iran has been facing sanctions and pressure from the US due to its upright foreign policies and now this pressure has

become an irritant in bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan. During the call, Minister expressed that the trio of Muslim countries i.e.; Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, is continuously advocating for the rights of Palestinian and Kashmiri people who have been living under oppression and facing gross human rights violations for decades.

He further said that Western countries cannot dictate us on human rights if they keep an eye close to such flagrant human rights violations and suppression just because of their own economic interests. He added that Pakistan, besides having its weak economy, has always raised its voice against this oppression.—DNA



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Washington not helping EU

FOR China and the European Union, which have no fundamental differences or conflicts, there is no better choice than cooperation. Restoring routine bilateral official exchanges, which have been disrupted over the past three years by the COVID-19 pandemic and the concurrent geopolitical elements, is a matter of urgency for both sides. It is good to know this is already on their agenda. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi invited EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and his delegation to visit China in the fall. In a telephone call on Sunday, both diplomats mentioned preparations for a leaders' meeting later this year, an important signal of a shared interest in strategic communication and fence-mending. Brussels' recent identifying of China as a systemic rival and calls for "de-risking" from a dependency on Chinese supply chains have resulted in considerable confusion both in China and the rest of the world, as such measures seem to be aligning the EU with the United States' strategy to contain China. A perception that is reinforced by the ongoing "recalibration" of the EU's foreign policy that is integrating it with Washington's "Indo-Pacific" geopolitical deployments. Such a shift is driven more by the US' strategic needs than those of the EU. China and the EU no longer seem to be the cozy partners they used to be, when business was just business, before Washington decided to take a wrecking ball to the global economic trade system. With Washington reveling in its demolition work, in the delusion that it would be spared any permanently deleterious consequences, it soon became apparent that no countries were to be permitted to be friends with its "enemies". As a result, in an abrupt break from the general friendliness that both sides had long taken for granted, relations between the EU and China have become increasingly fraught. The EU's "de-risking" is a prescription for mutual damage. Both sides know it, but there appears to be no option when the politicians in Brussels have to take China as an imminent threat to stay in Washington's good books. Beijing, on its part, is left with no choice but to push back. The two sides now find themselves in a standoff that is neither of their creation, nor to their liking. In their talks on Sunday, both Wang and Borrell made it clear that both sides hope to use the forthcoming meetings to put relations on firmer ground so as to inject new and strong impetus into the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership. If it is truly striving for strategic autonomy, there is certainly no reason for the EU to sacrifice its relationship with China, which is mutually beneficial.

Women's World Cup: outstripping expectations

FOR a sport touching warp speed in the pace of its development, the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand is already proving another great leap forward. At the halfway stage, attendance and television audience records have been broken. More than 1.7m tickets have been sold, far outstripping Fifa's expectations. But mere statistics cannot convey the quality and sporting intensity of a tournament that has already provided unforgettable plotlines, as it moves into the knockout phase. At a time when state sovereign wealth funds and billionaires are steadily corrupting the values of the men's game, the first two weeks of this World Cup have showcased the planet's most popular sport at its vibrant, unpredictable best. The United States team, the traditional hegemon of women's football, has staggered through the group stage, vulnerable to formerly lesser powers and consumed by angst. Germany, ranked second in the world, are out, pushed aside by Morocco, ranked 72nd, after a late night of high emotion in Group H. Australia's Matildas – who have captured the hearts of a country where football lies some way down the sporting hierarchy – have been on a rollercoaster ride, flirting with early elimination. Will their injured star, Sam Kerr, regain fitness to lead them to glory? A nation is waiting to find out. The post-tournament challenge will be to build on this progress, by persuading Fifa and national associations to put adequate money into domestic leagues and grassroots structures. Jamaica's Reggae Girlz sparked joyous scenes back home when they drew with Brazil to progress to the knockout stages for the first time. But before the tournament, the squad wrote a furious open letter complaining at the lack of proper support – financial and otherwise – from the Jamaican football federation. According to a Fifa report published in 2022, the average salary of paid female footballers is just £11,300. But as this World Cup is so vividly demonstrating, the international women's game is now generating the same kind of emotional buy-in and engagement as the men's. After intense lobbying, Fifa's president, Gianni Infantino, has declared an ambition to equalise payments for the 2026 men's and 2027 women's World Cups. But much greater equity and investment is needed at all levels of the female game, if it is to fulfil its vast potential. For now though, such debates can be put on hold. Of more immediate concern, to Australians at least, is Sam Kerr's possible comeback in Monday's knockout game with Denmark. England, too, after finding new form and a new system in a 6-1 hammering of China, are beginning to believe. A marvellously open World Cup is only at the halfway point. It has been a gripping watch so far, and the stories that will come to define it are yet to be written.



Why Israeli settlers feel immune?

Wadie Abunassar



Arab culture and absence of advocacy are not the only reasons why Jewish terrorists feel immune. Actually, the main reason for this feeling is the behavior of the Israeli establishment, especially during terms of radical right wing governments, such as the case nowadays, in which most officials remain silent when a Jewish terrorist kills Palestinian(s), while some of them claim as if the Jew is defending self, even if the murder is committed inside a Palestinian village (such as the case of last Friday when a Jew shot dead a Palestinian on the lands of the village of Burqa...

HUNDREDS of Arab citizens, mostly from the town of Shefaamer (to the east of Haifa, northern Israel), commemorated last Friday the 18th anniversary of a shooting attack, which was committed by an Israeli Jewish soldier called Eden Nathan Zada inside a bus, which ended with the killing of four local persons (two Muslim sisters and two Christian men), while locals succeeded to kill the attacker shortly after the incident. This commemoration failed to get any coverage in the Israeli Hebrew media outlets, and even not in most of the Palestinian news outlets. This fact reflects the weak, if not in-existent, effort by Palestinian victims of Jewish terrorism to bring their cause to the mass media, as most of the Jews do in the opposite cases. A cultural gap seems to exist between Arabs and Jews when coming to address terrorist attacks targeting their community members: while most Arabs glorify "martyrdom", though the real pain for the killing of an Arab by a Jewish terrorist is practically limited to his immediate family members and friends; most Jews treat every Jewish victim of an Arab attack as if being a major incident and make out of it a major story not only locally, but also internationally. And while many, if not most, Jews tend to invest every possible effort to publish not only the Arab who killed a member of their community, but also his immediate relatives, such as by demolishing their home; Arabs fail to make any serious advocacy for obtaining justice for the killing of their community members, and in some cases, the Jewish killer of an Arab is even not punished, and in few cases is even decorated! Arab culture and absence of advocacy are not the only reasons why Jewish terrorists feel immune. Actually, the main reason for this feeling is the behavior of the Israeli establishment, especially during terms of radical right wing governments, such as the case nowadays, in which most officials remain si-

lent when a Jewish terrorist kills Palestinian(s), while some of them claim as if the Jew is defending self, even if the murder is committed inside a Palestinian village (such as the case of last Friday when a Jew shot dead a Palestinian on the lands of the village of Burqa [near Ramallah]! Furthermore, while Israel, almost under ALL governments, committed collective punishment against families of Palestinians who killed Jews, by demolishing their homes, while clearly disobeying not only the international Law but also common sense; Israel never demolished the home of any Jewish terrorist or punished collectively the family of a Jewish terrorist, even when a Jew (Yigal Amir) assassinated its prime minister (Yitzhak Rabin)! The fact that it is the Israeli side which investigates all acts of murders (except when a Palestinian kills another Palestinian in Palestinian Authority areas), paves the ground to biased results, especially when an Israeli is involved in killing Palestinian(s). The killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh on May 11, 2022, by Israeli forces in Jenin is a clear example for such reality, in which the Israeli side refused to accept even stance of the "friendly" American security establishment. Furthermore, the fact that Palestinian killer of Jew(s) is either shot dead on the spot, or sent to tens of years in Israeli jail; while Jewish killer of Palestinian(s) is rarely killed, and if yes, not by Israeli forces, and sent to relatively comfortable jail with good conditions, and gets in many cases some incentives (for instance frequent family visits) and in some cases even gets discount in his imprisonment term! Lack of serious pressures and actions by the international community against Israeli collective punishments targeting Palestinians, and even de facto acceptance of extra-judicial killing of Palestinians, play major role in granting Israel in general, radical right-wing Israelis in specific, the feeling as if they are

immune against being held responsible for killing Palestinians! Furthermore, international pressures, and in some cases even by Arab and Muslim players, on the Palestinians to refrain from acting against Israel at international bodies, such as the International Criminal Court, creates the impression as if the international community is defending the powerful side, while ignoring the rights of the weak side, or demanding it to be indefinitely patient! The apparent belief at many, if not most, Israeli circles as if nobody would seriously prosecute suspected Israeli war criminals and/or terrorists, contributes to making those feeling immune. An example for that was the arrival of former Israeli military chief Shaul Mofaz to the United Kingdom and escaping arrest despite standing arrest order that was issued against him by some activists there "for committing war crimes". On the other hand, the lack of serious prosecution by international players to Jewish terrorists who killed Palestinians carrying their citizenship grants the impression as if these terrorists are immune. The best example in this regard is the murder of Alex Odeh, a Palestinian American who was killed in California in 1985, while his suspected murderers escaped to Israel and the United States failed to make serious demand to hold these accountable for their murder! In sum, it is possible arguing that lack of serious actions against Jewish terrorists not only by the Israeli authorities, but also by the international community and even by relatives of the Arab victims of these terrorists grant them the impression as if they are immune and contribute to encouraging others to commit similar crimes against Arabs, and in some cases, even against Jewish rivals. With such reality, the next murder that would be committed by Jewish terrorist is matter of time, and the frequency of such actions might grow, especially under the current radical right wing Israeli government!

Peace does not flow from Hate

Afnan Wasif



The same can be reflected in the current domestic political landscape of Pakistan. Justice brings Peace. Each and every case, petition, or complaint of anybody must be tried in the court of law on merit and fairly to uphold justice. It will pave the way for peace and satisfaction. Media trials, propaganda, polarization, hate speech, and misinformation make...

A LINE – a tangible reality – has cut both nations apart and hindered the well-being of people. Pakistan and India – two nuclear powers – share a border of 2912 km. Both countries are going to commemorate their 76th independence anniversary in the coming month. Given the population, a country on one side of the line (border) has touched the mark of USD 770 billion during FY 2022-23 (April-March) while a country on the other side of the line hardly earned USD 21 billion during Jul-Mar FY 2022-23 with respect to export sector. A prodigious economic boom is perceptible in India. According to IMF, India's real GDP growth projections are 6.1 in 2023 and 6.3 in 2024, the highest in the world. -0.5 in 2023 and 2.5 in 2024 are the real GDP growth projections of Pakistan, as per the data revealed by the IMF. Keeping this comparison of mere two economic factors in view, presenting the development and prosperity of India and Pakistan, one could conclude that animosity, tension, and hatred are not of service to the people living in this region. However, hate is a social construct generated by the discourse of our elite on both sides to further their own limited interest. But now common people in this universal village can develop affection for each other and collaborate and cooperate with each other for the common good and welfare. Japanese have done so, given the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the US. Peace is not simply the absence of violence; it is the presence of coexistence, harmony, cooperation, respect, empathy, and understanding. Peace is a prerequisite for the prosperity of any region or nation. European Union (EU) is one of the greatest

examples in this context and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to some extent. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is cold since its inception due to hate and animosity between Pakistan and India. Another bone of contention is the internationally recognized Kashmir Issue between the two. Strategic mistakes committed during the late 1970s and 1980s beget a perpetual menace of terrorism. Good and Bad terrorists were categorized. Sectarian hatred was induced in the people of Pakistan. The cost incurred by these unfortunate events led to our decline. Pakistan is highly affected by terrorism but it's been blamed by India for being the sponsor of terrorism. Terrorism has no nationality or religion. It cannot be associated with anyone. SAARC nations are unable to cooperate in order to get rid of this menace, in particular, climate change and other common threats. But hatred dominates. Peace cannot prevail as long as acrimony and hostility remain. The same can be reflected in the current domestic political landscape of Pakistan. Justice brings Peace. Each and every case, petition, or complaint of anybody must be tried in the court of law on merit and fairly to uphold justice. It will pave the way for peace and satisfaction. Media trials, propaganda, polarization, hate speech, and misinformation make things messy and unrest in society. Politicians utilize rhetoric and inject hate into the minds of their blind followers. And they even make bold promises to change the fortune of the nation. People must know that hate cannot bring in peace and without peace there is no prosperity and politicians cannot fulfill their proclaimed ill-advised promises. Taking a step back, promise makers now seek jus-

tice from our pathetic judicial system because they blame that in every election, they were not provided with a level playing field. So, providing the same on merit, politicians would contest elections and come to the government drawing power from the people as the Constitution of Pakistan does establish and recognize the people as the source of all political power. The conduct of free and fair elections mitigates or minimizes the polarization and disappointment in our society induced by hate speech. Coexistence, tolerance, acceptance, and cooperation bind together various scattered and polarized segments of society. It will ultimately bring unity. Common and augmented efforts make us enable to fight against common threats. It will further our dignity and strengthen our sovereignty. It will enable us to establish relationships with other countries especially neighbors on mutual trust, respect, and goodwill prioritizing national interest. This all could be possible by avoiding hatred because peace does not flow from hate. It flows from coexistence, harmony, cooperation, respect, trust, tolerance, acceptance, love, empathy, and understanding. Saudi-Iran Peace Deal brokered by China is one of the finest examples substantiating the said argument. By bringing political stability to our beloved country, we can develop and prosper tremendously. Strong political institutions, empowered and effective state institutions working within the boundaries prescribed in the Constitution of Pakistan, and all other stakeholders can contribute towards the well-being of the citizens of Pakistan. – The author is a student of Strategic Studies at National Defence University, Islamabad. He tweets at @afnanwasif

Briefs

Army Chief warns Afghan nationals...

FROM PAGE 01
Gen Munir assured the tribal elders that the Pakistan Army "will never leave them alone" because they have given "innumerable sacrifices for the peace and prosperity of the motherland". "It's time to develop all tribal areas and concentrate on youth," the army chief remarked. He also emphasised the potential of newly merged districts and ongoing efforts in uplifting the socio-economic growth under the umbrella of the Special Investment Facilitation Council. "KP province is blessed with huge reserves of mines and minerals, also beautiful areas for tourism which will certainly change the destiny of the area for the good of the people." Earlier, upon his arrival in Peshawar, the army chief was received by the Peshawar corps commander. Gen Munir also laid a floral wreath at Yaadgar-e-Shuhada at Fort Bala Hisar the Headquarters of Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-North and offered Fatiha.

NA passes Secrets Act 2023

FROM PAGE 01
investigate individuals suspected of violating the Official Secrets Act. He pointed out the word 'knowingly' had been added to a clause which in its original form was "a person may be presumed to be in communication with an enemy or a foreign agent, if he has either within or outside Pakistan visited the address".

PM lauds Chinese investment..

FROM PAGE 01
the Chinese companies not only led to providing job opportunities to and industrial production, but also further strengthened brotherly economic ties with China. He said the Chinese companies, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, transformed our economic landscape. The Prime Minister said we are entering the second phase of CPEC, with focus on which green corridor, innovation, IT corridor, agriculture and Special Economic Zones. He also lauded the Chinese companies role and their hard work in the development of Pakistan. The Prime Minister said the government of Pakistan recently launched a great initiative of establishing SIFC, under the leadership of Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir for the cause of Pakistan. He said SIFC will safeguard the entire CPEC mechanism and will be a propeller of Pakistan's industrial-agri progress. Shehbaz Sharif also expressed his gratitude to Chinese Charge d' Affaires for her personal commitment not only for CPEC, but for China Pakistan friendship. In her speech, Chinese Charge d' Affaires in Pakistan, Ms Pang Chunxue said we are fully convinced that after ten years' successful cooperation of CPEC, China and Pakistan will continue to move forward side by side to meet risks and challenges, jointly promote the high quality development of CPEC and China Pakistan community with a shared future.

'Economy stabilized with allies...

FROM PAGE 01
the government. During the meeting, Yusuf Raza Gilani paid tributes to the prime minister for improving the country's economic situation and providing splendid leadership during a difficult time. They also discussed overall political situation of the country. Earlier PML-N leader and former mayor Rawalpindi Sardar Naseem called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed overall political situation in the country.

Asian Champions Trophy

Pakistan beat China to remain in semifinal race

SPORTS DESK

CHENNAI: Afraz's match-winner lifted Pakistan to keep their semi-final hopes alive with a convincing 2-1 victory over China in the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan started the game on a high as they maintained pressure on the Chinese defence right from the start and soon got the reward in the 19th minute, courtesy of Muhammad Sufiyan Khan's brilliant goal. The green shirts completely dominated the first half while Chinese players struggled to keep possession. However, Jiesheng Gao helped level things for China with an excellent flick from a penalty corner in the 32nd minute. China's comeback into the game was however cut short as Afraz scored in the 39th minute to give Pakistan a match-defining lead. The green shirts put on a great effort to prevent China from firing the equalizer and thus tasted their maiden success in the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan's Rana Abdul, who was adjudged the player of the match termed the victory over China a crucial one and revealed that the young team is looking forward to their tie against

arch-rivals India. "This game was really crucial for us. The young team played incredibly and we are looking forward to the India game," said Abdul in the post-match presentation. Pakistan's first win in the Asian Champions Trophy propelled them to fourth place. Meanwhile, China's hopes of reaching the semifinals have been diminished. Notably, Pakistan was winless in the Asian Champions Trophy before this game, as they drew 3-3 against Japan yesterday. Prior to that, they drew 1-1 against defending champions South Korea, while, they were handed a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Malaysia in their first game. Pakistan will now face arch-rivals India on August 9, while China will face Japan in their final group-stage match on the same day. This is the seventh edition of the Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan have won the tournament in 2012 and 2013, while India have won in 2011 and 2016. The 2018 edition saw Pakistan and India jointly sharing the trophy as the final was forfeited due to persistent rain. Defending champions South Korea won the tournament in 2021 after thumping Japan on penalties.



Australia beats Denmark and heads to WC quarter finals

SYDNEY: Sam Kerr came off the bench as Australia surged into the Women's World Cup quarter-finals with a 2-0 win over Denmark in front of nearly 76,000 fans in Sydney on Monday. The co-hosts will play France or Morocco on Saturday in Brisbane in the last eight after making fairly light work of a toothless Denmark. To cap a good night's work for the Matildas, talismanic striker and captain Kerr came on with 10 minutes

left to huge cheers for her first action of the tournament after a calf injury. The dangerous Caitlin Foord terrorised Denmark throughout and scored a fine first after being set up by Mary Fowler on 29 minutes. Hayley Raso grabbed a second to make the game safe 20 minutes from time. Denmark were contesting their first knockout game at the World Cup since 1995 and they had the first sniff of goal, but Rikke Madsen just failed to connect with the

ball while sliding in at goal. The Danes, ranked 13th in the world to Australia's 10, could have taken the lead on the quarter-hour at Stadium Australia but Pernille Harder shot straight at goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold. Australia were on the back foot early on but took the lead against the run of play when Fowler threaded a superb long pass down the left to play in Foord. The Arsenal forward still had plenty to do and she did it brilliantly, taking one

touch with her right foot to guide the ball into her path and then firing with the left through the legs of goalkeeper Lene Christensen. Foord was all over the Denmark defence with her pace and movement down the left. Minutes later she rammed down the wing again, chopped back inside and let fly with her right foot, the ball taking a big deflection and whistling just beyond the top corner. Into the second half and Foord seemed to be everywhere, sliding in to stop a Denmark counter-attack and earning vigorous applause from Australia coach Tony Gustavsson. Daily newsletterReceive essential international news every morning. Just past the hour and Denmark coach Lars Sondergaard had seen enough, bringing on forwards Signe Bruun and Mille Gejl as they went in search of the goal they needed to keep their World Cup alive. Defender Janni Thomsen decided she had had enough of Foord and was booked for crudely pulling her down as she arrowed towards the Danish box. - Agencies



Inzamam appointed Pakistan's chief selector

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed former Test captain Inzamam-ul-Haq as the chief selector of the national men's team. In an announcement made on Monday, PCB confirmed that Inzamam, who was named in the Cricket Technical Committee (CTC) last week, has assumed charge as men's team chief selector. Inzamam previously served as chief selector from 2016 to 2019. His selected team won the Champions Trophy under the leadership of Sarfaraz Ahmed in 2017. The former Test cricketer will once again work with Mickey Arthur, Pakistan team director, to select the national squads for the upcoming Afghanistan series, Asia Cup and World Cup. PCB's CTC, headed by Misbah-ul-Haq, recommended Inzamam's appointment to PCB Management Committee chairman Zaka Ashraf. The CTC also includes former captain Mohammad Hafeez. The committee is supposed to provide recommendations on cricket-related matters, including, but not limited to the overall domestic structure, scheduling, playing conditions, appointment of the national selection committees, appointment of national team coaches, central and domestic contracts and plans for the development of umpires, referees and curators. They will also have the powers to invite additional cricket experts, and shall report to the head of the PCB Management Committee on a regular basis. - DNA

Pakistan's Arslan Ash becomes four-time EVO champion

LAS VEGAS: Pakistan's Tekken prodigy, Arslan 'Ash' Siddique, achieved a remarkable feat by becoming a four-time EVO champion after claiming the title in Las Vegas on Sunday. The 27-year-old impressed the gaming community with his exceptional skills and precision, emerging victorious with a flawless 3-0 victory over Japan's AO in the grand final. Arslan's path to glory was paved with stunning performances. He defeated AO 3-1 in the winners final and showcased his dominance by overpowering Ulsan 2-1 in the winners semi-final. Notably, Arslan stands alone as the sole player in the world to win the prestigious Tekken 7 event four times. He previously secured the title in Japan and Las Vegas in 2019 and continued his reign by replicating the triumph this year as well. Regarded by many as the greatest Tekken player of all time, Arslan's talent has earned him widespread recognition. He received the esteemed ESPN Best E-Player of 2019 award, solidifying his status as a gaming legend. Arslan's remarkable achievements also include winning the CEO 2021 Championship and the 2022 Combo Breaker Tekken 7 tournament, where he

Babar smashes match-winning century in LPL

Pak captain continued his rampage as he brought up a 34-ball fluent fifty, which was his 87th fifty in shortest format

GALLE: Pakistan captain, Babar Azam, smashed a match-winning century to guide Colombo Strikers to seven-wicket win over Galle Titans on Monday in Lanka Premier League (LPL). Babar had a blazing start to his innings as he hit three consecutive boundaries to Kasun Rajitha in the very first over, while chasing a target of 189 set by Titans. No err in the line, Babar kept his momentum intact and hit Richard Ngarava for a boundary in the fifth over and Tabraiz Shamsi for a six over the fence by the end of the sixth over. Pakistan captain continued his rampage as he brought up a 34-ball fluent fifty, which was his 87th fifty in the shortest format. There was, however, no stopping for Babar today as in the 14th over, the right-handed batsman launched two fiery sixes and one four to Akhila Dananjaya, followed by a six to Rajitha in the 15th over - making him the leading run-scorer of the tournament currently. Babar was in no mood to spare anyone as he also smashed Shakib for a six in the 16th over, bringing Strikers close to the target. With Strikers needing 19 from 9 balls, Babar hit Ngarava for a boundary, to bring up his century in just 57 balls. This was Babar's 10th century in T20s, with only Chris Gayle above him with most centuries (22) in the shortest format. Strikers needed 14 from last over, which prompted Babar to go for the big shot. However, he miscued and was caught at long off after playing 104-run knock, which included eight fours and five sixes. Nawaz came next and played a 14-run cameo from 4 balls to take Strikers over the finish line, with one ball remaining. Babar was declared player of match for his match-winning knock. - DNA



emerged victorious by defeating all ten opponents. Arslan's prowess extends beyond individual success, as he played a vital role in Pakistan's triumph at the Gamers8 Tekken 7 Nations Cup in Saudi Arabia last month. Teaming up with Khan Imran and Atif Butt, Arslan's Pakistani trio stunned South Korea in the grand final, clinching the title with a thrilling 3-2 victory. Arslan Ash's legacy in the world of Tekken is undeniable, and his journey to becoming a four-time EVO champion will undoubtedly inspire aspiring gamers worldwide. As his reputation as an exceptional E-Sports athlete continues to grow, the gaming community eagerly anticipates his future accomplishments and contributions to the world of competitive gaming. - Agencies

PTI moves SC against Toshakhana verdict

FROM PAGE 01
Islamabad High Court's (IHC) orders. "The maintainability question was expressly referred back to the learned additional sessions judge in that decision of the honourable Islamabad High Court dated Aug 4 with instructions to resolve it again. "However, undermining this directive, the learned judge bypassed any fresh decision-making and dismissed the application in violating haste and without objective evaluation of the case, subverting principles of natural justice," the petition read. Meanwhile, a petition was filed in Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday seeking transfer of imprisoned PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan from Attock to Adiyala Jail in Rawalpindi. While urging the court to declare PTI chief's detention in Attock Jail as "against the law", the application also sought family and lawyers' meeting with the former premier. The plea also urged the court to order A-class facilities to Imran Khan in prison. Meanwhile, Imran Khan's three-year sentence for graft prompted scattered rallies around the country, but there was no sign of any mass uprising despite his call for supporters to protest. His lawyers complained Sunday they were being denied access to him for consultations so they can mount urgent legal challenges against his conviction. They also raised concern for his confinement at Attock Jail, established 100 years ago on the outskirts of historical Attock city, around 60 kilometres west of Islamabad.

ECP rubbishes report about Imran Khan

FROM PAGE 01
a section of mainstream media claiming that an important meeting is underway in the ECP with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja in the chair to revive the evolving situation after Khan's arrest. "Neither any meeting was held on the matter at the ECP nor the topic came under discussion," clarified the election watchdog. On August 5, the Council of Common Interest (CCI) meeting "unanimously" approved the 2023 census, making it almost certain that the general elections - which were to be held in November this year in case the assemblies are dissolved on August 9 - would not be held during the current year. Under the law, if a new census is notified, the electoral authority is bound to hold polls on the basis of new data. In this situation, the ECP was bound to conduct the delimitation exercise afresh.

Ronaldo guides Al-Nassr to semi-final

RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo guided Al-Nassr to the semi-final of the Arab Club Champions Cup after his team defeated Raja CA 3-1 in the quarter-final in Abha, Saudi Arabia, on Sunday. Ronaldo showed once again he why is the greatest goalscorer football has ever seen by scoring in the 19th minute in a must-win match for his side. The 38-year-old scored with his left foot - taking his club goal tally to 718 - and gave his side a dream start. Al-Nassr did not stop and continued their fierce attacks. Sultan Al-Ghannam doubled the Saudi's side lead in the 29th minute. Their third goal came in the 38th minute. Former Newcastle midfielder Seko Fofana scored and sealed the deal for his side. However, Al-Nassr's defender Abdullah Madu scored an own goal in the 41st minute turning his team's three-goal lead into two. However, that had no effect on Ronaldo's side as they comfortably ended the game with a 3-1 victory and secured their place in the semi-final of the event. They will take on Al-Shorta in the semi-final at the Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Stadium on August 9. Earlier on Thursday (August 3), Ronaldo scored an 87th-minute equalizer goal against Zamalek in the last group stage match and ensured his team's entry into the quarters.

Pak street child football team gets warm welcome

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Street Child Football Team on Monday, returned to the country after participating in the recently-concluded Norway Cup. Street child team, who put up a great show in the tournament, landed here at Islamabad International airport and received a warm welcome by Chairman Muslim Hands International Pir Syed Lakhte Hassanain, fans and their families. They also received garlands as a symbol of appreciation. Notably, the Pakistan street child football team finished as the runners-up of the Norway Cup after falling to a 9-10 defeat on penalties against Sola FK on Saturday in Oslo. The match was 1-1 after extra time. Tufail Shinwari's first-half equalizer, courtesy of a free kick, powered Pakistan to

make a comeback in the final after Sola FK pulled ahead with an early lead.

The 1-1 deadlock between the two sides persisted till the regulation and extra

time and the fate of the match was then to be decided on the penalties.

Pakistan street child football team entered the final after remaining unbeaten in

seven games. The national team scored the most goals by any team in the tournament and also recorded the largest victory in the tournament's history when they blew Frigg Oslo FK 11-1. For an exceptional tournament, Pakistan's Asad Nasir was adjudged the player of the Norway Cup 2023. It is worth mentioning here that Pakistan qualified for the finals of the Norway Cup for the second time, after ending up as runners-up in Norway Cup 2015. Pakistan team also finished runners-up in the Street Child World Cup in Doha last year. They remained undefeated in that tournament, until losing to the eventual champions Egypt in the final on penalties. They were also runners-up in the Street Child World Cup 2018 in Russia (2018), whereas, in the 2014 edition they finished third after losing in the semi-finals.



Briefs

Slovenia flooding, death toll climbs to six

LJUBLJANA: The death toll from days of heavy rains and flooding in Slovenia has climbed to six, media reports said Monday, as clean-up operations continued with help from neighbouring countries.

Prime Minister Robert Golob has described the torrential rains and severe flooding that hit the Alpine country of two million as its worst natural disaster since independence three decades ago. Flash floods and landslides that began Thursday had submerged large swaths of central and northern Slovenia, cutting off access to villages and disrupting traffic. On Sunday, emergency workers recovered the body of a 35-year-old man in a river near the village of Mirna Perc in the east. Another man, who was taking part in the clean-up operations, was found dead after falling into a cesspit near the town of Kamnik close to Ljubljana, media reports said. Police did not immediately confirm the reports when contacted by AFP. The bodies of two Slovenians and two Dutch citizens had been found earlier.

On Monday, rescue workers tried to reopen roads to the most remote or isolated places, while assessing damages when the government has said could exceed half a billion euros.—APP

New Delhi records 348 dengue cases this year

NEW DELHI: As many as 105 new dengue cases have been recorded in India's capital Delhi over the past week, taking the total number of infections to 348 so far this year, local government said on Monday.

The incidence of dengue cases almost doubled over the past week as compared to the preceding two to three weeks, according to the latest report on the mosquito-borne disease issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). The weekly count continues to double over the last three weeks with Delhi reporting 56 cases and 24 cases, respectively, in the preceding two weekly cycles, according to the report. With the addition of 105 new cases, the overall count of dengue cases reported so far this year stands at 348 cases. The current level of dengue case count of the capital is the highest reported since 2018, it added. According to the report, in comparison to the 348 dengue cases reported between Jan. 1 and Aug. 5, the city reported 174 cases in the corresponding period last year, 55 cases in the year 2021, 35 in 2020, 47 cases in 2019 and 64 cases in 2018.—Agencies

Tedros expresses concern about violence in Amhara

NEW YORK: The World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed concern about the violence in Ethiopia's Amhara region.

"WHO is concerned about the ongoing violence in Amhara, Ethiopia's second most populous region," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Sunday on X, formerly known as Twitter. He stressed that humanitarian access was difficult due to roadblocks and suspension of internet service.

"Conflicts have an immediate impact on people's health and can have grave, long-lasting consequences on health systems," the WHO chief added, calling for peace and "uninterrupted access and protection of health care in Amhara, so WHO and partners can continue our work." Amid the escalating conflict in Amhara, the region's internet remains down as of Friday, according to internet monitoring sites. Residents have also reported a surge in arrests in the Eastern African country. In response to the escalating clashes in Amhara, the government of Ethiopia declared a six-month state of emergency in the country's second-largest region, taking urgent measures to restore order and security.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting awards to heads/representatives of Chinese companies operating in Pakistan under the CPEC. Islamabad. DNA

Niger's junta shuts airspace, awaits ECOWAS response

State television announced the move Sunday night, hours before the deadline set by West African regional bloc ECOWAS, which has warned of using military force if the democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum isn't returned to power

NIAMEY: Niger's mutinous soldiers closed the country's airspace and accused foreign powers of preparing an attack, as the junta defied a deadline to reinstate the ousted president. State television announced the move Sunday night, hours before the deadline set by West African regional bloc ECOWAS, which has warned of using military force if the democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum isn't returned to power. A spokesman for the coup leaders, Col. Maj. Amadou Abdramane, noted "the threat of intervention being prepared in a neighbouring country," and said Niger's airspace will be closed until further notice. The junta also claimed that two central African countries are preparing for an invasion, but did not say which ones, and called on the country's population to defend it.

The junta said any attempt to fly over the country will be met with "an energetic and immediate response." International airlines have begun to divert flights around the airspace of Niger, which the United States and others had seen as the last major counterterrorism partner in the vast Sahel region, south of the Sahara Desert, where groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are expanding their influence. In Mali, the armed forces said today that it and Burkina Faso, both neighbors of Niger run by military juntas, were sending a delegation of officials to Niger to show support. Both countries have said they would consider any intervention in Niger as a "declaration of war" against them. Regional tensions have mounted since Niger's coup nearly two weeks ago, with the mutinous soldiers

detaining Bazoum and installing Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, former head of the presidential guard, as head of state. Analysts say the coup is believed to have been triggered by a power struggle between Tchiani and the president, who was about to fire him. It was not immediately clear what ECOWAS will do now that Sunday's deadline has passed. The region is divided on a course of action. There was no sign of military forces gathering at Niger's border with Nigeria, the likely entry point by land. On Saturday, Nigeria's Senate pushed back on the plan to invade, urging Nigeria's president, the bloc's current chair, to explore options other than the use of force. ECOWAS can still move ahead, as final decisions are made by consensus by member states. A former British army of

icer who worked in Nigeria said military officials there told him Monday that President Bolu Tinubu had not given orders to use military force. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation. Guinea and neighboring Algeria, which is not an ECOWAS member, have come out against the use of force. Senegal's government has said it would participate in a military operation if it went ahead, and Ivory Coast has expressed support for ECOWAS efforts to restore constitutional order. The junta does not appear interested in negotiation. An ECOWAS delegation sent to Niger last week for hours of talks was not allowed to leave the airport and met only with Tchiani's representatives. At a rally on Sunday, thousands cheered junta leaders who said their loyalty

would be repaid. "We are with you against them. We will give you the Niger that you are owed," Brig. Gen. Mohamed Toumba said. After his speech, the Associated Press saw rallygoers behead a chicken decorated in the colors of former colonizer France. The junta is exploiting anti-French sentiments among the population to shore up its support base and has severed security ties with France, which still has 1,500 military personnel in Niger for counterterrorism efforts. On Monday, France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally discouraged any travel to Niger, Burkina Faso or Mali, and called on French nationals to be extremely vigilant. The day before, the ministry announced that France had suspended development aid to Burkina Faso. It's not clear what will happen to the French

military presence in Niger, or to the 1,100 U.S. military personnel also in the country. Many people, largely youth, have rallied around the junta, taking to the streets at night to patrol after being urged to guard against foreign intervention. "While they (jihadists) kill our brothers and sisters ... ECOWAS didn't intervene. Is it now that they will intervene?" said Amadou Boukari, a coup supporter at Sunday's rally. "Shame on ECOWAS." Niger's junta has also asked for help from the Russian mercenary group Wagner, which operates in a handful of African countries including Mali. But others have expressed concerns about the junta's tightening grip. One official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment, said the junta is scaring people into joining it.—Agencies

Rahul returns to parliament as court suspends conviction

NEW DELHI: India's main opposition leader Rahul Gandhi was restored to parliament Monday after the Supreme Court last week suspended his defamation conviction over political comments criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Gandhi is the scion of India's premier political dynasty and his reinstatement was welcomed by other members of the Congress party, which was once dominant but has lost the past two elections to Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Gandhi's disqualification "has ceased to operate subject to further judicial pronouncements", Utpal Kumar Singh, secretary general of the lower parliament house, said in a statement. The 53-year-old Congress party leader was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in March in a case that critics flagged as



an effort to stifle political opposition in the world's largest democracy. The conviction stemmed from a remark made during the 2019 election campaign when Gandhi had asked why "all thieves have Modi as (their) common surname". His comments were portrayed as a slur against the prime minister and against all those with the same surname, which is associated with the lower rungs of India's caste hierarchy. Anyone sentenced to a custodial term of two

years or more is ineligible to sit in India's parliament, forcing Gandhi's expulsion from the body in March. He was turfed out of the legislature as a result but stayed out of jail while appealing to the Supreme Court in New Delhi. Congress head Mallikarjun Kharge said it was "a welcome step", and called on the government to concentrate on "governance rather than denigrating democracy by targeting opposition leaders". Fellow Congress party MP Shashi Tharoor welcomed Gandhi's reinstatement "with enormous relief". "He can now resume his duties in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) to serve the people of India and his constituents... A victory of justice and for our democracy," he said. Many Congress leaders posted videos and messages hailing Monday's order and Kharge offered

sweets to opposition leaders. Dancing supporters waving flags gathered outside Congress headquarters in New Delhi, shouting slogans backing Gandhi and thumping drums. Gandhi is expected to rejoin the lower house on Monday afternoon, where he sits as a lawmaker from the southern state of Kerala. India's top court suspended Gandhi's defamation conviction on Friday and said the initial trial had failed to justify imposing the maximum sentence for his campaign rally comments four years ago. "The order of conviction needs to be stayed pending final adjudication," Justice B.R. Gavi said in his ruling. Gandhi is the son, grandson and great-grandson of former prime ministers, beginning with independence leader Jawaharlal Nehru. Congress was once the dominant force of Indian politics.—Agencies

Russia blasts KSA talks on ending war

KYIV: Russia's Foreign Ministry on Monday chided efforts by international officials meeting in Saudi Arabia to find a peaceful settlement for the war in Ukraine, saying the talks don't have "the slightest added value" because Moscow — unlike Kyiv — wasn't invited. Senior officials from around 40 countries gathered Sunday in Jeddah for a two-day meeting that aims to agree on key principles about how to end the conflict that has raged for more than 17 months. But without Russia's participation and without taking into account Moscow's interests, the meeting was pointless, a Russian Foreign Ministry statement said. It repeated previous assurances that Russia is open to a diplomatic solution on its terms that ends the war and is ready to respond to serious proposals. But Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelenskyy, ruled out Moscow's previous demands that would give Russia time to dig in deeper in the parts of Ukraine it has occupied. He said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that Russian forces must fully withdraw from the occupied areas and there would be no Kyiv compromise on that. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Security Service announced Monday it had detained an alleged Russian informant who gathered intelligence about Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's trip to the southern Mykolaiv region last month. It claimed the woman "was collecting data for an airstrike during Zelenskyy's visit.—DNA

SA HC for strengthening bilateral trade relations

The LCCI President emphasized the potential for collaboration across various sectors including agriculture, textiles, manufacturing, and technology. He also stressed the need for Pakistan to tap into South Africa's pharmaceutical market, which imported \$2.5 billion worth of products in 2022, mainly from India, Germany, France, and the US

DNA

LAHORE: In a bid to foster stronger economic ties between Pakistan and South Africa, High Commissioner Mthuthuzeli Madikiza made his third visit to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Monday. During his address to the business community, Madikiza underscored the need for collaborative efforts to address challenges faced by the business community and enhance trade cooperation. LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Honorary Consul General of South Africa Syed Shahid Ali, LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry and Executive Committee members were

also present. Madikiza highlighted the importance of understanding the unique opportunities and complexities that Africa presents for trade and investment. He commended the presence of an Africa Desk at the LCCI and acknowledged the commendable initiative of the government of Pakistan, "Look Africa", aimed at bolstering economic relations with the continent. Madikiza said the two countries suffered during the Covid-19 pandemic and stressed the need for diversification and expansion of trade beyond coal, urging stakeholders to analyze the progress made and work towards increasing trade volumes. In his address, LCCI President Kashif Anwar expressed optimism that the meeting would pave

the way for stronger bilateral economic relations. He emphasized the significance of South Africa in the African continent, with its impressive GDP of over \$400 billion and diverse economy, and highlighted the mutual benefits that closer cooperation could bring. He said participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and exchange of trade delegations play a fundamental role in boosting two-way trade. He informed the High Commissioner that the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry had established a state-of-the-art Alternate Dispute Resolution Center to settle business disputes. Kashif Anwar noted that while Pakistan and South Africa shared cordial relations, the trade balance had been skewed

in favour of South Africa. He cited figures from the State Bank of Pakistan, revealing a decline in bilateral trade from \$1.7 billion in 2021-22 to \$626 million in 2022-23, primarily due to reduced imports from South Africa. The LCCI President emphasized the potential for collaboration across various sectors including agriculture, textiles, manufacturing, and technology. He also stressed the need for Pakistan to tap into South Africa's pharmaceutical market, which imported \$2.5 billion worth of products in 2022, mainly from India, Germany, France, and the US. Senior Vice President LCCI Zafar Mahmood Ch outlined LCCI's plans to organize an "Africa Day" to promote trade and investment

opportunities between Pakistan and South Africa. He highlighted the strong demand for IT professionals in South Africa and potential areas of cooperation such as vehicle parts, tractors, and pharmaceuticals. He also called for the removal of duties on cement imports from South Africa. At the end, both sides expressed a shared commitment to further explore avenues for trade and investment, with a focus on leveraging each other's strengths to create a win-win scenario. The collaborative efforts between Pakistan and South Africa are poised to open doors to increased economic cooperation, leading to prosperity and development for both nations.

Spain on heat alert as wildfires burn

MADRID: Three wildfires that scorched more than 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) in Spain over the weekend were under control Monday but the country remained on high hot weather alert as it faced its third heatwave of the summer. The regions of Andalusia in the south, the central Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura in the west were placed on an orange alert with temperatures expected to reach 43 degrees Celsius (109 Fahrenheit) on Monday, according to the national weather agency Aemet. It is the third summer heatwave to hit the Iberian peninsula, which is expected to last until Thursday. A fire that broke around 10 kilometres (six miles) from the coastal city of Cadiz, a popular destination for tourists on the Atlantic Ocean, on Sunday had "stabilised" by midnight, the firefighting service Infoca said on X, formerly known as Twitter. Another fire, also under control, blackened some 450 hectares (1,100 acres) near the southwestern city of Huelva between Saturday and Sunday. In Catalonia, on the Mediterranean coast near the French border, firefighters were working since Friday to extinguish a blaze, an effort that was being complicated by wind gusts.—APP

Iran building collapse death toll rises to five

TEHRAN: Five people including two policemen were killed and at least 11 others injured during the collapse of several buildings in Iran's capital, local media reported on Monday. The policemen were securing the planned demolition on Sunday of "unauthorised buildings" in Tehran's southwest, ISNA news agency said. Another news agency, Tasnim, said two of the officers were killed. The overall "toll from the collapse" has reached five, spokesman for Tehran's fire department, Jalal Maleki, told Fars news agency. According to ISNA, authorities had begun the demolition of one building when five others collapsed. Rescue operations were underway to find others who may be trapped under the rubble, ISNA and Tasnim reported. Photographs from the scene issued by Tasnim showed rescuers and heavy equipment working below a pile of debris and twisted metal several metres (yards) high, with other unfinished and partially damaged buildings around them. ISNA quoted a police statement saying the buildings which collapsed did not comply "with construction safety measures". A Tehran city official said on Saturday that authorities had demolished more than 46,000 unauthorised buildings over the past two years, according to Hamshahri newspaper. In May 2022, a building collapse in Iran's southwest killed 43 people, in one of the country's deadliest such incidents. Agencies

Sudan rains wreck hundreds of homes

WAD MADANI: Torrential rains have destroyed more than 450 homes in Sudan's north, state media reported Monday, validating concerns voiced by aid groups that the wet season would compound the war-torn country's woes. Changing weather patterns saw Sudan's Northern State buffeted with heavy rain, causing damage to at least 464 houses, state-run SUNA news agency said. It described the vast region bordering Egypt and Libya as "a desert area that rarely received rain in the past, but has been witnessing devastating rains for the past five years". The tragedy comes nearly four months into a brutal war between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces that has decimated infrastructure and plunged millions into hunger. Medics and aid groups have for months warned that Sudan's rainy season, which began in June, could spell disaster for millions more — increasing the risk of malnutrition, vector-borne diseases and displacement across the country.—DNA

Briefs

OIC condemns killing of 3 Palestinians

DNA

RIYADH: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation condemned on Monday Israeli forces who killed three Palestinians in the West Bank a day earlier. Israeli soldiers opened fire on a vehicle and killed three passengers near the town of Arraba in the Jenin area on Sunday. The OIC also condemned "the escalation of organized terrorism practiced by extremist Israeli settler gangs against Palestinian citizens, their land, and property, which led on Friday to the death of a Palestinian citizen and the wounding of others in the town of Burqa, near the city of Nablus." Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian village in the West Bank on Friday, setting fire to cars and shooting at Palestinians who threw stones at them. Two Israeli settlers suspected of killing a 19-year-old Palestinian named Qusai Matan remained in police custody on Monday. The organisation called on the international community to intervene, stop continuous Israeli crimes in the occupied Palestinian territory, ensure the perpetrators are held accountable, and provide international protection for the Palestinian people. Also on Monday, a Palestinian teenager who was shot by Israeli troops last week after throwing a firebomb at soldiers in the occupied West Bank died, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

Accused of maid torture arrested after bail rejection

ISLAMABAD: A local court on Monday rejected the interim bail petition of Somalia Asim, the wife of a civil judge, in a case of torturing a minor maid. Additional District and Sessions Judge Farukh Fareed announced the verdict after which the accused was arrested from outside the courtroom. During the course of proceedings, the Islamabad Police submitted the case record to the court, praying to dismiss the bail petition of the accused. The defence lawyer, however, prayed the court to adjourn the case, saying that his client Somalia Asim was being trapped in the case as the parents of the victim girl wanted to blackmail her. He said the accused had appeared before the joint investigation team (JIT) and denied charges against her. There was no need to arrest her as she had joined the investigation and there was nothing to recover from her, he argued. The lawyer said his client had handed over the minor girl to her mother in a normal condition at the bus stop. The girl's parents had also not been involved in investigation process, he added, praying the court to extend the interim bail of Somalia Asim. However, the prosecutor prayed the court to dismiss the bail petition of the accused. - APP

Pakistan, China committed to enhance coop under CPEC

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said since 2019, India has taken a series of measures to alter the demographic makeup of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan says the areas of cooperation under Phase-II of China Pakistan Economic Corridor include rural revitalization, agricultural development, industrialization, green development and science and technology. This was stated by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at her weekly media briefing in Islamabad on Monday. The Spokesperson said CPEC

has brought huge dividends to Pakistan as manifested in the creation of over 200,000 jobs, addition of 8000 MW power to national grid, building of 510 kilometers of highways and 932 kilometers of road network, and a 820-kilometer long optical fiber line. She said Pakistan and China are committed to enhance cooperation under CPEC and develop it as a connectivity project for the region. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said since 2019, India has taken a series of measures to alter the demographic makeup of Indian Illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and intensified its suppression of the Kashmiri people. She said India has carried out a selective delimitation of electoral constituencies, issued fake domiciles to millions of non-Kashmiris, and added hundreds of thousands of temporary residents to alter the existing voter rolls. The Spokesperson said these measures are aimed at disenfranchising the people of Kashmir and converting them into a disempowered minority in their own land in gross violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

She said Pakistan believes that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have the right to determine their own future in a UN-supervised plebiscite as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters for the just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions.



ISLAMABAD: MQM-P delegation calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. - DNA

MQM tosses Tessori's name for caretaker PM

DNA

KARACHI: The Mutahidda Quomi Movement has proposed the name of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori for the slot of caretaker prime minister. The suggestion came as a delegation of the MQM led by Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad. During their meeting, they conferred on different matters pertaining to the caretaker setup. Apart from Dr Siddiqui, the MQM delegation was comprised of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Dr Farooq Sattar, and Aminul Haq. According to the MQM spokesperson, the prime minister assured the delegation of sorting the issue of increased electricity rates for Karachi consumers. The prime minister also directed to immediately release funds for Hyderabad University, the spokesperson said, adding that the MQM proposed the name of Sindh Governor Tessori for the slot of caretaker prime minister. The members of the MQM delegation thanked the prime minister for addressing their party's reservations on the Seventh Digital Census, and for the incorporation of their suggestions.

CM visits Agro Cluster and Cotton Textile Unit in Bukhara



LAHORE: A high-level delegation led by Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Monday visited Agro Cluster and Cotton Textile Unit in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. The delegation was briefed on cotton production, processing and value added textiles in Bukhara Agro Cluster, said a handout issued here. The delegation observed the process of garments preparation and inspected printing, dyeing, pressing and other sections at the Agro Cluster. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspected the high yielding cotton plants. He said that Punjab and Uzbekistan had immense opportunities for agricultural technology exchange and investment, and this visit was of great importance for the agro-economy of Pakistan. He said that this visit had paved the way for stronger agricultural relations between the two countries. "We will focus fully on the practical implementation of the measures and recommendations discussed during the visit" he stated. The agricultural development teams would maintain best coordination among themselves, he added. The CM hoped that the visit would prove to be the forerunner of the agricultural revolution in Punjab. The delegation was briefed on the stages of production of value added products from cotton. Provincial Ministers Aamir Mir, S M Tanveer, Chief Secretary Punjab, Secretary Agriculture Punjab, Gochar Ejaz, Fawad Mukhtar, Shahid Sattar, Naseerullah and Commissioners of Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan were also present. - DNA

Rana Sana urges NACTA to evolve policy for terrorism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan Monday said it is highly encouraging that the National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) has evolved into a fully functional organization, underscoring our commitment to countering terrorism and extremism. While chairing the 4th meeting of the Board of Governors of NACTA, the minister expressed satisfaction over NACTA's fully functional capacity and performance in countering extremism and terrorism. Federal Secretary Interior Syed Ali Murtaza, DG FIA Mohsin Butt, and members of the Board of Governors attended the meeting.

Various administrative and policy matters of the organization were extensively discussed in the meeting. Addressing the members of the board, the minister urged the NACTA to evolve a clear and comprehensive policy to deal with the resurgence of terrorism in the country. "NACTA has to play a key role to support law enforcement agencies in defeating terrorism in the country," he added. The federal minister further said that terrorism can be defeated only on the basis of the determination of a nation. "I hope that NECTA will spare no effort as a front-line organization in counter-terrorism and all provinces and other relevant organizations will follow this strategy, Interior Minister

remarked, adding We will end terrorism and extremism on a permanent basis from the country. Rana Sanaullah hoped that permanent peace and economic prosperity will return to the motherland with the blessing of Allah Almighty. He also assured the authority of his full support in this regard. NECTA National Coordinator IGP Muhammad Tahir Rai gave a detailed briefing at the meeting. According to DG Nacta, the process of recruitment of professional staff, data scientists, technical officers, analysts and experts in Nacta has been completed and consultants have also been hired for the enhancement of anti-terrorism capacity and application of communication.

Hazara Express tragedy: Investigators to inspect site

SANGHAR: The Railway department will conduct an inspection of the site of the Hazara Express derailment in district Sanghar's Nawabshah today (Monday) to gather evidence for investigations of the deadly train crash that killed over 30 people and injured 130. Pakistan saw another tragic train accident on Sunday when 10 bogies of Havelian-bound Hazara Express went off track near Sahara Railway Station in Sindh's Nawabshah district, some 275 kilometres away from Karachi. The train operations on the affected up-track still remain discontinued

since the suspension after the crash. However, the down-track was restored nearly 18 hours after the accident and the departures of trains facing delays at different stations began. Railway authorities say it will take several more hours to restore the affected track. The derailed bogies of the tragedy struck Hazara Express were removed from the track while repair works are underway. Federal government's Railways Inspector Ali Mohammad Afridi said that the up-track will be completely restored in four to five hours. Speaking to media in Sanghar, the official said that a site

inspection was due today, while the inquiry will be initiated in four to five days after recording statements of the related individuals. Afridi said that 300-400 kilometres of track were affected by the train crash, which is being repaired. The track, coaches, and locomotives were being examined and the marks seen on the affected tracks are of the nut bolts and wheel flanges, he added. Meanwhile, the administration of the Peoples Medical Hospital, Nawabshah, said that over 120 injured had been shifted to the facility and most of them have been discharged after treatment. - DNA

4 Syrian soldiers killed in Israeli attack

DNA

DAMASCUS: An Israeli missile attack near Syria's capital Damascus has killed at least four Syrian soldiers and wounded four others, according to the official SANA news agency. Citing a military source, SANA said the attack took place early on Monday. "At 2:20am [23:20 GMT Sunday] the Israeli enemy carried out an air attack from the direction of the occupied Syrian Golan, targeting areas in the vicinity of Damascus," it said. The attack killed "four soldiers and wounded four others", it added. The agency also reported "some material damage" and said Syrian air defences had intercepted some of the Israeli missiles. There was no immediate comment from Israel. Israel has for years been carrying out attacks against what it has described as Iran-linked targets in Syria.

Govt notifies seventh census results

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's population has surged to 241.49 million as the gazette notification of the latest digital census was issued on Monday. According to the notification, Punjab has reached the figure of 127.68 million as the most populous province. The population of Sindh province was recorded at 55.69 million. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded its population at 40.85 million individuals, said the notification. It added that the Balochistan's population was at 14.89 million people. The census results showed that Islamabad's population was recorded at 2.36 million. It said Pakistan's urban population was 93.75 million while 147.74 million people live in rural areas. The population of Lahore was recorded at 22.77 million while Karachi witnessed 22.38 million people.

FIA thwarts terrorist's attempt to flee

DNA

KARACHI: A terrorist was arrested by FIA from Karachi airport. The terrorist was involved in many terror activities in KPK. According to media reports, Ehsan-ul-Haq was associated with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and was planning to flee from the country. The Immigration Cell of FIA thwarted his attempt to leave the country as he was arrested from the airport. According to FIA's Immigration Cell, the home department of KP government had announced Rs1 million bounty on Swabi based Ehsan-ul-Haq. The terrorist would be handed over to the concerned law enforcement agencies.

Masood Khan seeks help from China, US for regional stability

DNA

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States and former president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Masood Khan has said that the nation seeks support from both China and the US to address the escalating security situation in the heart of Asia. In an interview with Newsweek, ambassador Masood Khan said that, in light of the increasing militancy and the looming threat of conflict, both rival powers are invested in averting a major crisis in the region. Masood Khan acknowledged China's contributions to Pakistan's economic progress in various sectors, especially through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC has been instrumental in promoting economic development and stability. He also emphasized the significance of the security and defense cooperation between Pakistan and China, characterizing the relationship as "crucial". In the aftermath of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Masood Khan said, Pakistan has recalibrated its relationship with the US to build strong economic partnerships and foster security cooperation to counter terrorism and ensure strategic stability in the region. "After the withdrawal of the United States from Afghanistan, I think we recalibrated our relationship and are using most effi-

ciently the space that is available to the United States and Pakistan for building economic partnerships, for continuing with a paradigm of security cooperation, particularly in regard to countering terrorism and identifying the long-term strategy for strategic stability in the region," he explained. The US takes a pragmatic approach with the Afghan Taliban to address shared concerns, including counter-narcotics efforts and combating terrorism, Newsweek said. The US State Department also reaffirmed its commitment to working with Pakistan in countering terrorist groups throughout the region. However, Pakistan faces challenges in ensuring stability within its borders. Concerns over economic prospects, a surge in militant attacks, and the risks of escalation along the disputed border with India have added to the country's security woes. The unresolved dispute over Kashmir remains a critical concern. Ambassador Khan pointed out that Pakistan and India, both nuclear-armed nations, must prioritize peace over conflict. He said recent statements by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif indicate a willingness to resume dialogue with India, backed by the US. Pakistan's future depends on international support, including from the International Monetary Fund, as the country navigates its economic crisis. However, Khan said, the government needs to address issues of corruption and prioritize internal reforms.

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