



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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**US: No sanctions relief for Iran under prisoner deal**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Zelenskiy fires top military commanders**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Kane's transfer to Bayern is 'imminent'**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Judgements review law unlawful: SC

Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif and Jahangir Tareen will not get any relief after this judgment; Lawyers ready to challenge many other laws passed by the Shehbaz govt



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The apex court Friday ruled that the Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023 was unconstitutional, shattering the hopes of ex-PM Nawaz Sharif and Jahangir Tareen who were seeking to challenge their lifetime disqualifications. Both Nawaz and Tareen were disqualified under Article 62 of the Constitution. Had the verdict today been in favour of the petitions, both leaders would have gotten an opportunity to challenge their disqualifications, keeping in view their political ambitions amid the upcoming general elections in the country following the completion of the tenure of the National Assembly. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar announced the decision reserved on June 19 after six hearings — from June 7 to June 19 — on multiple petitions challenging the law, enacted in late May. The CJ read out the decision in the presence of the AGP, petitioners, and a large number of lawyers.

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### SC ruling will not affect Nawaz Sharif: Azam

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former law minister Azam Nazeer Tatar on Friday termed the Supreme Court (SC) ruling on the judgements review law as "very unfortunate", but said that it would not affect former premier Nawaz Sharif's prospects of returning to electoral politics anytime soon. Speaking after a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial struck down the new law, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senator termed the timing of the verdict "important". He said that the Constitution had laid down rules of the game for all state organs which was also called trichotomy of powers. "Courts interfere in the Parliament's jurisdiction again and again and give verdicts that put a curb on its supremacy [...] this is not a good tradition," he lamented. He maintained that this has happened in the past and "it weakens the state's institutions and not strengthens them". Tatar added that the timing of the verdict was also painful for him as the verdict was announced

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### Forces kill 2 terrorists in Kech

Large cache of arms and ammunition recovered

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: At least two terrorist were killed and another sustained injuries in a successful intelligence based operation launched by the security forces against miscreants in Mazaband Range area of Balochistan's Kech district on August 10-11, the military said. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) a large cache of arms and ammunition was recovered in the operation. The killed Terrorists were involved in targeting of innocent civilians and law enforcement agencies, the military's media wing said. "Security Forces of Pakistan remain committed towards eliminating menace of terrorism and thwart nefarious designs of the enemies of Pakistan at all costs," it added. Earlier this week, at least seven people including a chairman of a union council were killed in a bomb explosion in Balochistan's Panjgur district.

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### PTI expresses concern over Imran's safety

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Core Committee expressed great concern over the authorities concerned non-serious attitude pertaining to PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan's safety and security and wellbeing, who was kept in a terrible condition in Attock Jail, vowing that no compromise would be made on his health and safety come what may. The PTI core committee in its meeting voiced strong apprehension the delay in allowing PTI Chairman to provide home-made food and water. They demanded that the former prime minister should be transferred from Attock to Adiala Jail instantly. The PTI core committee expressed its non-serious behavior of the rulers regarding the health and safety of PTI Chairman

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia Azhar Mzalan received Neil Hawkins, High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan, at the High Commission of Malaysia. — DNA

## Caretaker Premier President tells PM, Riaz to propose name in time

The president recalled that he had dissolved the NA on the former's advice



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Friday asked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and outgoing Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly (NA) Raja Riaz to propose a name for the appointment of caretaker premier by today (August 12). After the NA was dissolved on Aug 9, the prime minister and opposition leader began meetings to select a candidate for the interim premier. The first meeting was held on Thursday in which six names had

Continued on Page 06

## Name to be finalized by today: PM

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed confidence that the name of the caretaker Prime Minister will be finalized by Saturday. Talking to journalists in Islamabad on Friday, he said coalition partners will be taken into confidence over the matter before taking a final decision. To a question, the Prime Minister said the past 16 months in the government were the toughest days of his political career as the previous regime had

Continued on Page 06

### Briefs

#### SC fixes Parvez Elahi's bail plea

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday fixed for hearing the bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhary Pervez Elahi. A three-member bench headed by Justice Ijazul Ahsan and comprising Justice Jamal Mandokhail and Justice Shahid Waheed would hear the plea of Pervez Elahi on August 16.

#### No legal hurdle for senator to become PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the guessing game is in full swing over the possible candidate for the coveted slot of interim prime minister, former finance minister Senator Ishaq Dar has said there is no legal bar for a senator to become the caretaker PM. His remarks came soon after President instructed PM and Leader of Opposition in NA to propose a name for the appointment of interim premier by tomorrow (Saturday).

#### Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.

— Editor

## Balochistan Assembly to also go Sindh Assembly dissolved

Maqbool Baqir likely to be the Sindh caretaker CM; Mumtaz Ali Shah name also among the CM aspirants

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah took the summary of dissolution of the Sindh assembly to Governor Tesori seeking dissolution of the provincial assembly (August 11), just a day before the completion of its five years constitutional term, well-placed sources said. The Governor immediately signed the summary after the assembly was dissolved. It is pertinent to mention here that the first session of the provincial assembly was held on August 13, 2018, and its five-year constitution term will end on August 12, 2023 (tomorrow). The Sindh Governor on the advice of the chief minister signed the summary. Consultations between the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and opposition parties over the appointment of a caretaker chief minister are currently underway. The well-informed sources said that the ruling party of Sindh is mulling to propose the name of Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqir for the slot of interim CM. Earlier, reports about appointing Mumtaz Ali Shah as the caretaker chief executive were also surfaced in the media. However, the opposition had

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## Karachi to face severe gas shortage

DNA

KARACHI: The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) Thursday announced that consumers in Karachi might face a severe shortage of gas supply from August 12 to 23 due to the maintenance of the Kunnar-Pasakhi Deep (KPD) gas field. "There will be a shortage of 50 mmcf from August 12 to 15 whereas there will be a severe shortfall of 107 mmcf from August 16 to 23," the SSGC said, adding that the maintenance work in the KPD gas field would take place from August 12 to 27. The SSGC further said that the gas supply in the port city would remain affected from August 23 to 27 as well whereas areas at the end of the gas

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## Bushra Bibi leaks: timing is intriguing!!

Another dimension of this unfolding situation could come to light. According to recent reports, the prospect of a reconciliation between the Establishment and Imran is on horizon

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The post-coalition government era has ushered in a wave of transformations, setting the stage for the evolution of alliances and the recalibration of political dynamics. Amidst this fluid landscape, the judicial realm has also taken center stage. On August 11, 2023, the highest court of the nation rendered a significant verdict, declaring the legislative decisions of the Shehbaz government regarding Supreme Court as null and void. This momentous ruling carries substantial implications, particularly for prominent figures like Nawaz Sharif, the leader of the PML-N party, and



Jehangir Tareen, a key figure within the newly-formed Istehkam Party. As a result of this ruling, both Sharif and Tareen find themselves barred from pursuing any appeals in relation to these judgments. According to the legal fraternity this ruling underscores the intricate interplay between

the legal and political landscapes, shaping the course of the nation's governance and leadership in unforeseen ways. Nawaz Sharif, according to his family sources, is likely to fly to Pakistan next month in order to be part of the election campaign and re-organize the party. However it is to be seen if the PML-N leader shall still be interested in returning to Pakistan after this judgement. A recent event that has significantly impacted the political landscape is the Diary Leak of Bushra Bibi. These leaked entries suggest a deeper involvement on her part in the realm of governance, portraying her as a key advisor to Prime Minister

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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

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PIA Flight Info.....114  
PIA Cargo.....9280979  
Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange9270831-5  
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

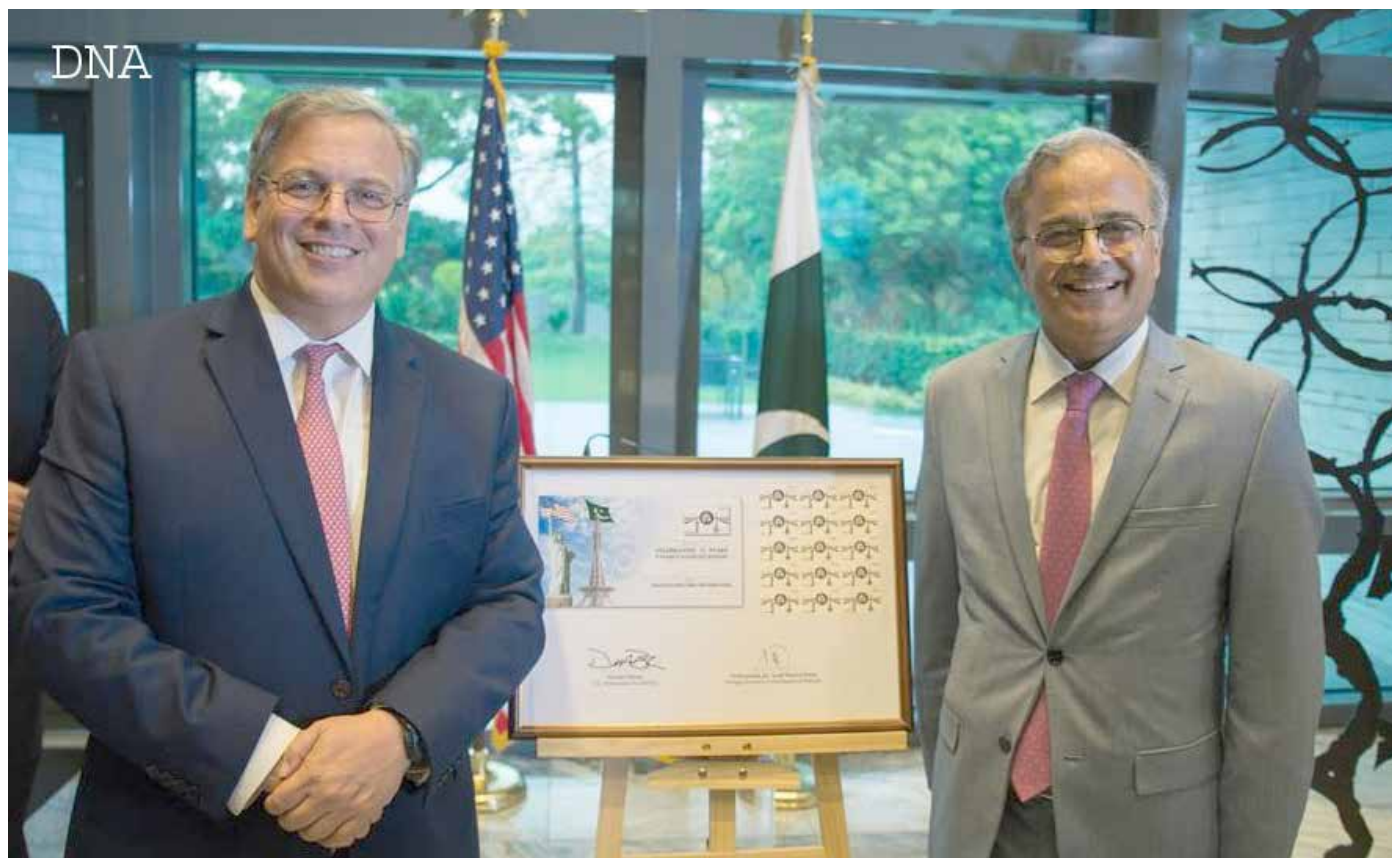
Islamabad.....0321-5744480

## US and Pak honor 75 years with commemorative stamp

Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed said that Pakistan values its long-standing and broad-based relationship with the United States adding that the "U.S. has been our key economic and developmental partner for over seven decades"

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. Mission to Pakistan culminated its year-long campaign marking 75 years of relations with Pakistan with a reception to honor Pakistan's issuance of a commemorative stamp. The event was held at the U.S. Ambassador's residence and included Chief Guest Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan as well as other prominent figures from Pakistan government, academia, and civil society. U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome highlighted the long friendship saying, "this stamp, which highlights both country's symbols of freedom, not only marks the first 75 years of friendship, but manifests a vision for our future partnership in many arenas of shared purpose. It shows that we can accomplish great things when we work together." Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed said that Pakistan values its long-standing and broad-based relationship with the United States adding that the "U.S. has been our key economic and developmental partner for over seven decades."



## PM recognizes role of minorities in nation building

### MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Today the nation celebrates the role and contributions of our non-Muslim citizens for peace, progress and prosperity of Pakistan on the National Day of Minorities. Our minority communities are part and parcel of the Pakistani nationalism. From the freedom struggle to this day, they have contributed meaningfully to building the country. From defence to education to health to social service, there is no walk of life where our non-Muslim brothers and sisters have not played their role in the socio-economic development of the country.

The Day also draws our attention to Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's historic speech at the floor of the legislative assembly where he laid down the rules of engagement for the citizens with the newly created state of Pakistan. The very idea of Pakistan is incomplete without our non-Muslim citizens. The 'white' colour of our flag symbolizes their place in the body politic of Pakistan. From Jogendranath Mandal, Pakistan's first law minister to Dr. Maira Phailbus to Dr Ruth Pfau to Justice Dorab Patel, the list of our Pakistani non-Muslim personalities of eminence is long

whose contributions to public service continue to be celebrated. Interfaith harmony is a marked feature of our national identity. Pakistan is a strong advocate of pluralism, and diversity. Our Constitution guarantees the provision of social, political, religious and economic rights to all citizens without any discrimination of caste, creed and colour. I am happy to state that the empowerment of our minority communities has taken the center-stage of public policy, as successive governments have allocated resources and implemented policies aimed at their main-

streaming and empowerment. On the National Day of Minorities, I join the nation in paying rich tributes to our non-Muslim citizens for their valuable contributions in nation-building and assure them of the government's consistent and unwavering commitment to protecting their rights. I urge all segments of society to forge unity in their ranks. Nothing is more powerful than the spirit of togetherness in a nation, for it powers its imagination and strengthens its resolve to overcome the odds. 'Unity, faith and discipline', the Quaid's motto, shows us the way forward to navigate the challenges. \*

## Jashan-i-Azadi stalls attract youngsters, children

ISLAMABAD: As the countdown has started for the celebration of Independence Day, falling on August 14, a large number of stalls displaying national flags, bunting, flag-coloured dresses and other accessories are set up at the main avenues, markets and streets of the capital city to attract buyers. Several patriotic youngsters especially children can be seen around these stalls daily for buying flags, bunting, badges and Jashan-i-Azadi dresses to finalize their preparations. While to keep the interest of kids intact in these cele-

brations, the flag-coloured toys are also on display for the attraction. Ahmad Shah, who is a government employee, said, "The stalls carrying green and white coloured Jashan-i-Azadi accessories set up at different nook and corners have not only added a charm to the beauty of the capital but reviving a patriotic spirit among the citizens". "I have visited different Jashan-i-Azadi stalls with my children today to buy them flags, buntings and other stuff of their interest, taking advantage of the pleasant weather", he said while talking to APP. The capital has worn

a green and white look with several Jashan-i-Azadi stalls as well as decorated vehicles with flags plying on different roads. Nasira Jehan, a working woman said, "We should not only make our children buy flags, bunting and other accessories to celebrate this day but educate them about the historical struggle of our national heroes and workers of Pakistan Movement for the creation of Pakistan and how they can contribute to make this country a better place". She said the idea of tree plantation on August 14 will make this day more purpose-

ful and contribute to reducing environmental hazards being faced by the country. Ameen Khan, a roadside stall holder said, "The occasion of Independence Day allows us to earn a handsome amount through selling flag-coloured items. Most of our customers are youth and children who buy these things to decorate their vehicles and homes." This year, vendors like me are expecting good sales as youth looks enthusiastic to prepare for Independence Day celebrations and then posting selfies on social media, he said.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott visited Faisal Mosque. During her visit she praised architecture of the mosque.—DNA

## Outgoing provost men's hostels calls on President IIUI

ISLAMABAD: President, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi has appreciated the services of outgoing Provost Men's hostel, Dr. Muhammad Ibrar Anver in a meeting with him at the President office of the university. On this occasion, Worthy President said that Students Facilitation has always been his top priority. He appreciated the services rendered by Dr Ibrar Anver for about four years as Provost Men's Hostels IIUI. President said that Dr Ibrar Anver worked day and night to provide the peaceful and secured environment to hostel students, especially during the Corona period when foreign students from about fifteen nations were residing in hostels. The outgoing Provost extended his profound gratitude to the President for his all-out support that the Provost enjoyed throughout his tenure. The outgoing Provost categorically admitted that without the patronage of the President and his team, he would have not been able to run the Hostels effectively.—APP

## Another monsoon spell likely in Punjab from Aug 13

### DNA

LAHORE: Most of the districts of Punjab are facing severe heat these days but rains are being predicted in coming days. According to the spokesperson for the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), weather will remain hot and humid in most parts of Punjab. However, monsoon rains are likely in the province from Aug 13 to 16. Heavy rain is being forecast in Sialkot, Narowal, Shakargarh, Lahore, Gujranwala, Gujrat and Mandi Bahauddin. The rain with thunderstorm is likely in Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal, Murrree and Galiat. The PDMA added that the flow of water in Chenab, Ravi, Jhelum and Sutlej rivers was normal. There is low level flood at Taunsa in Indus River while Tarbela and Mangla dams are 95 per cent filled.

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## Briefs

## President acknowledges minorities role

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday acknowledged the important role of the minorities in development of the country. Highlighting the role of the minorities in nation-building, he in a message on the occasion of International Day of Minorities said the Constitution guaranteed political, economic and social rights to all citizens irrespective of their religious beliefs or race. Islam taught us to protect the rights of minorities and equality among all people, he added. President Alvi said Pakistan always took measures to ensure welfare of the minorities and to encourage their active participation in political and economic development of the country. He also reiterated his unwavering resolve to protect the religious, economic, social and political rights of the minorities. He said Pakistan would continue to work for the welfare and protection of basic rights of the minorities. The president appealed to the media and religious scholars to create awareness among the masses about the minorities rights and promote culture of love, peace and unity.—APP

## CTP issue traffic plan for Independence Day

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) here on Friday issued a traffic plan to facilitate commuters and the general public on Independence Day (August 14) to be celebrated on Monday. According to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Tamoor Khan, 34 special pickets would be erected in the city and on entry points of Murree to thwart one-wheeling on the eve of August 14 and strict action would be taken against one-wheelers. The traffic plan was made and announced to facilitate the citizens, he added. He said the extra force of traffic wardens would be deployed on all the roads and in Murree to handle the traffic load on August 14. Over 800 traffic officials would be on special duty on Aug 14 while on Sunday night maximum officers staff of CTP Headquarters would also be deployed on field duties to regulate traffic on city roads, he added. He said CTO also constituted six special squads comprising wardens to curb one-wheeling and car stunts by the youngsters. He said that the traffic wardens had been directed to keep a vigil over vehicles and motorcycles with tinted glasses and displaying unauthorised number plates in the city and take strict action against the rules violators. He informed that the DSPs, inspectors and other beat in charges had been directed to perform duty with dedication and committed on August 14 to facilitate the citizens. He said no negligence or inefficiency would be tolerated in this regard. The CTO also urged the parents to keep an eye over children and not to allow underage drivers to show stunts on motorcycles and cars on August 14.—APP

## ICCI calls for more job quote for minorities in all sectors

Chaudhry Ashraf Farzand, Convener, ICCI Interfaith Harmony Committee appreciated the role of the Chamber for minorities. National song was also presented on the occasion, while a great tribute was paid to the services of the minorities for the country

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) organized a ceremony to celebrate the National Minority Day. Former Minister of State for National Health Services Mahesh Kumar Malani was the chief guest while former Member KPK Assembly Sardar Ranjit Singh was also present on the occasion. Addressing the ceremony Mahesh Kumar Malani said that minorities in Pakistan enjoy better protection of rights due to which they do not feel any insecurity. Quaid-i-Azam had said in his speech on 11th August 1947 that the minorities in Pakistan would have equal rights and they would have full freedom to go to their places of worship. His vision is being implemented in Pakistan as Temples, Churches and Gurdwaras are safe in Pakistan. Only a limited group of extremists is attacking mosques and minority places of worship. He said that armed forces are fighting against extremists and they will be eliminated soon. He demanded that the political parties should bring more minority members in the national and provincial assemblies. He lauded ICCI for celebrating the National Minority Day and paid tribute to the services of the



Bakhtavari family for the minorities. President ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari said that the minorities had played an active role in the Pakistan Movement and they had also defended Pakistan during wars, which reflects their deep love for Pakistan. He stressed that the government should further increase 5% job quota for minorities in the public and private sectors and reiterated that ICCI would cooperate in providing jobs to them in the private sector. He said that minorities are also playing a positive role in the economic development of Pakistan by promoting business activities and as-

sured that ICCI will play a role to address their business-related issues. He said that India is suppressing the rights of the Muslims of Occupied Kashmir and its minorities, therefore, the international community including the United Nations should take notice of it and play a role to protect the rights of the minorities. Sardar Ranjit Singh, former member of KPK assembly, said that the freedom and facilities enjoyed by minorities in Pakistan are a slap in the face of our neighbour. The way the minorities are protected in Pakistan today may be giving satisfaction to the soul of Quaid-e-Azam.

He said that the 99% Sikh community in Pakistan is playing an active role in strengthening the economy of Pakistan by promoting business activities. Minorities are also rendering useful services in the health and education sectors in Pakistan. The celebration National Minority Day in ICCI is commendable as it will boost the morale of minorities. Zafar Bakhtavari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG, said that this day reminds us of promoting love and brotherhood among communities of all religions. There is a need to further promote interfaith harmony to make Pakistan an attractive destination for business and investment, and such events will prove useful in achieving these objectives. He said that ICCI has always raised its voice for solving the issues of the minorities and will continue to do so in the future. The Bakhtavari family has provided facilities like electricity, gas and water to the slum dwellers of Islamabad and will continue to work for the betterment of the minorities in future as well. Chaudhry Ashraf Farzand, Convener, ICCI Interfaith Harmony Committee appreciated the role of the Chamber for minorities. National song was also presented on the occasion, while a great tribute was paid to the services of the minorities for the country.

## PM decides to award "Tamgha-i-Imtiaz" to doctors

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister on Friday decided to award "Tamgha-i-Imtiaz" (posthumously) to the martyred doctors and health workers who provided medical treatment and care to the patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was decided that Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (posthumously) would be awarded to 81 doctors from Punjab, 87 from Sindh, 23 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 8 from Balochistan, 4 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and one each from Gilgit Baltistan and Islamabad. Likewise 59 nurses and frontline health workers from across Pakistan would also be honored with Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (posthumously) for their services and saving lives of people without caring about their lives during the Corona pandemic. The prime minister acknowledged and paid tribute to doctors and front line health workers from across the country who served fearlessly during COVID-19 pandemic. "These sons and daughters of the country embraced martyrdom from this deadly pandemic while fulfilling their responsibilities," the prime minister said.—DNA

## ANF seizes 78 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover over 78 kg drugs and arrested eight accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He said, 5 kg heroin and 6 kg hashish were recovered from secret cavities of a car intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad. Two suspects, residents of Khyber and Peshawar, were arrested during the operation. In an operation, 21 kg heroin was recovered from

a house near Masri Khan Chowk Peshawar. During the operation, the accused resident of Peshawar was also arrested. The spokesman said, 300 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of a local drug dealer near Baidri Chowk Mansehra. In fourth operation conducted in Sialkot, heroin was recovered from a parcel booked at a courier office. 5 kg heroin hidden in surgical items was being smuggled to Canada. He informed that in fifth operation, 30 heroin-filled

capsules were recovered from the possession of a Sri-Lanka bound passenger arrested at Multan Airport. The accused resident of Lahore was going on Flight No G-9559. ANF recovered 19.2 kg opium and 20.4 kg hashish from a Honda car intercepted near Gojra Interchange while during the operation, an accused resident of Swat was arrested. The spokesman said that in seventh operation at a courier office at Jinnah International Airport Ka-

rachi, 800 grams Ice drug concealed in flag sticks was recovered. The parcel was booked for Qatar. In eighth operation, 4 kg heroin and 1 kg Ice drug were recovered from a bus intercepted near Vinder area in Hub. During the operation, two accused residents of Turbat were also arrested. Separate cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are under process.—APP

## SECP registers 2,220 companies in July

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,220 new companies in July 2023, a 25% increase from the previous year. The total capitalization for these companies was Rs. 3.3 billion. The total number of registered companies in the country rose to 197,828, said a press release issued here. About 57% of Pakistan's companies are private limited companies, 41% are single-member companies, and 2% are not-for-profit associations, trade organizations, and LLPs. 99.7% are registered online, and three foreign companies have established business in Pakistan. 86 foreign applicants have registered from overseas. The information technology sector took the lead with the incorporation of 316 companies, trading with 309, services with 260, real estate development & construction with 252, food & beverages with 96, tourism with 91, education with 90, corporate agricultural farming with 70, e-commerce with 64, textile with 57, marketing & advertisement with 48, transport with 45, engineering with 42, healthcare with 41, pharmaceutical 36, mining & quarrying with 35, power generation with 30, lodging with 28, communications with 26, chemical with 24, cosmetics & toiletries 21, auto & allied and broadcasting & telecasting with 20 each, paper & board with 19, cables & electrical goods with 12, and 168 companies were registered in other sectors. SECP integration with FBR and provincial departments led to 2123 NTN registrations, 69 EOBI, 40 PESSI/SESSI, and 51 excise and taxation departments, registering 2123 companies. Foreign investment has been reported in 42 new companies, having foreign investors from Afghanistan, Canada, China, Djibouti, Germany, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Kuwait, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UAE, UK, US and Vietnam. A major chunk of investment was received from China with 16 companies, Singapore and UAE with 3 each, Afghanistan, Iran, the US and Vietnam with 02 each, and 12 companies from other countries. SECP's WhatsApp facility handles name availability and incorporation queries, with 1,305 responses and a 96% satisfaction rate in the month.—DNA

## Tarbela Dam filled to maximum level of 1550 feet

TARBELA: The mega water reservoir of Tarbela was filled to its maximum level of 1550 feet above on Friday, resulting in 5.809 million acre-feet (MAF) of water in the Dam, which is a good sign for agriculture and hydel power generation in Pakistan in the days to come. Tarbela Dam is considered an iconic project for the contribution it has been making towards the development of Pakistan by releasing the stored water for agriculture and mitigating floods and providing low-cost hydel electricity to the National Grid. Tarbela Reservoir has a live water storage capacity of 5.809 MAF. Besides and is the biggest electricity generating facility in Pakistan with an installed capacity of 4888 megawatts (MW), which will further increase to 6418 MW after the completion of the Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project. As per the hydrological data, the water inflow in Kabul at Nowshera was 40900 cusecs and outflow 40900 cusecs, at Khairabad Bridge, the water inflow was 222700 cusecs and outflow 222700 cusecs, in Jelhum at Mangla, the inflow was 31500 cusecs and outflow was 10000 cusecs.—APP

## Pak, China joint lab for ecosystem inaugurated

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The lab for ecosystem restoration and sustainable development jointly built by University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and Shenyang Normal University, China has been inaugurated. The two sides expect to carry out some innovative projects and research programs together under the lab, according to Iqar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor of UAF. "In Pakistan, land degradation has been eroding agricultural output. We look forward to green technology to address this problem", Dr. Abid Ali of UAF told China Economic Net. In addition to joint research and publication, student and faculty exchange is also part of the cooperation. On the inauguration ceremony, five representatives from UAF, namely, professor of horticulture Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, professors of entomology



Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif and Dr. Abid Ali, professor of botany Dr. Muhammad Saqib, and professor of agronomy Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed were engaged as visiting professors of Shenyang Normal University. In Pakistan, Two third of the rapidly increasing population depends on drylands to support their livelihood mainly by engaging in agro-pastoral activities. Within the vast arid and semi-arid areas which takes over 70% of national land area, all have been affected by land degrada-

tion. According to Remote Sensing study, the land degradation in Pakistan is mainly due to vegetation loss and withdrawal of agriculture, accounting for 53.78% and 40.07% respectively. This is particular acute in the transition area from northern mountainous area to central and eastern plain and the Indus River Basin, where the intensification of human activities also plays a role. From 2001 to 2020, Pakistan's land degradation area reached 17,550.07km<sup>2</sup>.

## CDA seals over 100 car showrooms in capital

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has sealed over 100 illegal car showrooms in the commercial centres of Islamabad. The Enforcement Cell and Building Control Cell of the CDA sealed the car showrooms. The CDA had issued notices to the owners of the illegal showrooms on complaints of citizens. The action was taken against the showrooms when the notices expired. A total of 130 showrooms were sealed in F10, F11 Blue Area and G8. "The showroom owners were doing business by parking their vehicles in the parking lot," the CDA chairman said. "The owners of the showrooms did not take the vehicles into their premises on which they were sealed," he added. A thorough survey was conducted by the CDA after which the decision was taken to seal the showrooms.

## MOU between mineral development corporation and miracle Saltworks

## DNA

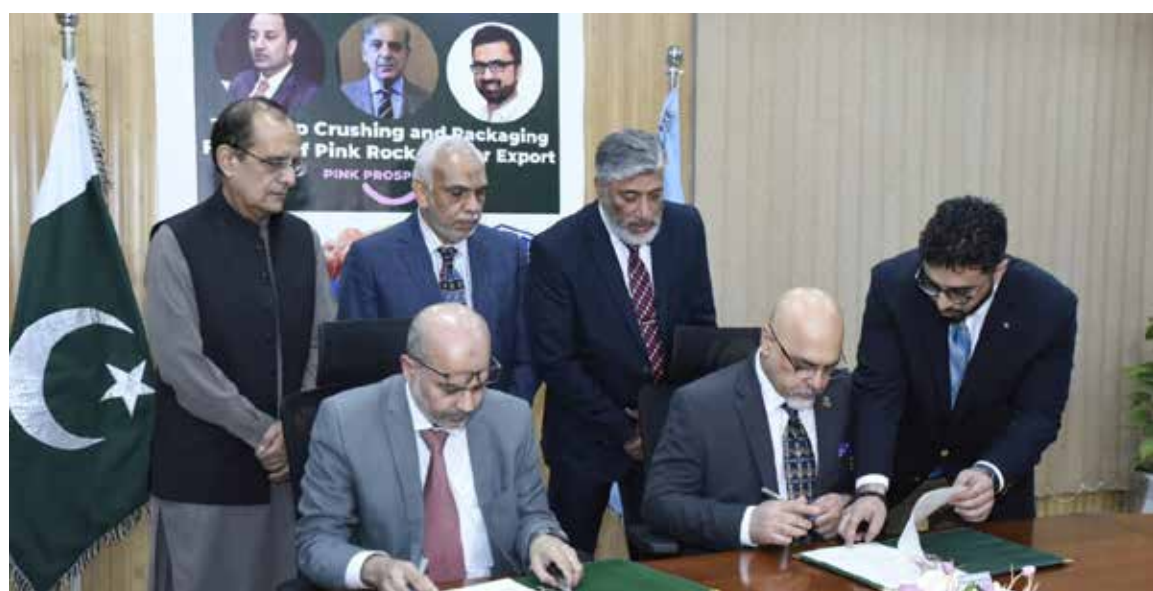
ISLAMABAD: As a part of building mineral driven economy by GoP, Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) under the control of Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) and Miracle Saltworks Collective Inc. (MSCI), based in Wisconsin, USA, have embarked partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This non-binding MOU envisages to establish a state-of-the-art Pink Rock Salt Crushing and Packaging facility for export purposes under theme of "Pink Prosperity". Engr. Asad Ahmad, Managing Director, PMDC and Mr. Ahmad Nadeem Khan, CEO, MSCI signed MOU on behalf of their Companies. Mr. Muhammad Hassan Iqbal, Addl. Secretary (Petroleum Division) graced the occasion. The signing ceremony took place in Islamabad. This collaborative endeavor marks a significant milestone and promising a surge of

foreign direct investment amounting to an impressive 200 million USD. The envisioned plant will be setup at Special Economic Zone located in the District Mianwali, Punjab, Pakistan. The Pink Rock Salt facility is exclusively

dedicated to export salt base products to international markets which will contribute substantially to Pakistan's foreign revenue. By harnessing state of the art technology and best practices in the industry, the ini-

tiative aims to position Pakistan as a prominent player in the global Pink Rock Salt market. This endeavor is expected to not only bolster economic growth but also cast a spotlight on the nation's unique Pink Rock Salt on

the international stage. MSCI will also undertake CSR activities including community development, health facilities and women empowerment etc. for inclusive and substantial development in the area of operations.



ISLAMABAD: MD Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation Engr Asad Ahmad CEO Miracle Saltworks Ahmad Nadeem Signing MOU for International pink salt project.— DNA



## 10 Minutes Drive From The Monal



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## China and Ukraine: beware great expectations

Straddles are, by their nature, uncomfortable positions to maintain. So it isn't surprising that China's attempt to hold together conflicting interests on the war in Ukraine – maintaining its “no limits” partnership with Russia, without damaging its relationship with western nations and its tarnished global brand too greatly – has proved awkward. Attention increased when its special envoy for Eurasian affairs, Li Hui, joined talks in Jeddah last weekend, having avoided similar talks in Copenhagen earlier this summer. European officials described China's involvement as “active” and said that it “appeared constructive”. The verb may be as important as the adjective: China is manoeuvring around the conflict, not fundamentally repositioning itself. Xi Jinping finally held a phone call with Volodymyr Zelenskyy in April – but only after a senior diplomat caused outrage by questioning the sovereignty of former Soviet republics. The Jeddah talks were immediately followed by reassurance to Moscow that nothing had changed. The head of MI6, Richard Moore, said last month that Beijing was “absolutely complicit” on Ukraine, supporting Moscow diplomatically and pushing Russian talking points. China has not criticised the invasion – or even acknowledged it as such – but attacks “unilateral sanctions”. It has thrown Russia an economic lifeline. Chinese firms are providing equipment that is useful to the military as well as civilians, such as body armour and drones. But China has not supplied arms and does not want the conflict to escalate, or to spill over into the broader region. Nor does it want to see further consolidation of the west, for both security and economic reasons. It knows that its partnership with Russia has hardened European attitudes towards it. The Wagner mutiny will also have given it pause for thought. And it wants to be regarded, especially by representatives of the global south such as those present in Jeddah, as a peacemaker standing above the fray. Its expressions of concern about the use of nuclear weapons look like hints to the west as well as warnings to Moscow: don't push Vladimir Putin too far. Nonetheless, if they have any effect in restraining Russia, that can only be welcome. China, the biggest importer of Ukrainian grain, also has entirely pragmatic reasons for encouraging Russia to return to the Black Sea grain deal. It has highlighted the need to address the safety of nuclear power plants. And some hope it could play a useful, if marginal, role in negotiations eventually. The most important question, however, may still be what it does not do: whether it holds back from increasing support for Russia. That is why Kyiv is stepping carefully itself, as it seeks to avoid antagonising Beijing.

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## World burns on US' stake of political correctness

There is apparently no need for politicians in Washington to have any evidence to raise questions about a “threat” to the national security of the United States from China. It has become political correctness. Such a mindset has found fresh expression in a recent letter to the chair of the Federal Communications Commission, asking the FCC to address questions about potential security concerns involving cellular modules made by Chinese companies including Quectel and Fibocom Wireless. The Republican chair of the House of Representatives China Select Committee, Mike Gallagher, and the panel's top Democrat, Raja Krishnamoorthi, in a letter to FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel raised the alarm that US medical equipment, vehicles and farm equipment could be accessed and controlled remotely from China if they use Chinese-made cellular modules, according to Reuters. FirstNet officials and sources close to Chinese device manufacturers said that the way Chinese modules are built into FirstNet-certified devices locks them down, and that no data is sent to China. FirstNet Authority Communications Director Ryan Oremland told Newsweek in a written response to questions that ensuring the security of the FirstNet network is paramount for the company. He said there was “a robust process”, including extensive testing, to ensure “the highest levels of security are maintained on the network and any equipment or devices that are used on the network.” However, in Washington, given the current national narrative and political discourse, it is not a question of whether technological equipment made by Chinese companies really does pose a threat to US national security. It is a question of whether politicians in Washington can raise questions about them to show that they have their finger on the pulse to safeguard the vital organs of the US. “Threat or potential threat to national security” has become a virtue-signaling grab bag for politicians in Washington. In September, the FCC named Chinese telecom companies Pacific Networks, along with its wholly owned subsidiary ComNet (US), and China Unicom (Americas) as threats to US national security under a 2019 law aimed at protecting communications networks. In March 2021, the FCC initially designated five Chinese companies under its “Covered List”, including Huawei Technologies, ZTE, Hytera Communications, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology and Zhejiang Dahua Technology. The FCC did not have any evidence to support its decision, which is essentially a witch-hunt targeting the Chinese companies. What Washington has done to these Chinese companies for political reasons has twisted market rules and fair competition. The unfair treatment of Chinese telecommunications companies is detrimental to the global industry and supply chains, and will undoubtedly do a disservice to the development of the US economy. Nor will China just stand by when its companies are unfairly treated. The tit-for-tat between the world's largest two economies, instigated by Washington, bodes ill for the global economy.

## Growing protest movement is a wake-up call for all Israelis

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib

The protests, meanwhile, seem to have awakened a new consciousness. Israelis are beginning to sense the danger posed by the settler movement. This is no longer seen as a movement on the fringes, but is perceived by a large faction of Israelis as a clear and present danger, threatening the state and the basic foundations of democracy. The protesters' view today is that the fight is between the state of Israel and the settler regime. We are still far away from a large-scale popular movement inside Israel to end its occupation of Palestine. However, we might be witnessing the planting of the seeds for such a movement.

In the US, pro-Israeli democracy activists this week asked House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries to meet with protest leaders during his current visit to Israel to better assess the gravity of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial overhaul. Protests sparked by the Netanyahu government's actions are gaining momentum. People are gathering every day to demand the prime minister step down. The protests, meanwhile, seem to have awakened a new consciousness. Israelis are beginning to sense the danger posed by the settler movement. This is no longer seen as a movement on the fringes, but is perceived by a large faction of Israelis as a clear and present danger, threatening the state and the basic foundations of democracy. The protesters' view today is that the fight is between the state of Israel and the settler regime. We are still far away from a large-scale popular movement inside Israel to end its occupation of Palestine. However, we might be witnessing the planting of the seeds for such a movement. Hence, it is time to push the envelope, and this is why the protests should be encouraged. The protests' potential extends beyond removing Netanyahu or his extremist allies Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich; it is about a change in the Israeli psyche. Many Israelis are coming to the realization that the settler regime is threatening to take over their country. The settler system can no longer be confined to the West Bank. It is no longer a phenomenon that can be ignored while people enjoy living in a modern state in cities such as Tel Aviv. It is haunting them in their homes. The country is becoming divided along pro and anti-Netanyahu lines. An American friend

who is witnessing the turmoil told me that pro-Netanyahu fanatics are blocking the entrance of anti-Netanyahu neighborhoods and kibbutzim. He described the situation as “unstable” and “worrying,” and added that many of his relatives living in Israel are contemplating moving to Europe or the US.

Israelis are beginning to see that they created a monster that is coming back to haunt them. It is no longer an issue concerning only the Palestinians, their freedom, or their dignity, but one that is also affecting the Israeli identity. Also, the Israelis are starting to realize that they are losing international respect. We are starting to talk about Israeli terrorism. The US described the Israeli settler attack in which a Palestinian teenager was killed as terrorism. The last thing Israelis want is the stigma of terrorism. Americans are starting to criticize Israel and highlighting Palestinian rights. US Democrat senators Tim Kaine and Chris Van Hollen issued a statement saying that any normalization with Saudi Arabia should be tied to Palestine's right to statehood, echoing the Kingdom's long-term demands. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee lobby group can no longer bring US lawmakers to visit a fantasyland where they see that everything is nice and dandy, and meet hand-picked Palestinians who repeat the AIPAC fairy tale about Israel. No, now Americans are seeing the ugly truth that people such as Ben-Gvir and Smotrich have no shame in spelling out their dangerous objectives. The protests in Israel and their evolving narrative mark the beginning of a change in the Israeli mindset. Israelis are starting to look in the mirror and ask themselves,

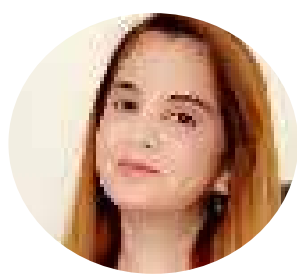
who are we? Are we a democracy, or an authoritarian theocracy? As Israelis face this wake-up call, it is time to open the discussion about occupation, and to raise awareness that democracy cannot be sustained in the presence of occupation. Democracy is inherently inclusive and cannot be exclusive to only the Jewish citizens of Israel. That is why the public discourse in Israel, as well as in the US, should focus on how the settler movement, not Hamas or Iran, is the biggest existential threat to the country. It is important to highlight that the activities the new government is engaging in – the settlements, the provocative visits to the Haram Al-Sharif that are compromising the status quo in East Jerusalem – will make any peace talks with the Islamic world impossible. Do Israelis want that? Do they want animosity with the entire Muslim world? Do they want to be accused of terrorism? These are the questions that should be circulated in the Israeli public discourse.

The settlers do not care if Israel becomes a ghetto. However, mainstream Israelis do not want to live in a ghetto; they want to be accepted and normalized. This is where the link between the occupation and the settler threat to the state of Israel is hitting the Israeli psyche. It is a very good turn of events for the Palestinians and for a potential solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Now is the time to relaunch the Arab peace initiative, and to present it as a solution for Israel. It should not be presented solely as a plan that will allow Israelis to live side by side with Palestinians in peace, but as one that will allow Israelis to live in peace in general.

—Courtesy: Arab News

## OPPENHEIMER – Man of apocalyptic invention and new world order

Huma Arshad



After watching this biopic, it has been quite clear that whether you are a physicist, a student of chemistry, Mathematics, Medicine, or Marketing you must learn ethics, philosophy, and empathy. All over the world, these subjects should be taught in all departments irrespective of different fields of study. Unless and until you will not be taught

Recently released scientific biopic Oppenheimer is grabbing the attention of millions around the world. The movie is a dense examination of the unholy matrimony of quantum physics and military bureaucracy, the biopic is all about developing and designing the atomic bomb for the first time in world history. From start to finish, “Oppenheimer” keeps viewers on the edge of their seats. The film's pacing is impeccable, ensuring that not a single moment feels wasted. The movie revolves around the events that occurred during World War II, Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves Jr. (American army) appoints physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer to work on the top-secret Manhattan Project. Oppenheimer and a team of scientists spend years designing the atomic bomb. Their work comes to fruition on July 16, 1945, as they witness the world's first nuclear explosion, forever changing the course of history.

After watching this biopic, it has been quite clear that whether you are a physicist, a student of chemistry, Mathematics, Medicine, or Marketing you must learn ethics, philosophy, and empathy. All over the world, these subjects should be taught in all departments irrespective of different fields of study. Unless and until you will not be taught to deal with human emotions you may end to build or invent destructive inventions only based on your judgments amalgamated with their expertise related to any subject of study. Robert's college days show how a troubled

young student becomes one of the greatest scientists of his time, culminating in the ‘heart-tapingly’ tense ‘Trinity test’ scene. As Oppenheimer comes into focus so does the world. In 1920s Germany, he learns quantum physics; the next decade he was at Berkeley teaching, bouncing off other young geniuses, and building a center for the study of quantum physics. It's at Berkeley that the trajectory of Oppenheimer's life dramatically shifts, It's also at Berkeley that Oppenheimer meets the project's military head, Leslie Groves who made him the director of the project. The Inventor of the Atomic Bomb J. Robert Oppenheimer realized only in his later age that his creation has a limitless capacity for destruction. Oppenheimer was fond of Sanskrit but he was not guided well in philosophy or ethics, so the world can see the result. No religion of the world leads you or guides you towards destruction. No wonder how intelligent you are if it leads you to make anything destructive or disturbing to the world and your life too that is utterly not admirable.

The Biopic is no doubt a masterpiece along with the director's ambitious and exquisitely crafted plot, with a dense narrative and an outstanding cast. Cillian Murphy turns in a haunting career-best performance as a theoretical physicist. A bomb trial demonstrates the enormity of the weapon's capabilities, with fire, noise, and smoke. But viewers are told about, rather than shown, the horror that unfolded after the bomb

was ultimately dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Great historical retelling and an important film for youth and age brackets. The question to ponder is you may have the knowledge and skill to create something dangerously powerful – but should you? The answer is “NO.” Frequent drinking, including by a character who's portrayed as having an alcohol dependency. Smoking cigarettes and a pipe. Ultimately the character invented the most dangerous weapon in world History.

This is not an action movie; this is not a war movie in the traditional sense. This is a character study of Oppenheimer. I believe it was irresponsible of Christopher Nolan not to include any images - real or filmed in a studio - of the aftermath of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Current generations watching this may have little to no idea of the horrific effects of radiation from the atomic bomb that persist today, or that the Japanese have a word for those affected by nuclear fallout- Hibakusha. The most poignant moment of the film is when Oppenheimer admits he has blood on his hands. The film's most spectacular attraction turns out to be the human faces that were studied and revealed on Oppenheimer in the last scenes. “The trouble with Oppenheimer is that he loves a woman who doesn't love him – the United States government,” Einstein once said, according to the book “American Prometheus,” which the movie is based on.

## Briefs

## Judgements review law unlawful: SC

FROM PAGE 01  
The Supreme Court Review Act is against the Constitution, CJP Banidial said, adding that the verdict was passed unanimously and a detailed order will be issued later. The detailed 87-page long order said the Ais "repugnant to and ultra vires the Constitution [...] being beyond the legislative competence of the Parliament." "It is accordingly struck down as null and void and of no legal effect," the order mentioned. Ghulam Mohiuddin, Zaman Khan Vardak, the Jurists Foundation, through its CEO Riaz Hanif Rahi, and PTI had challenged the vires of the act. Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan had — during the hearing of the case — asked the court to dismiss the pleas against the law, explaining that it broadens the court's jurisdiction and does not curb its powers.

## SC ruling will not affect...

FROM PAGE 01  
after the dissolution of the National Assembly. Therefore, new legislation couldn't be done in light of the apex court's directives. "The law was enacted on the demand of bar councils which were of the view that the scope of the review was so narrow that it would be an injustice to many people," he added. He further explained that the judgements law had made it mandatory for the top court to form a bench larger than the one that gave the original verdict. "Another good thing was that it provided an option to change the lawyer," he said. After the SC's verdict, it was widely believed that the doors on Nawaz Sharif's electoral politics had been closed. "This will not affect the prospects of Nawaz Sharif's return to electoral politics as his lifetime disqualification was undone by an amendment to Election Act 2017," he clarified.

## Bushra Bibi leaks: timing is...

FROM PAGE 01  
Imran Khan, particularly in matters pertaining to the military establishment and diplomatic relations. Should these leaks prove to be credible and unaltered, they raise intriguing questions about her intentions. The content of the Diary Leaks seems to insinuate a potential desire to create friction between Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Establishment. Another dimension of this unfolding situation could come to light. According to recent reports, the prospect of a reconciliation between the Establishment and Imran Khan is on the horizon. Evidently, there exist certain intermediaries who have diligently laid the groundwork in this particular area.

## Forces kill 2 terrorists in Kech

FROM PAGE 01  
Levies sources said a vehicle was targeted through a remote-controlled blast in the Balgatar area of Kech district near Panjur border. Ishaq Balgatri, the UC chairman was among the dead. "The victims were going in a vehicle for a wedding party when targeted," Balochistan Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove confirmed. He said miscreants targeted the vehicle through a remote-controlled bomb. A levies official disclosed that the blast happened 140 kilometers away from Panjur near the Kech district's border.

## Karachi to face severe gas shortage

FROM PAGE 01  
distribution system might also face gas supply shortfall. The gas transmission company further stated that K-Electric (KE) had reduced its gas consumption by 33% due to which the gas shortfall might not be drastic.

## Serena Hotels, Margalla Greens Golf Club host "Tee to Triumph" golf

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels, announced the launch of this initiative at the last Invitational Golf Tournament held in February 2023 in partnership with MGGC



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, through its Sports Diplomacy Initiative, partnered with MGGC to launch its 'Tee to Triumph' Golf Training Programme for girls. The programme launched on the 31st of July and culminated on the 11th of August with a certificate

& awards-distribution ceremony. This unique programme was designed to empower young girls by training them in the game to promote gender equality and foster sportsmanship. Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels, announced the launch of this initiative at the last Invitational Golf Tournament held in February 2023 in partnership with MGGC. The Training Programme

helped highlight talented young girls aged 10 to 22 and provided them with extensive training sessions which helped improve their game through comprehensive coaching, mentorship, and opportunities to showcase their talent on the golf course. 38 young girls participated in this programme and learned all elements of the game taught by the MGGC team, which did an exceptional



task of mentoring these talented young girls. The chief guest was the exceptional Mrs. Yasmeen Mubarak Ali Khan, who has been playing golf since 1963 at the age of 13 and is a legendary name in golf with seven wins under her belt. She has represented Pakistan internationally twice in Sri Lanka and once in Bangladesh. She expressed her delight at the initiative that Serena Hotels has taken

and showed her enthusiasm at a regular part of Serena Hotels' Sports Diplomacy Initiatives. "Serena Hotels has done a marvelous job of highlighting the need for girls in golf, and with this initiative and provided them a platform to learn and engage with other golfers of their age, we all look forward to the continuation of this great programme and look forward to many more in the future."

## Enrique hoping for Mbappe 'agreement'

PARIS: Luis Enrique said Friday he hoped "an agreement can be found" with Kylian Mbappe as Paris Saint-Germain look set to open their Ligue 1 campaign without the French superstar. The former Barcelona and Spain boss is preparing for his first season in charge at PSG after replacing Christophe Galtier in July. "This situation has already existed (between PSG and Mbappe)," the Spaniard told a pre-match press conference in Paris ahead of his team's Ligue 1 opener against Lorient on Saturday. "A positive solution had been found with the club before my arrival. I hope that the club and the player will find an agreement. I remind you of the philosophy of the club, which wants to be above everything, players, staff." PSG are bolstering their attacking options with the futures of Mbappe and Neymar still uncertain, with both missing training on Friday. Luis Enrique confirmed that France international Ousmane Dembele's arrival from Barcelona is "99 percent" done. "Dembele is not yet a PSG player legally, 100 percent no, but 99 percent. There is still one paragraph left in the contract," the Spaniard said. The 26-year-old Dembele, who was part of France's 2018 World Cup-winning squad along with Mbappe, is not available to face Lorient at the Parc des Princes. — Agencies

## Pakistan women's squad for SA series announced

DNA

LAHORE: Chief selector Saleem Jaffer on Friday announced a 15-player Pakistan women's squad for the bilateral white-ball series against South Africa. The series, which includes three T20Is and three ODIs, will be held next month in Karachi. The 18-year-old Shawaal Zulfiqar, who is also part of Pakistan's squad for next month's Asian Games, has been picked for the three T20Is. Right-arm pacer Diana Baig also makes a comeback and has been included in both squads after recovering from a finger injury that kept her on the sidelines for more than

six months. The team will be led by experienced all-rounder Nida Dar, who replaces Bismah Maroof, who quit captaincy after the ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup in February this year. **Pakistan T20I squad for South Africa series:** Nida Dar (c), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Maroof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Muneeba Ali, Najjha Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah and Umm-e-Hani Reserves — Anoocha Nasir, Omaira Sohail and Waheeda Akhtar **Pakistan ODI squad for South Africa series:** Nida Dar (c), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Ma-

roof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Muneeba Ali, Nashra Sundhu, Omaira Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk), Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar Reserves — Najjha Alvi, Natalia Parvaiz and Tuba Hassan The team management and schedule of Pakistan team's training camp will be announced in due course. **Series schedule:** vs South Africa (all matches at National Bank Stadium, Karachi) 27 Aug — South Africa team arrival 1 Sep — First T20I v South Africa 3 Sep — Second T20I v South Africa 5 Sep — Third T20I v South Africa 8 Sep — First ODI v South Africa 11 Sep — Second ODI v South Africa 14 Sep — Third ODI v South Africa

## PTI expresses concern over Imran's safety

FROM PAGE 01  
despite the fact multiple assassination attempts were made on him. The participants stated that they could not allow risking the health and safety of Imran Khan in the guise of being imprisoned as a result of a controversial and biased court verdict. They stated that as per rules and jail manual, PTI Chairman was entitled as a former prime minister to be provided with quality and safe food along with a security guard. PTI core committee urged the court should take immediate notice of the situation and allow providing him food and water from home, besides issuing order of his immediate transfer of PTI Chairman from Attock to Adiala Jail.

## President tells PM, Riaz to...

FROM PAGE 01  
come under discussion. In a letter written to PM Shehbaz and Riaz, the president recalled that he had dissolved the NA on the former's advice on Aug 9. "Under Provision of Article 224 (1A) of the Constitution, the president appoints the caretaker prime minister in consultation with the [outgoing] prime minister and leader of the opposition in the outgoing NA.

## Name to be finalized by today: PM

FROM PAGE 01  
ruined everything, including the economy and diplomatic relations of the country. He said with the blessing of Allah Almighty and the cooperation of the coalition partners, the government remained successful in averting default, restoring Pakistan's relations with the brotherly and friendly countries, including China, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Turkey, and Iran. The Prime Minister said we have established Special Investment Facilitation Council with the aim to put the country on the path of sustainable development and prosperity. He said SIFC will be a harbinger of the economic development of the country.

## Sindh Assembly dissolved

FROM PAGE 01  
floated the names of Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui and Younus Daghra for the slot. During a consultative meeting, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) and Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) had discussed the name of Dr Safdar Ali Abbasi for the coveted slot. The Balochistan Assembly is likely to be dissolved today.



## Asian Champions Trophy Pakistan beat China to clinch fifth place

CHENNAI: Pakistan thrashed China 6-1 to clinch fifth place in the ongoing Asian Hockey Champions Trophy on Friday. The Green Shirts got off to a superb start as they took a 4-0 lead in the first quarter. China scored one goal in third quarter but went on to concede two more after that to lose the match by a margin of five goals.

Mohammad Ammad and Mohammad Sufyan scored two goals each for Pakistan. Hanan Shahid and Abdul Rana also scored one goal each. Benhai Chen scored the only goal of the match for China through a penalty corner in the 35th minute. Earlier, Pakistan hockey team were

knocked out of the race for the last four of the Asian Champions Trophy after losing 4-0 against arch-rivals India in Chennai, India, on Wednesday. This was the first time Pakistan failed to finish in the top four since the introduction of the Asian Champions Trophy. Pakistan, Japan and Korea all had the same number of points but the latter teams made their way to the semi-finals due to better goal difference. The Green Shirts only managed to win one out of five games during round-robin stage of the tournament. Their first game of the event ended with a 3-1 defeat against Malaysia. After that, they drew two consecutive games against Korea, 1-1, and Japan 3-3. Pakistan's first win the tournament came against China, 2-1, who finished last on the points table with only one point. Later today, Malaysia will take on Korea in the first semi-final, while India will face Japan in the second semi-final. The final and the third/fourth place match will be played tomorrow. — Agencies

## Kane move to Bayern 'imminent'

LONDON: Harry Kane is on the brink of a move to Bayern Munich, Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou confirmed on Friday. The two clubs have reportedly agreed a fee worth an initial 100 million euros (\$110 million, £86 million) for the 30-year-old striker, who had just one year left on his contract at Spurs. Kane has been given permission to travel to Germany to complete a medical ahead of what would be a record transfer for a Bundesliga club. Postecoglou is preparing to take charge of his first game in charge of Tottenham at Brentford on Sunday and said he is now planning on life without the club's all-time top goalscorer. "My understanding is it has progressed to the point where it looks like it will happen," said Postecoglou at his pre-match press conference. "From that perspective at least it gives us some clarity and we move forward without Harry. "From my perspective it is just about understanding where we are at and the information I have at the moment is the deal is imminent, but like with all these things, you leave yourself some leeway. "But moving forward and training today preparing for Brentford, we are doing it without Harry." Earlier on Friday, Bayern boss Thomas Tuchel said the six-time European champions were working on the deal as their "highest priority". Tuchel's men kick off their season against RB Leipzig in the German Super Cup on Saturday with the start of the Bundesliga season not till next weekend. "We are working hard on it... that is no secret," said the former Chelsea manager. "But as of now there is no decision. As long as there is no agreement, the coach is not going to talk about it, as it is not his player." — APP

## Sweden end Japan's dream of World Cup semis

AUCKLAND: Amanda Ilestedt scored her fourth goal of the tournament and Filipa Angeladal netted a penalty as Sweden hung on to beat Japan 2-1 on Friday and set up a Women's World Cup semi-final with Spain. Centre-back Ilestedt poked in just after the half-hour mark at Eden Park in Auckland to give Sweden a deserved lead and leave Japan trailing for the first time at the World Cup. Angeladal made it 2-0 from a penalty seven minutes into the second half before Japan attempted a comeback, with Riko Ueki missing a spot-kick and Honoka Hayashi pulling one back with three minutes left of normal time. Sweden survived a late storm to advance to the semi-finals for the third time in four World Cups. "It feels great to be through to the semis. We put in an amazing performance today," said Ilestedt, named player of the match. "We played precisely as we had discussed beforehand, sticking close to the Japanese players and making it difficult for them to play their game." The exit of the 2011 champions Japan, following the United States, Germany and Norway, means there are no former winners left and a brand-new name will appear on the trophy after the final in Sydney. "The players have grown at this World Cup and we have shown what we can do on the world stage," said Japan coach Futoshi Ikeda.

"We lost but we have to assess positively what the team did at this World Cup. I am proud that we got here." Sweden, runners-up in 2003, now face a semi-final in Auckland next Tuesday against Spain, who defeated the Netherlands 2-1 earlier Friday in Wellington. This was billed as the ultimate

clash of footballing styles, between a slick Japan and a more rugged Sweden. Peter Gerhardsson's Swedish team took the game to their opponents, who sat back in a 5-4-1 out of possession but were rarely given the space to spring forward on the counterattack like they had done to such

devastating effect in previous games. Japan had started to dream of a run to match their remarkable triumph in 2011 but instead find themselves eliminated at the hands of the same team that beat them in the quarter-finals of the Tokyo Olympics two years ago. The opener arrived in the 32nd minute following a set-piece, exactly the scenario where the Japanese had been expected to struggle. The Nadeshiko failed to clear after a free-kick dropped in their box and the ball eventually fell to Ilestedt to stab into the roof of the net. Ilestedt, who has just signed for Arsenal, had already netted three times in the group phase and is a contender to win the golden boot with current leading scorer Hinata Miyazawa, on five goals, now out. Miyazawa had little influence on this game and Sweden could have scored again before half-time, with captain Kosovare Asllani having a shot turned onto the post by Ayaka Yamashita. The Japan goalkeeper then produced another fine save two minutes after the restart to push a Johanna Kaneryd shot behind for a corner. Yet it was that corner which led to the second goal. The delivery from the right struck the fist of Fuka Nagano in her own box, and the Liverpool player's offence was spotted by the referee after a review. — Agencies





## Briefs

### No restriction on importing Indian drugs: DRAP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) said that there was no restriction on hospitals or the common man on importing vital medicines (anti-cancer drugs and vaccines) from India for their own use under the Import Policy Order 2022 after obtaining no objection certificate (NOC) from the authority. The statement of the DRAP officials came during a session of the Senate Standing Committee on Health wherein Senator Professor Mehr Taj Roghani raised the issue of the unavailability of several essential medicines in the country. "In view of unavailability of some essential medicines in Pakistan, common people and hospitals can apply for an NOC to directly import medicines from India. Currently, there is no ban on import of any drug from India under the Import Policy Order 2022," DRAP officials told the forum.

### KP governor dissolves caretaker cabinet

DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Ghulam Ali on Friday accepted the resignations of the caretaker ministers, advisors and dissolved the provincial cabinet. Following a summary forwarded by Caretaker Chief Minister Mohammad Azam Khan, the governor dissolved the cabinet. The chief secretary will shortly issue a notification approving the dissolution of the caretaker cabinet. Azam Khan had received resignations of 25 cabinet members, prompting him to forward a summary to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor which he did. The governor dissolved the cabinet forthwith. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's interim Information Minister Feroze Jamal announced on Thursday that 19 members of the interim cabinet in the province, including himself, had tendered their resignations to the interim Chief Minister Azam Khan. This step was taken in accordance with the directives of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). In response to a letter written by Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, the PTI KP chief, and signed by 52 ex-Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs), the ECP had instructed the caretaker chief minister last month to promptly remove ministers, advisors, and special assistants involved in political activities. The objective was to ensure a fair and unbiased electoral process in the province ahead of the upcoming general elections.

### US says no sanctions relief for Iran

DNA

WASHINGTON: Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Thursday that the United States would offer no sanctions relief to Iran under a draft deal that would free five Americans. "In any event, in any respect, Iran will not be receiving any sanctions relief," Blinken told reporters when asked about the expected release of \$6 billion in frozen Iranian funds. "Iran's own funds would be used and transferred to restricted accounts such that the monies can only be used for humanitarian purposes," he said. Blinken said that the United States has been in contact with the families of five Americans freed from prison to house arrest in an expected first step to their release. "My belief is that this is the beginning of the end of their nightmare, and the nightmare that their families have experienced," he said. Blinken said he was not aware of other Americans held in Iran.

# Israeli occupation forces kill Palestinian, wound eight

A United Nations tally showed at least 196 Palestinians and 24 people in Israel have been killed in hostilities since January. According to Wafa, number of Palestinians killed this year is at least 220

RAMALLAH, West Bank: Israeli forces have shot dead a Palestinian man during an incursion in a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. Mahmoud Jarad, 23, was shot in the chest as Israeli soldiers raided the Tulkarem refugee camp, in the northern occupied West Bank early on Friday morning. Israeli soldiers reportedly fired live ammunition and tear gas canisters, and stationed snipers on the rooftops of the camp's residents. Jarad was taken to Thabet Thabet Hospital, and was pronounced dead. Amin Khader, the director of the hospital, told Palestine TV that at least eight people were wounded. The Fatah party, which dominates the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank, said Jarad was a member but it did not claim him as a fighter. For its part, the Tulkarem Brigade which

is affiliated with the armed military wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement, said in a press release that it "responded to the Israeli incursion into the Tulkarem camp, with armed clashes and improvised explosive devices". There was no immediate comment from the Palestinian health ministry or the Israeli military. On Thursday, Israeli forces killed a Palestinian fighter who was wanted by the army for months during a raid near the city of Nablus. Violence in the occupied West Bank has worsened over the past 15 months amid stepped-up Israeli raids, rampages by illegal Jewish settlers on Palestinian villages and Palestinian street attacks. A United Nations tally showed at least 196 Palestinians and 24 people in Israel have been killed in hostilities since January. According to Wafa, the number of Palestinians killed this year is at least 220.

Israel subjects millions of Palestinians to military rule in the West Bank, which it occupied during the 1967 War. It has continued to build settlements, considered by most countries as illegal, which it disputes. United States-brokered peace talks aimed at establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem collapsed in 2014 and show no sign of resuming. Some 40,700 Palestinians are registered with the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) in two camps in the Tulkarem area. They are Palestinian refugees, or their descendants, who were forced out by Zionist paramilitary groups or fled their homes in the run-up to Israel's creation in 1948. Qusai Jamal Maatan, 19, was shot dead in Burqa east of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank last week, as armed settlers stormed the village and sparked fighting with residents.

"We strongly condemn yesterday's terror attack by Israeli extremist settlers that killed a 19-year old Palestinian," the US State Department said in a statement late on Saturday, urging "full accountability and justice". State Department spokesman Matthew Miller made clear on Monday that the word choice was not an accident. "The thinking is that it was a terror attack, and we are concerned about it, and that's why we called it that," he told reporters. "We have also been clear that accountability and justice should be pursued with equal rigour in all cases of violent extremism, whoever the perpetrators are," he said. Miller noted that Israel detained two settlers, which he called "appropriate action". However, the Jerusalem District Court ruled on Tuesday that the suspects should be freed pending possible prosecution.

### Momentous decisions expected in two days: Rashid

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed says today and tomorrow are the days when important decisions will be made and let's see which way the wind blows. Taking to X (formerly known as Twitter), Sheikh Rashid said on Friday the name of the caretaker prime minister (PM) was unclear and the nation was waiting for the decision. He said the entire caretaker cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was found involved in 'politics' and the Election Commission sent it packing. The former minister said Shehbaz Sharif said former PM Nawaz Sharif would come back, face the law and lead the election campaign. He said it's doubtful. He said the government buffeted the poor segment of society by withdrawing the subsidy given to them at the utility store. The 16-month long era of the outgoing government was the darkest part of Pakistan's politics, he said. The political situation, he lamented, was becoming serious and dire.

### India proposes sweeping British-era criminal laws

MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: India's government unveiled new punishments for mob lynchings and crimes against women on Friday in a proposal for the country's biggest criminal justice overhaul since the British colonial era. India's Penal Code and other statutes governing the police and courts were introduced in the 19th century, while the country was governed by the British crown. Sweeping changes to the laws would remove archaic references to the British monarchy and other "signs of our slavery", Home Minister Amit Shah told parliament Friday. "These laws were made to strengthen the colonial rule, to protect colonial rulers, and the intention was to punish and not give justice," he told lawmakers while introducing bills for the reforms. "We are going to change this and the spirit of these new laws will be to protect the constitutional rights of our citizens." New provisions in the laws would impose the death penalty on perpetrators of mob lynchings and minimum sentences of 20 years for gang rape.

### Germany mulls sending Taurus missiles to Ukraine

DNA

BERLIN: The German government is in talks with arms manufacturer MBDA regarding alterations to the programming of Taurus cruise missiles before their potential delivery to Ukraine, a source told Reuters news agency on Friday, confirming an earlier report by Germany's Der Spiegel newsmagazine. Kyiv has been pushing Berlin to supply it with the Taurus, a cruise missile with a range of more than 500 kilometers (300 miles) that is launched by fighter jets such as the Tornado, the F-15 or the F-18. While the UK and France have sent Storm Shadow and Scalp cruise missiles to Ukraine, Germany has been reluctant amid concerns that the weapon could be used on targets in Russia. The United States has also refrained from sending its Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) to Ukraine. Following the reports on Friday, a German government spokesperson said there was "no new information" on the status of potential Taurus missile deliveries to Ukraine. "Germany is focusing on heavy artillery, armored vehicles and air defense systems. There is no new information on the Taurus cruise missile," said the spokesperson.

### Pak's sugar export quota for Afghanistan expires

KHAYBER: The sugar export quota of 32,000 Metric Tons - approved by the government of Pakistan - for export to Afghanistan has come to an end. According to the sources, after the approval, the consistent shipments of sugar continued to Afghanistan, accompanied by instances of smuggling. The customs authorities foiled various smuggling bids in Torkham and Meechanay, thwarting the attempts of smuggling. According to customs sources, following the approval, Chinese sugar continued to be exported into Afghanistan, accompanied by ongoing instances of smuggling. Despite various interventions at different locations, including Torkham and Meechanay, customs authorities managed to thwart the smuggling attempts. Reports indicate that within a few months a total of 477 bags, weighing 23,850 kilograms of sugar were seized. Additionally, 20 cases were registered and 10 vehicles were seized in connection to these smuggling activities. The Pakistani government granted a dedicated quota of 32,000 metric tons of sugar for export to Afghanistan to fulfill its sugar requirements. This allocated quota has now expired. - DNA

### Battleground failures Zelensky fires 'corrupt' military commanders

'This system should be run by people who know exactly what war is'

KYIV: As the Russia-Ukraine war intensifies in the eastern part of the neighbouring country, President Volodymyr Zelensky Friday dismissed some top military officials over corruption charges, saying "the system should be headed by those who know about the war". Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on social media: "We are dismissing all regional military commissars," the decision he took after meeting with senior military leadership. He

added: "This system should be run by people who know exactly what war is and why cynicism and bribery at a time of war is high treason." Amid the Russia-Ukraine war, Kyiv has been mandating his people to launch an assault against Moscow's advance to recapture the lost territory under its counter-offensive. The action reflects Ukraine's efforts to clamp down on graft and corruption as part of sweeping reforms requested by Western institutions like the European Union (EU), which Ukraine hopes to join. "During the inspection of the territorial recruitment centres, law enforcement agencies exposed cases of corruption," presidency said in a separate statement.

### Remittances drop by 19% to \$2bn in July

KARACHI: Remittances to Pakistan have dropped by 19.3% year-on-year to \$2 billion in the first month of the current fiscal year, according to data released by the central bank on Thursday. Meanwhile, the remittance inflows have also witnessed a reduction of 7.3% on a month-on-month basis, media reported. The country, in July, received \$2.2 billion in remittances from Pakistanis living abroad. Last month, the remittance inflow was mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$486.7 million), United Arab Emirates (\$315.1 million), the United Kingdom (\$305.7 million), and the United States of America (\$238.1 million), respectively. Analysts said they expected a decline in remittances in July, while was likely to see more inflow following Eid ul Adha in June,

as Pakistani expatriates sent more cash home to buy sacrificial animals. Additionally, it appears that remittance inflows were switched to the grey market because the exchange rate for dollars there was better. "In my view as this was the month after Eid ul Adha, therefore flows were dry. Some Pakistanis are using unofficial channels for the transfer of money," said Samiullah Tariq, the head of research at Pak-Kuwait Investment Company. "Persistent devaluation is discouraging investment by overseas Pakistanis," Tariq added. The release of the remittances statistics came after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last month approved a new \$3 billion bailout for the faltering economy of the nation, which was dangerously near to

defaulting on its debt. The governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad, at the monetary policy briefing last month said that the SBP is making sure it will abide by the requirement that the average difference between the interbank and open market exchange rate does not exceed 1.25%, as well as any other conditions outlined in the agreement with the IMF. "The level to which the remittances have dropped is worrisome. There is certainly an element of grey channels offering higher rates," said Fahad Rauf, the head of research at Ismail Iqbal Securities. "SBP has also proposed certain changes in incentive schemes to attract more remittances like increasing the reimbursement rate to Saudi Riyal 30/\$100 which is a 50% increase." - Agencies

### Beijing alleges Chinese national spied for CIA

DNA

BEIJING: China on Friday said it uncovered a Chinese national suspected of spying for the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and providing it "core secret information" in exchange for "a huge amount of compensation." The 52-year-old Chinese national, identified as Zeng, was working for a military-industrial group and was sent to Italy for studies where he became friends with a CIA agent, China Central Television (CCTV) said in a report. The CIA agent in question, identified as Seth, gained Zeng's confidence and then convinced him to share sensitive information about the Chinese military, the TV report said. "After meticulous investigation, the state security authority obtained evidence of Zeng's espionage activities and, in accordance with the law, took coercive measures against him to eliminate the harm in a timely manner," Beijing's Ministry of State Security said in an online statement.

# Wildfire in Hawaii leaves 55 dead, town decimated

"Buildings that we've all enjoyed and celebrated together for decades, for generations, are completely destroyed," he said. Thousands have been left homeless and Green said a massive operation was swinging into action to find accommodation

WEB DESK

HAWAII: Death toll from Hawaii wildfire in Maui's Lahaina town killed at least 55 people leaving 80% of the town decimated 55 Thursday, according to Governor Josh Green, making it the deadliest wildfire in US history in which hundreds of firefighters are on the ground to contain the fire. The blaze started on Hawaii's Maui island Tuesday and was fanned by winds from a nearby hurricane. According to the authorities, the blaze moved so quickly that many could not get time to escape, trapped in the streets or throwing themselves into the ocean. "What we've seen today has been catastrophic... likely the largest natural disaster in Hawaii's state history," Governor Green said.

"In 1960 we had 61 fatalities when a large wave came through Big Island," he said earlier in the day, referring to a tragedy that struck a year after Hawaii became the 50th US state. Maui County officials said just after 9:00pm Thursday (0700 GMT Friday) that fatalities stood at 55, and firefighters were still battling the blaze in the town that served as the Hawaiian kingdom's capital in the early 19th century. "This time, it's very likely that our death tolls will significantly exceed that," the Governor noted. "It really looks like somebody came along and just bombed the whole town. It's completely devastated," said Canadian Brandon Wilson, who had travelled to Hawaii. "It was really hard to see," he said. "You feel so bad for people. They lost their homes, their lives, their livelihoods."

The fires follow other extreme weather events in North America this summer, with record-breaking wildfires still burning across Canada and a major heat wave baking the US southwest. Europe and parts of Asia have also endured soaring temperatures, with major fires and floods wreaking havoc. The burned skeletons of trees still stand, rising above the ashes of the buildings to which they once offered shelter. Green said 80% of the town was gone. "Buildings that we've all enjoyed and celebrated together for decades, for generations, are completely destroyed," he said. Thousands have been left homeless and Green said a massive operation was swinging into action to find accommodation. "We are going to need to house thousands of people," he told a press conference.

"That will mean reaching out to all of our hotels and those in the community to ask people to rent extra rooms at their property." President Joe Biden on Thursday declared the fires a "major disaster" and unblocked federal aid for relief efforts, with rebuilding expected to take years. US Coast Guard commander Aja Kirksey told CNN around 100 people were believed to have jumped into the water in a desperate effort to flee the fast-moving flames as they tore through Lahaina. Kirksey said helicopter pilots struggled to see because of dense smoke, but that a Coast Guard vessel had been able to rescue more than 50 people from the water. "It was a really rapidly developing scene and pretty harrowing for the victims that had to jump into the water," she added. For resident Kekoa Lansford, the horror was far from over.