

# 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 disgualified 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 CJP read out the decision in the presence of the ÅGP, petitioners, and a large number of lawyers.

## SC ruling will not affect Nawaz Sharif: Azam

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former law minister Azam Nazeer Tarar 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

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. **Continued on Page 06** 

> PTI expresses concern



**ISLAMABAD:** High Commissioner of Malavsia 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



Name to be finalized by today: PM

KHAYAM ABBASI

**Continued on Page 06** 

the state's institutions and not strengthens them". Tarar added that the timing of the verdict was also painful for him as the verdict was announced

Continued on Page 06

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

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD:The



on Friday fixed for hearing the bail plea of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

Su

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 Pervaiz 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 dailv Islamabad POST shall closed remain on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. – Editor

Balochistan Assembly to also go Sindh Assembly dissolved Magbool Bagir 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 singed the summary after the assembly was dissolved. It is pertinent to mention here KARACHI: The Sui Southern Gas Comthat the first session of the provincial assembly was held on August 13, 2018, and its fiveyear 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 (retd) Maqbool Baqar would take place from August 12 to

**Continued on Page 06** 

Karachi to face severe gas shortage

#### DNA

pany (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 mmcfd from August 12 to 15 whereas there will be a severe shortfall of 107 mmcfd from August 16 to 23," the SSGC said, adding that the maintenance work in the KPD gas field for the slot of interim CM. Earlier, reports 27. The SSGC further said that the gas about appointing Mumtaz Ali Shah as the supply in the port city would remain caretaker chief executive were also surfaced affected from August 23 to 27 as well in the media. However, the opposition had whereas areas at the end of the gas

**Continued on Page 06** 

# **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 Isthekham 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

**Continued on Page 06** 



Demands that the former PM should be transferred to Adiala Jail

### 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-satisfaction over the non-serious behavior of the rulers regarding the health and safety of PTI Chairman **Continued on Page 06** 

### 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** 

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

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# NATIONAL

## Islamabad **POST** Saturday, August 12 , 2023

'No heimet, no petrol' in Lahore

02

# Proactive approach vital resilience, support vulnerable communities

#### DNA

LAHORE: In a major development, the Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday suspended the 'No helmet, no petrol' notification issued by the deputy commissioner Lahore. The deputy commissioner in a notification had imposed a ban on the sale of petrol to motorcyclists without helmets. The petrol pumps were also warned of fines over violation of the orders

The Lahore High Court after expressing deep concern over the matter struck down the notification of the deputy commissioner. There is no law available that prevents from sale of petrol to motorcyclists without helmets, the LHC bench remarked. The court questioned the validity of such a directive, emphasizing the importance of upholding citizens' fundamental rights in a just and equitable manner. Terming the notification against the law, the LHC summoned a response from the deputy commissioner, IG Punjab and the CCPO Lahore. The court's decision came following its issuance of a formal notice to the federal government and other relevant stakeholders, soliciting their input on the matter.

### **KP** Governor distributes electric wheelchairs

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Friday said that the guardianship of special children is the responsibility of the entire society. Addressing as a chief guest at a grand ceremony of distribution of electric wheelchairs among the special children/students of the public sector universities of Khyber Pakunkhwa here, he said that the provision of electric wheelchairs will increase the self-esteem of special children.

Chairman Higher Education Commission Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellors, Secretary Higher Education Department Anila Durrani, students and parents participated in the ceremony. The Governor distributed electric wheelchairs among 30 disabled students of 11 universities of the province under the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchairs Proiect. He said that he salutes those parents who have made their special children complete the journey from first grade to higher education.



### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador, of the Federal Republic of Germany Alfred Grannas on Friday said Pakistan must take a more proactive approach to build its resilience against climate change and support communities more vulnerable to environmental degradation and adverse global warming impacts. The youth are the leaders of tomorrow and it was necessary to begin the change for their future. He expressed these views during his keynote address at an event in connection with the International Youth Day organised by the Pakistan-German Climate and Energy Partnership (PGCEP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC). The event, titled " Youth 4 Climate Action: Young Voices, Bold Solutions," was held here to harness the energy and creativity of young individuals towards addressing the pressing challenges posed by climate change under the auspices of GIZ (German Development Agency). The conference was a colorful convening

that included panel discussions on pertinent topics and a theatre play by Loksath highlighting gender inequalities during climate crisis was showcased before the participants. Ambassador Alfred Grannas said the conference was intended to address important youth role in climate action. He congratulated the MoCC and GIZ team for organising the event and said that the German mission would achieve meaningful results through Pakistani youth engagement in climate action.

"Climate Change is a global phenomenon and it affects the entire world. This event will provide Pakistani youth to imagine new ideas for addressing climate change," he said. He added that Germany has been a reliable partner of Pakistan and had a 60-year-old partnership which was strengthened through the iconic Pakistan-German Climate and Energy Partnership (PGCEP). Through the Pakistan- German Climate and Energy Partnership both the friendly countries were working on just energy transition and mitigation of environmental degradation and global warming impacts. He added that Germany

through the partnership was also assisting Pakistan to meet its national determined contributions (NDCs) pledged under the Paris Agreement. He mentioned that the devastating floods of 2022 inflicted unprecedented damage to various provinces of the country and it was yet not able to overcome the destruction as more monsoon rainfall started playing havoc in vulnerable areas. "So far some \$10 billion global funding has been extended to Pakistan and out of it \$220 million alone has been given by Germany for flood disaster management. Around 500 million Euros project has been designed to address climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience of Pakistan," he informed. The German envoy told the participants that the first concrete approach on loss and damage fund at the COP-27 Sharm El-Sheikh was the result of a very good cooperation of MoCC and the German delegation led by Sherry Rehman the then Climate Change Minister of Pakistan and the German side represented by its Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. "We want to hear the voices of the youth

that are neglected and it's their voice that matters in the process of policymaking," he said

A short documentary on projects supported by the German government and implemented by GIZ was also displayed during the conference. Under the umbrella of Pakistan-Germany Climate and Energy Partnership climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience and just energy transition were focussed areas. On the occasion, Additional Secretary MoCC Syed Mujtaba Hussain also delivered a keynote address. He said it was the convening of the future leaders of Pakistan and it was important to apprise the youth on a number of initiatives implemented by the MoCC during the climate journey of the country.

Hussain underlined that climate change was no longer a myth and it was here with full fury knocking everything out in its way. Pakistan had become the ground zero of climate change due to the frequent disasters and had faced 150 climate events in various forms and the recent monsoon 2022 monster floods and cyclone BIPARJOY caused 8% GDP loss to Pakistan and put it in recovery trap. He

years Pakistan underwent a continuous temperature rise and heatwaves in its south. loods 2022 impacted 33 mln our of which 8 mln displaced He provided a detailed account of various initiatives including the National Adaptation Plan, National Clean Air Policy, National Hazardous Waste Management Policy, Single use plastics prohibition regulations, Living Indus Initiative, Recharge Pakistan, GLOF-II, REDD+, Pakistan Blue Carbon Ecosystems, Upscaling of Green Pakistan, and Snow Leopard protection project. The Additional Secretary MoCC said the Snow Leopard conservation helped achieve a population increase of more than 200 snow leopards in GB, KP and AJK regions that were on the brink of extinction. He suggested that actions needed to be taken on a collective basis as the government, private sector and civil society would have to forge strong collaborations to cope with climate

added that for three consecutive

change challenges. "Youth have to take the process forward through their out-ofthe-box thinking and innovative skills," he added.



### DNA

RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Mohsin Naqvi here on Friday visited the residence of a victim, killed by dacoits at Gulzar-e-Quaid in Airport Housing Society and met with the family members.

The victim namely Ahmed Afsar, a young man was killed in a clinic a few days ago after resisting a dacoity. The CM expressed his grief and sorrow over the tragic incident to the widow, uncle and other relatives of the deceased vouth. Mohsin Naqvi expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family and offered Fatiha for the deceased. City Police Officer, Rawal-

pindi briefed the CM about the tragic incident. The criminals committed a heinous crime by killing the father of three children, the CM said. Punjab Government is with the family. Mohsen Naqvi said adding, "We will take full care of the family." The CM while talking to the media said that the protection of life and property of the citizens is the responsibility of the government and it would be fulfilled at any cost. The government is making allout efforts to maintain law and order throughout the province, he added. Due to the action of the police, the attempt of the accused involved in this incident of robbery to escape from the province was thwarted, the CM said adding, "I stand with every victim.'

## CDA, Hashoo group plant saplings along Srinagar Highway

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) in collaboration with Hashoo Group planted saplings at Rest Area G-11 Srinagar Highway here on Friday to ensure a clean and green environment in the federal capital. Chairman CDA Captain (R) Noorul-Amin Mengal speaking on the occasion said environment-friendly measures were being taken in collaboration with the private sector. It was imperative for the private sector to actively participate in eco-friendly summer in Islamabad. He stressed the need that the private sector should also play a pivotal role in upgrading the parks. Mengal urged the authorities concerned to provide all kinds of facilities to the private sector in that regard.-DNA



ISLAMABAD: A view of the empty Utility Store at Sitara Market as workers are sitting free due not visiting of customers following the ending of the subsidized prices of grocery after ending of the Prime Minister Scheme later than dissolving of the National Assembly.— Agencies

Alvi urges civil servants to improve service-delivery, ensure good governance

# CM reviews arrangements for 14 August

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting held at CM's office on Friday, reviewed arrangements for celebrating Independence Day. Acting upon directives from the caretaker CM, Independence Day festivities are set to be marked with a blend of grandeur and patriotic fervor, as extensive plans have been finalized for Punjab's jubilant observance. At night on August 13, a vibrant display of fireworks is scheduled to illuminate the skies. Simultaneously, on the morning of August 14, flag-hoisting ceremonies will be held in unison across all divisional and district headquarters throughout Punjab. On the evening of August 14, national songs and anthems will be presented to the public in special events. Renowned singers will perform. All government and private buildings will be lit up across the province. National flags will be displayed at prominent places in all cities. Famous singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan will perform at the Gaddafi Stadium. Fireworks will be set off at Minar-e-Pakistan and other places. The day will witness a ceremonial flag hoisting at Huzuri Bagh at 8 am, followed by similar observances at landmarks such as Multan Ghanta Ghar. Firework displays and musical performances will grace the night in Multan, where the Metro route will also be illuminated. In the spirit of rejuvenation, the occasion will also see the planting of saplings. Reflecting the luminance of unity and patriotism, the canals of Lahore and Faisalabad will shimmer with the glow of lit lamps. The CM passionately acknowledged Pakistan's genesis as a product of immense ancestral sacrifices, with a reminder that independence was secured through the crossing of rivers of fire and blood by Muslims striving for liberty. Emphasizing the vibrancy of the celebrations, the CM conveyed that Punjab's Independence Day observances are meticulously curated to stand as a remarkable and unparalleled tribute. The meeting was graced by the presence of notable figures including provincial ministers Azfar Ali Nasir, Mansoor Qadir, Adviser to Chief Minister Wahab Riaz, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Additional Chief Secretary, CCPO, Additional Chief Secretary Interior, and Secretaries of various departments including Information, Higher Education, Schools, Tourism, Sports and Youth Affairs, Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Commissioner Lahore Division, Chairman Punjab Information Technology Board, Director General Public Relations, Director General PHA, and relevant officers. Commissioners participated through video link.-DNA

### **CCPO** Lahore for peaceful 14 August celebrations

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore Bilal Siddique Kamyana has directed the officers concerned to ensure peaceful celebrations of Independence Day in the provincial capital city and ordered for taking strict action against those causing disturbances and rowdvism at the public places. He was presiding over a meeting on law and order on the Independence Day. He said that on the night of August 13 and 14, the Lahore police officers. personnel, female police personnel, and Anti-Riot Force personnel would be deployed on security duty at various locations. He emphasised that miscreants, who engage in inappropriate behaviour with citizens, especially women.-DNA

Alvi has urged civil servants to work with dedication and commitment to improve service delivery and ensure good governance in the country. He also underscored the need to take timely and swift decisions to keep pace with the rest of the world. Addressing the successful graduates of the 118th Senior Management Course (SMC) and 33rd National Management Course (NMC) at the National School of Public Policy here on Friday, he said that Islam was a community-based religion and it emphasised serving the poor and show-

ORE:President Dr Arif

ing utmost compassion to them. "A civil servant must

interact with the p be easily accessible to them in order to address their problems. This principle has been practised by great caliphs of Islam," Dr Alvi said, adding that welfare of the community should be the first priority of a civil servant. He said that brilliant civil servants were an antidote to the state's ills and that people with the right attitude could change the world around them. He remarked that the country needed such people more than before as the country was faced with multiple challenges. Dr Alvi urged the civil servants to follow in the footsteps of the former great civil servants

become a resistance against hypocrisy and corruption, besides ensuring good governance. The president said that keeping pace with modern knowledge was also vital to national progress and the bureaucracy must play its role in steering the country out of problems, and put it on the path to progress. Highlighting the role of training institutions like the NSPP and NDU, the president said that these institutions could better train civil servants and equip them with relevant skills to address the administrative and governance issues. Earlier. Director NSPP

President Dr Arif Alvi and thanked his constant patronage of the institution. Shedding light on salient features of the high-profile training institution, he said the NSPP did not confine itself to academics but also provided training on practical strategy and policy formulation. The NSPP director further said that scholarships were also being awarded to toppers of the SMC and NMC training and they were being sent to Harvard University. Earlier, President Dr Arif Alvi distributed certificates among the successful graduates of the SMC and NMC.-DNA

workshop, highlighting the utmost importance that has been central to our discussions over the past two days. The matter at hand pertains to the imperative role of pro-

## PRCS GB conducts capacity Building workshop for it's volunteers on climate change DRM

GILGIT: Pakistan Red Crescent Society Friday Gilgit-Baltistan, in partnership with the German Red Cross successfully conducted two days Capacity Building Workshop for its staff and professional volunteers on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (DRM). The workshop, titled "Capacity Building of Staff & Volunteers in CCA and DRM,"

took place in Gilgit and climate champions in raisgathered 35 participants from relevant fields. The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of staff and relevant field volunteers regarding the salient feature of smallscale grants extended to volunteers through collaborative efforts between PRCS and the German Red Cross and the crucial role the volunteers can play as

ing awareness among the masses. Through interactive sessions and insightful discussions, the participants were provided with valuable insights into the challenges posed by climate change and the significance of effective disaster risk management. Brigadier (Retd) Saleem Mahmood, Chairman of PRCS GB, delivered the closing remarks of the

fessional volunteers in championing the cause of climate change awareness within our region. He emphasized the role of volunteers as a powerful tool to raise awareness about the challenges faced by Gilgit-Baltistan communities in climate change and how it can influence public opinion and the Masses. Mr. Imran Rana, PRCS GB Provincial Secretary, provided insights into the organization's mandate, activities.- Agencies

## National Minorities Day observance aims at protecting their religious, socioeconomic rights

integral part of any society

and played a vital role in the

development and progress

of the country. Augustine

said the new local bodies

system offered a good

number of opportunities

for minorities, adding

"we all have to change

the mindset of discrimi-

nation against religious

President Dr. Arif Alvi,

in his message on Fri-

day, acknowledged the

role played by minori-

ties in development of

minorities.

LAHORE: The National Minorities Day was observed on Friday in Lahore, like in other parts of the country, with the aim to highlight their religious and socioec-

onomic uplift and rights. Various seminars, conferences walks, and sittings in political circles were held to acknowledge the role played by minorities in development of the country. A declaration to mark the National Minorities Day was adopted as part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to help and secure those belonging to religious, linguistic, national or ethnic minority groups. The purpose of observing the day was to highlight the message of Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had pronounced equal rights to all citizens of Pa-

kistan. Pakistan is culturally linguistically, ethnically and religiously diverse. Muslims constitute 96.28 per cent of the country's population, whereas Christians form 1.59 per cent and Hindus 1.60 per cent population of the country, International Forum for Rights and Security's recent report said.

The government of Pakistan is taking all-inclusive actions to defend, encourage and ensure the rights to all Pakistani citizens irrespective of their religious background, the report said, adding that the state must protect the equal rights of Pakistan's minorities in every domain of life. Former Punjab Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Ejaz Alam Augustine said that religious minorities were an

equality among all people, fostering a spirit of harmony and unity within our diverse society".

The president said Pakistan has consistently made efforts for the welfare and upkeep of minorities, including the reservation of 5 per cent quota in the government jobs, and separate seats for minorities in both houses of Parliament to encourage their active participation in the political and economic development of country.

the country. He said the Likewise, Prime Minisminorities in the country enjoyed all political, ter Shehbaz Sharif, in economic and social his message on the day, rights, guaranteed by the promised providing con-Constitution of Pakistan. sistent and unwavering Quoting the teachings support for protection of of Islam. he said "our rights of minorities. In his message on the oc-

religion emphatically advocates for protection casion of National Day of of minority rights and Minorities, the premier

said our Constitution guarantees the provision of social, political, religious and economic rights to all citizens without any discrimination of caste, creed and color. Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, in his message, said that minorities have a very important role in development, prosperity,

peace and unity of Pakistan. In his message, Mohsin Naqvi said "our religion and constitution teach us to treat every-

one respectfully". The CM said the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam also advised for protection of the rights of minorities. He said the Puniab government is striving to eliminate discrimination and promote social harmony.-APP



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## National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

# 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 yearlong 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 broadbased relationship with the United States adding that the "U.S. has been our key economic and developmental partner for over seven decades.

DNA

### Aug 01/Switzerland National Day Aug 01/Lebanon

August

Aug 01/China

Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day

Aug 01 /Syria Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Bukino Faso National Day

Aug 09 /Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea Independence Day

Aug 15/India **Independence** Day

Aug 15/Poland Armed Forces Day

Aug 17 /Indonesia Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine Independence Day

Aug 25/Uruguay **Independence** Day

Aug 30 /Turkey Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/Kyrgyz Republic **Independence** Day

Aug 31/Malaysia **National Day** 

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# 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

The Day also draws our whose contributions attention to Quaid-i-Azam to public service con-Muhammad Ali Jinnah's tinue to be celebrated. Interfaith harmony is a historic speech at the floor of the legislative assemmarked feature of our nably where he laid down tional identity. Pakistan the rules of engagement is a strong advocate of for the citizens with the pluralism, and diversity. Our Constitution guarnewly created state of Pakistan. The very idea antees the provision of of Pakistan is incomplete social, political, religious without our non-Muslim and economic rights to citizens. The 'white' all citizens without any colour of our flag symdiscrimination of caste. bolizes their place in the creed and colour. I am body politic of Pakistan. happy to state that the

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

# Dualization of old road nearing completion

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) has been working on the dualization and up-gradation of 83 kilometer Old Bannu Road in Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province which is nearing completion. An official of NHA told APP on Friday that the project was part of Indus Highway and the first package of the project, 40 kilometer Domail-Khurrum portion was awarded to the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) at the bid price of Rs 7.132 billion. The work on the project was started in February 2018 and so far, about 68.75 percent of physical progress has been achieved mainly due to lack of funds availability, the official added. He said its second package, the 35 km Khurram-Karpa portion costing Rs 5.927 billion was awarded to the FWO. Its work was started in February 2018 and so far about 67.15 percent

of physical progress has been achieved. The third package of

Old Bannu road, 8 kilometer Gaandi Chowk-Sarai Naurang

section was awarded to M/s NCC-IKAN-HRPL joint venture

at the bid price of Rs 0.718 billion. Work on the package

## 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 Man-

agement Authority (PDMA), weather will remain hot and humid

in most parts of Punjab. However, monoon rains are likel

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 Ambulance115
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-	
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ТМА	5770886
Cantonment Bo	oard 9270151-3

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480

meaningfully to building the country. From defence to ed-From Jogendranath Manucation to health to social dal, Pakistan's first law service, there is no walk minister to Dr. Maira of life where our non-Mus-Phailbus to Dr Ruth Pfau lim brothers and sisters to Justice Dorab Patel, the list of our Pakistani have not played their role in the socio-economic denon-Muslim personalivelopment of the country. ties of eminence is long

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-

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. \*-

the spirit of togetherness

also started in February 2018 and it has already been accomplished. He further said that the existing road was single carriageway which was being dualized and improved. He said the project would provide the heavy traffic movement on Indus Highway (N-55) with an alternate route thus sharing the traffic burden with Indus Highway. The NHA official said that infrastructure development in the less developed areas would contribute to their economic uplift through accelerated trade activities. Indus Highway is 1,264 km long that runs along the Indus River connecting the port city of Karachi with Kohat and Peshawar via D.G.Khan and D.I.Khan. The highway being the second largest road connection after Grand Trunk Road, provides an

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, Murree and Galliat. 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.



# Jashan-i-Azadi stalls attract youngsters, children

ISLAMABAD: As the countdown has started for the toys are also on display for celebration of Independthe attraction. Ahmad Shah, ence Day, falling on August who is a government employ-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 While to keep the interest

ee, 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 Jashani-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

of kids intact in these cele-APP. The capital has worn

preparations.

brations, the flag-coloured 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

# 04

# **TWIN CITIES**

Islamabad **POST** Saturday, August 12 , 2023

# 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 Mur-

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

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

ISLAMABAD: Prime Min-

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 Bakhtawari 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 Bakhtawari 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.

#### ister 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 Kahsmir, 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

## 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 Nowshehra was 40900 cusecs and outflow 40900 cusecs, at Khairabad Bridge, the water inflow was 222700 cusecs and outflow 222700 cusecs, in Jhelum at Mangla, the inflow was 31500 cusecs and outflow was 10000 cusecs.-APP

# ANF seizes 78 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcota house near Masri Khan ics Force (ANF) while con-Chowk Peshawar. During the operation, the accused ducting eight operations across the country managed resident of Peshawar was to recover over 78 kg drugs also arrested. The spokesand arrested eight accused, man said, 300 grams hashsaid an ANF Headquarters ish was recovered from the spokesman here on Friday. possession of a local drug He said, 5 kg heroin and 6 dealer near Baidri Chowk kg hashish were recovered Mansehra. In fourth operation conducted in Sialkot, from secret cavities of a car intercepted near Motorway heroin was recovered from Toll Plaza Islamabad, Two a parcel booked at a courier suspects, residents of Khyoffice. 5 kg heroin hidden ber and Peshawar, were in surgical items was being arrested during the operasmuggled to Canada. He tion. In an operation, 21 kg informed that in fifth operation, 30 heroin-filled heroin was recovered from

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-Pak, China joint lab for

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

**CDA** seals over 100 car showrooms

in capital

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 & al

ree 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 office 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 motor cycles with tainted 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

# 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 Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor of UAF. "In Pakistan, land degradation has been eroding agricultural output. We look forward to green technology to adddress 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 entomolo-



tion. According to Remote gy Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif and Dr. Abid Ali, professor Sensing study, the land of botany Dr. Muhammad degradation in Pakistan Saqib, and professor of is mainly due to vegetaagronomy Dr. Zeeshan tion loss and withdrawal Ahmed were engaged as of agriculture, accounting visiting professors of Shenfor 53.78% and 40.07% reyang Normal University. In spectively.

This is particular acute in Pakistan, Two third of the rapidly increasing populathe transition area from tion depends on drylands northern mountainous to support their livelihood area to central and eastern mainly by engaging in plain and the Indus River agro-pastoral activities. Basin, where the intensifi-Within the vast arid and cation of human activities semi-arid areas which also plays a role. From takes over 70% of nation-2001 to 2020, Pakistan's al land area, all have been land degradation area affected by land degradareached 17,550.07km2.

DNA ISLAMABAD: The Capi tal 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 com plaints 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 own ers 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

on August 14.-APP

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 Coorpaoration Eng Asad Ahmad CEO Miracle Saltworks Ahmad Nadeem Signing MOU for International pink salt project.- DNA

lied 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





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# China and Ukraine: beware great expectations

traddles 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 Zelenskiy 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

here 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.

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

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.

n the US, pro-Israeli democracy activists who is witnessing the turmoil told me that 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

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,

# **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 philosophy, ethics. 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

ecently released scientific biopic Oppen-heimer is grabbing the attention of mil-lions 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-tappingly' 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 enormousness 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 studioof 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.

# 06

# WORLD / SPORTS



## **Judgements** review law unlawful: SC

### FROM PAGE 01

The Supreme Court Review Act is against the Constitution. CIP Banidal 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 Sha rif's return to electoral politics as his lifetime disqualification was undone by an amendment to Election Act 2017," he clarified.

# 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 Mubarik 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.

**PTI expresses** 

concern

over Imran's

safety

FROM PAGE 01

despite the fact multiple as-

sassination attempts were

made on him. The partici-

SPORTS DIPLOMACY

Islamabad **POST** 

Saturday, August 12, 2023

# 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 ex-isted (between PSG and Mbappe)," the Spaniard told a prematch 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 Jaffar 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, Najiha Alvi (wk), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz. Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Syeda Aroob Shah and Umm-e-Hani

Reserves - Anoosha Nasir, Omaima Sohail and Waheeda Akhtar Pakistan ODI squad for South Af-

rica series:

Nida Dar (c), Aliya Riaz, Bismah Ma-

roof, Diana Baig, Fatima Sana, Ghulam Fatima, Muneeba Ali, Nashra Sundhu, Omaima Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk), Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar Reserves - Najiha 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

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

14 Sep – Third ODI v South Africa

11 Sep - Second ODI v South Africa

pants 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.

## 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 Panjgur 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-con-trolled bomb. A levies official disclosed that the blast happened 140 kilometers away from Panjgur 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.



# 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

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

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

The Nadeshiko failed to clear after a free-

kick dropped in their box and the ball even-

tually 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

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 Ay-

aka Yamashita. The Japan goalkeeper then

produced another fine save two minutes af-

ter 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 Liv-

erpool player's offence was spotted by

the referee after a review. - Agencies

Hinata Miyazawa, on five goals, now out.

expected to struggle.

## 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, Turkiye, 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 Dagha 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.

## Sweden end Japan's dream of World Cup semis devastating effect in previous games.

AUCKLAND: Amanda Ilestedt scored her fourth goal of the tournament and Filippa Angeldal 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. Angeldal 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



# 07

# **BUSINESS / WORLD**

Islamabad **POST** Saturday, August 12, 2023

Russia

launches military

training of

**Northern Fleet** MOSCOW: The Russian

Northern Fleet started

military training on Friday

# Briefs **Global Covid**

## cases up 80% as new subvariant rises

PARIS: The number of new Covid-19 cases reported worldwide rose by 80 percent in the last month, the World Health Organization said on Friday, days after designating a new "variant of interest". The WHO declared in May that Covid is no longer a global health emergency, but has warned that the virus will continue to circulate and mutate, causing occasional spikes in infections, hospitalisations and deaths. In its weekly update, the UN agency said that nations reported nearly 1.5 million new cases from July 10 to August 6, an 80 percent increase compared to the previous 28 days. However the number of deaths fell by 57 percent to 2,500. The WHO warned that the reported number of cases and deaths do not reflect the true numbers, in part because countries carry out far less testing and monitoring than during earlier stages of the pandemic. Many of the new cases came in the Western Pacific region, which saw infections jump by 137 percent, the WHO said. - Agencies

### Myanmar: Five dead, 40,000 evacuated amid

BAGO: Floods and landslides caused by monsoon rains have killed five people and forced the evacuation of around 40,000 others in Myanmar, officials said Friday. Footage from Rakhine state, which was ravaged in May by Cyclone Mocha, showed large areas of villages and farmland submerged by murky, yellow-brown waters. Myanmar is hit by heavy rains every year around this time, but extreme weather events have struck around the globe in recent weeks, events scientists say are made worse by climate change. In Bago, northeast of Yangon, some residents evacuated early while others were caught off guard by the rapidly rising water. "There are floods every year in Bago but this one is the worst. Normally, the water is around knee- or thigh-deep during the rainy season," Bago resident Soe Min Aung, 23, told AFP, adding that his family had scrambled to buy a boat. "Some families moved to a monastery but others stayed because they didn't think the water would be too high. In some quarters, the water level is higher than two times my height." More than 870 people were crammed into a Bago monastery on Friday night and were receiving food from monks and donated supplies.- Agencies

# Pak committed to promote interfaith harmony: Masood

# "Sufism has a great history in Pakistan and it has always worked to connect communities and integrate them as one humanity," said the Ambassador

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: August 10, 2023 "The Government of Pakistan is committed to promote interfaith and inter sectarian harmony and respect for the rights of minorities," said Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, says a press release received here today from Washington DC.

said.

"Sufism has a great history in Pakistan and it has always worked to connect communities and integrate them as one humanity,' said the Ambassador. "The land of Pakistan has been a cradle of multiple civilizations for centuries. Respect for cultural and religious diversity is part of its national psyche and mores. We will continue to nurture that time-honored tradition,' he said. Masood Khan said that "it is our collective responsibility to combat intolerance, xenophobia, fanaticism and religious hatred worldwide. Pakistan and United States can work together to deepen understanding about these issues said that sufi saints in suband promote understanding continent had played a vital among civilizations," he role in transformation of society. He said that during

Ambassador Masood Khan thousand years of the Musmade these remarks during lim rule, there had never a gathering of faith leaders been any religious conflict of the United States at the among Muslims, Sikhs, and Pakistan House. Sahibzada Buddhists, Christians and Sultan Ahmad Ali, Chair-Zoroastrian and others. He man of Muslim Institute, also said that sufism had was the chief guest on the played a great role in prooccasion. The reception tecting the society from the was attended by religious scourge of terrorism.

leaders representing var-"Two major fatwas was isious faiths and denominasues against suicide attacks tions and leading members and terrorism by the scholof Pak-American communiars with sufi background," ty. Rev. Canon Justin Murff, he said. Talking about sci-Executive Director of the entific and technological ad-Anglican Office for Govvancement of modren age, ernment & International he said that technology, artificial intelligence and Affairs, Muhammad Usman Noori, Al-Mustafa Trust, other tools could effective-Yahya Hendi, Director Musly be employed to promote lim Life and Chaplaincy at mutual interactions and en-Georgetown University. Dr. couraging dialogue among Maqsood Chaudhry, Imam various faiths. Rev. Canon Justin Murff, Executive Di-Naeem Baig, Outreach & Interfaith Director Dar rector of the Anglican office Al-Hijra Islamic Centre and for Government & Internaother religious leaders were tional Affairs representing present on the occaison. Archbishop Azad Marshall Thanking the Ambassador of the Diocese of Raiwind, President Bishop of Church for the warm welcome, Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali of Pakistan, thanked the

Government of Pakistan for its commitment towards religious freedom and interfaith harmony. "As Christians, we strive to be the salt of the earth. But salt has to have its flavor.

The right amount is always preferable," he continued. "In Pakistan, we are aware of our role and opportunity to be a good neighbor and to be a good friend," said Rev. Canon Justin Murff. Mr. Daniel Spiro, speaking on the occasion, said that the most important thing was to inspire the people, enabling them to recognize the beauty of the religion instead of associating it with fundamentalism and intolerance "Maybe the most difficult is not interfaith conversations but intra-faith dialogue, he opined. Mr. Waseem Naqvi, representing Shia community, appreciated the services of Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali for the stability of Pakistan, unity of the Ummah and promoting interfaith harmony in Pakistan and across the world. Dr. Sayyid Syeed,

former President of Islamic Society of North American invited Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad to their 60th annual convention in Chicago. He said that "our strength in this country has been our interfaith dialogue." Recalling unfortunate incident of burning of Holy Quran and the solidarity shown by leaders of all faith, Dr. Syeed said that the unity against fanaticism had become a powerful expression of America.

"They did not stop there. They decided to have an organization. They created shoulder to shoulder with American Muslims." The organization, he said, was a unique product of American religious landscape. Expressing deep concerns over the plight of minorities and the rising tide of religious intolerance the in India, he said that everything that had been achieved during last 70 years in India was being destroyed. Yahya Hendi, Director Muslim Life and Chaplaincy, underscored the need not only to tolerate but also to cel-

ebrate the differences. He also highlighted the importance of "agree to disagree without being disagreeable" and celebrating commonalities. Muhammad Usman Noori, Al-Mustafa Trust, highlighted the charter of human rights given by Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) and said that sufi saints have been instrumental in spreading the message of Islam through their deeds. "The world", he said, "has always been in search of peace. Today it is needed more than ever."

The speakers expressed the hope that the visit of Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali would help uniting the community Ambassador Masood Khan thanked Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali and other religious leaders for reiterating their strong commitment towards promoting interfaith harmony among the followers destroying sabotage and reof different faiths. Recognizing connaissance groups.-APP the services of Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Ambassador Masood Khan said that he was a catalyst for promotion of better ties between followers of different faiths.

aimed at working out actions to protect the country's sovereignty in the waters of the Northern Sea Route (NSR). "During the exercises, under the leadership of Fleet Commander Admiral Alexandr Moiseev, various options for managing fleet forces while performing tasks to protect the sovereignty of the Russian Federation in the waters of the NSR will be tested," the fleet's press service said in a statement. The training involves more than 8,000 military personnel, 20 warships, submarines and support vessels, 5 aircraft, and up to 50 units of combat and special equipment. The statement said that the training also aimed at assessing the coordination of the units and forces of the fleet during the practical implementation of tasks. The personnel will be trained on isolating areas of operations, blocking and

## Zuma taken to prison, then released on remission

IOHANNESBURG: Former South African President Jacob Zuma reported back to the Estcourt correctional services in KwaZulu-Natal on Friday morning to continue his prison sentence but was later released on special remission, authorities have said. Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Ronald Lamola told reporters that Zuma was released on the remission process granted by President Cyril Ramaphosa to low-risk offenders.

He said low-risk offenders were being granted the remission to reduce overcrowding in prisons. "He (Zuma) is not above the law that's why the National Commissioner of the department of correctional services took a decision that he must come back to prison to comply with the Supreme Court of Appeal's ruling," Lamola said

in response to a reporter's

question. Last month, the

Supreme Court of Appeal or-

dered the 81-year-old Zuma

to return to prison because

his release on medical

parole had been illegally

granted by Arthur Fraser,

then head of South Africa's

Department of Correctional

IS attack on

Syria army

bus kills 26

soldiers



## Irregular border crossings to EU rose in January-July

GENEVA: Some 176,100 irregular border crossings were detected at the EU's external borders in the first seven months of 2023, up nearly 13% from the same period last year, the bloc's border agency said on Friday. The preliminary calculations showed that the figure was the highest for the January-July period since 2016, a statement by Frontex. The rise was solely due to the number of arrivals via the Central Mediterranean, which still serves as the primary route for migration into the EU and constitutes over 50% of all detections at EU borders, it said.

According to the agency, the number of unauthorized crossings on this path more than doubled (+115%). Over 89,000 detections were reported by national authorities in the first seven months of this year - marking the highest total on this route for this period since 2017. "Increased migratory pressure on this route may persist in the coming months with smugglers offering lower prices for migrants departing from Libya and Tunisia amid fierce competition among the criminal groups," it warned. On the contrary, the arrival numbers for all other migratory routes have reduced from the previous year, ranging from a 2% decline on the Western Mediterranean route to a 29% decline.---Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic H.E Dr.Ramez Alraeen presenting the Medal of Gallantry to Air Commodore (R) Abdus Sattar Alvi during a ceremony at the Embassy of Syria. –DNA

concluded without engaging in direct discussions with the union. The core demand of the association is the restoration of their salary to the level equivalent to what they earned in 2008, reflecting a 35% increase.-APP

Junior doctors in

Ěngland begin 5th

round of strikes

# Death toll in Bangladesh floods rises to 48

DHAKA: The death toll from monsoon rains and subsequent flooding in southeast Bangladesh has risen to 48, with some people still missing, while authorities said on Friday that floodwaters have begun to recede. Officials said on Thursday that the floods had affected at least 1.2 million people in four southeastern districts, including Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Bandarban, and Rangamati, since Monday. Ten military units have joined to assist civil administration with rescue and relief efforts in flood-ravaged areas, which continued non-stop in the last four days. Monsoon rains usually occur between June and September every year, affecting hundreds of thousands of people. Rakib Hasan, a senior official in the Chattogram district, told Anadolu that as of Friday, they have received reports of 15 deaths, with three people still missing. "Floodwaters have begun to recede, and people are almost leaving temporary shelters and returning to their homes. However, people in many areas are still stranded by floodwaters," he said, adding that "we, with the assistance of army personnel and locals, continue the relief operation as people require potable water and food." Md Jahangir Alom, a relief and rescue official in Cox's Bazar District, confirmed to Anadolu the deaths of 21 people, including two Rohingya refugees, as a result of rain and flooding since Monday. In the hilly district of Bandarban, at least 10 people were killed, and nearly 15,000 others were affected by floodwaters that destroyed 3,700 homes.-DNA

# Concern mounts for detained president in Niger's coup crisis

NIAMEY: Fears for Niger's detained president mounted on Friday, a day after West African leaders declared they would muster a "standby" force in their efforts to return him to power. The European Union and African Union joined the United States and others in sounding the alarm for democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum, who was ousted by members of his guard on July 26. "Bazoum and his family, according to the latest information, have been deprived of food, electricity and medical care for several days," said EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, calling for the leader's immediate restoration to office. The AU echoed the concern, saying "such treatment of a democratically elected president" was "un-

said "he's OK, but the conditions are very difficult," adding that the coup leaders had brandished the threat of assaulting him in the event of military intervention. Human Rights Watch (HRW) said it had spoken to Bazoum, his doctor, his family lawyer, a former communications adviser and a family friend on Wednesday and Thursday. Bazoum, 63, described the treatment of him, his wife and their 20-year-old son as "inhuman and cruel", HRW said. "I haven't had (or) my friends who have dry food, and nothing fresh,

electricity since August 2 and no human contact since August 4. I'm not allowed to receive my family members been bringing food and other supplies to us," the group quoted him as saying. Without power, the family has been forced to eat only

A source close to Bazoum

acceptable".

Bazoum reportedly said.

'My son is sick, has a serious heart condition, and needs to see a doctor," he was quoted as saving. "They've refused to let him get medical treatment."

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara on Thursday said Niger's military "are holding President Bazoum hostage. I personally think that it's a terrorist act."

Ouattara was speaking on the sidelines of an emergency summit in the Nigerian capital Abuja of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Under pressure to stem a cascade of coups among its members, the bloc approved the deployment of what it called a "standby force to restore constitutional order" in Niger.

Chiefs of staff from ECOW-AS members will meet on Saturday in the Ghanaian capital Accra, regional military sources said on Friday.

Services.- Agencies The leaders did not provide any details on the force or any timetable for action, and emphasised that they still wanted a peaceful solution. Before the closed-door talks, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu - a hardliner in the crisis - stressed "we BEIRUT At least 26 solprioritise diplomatic negotidiers have been killed in ations and dialogue as the war-torn Syria's east, a bedrock of our approach". monitor said on Friday, the ECOWAS had previously deadliest in a new wave of issued a seven-day ultimaattacks blamed on Islamic tum to the coup leaders to State group jihadists. return Bazoum to power. Despite losing their last But the regime defied the deadline, which expired on Sunday without any action

being taken.

house - the most powerful

voice. Since 1990, the bloc

has intervened among six

of its members at times of

civil war, insurrection or

political turmoil.-DNA

piece of territory in Syria in 2019, IS has maintained hideouts in the vast Syrian desert from which it has ECOWAS comprises 15 nacarried out ambushes and tions, with Nigeria - West hit-and-run attacks. Africa's most populous na-IS "members targeted a tion and economic power-

military bus" in Deir Ezzor province on Thursday, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

'The number of dead has risen to 26" soldiers, it said, revising an earlier toll of 23 and calling it the extremists' deadliest attack on government forces this year.

The jihadists surrounded the bus and opened fire in Deir Ezzor province's Mayadeen area, in Syria's vast Badia desert, the Observatory added.

Eleven other soldiers were wounded, with some in critical condition, while troops previously thought to be missing were on other buses that managed to reach safe areas, said the Britain-based group which relies on a network of sources inside Syria. The official Svrian news agency SANA said the "terrorist attack" had caused a number of military casualties, citing an unidentified army source.

Svrian government forces and their allied pro-Iranian armed groups deployed in the area were on high alert on Friday morning, the Observatory reported. The war monitor's Rami Abdel Rahman said IS "has recently been escalating its deadly military attacks... aiming to cause as many deaths as possible".-APP

# Two years after fall of Kabul Afghans waiting for US visas

ISLAMABAD: When the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, Shukria Sediqi knew her days in safety were numbered. As a journalist who advocated for women's rights, she'd visited shelters and safe houses to talk to women who had fled abusive husbands. She went with them to court when they asked for a divorce. According to the Taliban, who bar

women from most public places, jobs and education, her work was immoral. So when the Taliban swept into her hometown of Herat in western Afghanistan in August 2021 as the U.S. was pulling out of the country, she and her family fled. First they tried to get on one of the last American flights out of Kabul. Then they tried to go to Tajikistan but had no visas. Finally in October 2021, after sleeping outside for two nights at the checkpoint into Pakistan among crowds of Afghans fleeing the Taliban, she and her family made it into the neighboring country. The goal? Resettling in the U.S.

via an American government program set up to help Afghans at risk under the Taliban because of their work with the U.S. government, media and aid agencies.

But two years after the U.S. left Afghanistan, Sediqi and tens of thousands of others are still waiting. While there has been some recent progress, processing U.S. visas for Afghans has moved painfully slowly. So far, only a small portion of Afghans have been resettled. Many of the applicants who fled Afghanistan are running through savings, living in limbo in exile. They worry that the U.S., which had promised so much, has forgotten them. "What happens to my children? What happens to me?" Sediqi asked. "Nobody knows." During two decades in Afghanistan after its 2001 invasion, the U.S. relied on Afghans helping the U.S. government and military. Afghan journalists went to work at a growing number of media outlets. Afghans, often women working in remote areas, were the backbone of aid programs providing everything from food to tutoring. Since 2009, the U.S. has had a special immigrant visa program to help Afghans like interpreters who worked directly with the U.S. government and the military. Then, in the waning days of the U.S. presence in the country, the Biden administration

created two new programs for refugees, expanding the number of Afghans who could apply to resettle in the U.S. The visas, known as P-1 and P-2, are for aid workers, journalists or others who didn't work directly for the U.S. government but who helped promote goals like democracy and an independent media that put them at risk under the Taliban. The programs were intended to help people like Enayatullah Omid and his wife - Afghans who helped build the country after the 2001 Taliban ouster and were at "risk due to their U.S. affiliation" once the U.S. withdrew. In 2011, Omid started a radio station in Baghlan province with the help of the U.S.based media training nonprofit Internews and funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development. He was the station's general manager but did everything from reporting on-air to sweeping the floors at night. His wife, Homaira Omid Amiri, also worked at the station and was an activist in the province. When the Taliban entered Baghlan on Aug. 9, 2021, Omid said he did one last thing: He burned documents to keep the Taliban from identifying his staff.

Then he and his wife fled. They stayed at shelters arranged by a committee to protect Afghan journalists until the Taliban shut them down. Internews referred Omid to the U.S. refugee program in the spring of 2022. Told he had to leave Afghanistan for his case to proceed, Omid and his wife went to Pakistan in July 2022. Even in Pakistan Omid doesn't feel safe. Worried about the Taliban's reach, he's moved three times. There are police raids targeting Afghans whose visas have run out. As he spoke to The Associated Press, he was getting text messages about raids in another Islamabad neighborhood and wondered how much he should tell his already stressed wife. He said America has a saying: Leave no one behind. "We want them to do it. It shouldn't be only a saying for them," he said. The American airlift in August 2021 carried more than 70,000 Afghans to safety, along with tens of thousands of Americans and citizens of other countries - plane after plane loaded with the lucky ones who managed to make their way through the massive crowds encircling Kabul airport. Most gained entry to the

U.S. under a provision known as humanitarian parole. Many more are still waiting. There are about 150,000 applicants to the special immigrant visa programs - not including family members. A report by the Association of Wartime Allies said at the current rate it would take 31 years to process them all. Separately, there are 27,400 Afghans who are in the pipeline for the two refugee programs created in the final days of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan, according to the State Department. That doesn't include family members, which potentially adds tens of thousands more. But since the U.S. left Afghanistan it's only admitted 6,862 of these Afghan refugees, mostly P-1 and P-2 visa applicants, according to State Department figures. In June, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. has relocated about 24,000 Afghans since September 2021, apparently referring to all the resettlement programs combined. Among the refugee program applicants are about 200 AP employees and their families, as well as staff of other American news organizations still struggling to relocate to the U.S. Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president .- 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 com-

mon man on importing vi-

tal medicines (anti-cancer

drugs and vaccines) from

India for their own use un-

der the Import Policy Or-

der 2022 after obtaining no

objection certificate (NOC)

The statement of the DRAP

officials came during a ses-

sion of the Senate Stand-

ing Committee on Health

wherein Senator Professor

Mehr Taj Roghani raised

the issue of the unavailabili-

ty of several essential medi-

"In view of unavailability of

some essential medicines

in Pakistan, common peo-

for an NOC to directly im-

port medicines from India.

Currently, there is no ban

cines in the country.

from the authority.

# 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.

## Germany mulls sending Taurus missiles to Ukraine

### DNA

newsmagazine.

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

Kyiv has been pushing Ber-

lin to supply it with the Tau-

rus, 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.

### 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 Iamal 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, advisers, 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.



**LAHORE:** President Dr. Arif Alvi distributes certificates among the participant

## 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 min-

## 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 Ameri cans held in Iran.

# Pak's sugar export quota for Afghanistan expires

KHYBER: 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 emported 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, weighting 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

of Graduation Ceremony of NMC at National School of Public Policy. - APP

# **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 with Moscow gradually securing gains 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

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 remit-

tance inflows have also witnessed a reduc-

tion of 7.3% on a month-on-month basis, me-

dia 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 Ara-

bia (\$486.7 million), United Arab Emir-

ates (\$315.1 million), the United Kingdom

(\$305.7 million), and the United States of

Analysts said they expected a decline in

remittances in July, while was likely to see

more inflow following Eid ul Adha in June,

America (\$238.1 million), respectively.

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

as Pakistani expatriates sent more cash

home to buy sacrificial animals. Additional-

ly, 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 devalua-

tion is discouraging investment by overseas

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

Pakistanis," Tariq added.

tors had uncovered instances of foul play. These "pose a threat to Ukraine's national security and undermine confidence in state institutions," the statement added. "Ukraine's security council recommended that the head of the army select replacements who have battlefield experience and were vetted by Ukraine's intelligence services," it underlined. Separately, Russia said Friday that it got better in its fighting

imum sentences of 20 years for gang rape.

It further noted that Ukraine's general mo-

bilisation was a key area in which inspec-

positions around northeast Ukraine, as Kyiv's troops struggle ahead with their counteroffensive in other areas. Moscow also launched a volley of hypersonic missiles at western Ukraine in an attack that killed one in a part of the country that has largely been spared from Russia. According to Moscow's defence ministry, Russian units had "continued offensive operations on a wide front and improved the tactical situation" in Vilshana and Pershotravneve to the east of Kupiansk. - Agencies

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 out-

"The level to which the remittances have

dropped is worrisome. There is certainly an el-

ement 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 at-

tract more remittances like increasing the

reimbursement rate to Saudi Riyal 30/\$100

which is a 50% increase." - Agencies

lined in the agreement with the IMF.

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 Fri-

day, 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.

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

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 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 totals 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.

### WEB DESK

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