

## **Official Secrets, Army Act President Arif Alvi** denies signing bills

President Alvi says he disagreed with these laws, says his staff undermined his will, command; seeks forgiveness from those who will be effected



#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In a twist of events, President Arif Alvi denied Sunday signing Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023, claiming that his staff "undermined" his orders. Alvi's revelations came on microblogging platform X, formerly known as Twitter, a day after he had reportedly assented to the two bills. "As God is my witness, I did not sign Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 & Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023 as I disagreed with these laws," President Alvi said on X.

**Continued on Page 06** 



## PML-N, PPP ask Alvi to step down

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Sunday demanded President Arif Alvi's resignation after the head of the state denied signing two crucial bills related to the army and secrets laws. In a startling turn of events, President Alvi said he did not sign the bills amending the Official Secrets Act and the Pakistan Army Act into law as he "disagreed with these laws". Alvi, in a post on social media platform X formerly known as Twitter, said he had asked his office staff to return the bills unsigned within the stipulated time to make them "uneffective". "I confirmed from them many times that whether

arrested from his residence in **Continued on Page 06** 

they have been returned and was

assured that they were. However,

I have found out today that my

staff undermined my will and

command. As Allah knows all,

He will forgive Insha'Allah. But

I ask forgiveness from those who

will be effected," the president

said. On Saturday, it was report-

ed that President Alvi has signed

the Official Secrets Act and the

Army Act Amendment Bill ap-

proved by the National Assembly

and the Senate, after which both

bills became law. Soon after the

law passed, Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran

Khan was booked in the cipher

case. The party's senior lead-

er Shah Mahmood Qureshi was

#### **Secrets Law** Gazette notifications issued The gazette

**Army Act**,

notifications were dated August 18

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Hours after President Arif Alvi denied singing two pivotal bills, the gazette notifications of Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023, becoming law have been issued, media reported

on Sunday. According to details, the gazette

notifications were dated

August 18 (Friday). The

notification stated that

the acts - forwarded by

Majlis-e-Shoora [Parlia-

ment] - were "deemed

to have been assented by

The bills were published

as laws in the Gazette of

Pakistan and were dated

August 18, 2023. Earlier

in the day, President Arif

Alvi denied signing Offi-

cial Secrets (Amendment)

Bill, 2023 and Pakistan

Army Act (Amendment)

Bill, 2023 as he "disa-

In a post on social media

platform X, Alvi said: "As

God is my witness, I did

not sign Official Secrets

Amendment Bill, 2023 and

Pakistan Army Amend-

ment Bill, 2023 as I dis-

agreed with these laws."

The president said he

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"I confirmed from them

many times that whether they have been returned

and was assured that they

were. However, I have found

out today that my staff un-

dermined my will and com-

mand. As Allah knows all, He will forgive Insha'Allah.

But I ask forgiveness from

those who will be affected,'

the president said.

greed with these laws".

President Dr Arif Alvi".

## SARGODHA: A view of burned bus after incident in which eighteen people lost their lives. - APP Speed thrills but kills... 18 killed in a bus, car smash

The bus – carrying around 35-40 people – was en route to Islamabad from Karachi, according to rescue officials. Drivers of both vehicles were among those who lost their lives

#### STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: As many as 18 people, including women and children, lost their lives while 15 others were left injured after a passenger smashed into a pick-up carrying diesel drums and caught fire on the Faisalabad Motorway near Pindi Bhattian early Sunday. The bus – carrying around 35-40 people - was en route to Islamabad from Karachi, according to rescue officials. Drivers of both vehicles were among those who lost their lives. The injured were transported to Pindi Bhattian and Faisalabad Hospital, said the medical superintendent. The accident occurred near the Pindi-Bhattian Interchange at 4am, after the bus hit a pickup van that was carrying diesel drums, District Police Officer (DPO) Dr Fahad said. adding that fire engulfed the bus shortly after the hit. People nearby tried to pull the passengers out of the bus by breaking windows. The injured – of whom four are in critical condition - were taken to the hospital. DPO Dr Fahad further shared that **Continued on Page 06** 

President Alvi grieved over loss of lives

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday expressed his deep grief over loss of precious lives in a road

#### **JUSTICE TO DE** done with Jaranwala culprits: FO

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: In response



incident in Jaranwala, Faisalabad, on 16 August 2023, Spokesperson Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, said: "We reiterate what we have said earlier. The Faisalabad incident is a sad reprehensible incident that has hurt the sentiments of Christians across Pakistan. The incident has been strongly condemned by Pakistan's leadership and the entire Pakistani society. Such intolerant and violent acts are unacceptable to the ethos of Pakistani society. The wheels of justice have been set in motion. The Government of Pakistan will not rest until those responsible for these vile acts are apprehended and brought to justice.

#### Asad Umar 'arrested' in cipher case

#### MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Former sec-



en into custody by Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The counter-terrorism wing of the FIA had registered the case against the former prime minister - who was ousted from office after a no-confidence motion in April last year - after ascertaining his deliberate involvement in misusing classified document the following a probe. The former federal minister Asad Umar was taken into custodv from Islamabad in cipher probe case. Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was arrested from his residence in Islamabad.

## 'President can either assent or return a bill'

Law, Info Ministers Presser

Both ministers say their mandate is not political; Law Ministry has not received the bill so far

#### FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Law and Justice on Sunday while expressing grave concern over a post of President Dr Arif Alvi (on X) regarding the Official Secrets Act and Patwo options to the president either to give as-

**Continued on Page 06** 



#### DNA

kistan Army Amendment Bills 2023, clarified ISLAMABAD: Hours after the controthat Article 75 of the Constitution provided versy, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday announced that it sent or refer the legislation back to parliament would approach the Supreme Court afwith observations, but in the instant matter, ter President Arif Alvi tweeted that he the constitutional course was not adopted. did not sign the bills seeking amend-Law Minster Irfan Aslam and Information ments to Official Secrets and Army Act. Minister Murtaza Solangi addressed the press The president's opinion, related to his conference and clarified various legal points. alleged assent to the most important

**Continued on Page 06** 



**ISLAMABAD:** Law Minster Irfan Aslam and Information Minister Murtaza Solangi addressing a press conference. - DNA

## **PPP objecting to delimitations** over fear of losing seats: Rana

PPP's Senator Sherry Rehman urged the ECP to duly announce the date of general elections

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former interior minister Rana Sanaullah said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was objecting to the fresh delimitations on the basis of the 2023 census out of fear of losing a few seats as an increase in the number of Karachi seats

was expected. Remarks of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) senior leader came during a TV programme, wherein he maintained that a delay in conducting general elections beyond 90 days would not make any difference. He said that the Council of Common Interests (CCI), in which PPP leaders were also present, had approved the new census by consensus. On August 17, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced the elections couldn't be held in three months due to the requirement of fresh delimitations after the notification of census 2023, as decided by

**Continued on Page 06** 

### **PML-N leaders** to meet Nawaz

#### **ABBAS HASHMI**

LAHORE: Former Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said Sunday that ex-prime minister Shehbaz Sharif will leave for London from Lahore on Sunday to meet with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif. Taking to X, formerly Twitter, Aurangzeb wrote: "Former Prime Minister and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mr Shehbaz Sharif will leave for London from Lahore today. During his stay in London, Mr Shehbaz Sharif will also meet the party leader Mr Muhammad Nawaz Sharif." According to media, the delegation is likely to include other

**Continued on Page 06** 

accident, after a deadly fire burnt down a passengers bus near Pindi Bhattian. The president expressed his sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured passengers. According to media reports, as many as 18 people, including women and children, were killed while 15 others sustained injuries after a passenger bus rammed into a pick-up carrying diesel drums near Pindi Bhattian on motorway. The ill fated bus was enroute to Islamabad from Karachi. - APP



# NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Monday, August 21, 2023

## CDA, NIAZ partner to improve mobility of workers with disabilities

#### **DNA**

02

ISLAMABAD: Niaz Support, a social enterprise that provides support to persons with disabilities in Pakistan, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to provide customised wheelchairs to CDA workers and their families who are suffering from disabilities.

The MOU was signed by Hussain Odhwani, Founder of Niaz Support, and Ch. Muhammad Yaseen, General Secretary - CDA Mazdoor Union and Pakistan Workers Federation Islamabad. "We are delighted to partner with CDA to provide customised wheelchairs to their deserving workers and their families," said Odhwani.



"This one-of-a-kind agreement will help to mobilise the deserving lower middle class families and bring mobility and prosperity within their homes." CDA appreciated the great efforts of Niaz Support to mobilise persons with disabilities in

Pakistan and thanked the founder for his generous offer to support CDA workers in need. "This partnership is a testament to our commitment

to providing quality services to our workers," said Yaseen. "We are grateful to Niaz Support for their support and look forward to working with them to improve the lives of our workers with disabilities."

The wheelchairs will be customised to the specific needs of each recipient and will be provided free of



charge. This collaboration sons with disabilities in Pakistan. It is a testament is a significant step towards to the commitment of Niaz improving the lives of per-

Support and CDA to providing equal opportunities to all.

#### Governor **GB** meets **Governor KP**

Governor PESHAWAR: Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah reached Governor House Peshawar on his visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali. Matters of mutual interest and other important issues were discussed in the meeting. In the meeting, the two governors discussed the promotion of tourism activities between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan and for the development of the tourism sector. It was also agreed to take joint measures to provide the best facilities. On this occasion, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said that Gilgit-Baltistan is an area rich in tourism and natural resources. The promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and the northern regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will benefit the country's economy. He said Babu Sar top to

Gilgit-Baltistan and all these areas are very attractive for tourists, there is a need to develop the tourism sector Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

### Unstable Rupee keeps damaging economy amid tough IMF conditions KARACHI: The Federation forming currency in Asia in continued to remain tough

of Pakistan Chambers of the wake of strengthening Commerce & Industry's of the greenback globally Businessmen Panel (BMP) and a surge in its demand in Pakistan. Among all currenhas said that the unstable rupee value and its massive cies. Pakistani rupee regfall continued to damage istered the largest decline the economy, as the local of 26.6% in the past one currency has hit a new allyear and the steepest drop time low mark against US of 22.3% in the first eight dollar in the interbank marmonths of 2023. He said ket amidst rising energy that the monetary tightcost and escalating markup ening and exchange rate rate owing to tough condidepreciation resulted in tions of the International higher inflation, public debt Monetary Fund, devaluand debt servicing. The ing the rupee by 1.96% or empirical evidence showed Rs3.82 against the US dolthat the one percent monlar in the inter-bank market. etary tightening hiked the FPCCI former president inflationary pressure by 1.3 and BMP Chairman Mian percent in the case of Paki-Anjum Nisar observed stan, he added. The FPCCI that there was a complete former president observed breakdown of economic polthat besides increasing exicvmaking, as the country's ports the caretaker governfiscal policy had become ment will have to take administrative measures, as subservient to monetary and exchange rate policies. a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market. During the week, the rupee emerged as the worst per-He said that the IMF has

with Pakistan in the past to ensure its prerequisite conditions are implemented. Anium Nisar said that the country's economy nosedived partly due to external factors but majorly due to non-serious and poor domestic policy decisions and mismanagement of the economic managers, as the rupee saw yet another dramatic fall in just over a week, while the key interest rate have been escalated by the central bank to the record historic level of 22%, which will destroy the economy completely. FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that it is very

clear that IMF programs fo-

cus on stabilization and crisis

management rather than

growth-oriented policies that

require structural reforms. He

stressed need for a revisit of

government policies including

the coordination exercise be-

tween the Ministry of Finance and SBP, as no independent economist could support the economic policies that are currently in place. Thus the current untenable situation is due to a perceived policy of exchange rate manipulation and cannot be attributed entirely to the warnings of impending default or criticism of the handling of the economy.

He observed that coordinating fiscal and monetary policies may be beneficial yet with inflation attributed to administrative decisions in nearly all recent Monetary Policy Statements and the government unwilling to implement key reforms in the power sector and tax structure the SBP needs to be vigilant in ensuring market-based exchange rate policy and a positive discount rate while the Ministry needs to revisit its tax policy, utility pricing policy and of course continued massive injections.-APP

### Pakistan's journey towards digital transformation

ISLAMABAD: In an era when technology is transforming to the next level with each passing day, and nations are striving to surpass each other in this field, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) is playing a pivotal role in empowering Pakistan's digital future. Through visionary policies and proactive measures, the MOITT is driving technological advancements and fostering enhanced connectivity across the country. These efforts are not only shaping the nation's digital landscape but also positioning Pakistan as a dynamic player in the global tech arena. In recent years, Pakistan's IT sector has undergone remarkable growth and development, making strides towards becoming a digital powerhouse in the region. Recognizing the importance of digital transformation for economic progress, MOITT has been at the forefront for fostering a conducive ecosystem for businesses, investors, and innovators.\_APP

#### Railways earn over **5min from** salons in last three years

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 5,269,315 through utilizing its 23 salons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three years. "At present, Pakistan Railways has only 23 salons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these salons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP on Thursday. Giving the details, he said, "Two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry.' The official said, "Only one salon has been allocated to the federal government while one each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and the provincial governments." In addition, eight salons had been allocated for the Railway Headquarters Lahore, in which one each would be marked to Chief Officer/General Executive Manager (BS-22), Additional General Manager BS-21, Inspector General Railway Police, Federal Government Inspector, and four salons were allocated for Principal Officers, he added. The official said six salons had been allocated for Divisional Superintendents of Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Quetta, Sukkur, Lahore, and Karachi. He said that the Principal Officers of Pakistan Railways were entitled to travel at these salons or inspection coaches only when they were travelling on duty. –DNA

### Energy projects proved to be game changer in economic stability

PESHAWAR: The Chief Executive Officer, Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) Engineer Naeem Khan Sunday said that the ongoing energy projects for the production of cheap hydropower in the province will be proved as game changer for the stability of the economy of province and to control the ongoing energy crisis in the country. Apart from the production of cheap electricity, the industrial sector would be developed on one hand while on the other hand, new employment opportunities will be available in the province. The damages caused to some parts of the energy projects in the district of Swat due to the disastrous floods in August last year and the importation of electrical equipment

was stopped, there was a slight delay in the completion of the projects, but now these projects are being completed rapidly while some are passing through the final stages of completion. He expressed these views while visiting various on-

going hydropower projects

construction of the colony at the site of Gabral Kalam 88 MW hydropower project and expressed satisfaction with the ongoing work of the project authorities to complete the ongoing work before the scheduled time. Moreover, he went to the site of the ongoing 84 MW Gorkin Matiltan hydropower project in Swat district, where he urged the project authorities to speed up the work, saying that there is no doubt that due to the dilapidated condition of the road between Bahrain and Kalam, the project was delayed. Furthermore, difficulties are being faced in the supply of machinery and material, however, the contractor insisted on transporting the goods through alternative small transport to complete the work more quickly.-APP

and Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Ghulam Ali said. On this occasion Governor GB Syed Mehdi Shah thanked for the hospitality and said that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan are peaceful people and the crime rate here is also negligible. Gilgit and Skardu are very attractive places for domestic and foreign tourists. Providing facilities to tourists from Naran, Kaghan, Babusar Top to Gilgit-Baltistan will not only develop the tourism sector but will also have a profound positive impact on the country's economy. Apart from this, a ten-member delegation from Upper Karam district headed by Qari Afsar Khan also met the governor at the governor's house and apprised the governor about the problems faced by the people of the area, especially health, education and NAD RA related problems.

Newly appointed IGP Sindh assumes office

KARACHI: The new Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Riffat Mukhtar has taken the charge of his office on Sunday. An officer of Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) Grade-21 Riffat Mukhtar has assumed the official charge of the post of Inspector General of Police Sindh, according to spokesman for Sindh Police.-APP

dignified treatment of minorities

CM Naqvi says Islam teaches

DNA

JARANWALA: Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday said holy Quran. that Islam teaches its fol-"Rs2 million will be given to lowers to treat minorities each family for the repair of with respect. Addressing their home," he announced. a function held at a church It was yesterday, on Saturin Jaranwala, the chief minday, that Justice Qazi Faez ister said that work was in Isa, a senior judge of the progress for the repair and Supreme Court (SC), visrestoration of homes and ited Faisalabad district's

churches, which had been Jaranwala tehsil to talk to destroyed and burnt in riots members of the Christian that broke out in the city a community after Wednesfew days ago over the alleday's riots over alleged gation of desecration of the blasphemy.

On August 16, angry mobs of people targeted the Christian community, ransacking and torching their churches and homes there, leaving at least 19 churches and 86 homes in ruins. In the crackdown that ensued, the Punjab police arrested

at least 145 alleged miscreants, including two prime suspects, out of total 1,470 persons who had been booked in connection with the incidents of violence. The vandalism and arson sparked nationwide outrage, with various religious clerics strongly condemning the incident and urging exemplary pun-

ishment to be given to the perpetrators.

under the supervision of PEDO in Swat and Lower Dir districts. On this occasion, he was accompanied by a team of project directors of various projects. He went to Daral Khwar power plant Swat of 36 MW where he reviewed the emergency safety arrangements and speed of work on flood protection for power plant and colony. He also issued necessary instructions to the authorities on slowness of work, after which he reviewed the



ISLAMABAD:Aug20- Children are enjoying Sunday Holiday at Japanese Children Park in Federal Capital.-Online

# Bringing 4.7mln out of school children in KP under education net a gigantic task

PESHAWAR: Where literacy rate is essential in bringing socio-economic uplift in a country and putting it on the path to development and prosperity, it also indicates the priorities of a particular government it set for the well-being of the masses.

In a country like Pakistan where the population has crossed the psychological barrier of 240 million in May this year, and where there are an estimated 22.8 million out-of-school children, the education sector was in dire need of more attention and resources by the authorities concerned.

The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP)'s national socioeconomic registration census report 2021 revealed that 4.7 million children aged 5 to 16 years were out of school in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The breakup of the data-in-

formed that 1.38 million male and 2.38 million female students were out of school in KP, while 0.36 million male and 0.65 million were out of school in seven merged tribal districts owing to a lack of educational institutions, poverty, and other socioeconomic barriers mostly caused by population ex-

plosion. The highest per- blood cancer. After enorcentage of 77 percent was mous financial problems, I reported in Palas Kolai disstarted labour work to support my six sisters and an trict followed by 70 percent ailing mother," said Faizur in Upper Kohistan, 69 percent in Lower Kohistan, 61 Rehman (18), a resident of in Torghar, 55 in Shangla, Pabbi Nowshera while tears 53 in Lakki Marwat, and 51 rolling down his cheeks. percent each in Tank and "My father wanted to see

Batagram districts. me as an engineer but the In erstwhile Fata, around fortune overturned and I 66 percent of children was left with no option but were out-of-school in North to enter the painstaking Waziristan, 63 percent in construction labour work Bajaur, 61 in South Wato support my family," he added. Besides poverty and ziristan, 51 in Mohmand and Khyber, and 47 percent socioeconomic imbalances each in Kurram and Oraespecially in rural areas, he kazai. "I left education in said most of poor students childhood after the untimeleft education due to the expansive cost of books and ly death of my father due to

other education expenses. Muhammad Shahab Khan, Chief Planning Officer, Education Department KP told APP that bringing out of school children under the education net was a big challenge. For bringing 300,000 children to schools in KP in the next three years billions of rupees were required including Rs2.10 billion for the provision of free uniforms, stationary and bags, Rs10.4 billion for the construction of 10,000 schools for the second shift program, and Rs6.7 billion for the establishment of 1,000 Alternate Learning Pathways (ALP), he informed.-APP





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

#### August

Aug 01/China Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzerland National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon **Armed Forces Day** 

Aug 01/Syria **Armed Forces Day** 

Aug 4/Bukino Faso National Day

Aug 09 /Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea **Independence** Day

Aug 15/India Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland Armed Forces Day

Aug 17 /Indonesia **Independence** Day

Aug 24/Ukraine **Independence** Day

Aug 25/Uruguay **Independence** Day

Aug 30 /Turkey **Armed Forces Day** 

Aug 31/Kyrgyz Republic Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia National Day

#### Hotels & Restaurants



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



## Serena Hotels, NAB seminar on "Umeed-e-Sehar ki baat karo"

The guest of honor Director General of NAB Rawalpindi/Islamabad, Mr. Mirza Muhammad Irfan Baig, was the keynote speaker who emphasized the importance of keeping hope alive and the need to strive for a brighter future

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels under its Cultural Diplomacy Initiative joined hands with NAB Rawalpindi/Islamabad and hosted an engaging seminar dedicated to spread awareness against corruption in an entertaining yet enlightening manner. The seminar titled "Umeed-e-Sahar Ki Baat karo", which translates to, 'Let's talk about a new dawn of hope'. The event aimed to shed light on elements of corruption and provided a platform for intellectual discourse against corruption and how to fight it.

There was a meet and greet where the guests gathered before the evening commenced with a recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a beautiful Naat recital. Welcoming the guests was Capt. (R)Muhammad Faheem Qureshi, Director of Awareness and Prevention Wing, NAB Rawalpindi who highlighted the significance of speaking up against corruption and discussed hope and progress for the growth of the nation.

This was followed by speeches made by eminent professionals in the field, including Dr. Ashfaq Hasan (Dean Business School NUST/ Economist Speaker)and Dr. Anis



Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Rifah University/ Academics/Religious Scholar, who further expanded upon the efforts being made by the nation to fight against corruption in an enlightening manner. The guest of honor Director General of NAB Rawalpindi/Islamabad, Mr. Mirza Muhammad Irfan Baig, was the keynote speaker who emphasized

the importance of keeping hope alive and the need to strive for a brighter future. His speech was particularly inspiring and focused on motivating the audience to have a positive outlook towards the upcoming future of the nation. The second half was an entertaining 'Mukalama' which enthralled the audience, followed by national songs

that uplifted the evening, engaging the crowd and filling it with the nationalistic spirit. The event attendees included associates from NAB Rawalpindi/Islamabad, notable members of corporate sector& government officials and other dignitaries from the capital. A delicious feast awaited

## Need stressed to strengthen Pakistan-EU relations

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis, Jawad Sohrab alik, met with EU Ambassador Dr. Riina Kiosks to discuss improving Pak-EU economic ties, regional security, GSP+ benefits for sustainable development and aiding Overseas Pakistanis in the European Union.

In a tweet, Malik expressed joy in welcoming EU Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka at his house. Malik mentioned, having

an

ISLAMABAD:

Noor also known as 'Bul-

bul-e-Pakistan' was remem-

bered on her first death

anniversary where fans

from all walks of life

through media platforms

paid rich tributes for

her unforgettable contri-

bution to the entertain-

yara Noor, the melody

queen of Pakistan, was

one of the top playback

singers in the country.

With no formal musical

background, Noor also

did not receive any formal

training in music, however,

she proved her God-gifted

singing talents all over the

ment industry.

subcontinent.

compassing economic rela-Prime Minister Anwaar ul tions between Pakistan and Haq Kakar.

the EU, we shared aspira-Using his charitable arm, tions for regional security the Sohrab Foundation, Jawad Malik assists the and stability cooperation. most vulnerable parts of He stated that Pakistan receives a distinct incentive society. He was honored by the Pakistan Army for through the EU's GSP+ program to encourage sushis relief contributions, earning national recognitainable development and good governance. A comtion. Since the Pakistan mitted effort is underway Democratic Movement to formulate a sturdy and (PDM) coalition took conlasting solution to tackle trol after Imran Khan's the challenges faced by vote of no-confidence, Overseas Pakistanis in Iawad Sohrab has worked alongside PM Sharif's the EU. Jawad Sohrab, has cabinet on various assignbeen designated as the Special Assistant to the ments. He's been appoint-Prime Minister (SAPM) ed as SAPM to enhance sponsibilities related to government operations and special tasks designated by the PM.Jawad Sohrab Malik comes from a prominent and respected business and political family in Pakistan, based in Islamabad. He is the nephew of Mohammed Mian Soomro, who has held positions such as Governor of Sindh, Chairman of the Senate, Prime Minister, President of Pakistan, and Minister for Privatisation. Iawad Sohrab is also the grandson of the former Nazima of Jacobabad, Begum Saeeda Soomro. His mother, Maliha Malik, wields the guests at the end of the event.



#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Directorate General Public Relations has released a short documentary to pay homage to the country's valiant son and the youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed on his 52nd martyrdom anniversary.

Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed was born on February 17, 1951. Having a dream of defending the aerial frontiers of the motherland, he got a commission on March 14, 1971, in the 51st GD (P) course. He was later posted to No 2 Squadron stationed at Masroor for an Operational Conversion Course, where he was destined for sublime heights by Almighty Allah, a PAF news release said. On August 20, 1971, an unforgettable saga of bravery was crafted with his ultimate sacrifice. On this fateful day, Rashid vanquished the iniquitous intentions of his instructor pilot Flight Lieutenant Mati-ur-Rahman, who tried to hijack his training jet T-33 towards India. Rashid battled to take back the aircraft's controls and finally preferred to crash the plane before it could cross the border. The brave son of soil accepted to sacrifice his life but didn't allow the country's dignity to be tarnished. In recognition of Rashid Minhas's supreme sacrifice and indelible courage, the Government of Pakistan awarded him with the highest gallantry award Nishan-e Haider. He will always be remembered as an icon of bravery & sacrifice and will remain a beacon for our future generations. Earlier the Armed Forces of Pakistan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) and Services Chiefs paid glowing tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on his 52nd Shahadat Anniversary. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas is the youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider, who embraced Shahadat (martyrdom) at Goth Ahmed Shah, Sujawal on August 1971. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas's martyrdom anniversary is a powerful reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of Pakistan. In the line of duty, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas lived up to the great traditions of the Pakistan Armed Forces in defending the motherland. "Let us remember these heroes who have laid down their lives in defense of our motherland. The nation is proud of its gallant sons," the ISPR said.

#### **CDA** pursues upgradation of urban amenities

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is taking concrete steps for ensuring the provision of urban facilities to the city dwellers and maintenance of infrastructure including the installation of street lights, road carpeting, and resolving water-related issues, neglected in the past. "Special attention is being given to the completion of the remaining development works in the sectors I, G, H and D series, provision of civic facilities, and facilitating the home builders in these sectors in pursuance of the directives of Chairman CDA Noor ul Amin Mengal," an official told APP. "The work of installation of streetlights in the main roads and within the sectors to ensure proper lighting management in Sector I-11, I-10, I-14 and Sector I-16, D-12, and other sectors is in full swing,' he added. To a question, the official said, "After a few months of delay due to legal complications, the authority has started work to install street lights in Sector D-12." He said that the work on this project was initially halted when a contractor, who failed to secure the contract, filed a case in court.-APP

#### **GRC** Pakistan inaugurates new office

ISLAMABAD: The Gand-Resource Center hara (GRC) Pakistan, grass root project of the Centre for Culture and Development (C2D) has inaugurated its new office at Taxila Gardens to advance its mission of research and heritage exploration of over 3,000 years old human civilizations nestled in the nook and corner of the ancient city of Taxila. An inauguration ceremony of the new GRC Pakistan office was held here at Taxila Gardens under the auspices of Taxila Chaupal which is a subsidiary of the GRC. Project Director Taxila Gardens, Naqash Ahmed was the guest of honour, Former Director General of the Agency for Barani Areas Development (ABAD) and Associated with NRSP, Malik Muhammad Fateh Khan and former Sub-divisional Forest Officer, Dr Memoona Wali Muhammad among others participated in the inaugural ceremony. GRC Pakistan Core Committee Member and Director C2D, Sarah Mehmood in her opening remarks welcomed all the guests and participants and briefly explained the vision of the Center.

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



#### Enguiry

EdhiAmbulance.....115 PIA Flight Info.....114 PIA Cargo.....9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 CAA.. .....9281092



#### Hospitals

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



#### Departments

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
ТМА	5770886
Cantonment B	oard 9270151-3

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480

amicable conversation about various matters, en-

Nayyara

Nay-

She was

for Overseas Pakistanis in government governance. entrusted with key rethe interim cabinet led by

political influence in laco babad.

# Bulbul-e-Pakistan 'Nayyara Noor' remembered

born on November 3, 1950. in Guwahati, Assam where she spent her early childhood days. She was seven when her family migrated to Pakistan, a private news channel reported. From her early childhood, she took fancy to Begum Akhtar's ghazals, thumris and Kanan Devi's bhajans. Later, in 1968, Noor started singing songs on Radio Pakistan and then on Pakistan Television in 1971. The singer then never looked back as her unstoppable musical journey began. In 1973, she was accorded the Nigar Award for Best Playback Singer in the film Ghara-

tion peaked as the songs of the film Aaina touched the hearts of Pakistanis. Nayyara Noor showed her excellence while working with every major composer for film and TV during her time. She sang Ahmed Shamim's 'Kabhi Hum Bhi Khoobssorat Thay' for the PTV drama serial 'Teesra Kinara.' Nayyara liked to sing Ibn-e-Insha's ghazals as she believed they carry a unique pathos, like 'Jalay tau jalao gori'. Initially, she came to be known for singing Faiz Ahmad Faiz's poetry. Her iconic rendition of Faiz's poetry turned out to be probably the most known and celena. In 1977, her reputabrated work she produced

age allowed by NEPRA. He

informed that theft and line

losses should be addressed

through advanced metering

and cabling. Economy has

been under adverse external conditions, due to

spillovers from the war in

Ukraine, and domestic chal-

lenges, including from ac-

commodative policies that

resulted in uneven growth.

Steadfast implementation

of corrective policies and

reforms remain essential to

regain macroeconomic sta-

bility, address imbalances

and lay the foundation for

inclusive and sustainable

growth. Efforts to strength-

en the viability of the en-

ergy sector and reduce un-

sustainable losses are also

essential. Further efforts to

reduce poverty and protect

the most vulnerable by en-

hancing targeted transfers

are important, especially in

the current high inflation

environment.

in 1976 as a birthday gift for Faiz. In her long career as a singer, Nayyara Noor received a lot of praise and was given the title of Bulbul-e-Pakistan (Nightingale of Pakistan). In 2006, Noor was honored with the Pride of Performance Award, and in 2012, she bid farewell to her professional singing career by saying that it is honorable to step back in Her famous songs time. Watan ki matti gawere wah rehna, 'Jalay tau jalao gori' and Kabhi Hum Bhi Khoobssorat Thay. She also sang patriot-

ic songs, including Sohni Dharti, as well as countless ones for Pakistani films.

#### Minister visits NHA headquarters

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister of Communications, Postal Services, and Railways Shahid Ashraf saved annually through im-Tarar on Sunday paid a visit plementation of efficiency to the National Highway Auand conservation measures. thority (NHA) headquarters He pointed out that the line following his assumption of losses ran as high as 9pc the portfolio. over and above the percent-

Head of the Public Relations Department Sabtain Raza Lodhi, conveyed that a warm welcome was extended to Shahid Ashraf Tarar by various officials, including Federal Secretary of Communications and Postal Services, Captain (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha, Zahir Shah, Member Admin, Sajjad Ahmed Khan, Member of the Board, Shakeel Anwar, General Manager of Establishment, Abdul Ghaffar Farooqui, Director of Establishment, Umair Saduzai, PRO to Chairman NHA, and others. They congratulated him on his new role, said a news release. Subsequently, an informative briefing session was organized by the NHA to apprise Federal Minister Shahid Ashraf Tarar of the ongoing challenges in under-construction projects and various sectors. -APP

### Pakistan's journey towards digital transformation

ISLAMABAD: In an era when technology is transforming to the next level with each passing day, and nations are striving to surpass each other in this field, the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) is playing a pivotal role in empowering Pakistan's digital future. Through visionary policies and proactive measures, the MOITT is driving technological advancements and fostering enhanced connectivity across the country. These efforts are not only shaping the nation's digital landscape but also positioning Pakistan as a dynamic player in the global tech arena. In recent years, Pakistan's IT sector has undergone remarkable growth and development, making strides towards becoming a digital powerhouse in the region. Recognizing the importance of digital transformation for economic progress, MOITT has been at the forefront for fostering a conducive ecosystem for businesses, investors, and innovators. With a skilled workforce, growing digital infrastructure and proactive measures to strengthen cyber security, Pakistan is fast becoming an attractive destination for investment in IT-related ventures. The MOITT has laid the groundwork for a flourishing startup ecosystem by establishing Incubation Centers across the country. These centers provide startups with essential resources, mentoring and support to foster innovation and growth.-APP

ڈسٹر کٹ ہیڈ کوارٹر زہپتال راولپنڈ ی دوہارہ ٹینڈ رنوٹس

ا مؤرَّب بيذكرارز بيتال الداليذ قد مال 20-2023 (الإراليز = اليك سال تك ) مندودة في مردمة كالمحمية جات ويعظموه وثي - يندر ك سيس ورفاة في سے -								
فيذركو ليح كمارج	مرق مولى ميدر	آفرى الأفروات	ارطات	يام نيدر	A.			
E 07.09.2023	£ 07.09.2023	06.09.2023	670000	Hiring of Security Services	1			
11:30 بېځک	11:00 بچک							

نیندر قارم مس شد نید ر مصلق قام تعسیل اشرائط مح بعد أجرار بدا كارشامت PPRA كاد به ساتيد و suplead في محاورانعد فتر كادة ت كارش اطراح بيد كارز ميتال راد ليندي كرميتر - قيمتا - 2000، بينا تامل دالى مدرد بالازدين تك كان كرليزين ودخوامت ماميذ عك برنشذت : مزك بيذكراد فد تاتبل، داليندى محدشات كام في كان بالا - تر مامل كريمة الدر ماتوروروالا براي CDR (Earnest Money/Bid Security)2% كالمورت من فالل أفر مرماتور سك كرالان براي براندو المريك ومدينا بكر براندون المريك ميد كورود ميتل داد ليندى مام بول جاب فيندر من شال بوف والد من كنيند ومن صد لينت في والرار والدي فيمد وديا بركى يحيش تراددون طلم والمتحد والتراد یس بار بند بون ادران سے اور ملی اور ان میں بیکنیک قرار دنگانش قراک میاد دید اون آفرزاک ملیده الف میں بند بون با میں ملیده و دور نے کامورے میں بند رستر دکرد یا جات کا یک بیک ا فرنیندرد بند محان بان سے فرائمدوں کی موجود کی میں موقع بر کھول جا کم ب کی جک بنائل آن فرنیکی کی کی رور دے کے بعد کھولی جا کم ب کی -

فيند وبراداد محل مندود بالاقراد فأتحد وتحمد ويغيذ وبأسم ش ذالناء وتح جرك فيند ود مدكان بال يحفا تحدول كام وجرد فك مح و في ما كرم . حسلولين سل داكثر فرزانةظفر نون: قرام يعلم بحرار (Amended-2016) كرماين كي جاكن ك-ميذيك برينية **IPL NO 6581** ومثركث ميذكوار ثرز سيتال راولينذى (1)

No progress in power sector: PIAF new \$3 billion standby ar- billion could be potentially

rangement. Yet, there is no

in present scenario the en-

servation were generally

treated as alien concepts.

He noted that there was

an urgent need for upgra-

dation of energy efficiency

and conservation standards

and strict enforcement,

besides replacement of

inefficient appliances and

consumer awareness for

responsible use of energy

were other key areas which

should be identified for ac-

tion as a national priority.

He estimated that a dollar

outflow of around \$ 1.25

#### DNA

improvement in the sector's ISLAMABAD - The Pakifinancial health despite instan Industrial and Traders crease in electricity prices up to Rs51 per unit under Associations Front (PIAF) has stressed the need the IMF's policy of fiscalfor overhauling the powization of power sector iner sector through drastic efficiencies, a strategy that measures, as there is no has led to a massive change progress in this sector's fiin priorities of the low midnancial position despite indle-income groups just to crease in electricity prices pay their bills. He said that up to Rs51 per unit under the IMF's policy to remove ergy efficiency and conserinefficiencies, amidst esvation are key measures calating cost of line losses used by countries across to a whopping level. PIAF the globe to mitigate asso-Chairman Faheem ur Rehciated risks. However, in man Saigol stated that the the case of Pakistan, both circular debt is projected to energy efficiency and con-

increase by another Rs545

billion by March 2024 de-

spite a surge in electrici-

ty prices as foreign loans

pegged with the so-called

power sector reforms are

limited to only increasing

prices and ignore other crit-

ical issues. Pakistan eyes

another loan of \$600 mil-

lion from the World Bank

for power sector reforms in

the current fiscal year and

the sector also remains in

focus of the International

Monetary Fund under a

## **TWIN CITIES**

### Islamabad **POST** Monday, August 21 , 2023

### **Briefs**

#### 12 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 12 outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police have intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city. Following these directives, the Margalla police team arrested an accused namely Andaryas and recovered 150 gram heroin from his possession. The Sangjani police team arrested two accused namely Rehan and Sajid Ali and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition and one dagger from their possession. The Karachi Company police team arrested an accused namely Furukh Majeed and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession. Likewise, the Ramna police team arrested an accused namely Aziz and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession. The Phulgran police team arrested an accused namely Mumraiz Khan and recovered 410 gram heroin from his possession. China approves imports of Pakistani dried chillies ISLAMABAD, Aug 20 (): The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has officially approved the import of dried chillies fromPakistan, marking a notable development in the trade relations between the two countries. This decision, detailed in a protocol released on August 10, outlines the phytosanitary requirements for Pakistani chillies.

Murree admin accelerates antiencroachment

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi, Federal Culture Minister Jamal Shah and senior journalists posing for a picture during a media interaction.-DNA

## ICCI calls for addressing issues of hotel industry to facilitate its growth

Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI, said that the hotel industry was not given any relief in the last budget

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hotels Association Senior Vice Chairman Mian Akram Farid visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and discussed the key issues of the hotel industry with ICCI Office Bearers for their redress. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the government should address the key issues of the hotel industry to facilitate its better growth that would enable it to create more jobs. He said that the hotel industry is an important source of revenue generation for

people are associated with the hotel industry. He said that since the 1990s, no new big hotel chain has come to Pakistan due to lack of a national tourism policy and a consistent policy framework from the government for the hotel industry. He said that the government can generate more revenue by creating a favourable environment for this industry and solving its major issues. Mian Akram Farid, Senior Vice Chairman, Pakistan Hotels Association, stressed that the government should abolish the import/regulatory duty on the import of machinery and other items for the hotel industry as these duties have increased the cost of doing business manifold.

the country, while 5 to 6 million He said that according to the current market rate, land prices have increased many times while impo-



sition of various taxes and levies on the hotel industry has created further problems. He said that the bulk of the capital is spent on the purchase of land for hotels and stressed that the land should be provided this industry at government rates. He further said that the 22% high interest rate should also be reduced. He said that the high electricity and gas tariffs have also greatly increased the cost of doing business for this industry and emphasized that these high utility tariffs should be rationalized. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI urged that immediate action should be taken against the illegal guesthouses running in the federal capital. He said that earlier the CDA had

closed the guest houses established in the residential areas of Islamabad, but now again the guest houses have cropped up in the residential sectors of Islamabad. Apart from this, residential apartments are also being used as gatehouses and they are not paying taxes. Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI, said that the hotel industry was not given any relief in the last budget. He said that due to credit sales, hotel owners are paying sales tax and bed tax. He demanded that the government should immediately abolish bed tax at the federal and provincial levels so that the industry can survive. He said that the government should consider reducing the federal and provincial sales tax on hotels to 10 percent to reduce its problems.

#### **Funeral prayer** of Police official offered

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Funeral prayer of Islamabad capital police Constable Khalid Mehmood was offered at Police Lines Headquarters. Senior police officers and a large number of police officials offered the funeral prayer. According to the details, the funeral prayer of Constable Khalid Mehmood posted at the Security division of Islamabad capital police was offered at Police Lines Headquarters. Late police officer was shifted to hospital due to sickness but he could not survive and was reunited with his real Creator. A smartly turnedout contingent of the police personnel presented a guard of honour. Police officers shouldered the coffins and later the bodies were sent to his respective native town in district Gujranwala, Punjab. The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan condoled with the family of the deceased and assured the grieved families of full support from the department and that their family would be taken care of Constable Khalid Mehmood left behind two daughters and two sons.

#### Wanted member of thief gang held

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Anti robbery and dacoity unit (ARDU) police team arrested a wanted member of a thief gang involved in numerous theft activities and recovered stolen cash, gold ornament and weapons with ammunition used in crime from his possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city. –**DNA** 

### operation

RAWALPINDI: Murree administration has accelerated its ongoing anti-encroachment operation and taking strict action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. According to an administration spokesman, "The enforcement team has demolished several illegal constructions and removed encroachments on Express Highway under its ongoing grand operation launched on the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman." The team also demolished illegal constructions at Minto Grill Second Cup in the Dana area. The Municipal Corporation Murree, Civil Defence, and police teams were taking part in operations. The operations were being conducted on a daily basis to demolish illegal constructions and remove encroachments in Murree.-APP

#### Uncontrolled diabetes can lead to serious stroke

ISLAMABAD: Health expert Sunday stressed for public awarness about 'stroke prevention' precautionary measures against sedentary lifestyle, uncontrolled diabetes and high blood pressure which can lead to serious physical disabilities. Renowned Cardiologist Major General (Retd.) Dr. Azhar Mahmood Kayani, taking to PTV news channel said that adults with diabetes are more likely to have a stroke than people who do not have diabetes, adding, prevention and treatment of stroke is possible. Dr Azhar said we need to prevent schoolchildren and college students from having strokes as they were more prone to this disease due to being obese and overweight, becoming diabetics and hypertensive because of sedentary lifestyle and consuming junk food. Replying a question, he replied that through awarness drives and with the help of government we can establish special stroke units at each hospital.-APP

## Ecotourism a must for ustainable local development'

#### DNA

including northern parts of Pakistan participated in ISLAMABAD: The experts the three-day training workcall for practicing ecotourshop. It was organized by ism for sustainable develthe Akhtar Hameed Khan opment of local resources National Centre for Rural and communities. Speaking Development (NCRD), and concluded on Sunday. The to the participants of the National Centre for Rural expert trainers included Development Three-day founder and director Patraining workshop on 'Ecotkistan Mountain Festival and Executive Director ourism and Sustainable Development', they urged the Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed, EvK2CNR Scienparticipants to play their tific Advisor Ashiq Ahmed role in practicing the eco-Khan, PTDC managing tourism framework right from individual and fami-Director Aftab-ur-Rehman, former IG Forests Syed ly picnics to larger group tourism. The experts also Nasir Mahmood and former bureaucrat Zafarullah Sidurged the authorities to ensure implementation of diqi. Director Devcom-Pasustainable development kistan Executive Munir models in letter and spirit Ahmed conducted a brainengaging community-based storming session based on interventions. The prothe SWOT analysis. He also presented a 10-point action vincial government shall devolve powers to union agenda for the participants council level and develop to take upon their future discourse. He urged the a system for local development and community emprovincial governments to urgently form and estabpowerment. As many as 34 mainly mid-career profeslish the provincial tourism

sionals from different cities coordination boards, and the local tourism coordination committees to ensure ecotourism practices. The infrastructure at the tourist destinations shall be environment friendly.

Munir Ahmed emphasized on assessment of the carrying capacity of all the destinations empowered by a robust monitoring system, community communication and education to conduct tourism in their areas on sustainable development parameters. Ashiq Ahmed Khan said tourists go to the far-flung areas for living with nature, and watching the biological diversity. These resources must be protected through the ecotourism policies and practices by engaging all the stakeholders. Every tourist destination has very peculiar resources and landscapes that can be used in the "watch and enjoy" formula. The local communities, he urged, shall be empowered for

raising their local challenges to authorities for a policy change, and educate the tourists about conservation of their local natural resources, biodiversity and wildlife. Aftab-ur-Rehman Rana said the government is making every effort to promote tourism in the country and in the next two years there will be a lot of development in the tourism industry. He said that several tourism projects were in the final stages of completion which would further improve the tourist arrivals in the country. Pakistan has an amazing landscape, natural beauty, history, rich culture, and heritage. The three mountain ranges, glaciers, lakes, valleys, and unique wild flora and fauna can attract tourism from both local and foreign markets. He said that the British Backpacker Society (BBS) has ranked Pakistan as the world's top adventure travel destination.

## respond to quake-hit Turkiye

FGRF first Pakistani NGO to

ISLAMABAD: The Faizan Global Relief Foundation (FGRF), a welfare initiative of the Dawat-i-Islami Foundation during the shocking earthquake of Turkiye was the first Pakistan non-governmental organization that approached the quake-hit region and provided rescue and relief services. The Foundation also ensured the provision of rations, cooked food, medicines, and funeral services in disaster-hit areas where ever it got the opportunity to serve. The FGRF showcased its achievements in welfare, rehabilitation and relief efforts during the monster Monsoon Floods 2022 at the Pakistan Expo on Disaster Risk Reduction-2023 (PEDRR-23). The PEDRR-23, a three-day first-ever expo on Disaster Risk Reduction convened experts, and partners from international and national organisations working in the field of disaster management and relief for a brainstorming session to learn from shared experiences and lessons learnt in different natural calamities. Nouman Attari from FGRF told APP that the Fund had organised the largest relief effort of the country with the participation of over 500,000 participant who took part in the FGRF activities in all the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) affected due to unprecedented floods in 2022. The Foundation, he said had also provided more than 5,000 meals per day distribution

for food distribution at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) tent city for flood-displaced people.

## **10 Minutes Drive From** The Monal

#### **Thar Block-1 Project** renovates cricket stadium in Islamkot DNA ISLAMABAD: The Thar Block 1 Integrated Energy Project has completed the renovation of the Marvi Cricket Stadium in Islamkot, Thar. The inauguration took place, as announced by Sino Sindh Resources Ltd. (SSRL) on August 17. The renovation, which spanned three months, was carried

out at a cost of \$200,000 as part of the company's ongoing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. Following the renovation, the stadium is open to the public. An exhibition match was held between cricket there teams from Islamkot and the Thar Block 1 Project in celebration of the Inde-

pendence Day. The match and festivities attracted hundreds of local fans and were attended by numerous dignitaries.



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## Online selling products flourishing trend among youngsters

An IT expert while suggesting said, "The introduction of more effective laws for protecting, incentive, and promoting the industry and safeguarding vendors' interests will further transform e-commerce into a leading economic

#### sector of the country."

ISLAMABAD: As mobile commerce is emerging as a new trend, mostly youngsters including females were seen preferring to sell products online which is a highly effective strategy to attract new customers to provide a simple way to shop online and flourish their businesses in the country. "Online shopping is one of the most popular activities that Pakistani consumers engage in when they use the internet because they are always on the lookout for unique products in Pakistan," said a report aired by a Private news hannel. "There is a rising trend of "Cash on Delivery" (COD) in Pakistan's e-commerce market, as customers are more comfortable with it and trust it because there are fewer chances of fraud when they can check the product before paying for it," said a retailer while selling online product. "The future of e-commerce is incredibly bright, especially for women entrepreneurs who were limited to local markets," said a women retailer, adding, the sales of smart home products are expected to rise significantly further in coming years. "The demand for beauty, skincare, and healthcare products is also in high demand," said a female, adding, continues to rise exponentially. The top fashion brands were generating millions from their online stores and witnessing exponential growth in their toplines, said a youngster. "Consumer trust has finally in e-commerce has been achieved," said an online retailer while selling clothing brands. An IT expert while suggesting said, "The introduction of more effective laws for protecting, incentive, and promoting the industry and safeguarding vendors' interests will further transform e-commerce into a leading economic sector of the country." "Cheap internet connectivity and smartphones have made it easier for everyone to connect to the online world and start earning," said a young girl.-DNA

## Women's World Cup is the best so far

USTRALIA and New Zealand have provided a tournament that has showcased the strength in depth of football across all continents Four years 公 ago, the 2019 Fifa Women's World Cup, won by the US, was hailed as a pinnacle moment for women's football. The accolade was deserved. But if 2019 was a pinnacle, what can be said about this year's even more remarkable contest? The 2023 World Cup reaches a peak in Sydney on Sunday, when England and Spain face each other in the final. Yet if the contest over the last month proves one big thing, it is that, in women's football, every pinnacle and peak still conceals another even higher one than the summit just reached. The achievements of 2023 go beyond even England's understandable delight and excitement at reaching and hopefully winning - a first football World Cup final since the men's now long distant victory in 1966. The most important of these wider successes is this tournament's wonderful confirmation of real strength in depth in the women's game on every continent. Although two European sides will contest the final, the global attainment gap is everywhere narrowing. Australia, Colombia and Japan deservedly reached the last eight (and Australia went further). Jamaica and Nigeria came close to joining them. China, Morocco, the Philippines, South Africa and Zambia all won group stage games. It can only be a matter of time before an African, Asian, Caribbean or Oceanian team gets to the final.

Traditional boundaries have been breached in other ways too. The breakthrough among the Australian and New Zealand publics has been nationwide and inclusive, with unrivalled eruptions of engagement. Significantly, much groundwork has been done out of sight over long years, in schools and among migrant communities, without the big sponsorship and marketing that follows men's rugby or Australian rules football. Even so, in both of these sports-mad nations, crowd numbers have been high and TV viewing figures have broken almost every record. A peak of 11.2 million Australians – out of a population of 26 million – tuned in to watch Wednesday's semi-final against England. There are global lessons here about the potential of new markets for women's sport.

None of this is to pretend that everything about the 2023 World Cup has been the very best that it could possibly be. Inequality still remains the game's biggest scandal and the priority challenge that must be overcome. True, powerful lobbying of Fifa, world football's governing body, by United States women has helped secure significant increases in the Women's World Cup prize money this year. But the need to continue to grow the women's game is held back by structural financial inequality. The disparity in Fifa's prize money –  $\pounds$ 86m for the Women's World Cup against  $\pounds$ 344m for last year's men's contest in Qatar – remains both huge and indefensible. Fifa says its "ambition" is to achieve pay parity by the next World Cups in the 2026 and 2027 contests. That needs to be turned from an aspiration into an achievement that can then be reinvested at the grassroots. If it is, the next Women's World Cup may be an even greater pinnacle than this one.courtesy by the Guardian.

# **Islamabad POST**

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### Putin conquers Russia's history

HAT will Russia look like after President Vladimir Putin's ruinous war against Ukraine? Mr. Putin has used the war to drive the Russian state and society deeper into dictatorship. This legacy will be long-lasting, and now Mr. Putin is rewriting high school history textbooks to convey his many lies and fabrications to a new generation. Schoolbooks have long been a battleground over ideology and historical memory. Mr. Putin, the former KGB officer who came to power in 2000, has repeatedly revised them to glorify Russia's history as a single, unbroken thousand-year feat and to dress up the story of his own rule. He's now overseeing a rewrite of the narrative of the war in Ukraine, too. The question is whether it will stick. As The Post's Mary Ilyushina reports, one new textbook is aimed at 17-year-olds in 11th grade and covers the period from 1945 until now; another is a new edition for 16-year-olds in 10th grade covering World War II. In the 11th-grade book, chapters covering Russian and Soviet history between the 1970s and 2010s have been substantially rewritten. New material has been added about the war against Ukraine, described in the introduction as "the return of our historical lands." The book repeats the untruth that "Russia did not start any military actions but is trying to end them." The text blames the war on the United States' military support for Ukraine. The revised 11th-grade book is critical of both Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms in

the late 1980s and Boris Yeltsin's drive for a market democracy in the 1990s, saying that neither worked, while under Mr. Putin, a "vertical of power" was established and Russia experienced a "revival" and renewed respect in the world. The D.C. Council voted on Tuesday to stop pulling police officers out of schools, a big win for student safety. Parents and principals overwhelmingly support keeping school resource officers around because they help de-escalate violent situations. D.C. joins a growing number of jurisdictions, from Montgomery County, Md., to Denver, in reversing course after withdrawing officers from school grounds following George Floyd's murder. Read our recent editorial on why D.C. needs SROs. Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) just withdrew Virginia from a data-sharing consortium, ERIC, that made the commonwealth's elections more secure, following Republicans in seven other states in falling prey to disinformation peddled by election deniers. Former GOP governor Robert F. McDonnell made Virginia a founding member of ERIC in 2012, and until recently conservatives touted the group as a tool to combat voter fraud. D.C. and Maryland plan to remain. Read our recent editorial on ERIC. In Vietnam, a one-party state, democracy activist Tran Van Bang was sentenced on Friday to eight years in prison and three years probation for writing 39 Facebook posts. The court claimed he had defamed the state in his writings, according to Radio Free Asia. In the past six years, at least 60 bloggers and activists have been sentenced to between 4 and 15 years in prison under the law, Human Rights Watch found. Read more of the Editorial Board's coverage on autocracy and Vietnam.

## Pakistan's Democratic Puzzle

**Faysal Aziz Khan** 



Concurrently, the anticipation of Nawaz Sharif's return adds a layer of complexity to the ongoing democratic discourse. The shifting deadlines and inconsistent claims about his return reflect a disconnect between the PML-N leadership and its base of supporters. This incongruence raises pertinent questions about accountability, transparency, and the commitment of political leaders to uphold democratic values. The absence of a definitive timeline for Sharif's return... N the ever-evolving landscape of Pakistan, a series of crucial political circumstances has woven a narrative, which reflects and challenges the nation's democratic processes. These interconnected circumstances, encompassing the installation of a new caretaker government, the impending elections, the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan, mounting concerns about human rights violations, and the persistent anticipation of a significant return, collectively form a complicated picture that demands a comprehensive analysis.

The appointment of Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar as the caretaker prime minister marks a pivotal moment as the parliament elected in 2018 reaches its conclusion. Kakar's nomination, a senator from the Balochistan Awami Party, has invoked both approval and scepticism from the public. However, it's the opaqueness surrounding the selection process that casts a shadow over this transition of power. Questions inevitably arise about the transparency and fairness of the process, reminding us of the significance of a clear and inclusive selection mechanism that reinforces trust in democratic governance. While the country gears up for upcoming elections, a pressing question emerges: How will the caretaker government navigate its role in ensuring a free and fair electoral process? Traditionally, the caretaker prime minister's mandate is clear-cut - to oversee the elections and step aside. However, as the nation readies itself for this pivotal moment, potential delays pose a significant challenge to the democratic process. The Election Commission's issuance of guidelines to interim governments serves as a reminder of the need to uphold the rule of law during these times. While these guidelines aim to establish an even playing field, they also raise a critical query: Is the state fully equipped to ensure an electoral process that is not only fair but also transparent? In a democracy like Pakistan, where the legitimacy of governance hinges on credible elections that faithfully express the people's will, addressing these uncertainties promptly becomes a necessity. The caretaker government's role, therefore, is not just about overseeing elections but also about safeguarding the essence of democracy itself. The appointment of Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar as the caretaker prime minister marks a pivotal moment as the parliament elected in 2018 reaches its conclusion.

Recent events, however, cast a spotlight on the delicate equilibrium between upholding the rule of law and protecting individual rights. As a key opposition figure, Imran Khan is currently in jail before the elections, his supporters are grappling with the difficult job of finding a path forward. Many dedicated party members have been detained since May, but despite these challenges, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party continues to display political activity. Pakistan's political landscape has witnessed remarkable comebacks before, and Khan's potential resurgence cannot be dismissed. While predicting a PTI sweep in the elections may be premature, the party has the opportunity to leverage the discontent among its base stemming from Khan's imprisonment and the broader dissatisfaction with the government's performance. If harnessed effectively, this sentiment could translate into significant electoral gains. However, the path to success is not without challenges. In this intricate web of circumstances, the role of the caretaker government becomes pivotal. Not only must it oversee elections, but it must also work diligently to create an environment where the democratic process can unfold unhindered. Concurrently, the anticipation of Nawaz Sharif's return adds a layer of complexity to the ongoing democratic discourse. The shifting deadlines and inconsistent claims about his return reflect a disconnect between the PML-N leadership and its base of supporters. This incongruence raises pertinent questions about accountability, transparency, and the commitment of political leaders to uphold democratic values. The absence of a definitive timeline for

Sharif's return further underscores the intricate interplay between political leadership, legal proceedings, and democratic expectations. At the core of these events lies a set of overarching questions that demand introspection and action. How can Pakistan institute a transparent and participatory process for selecting caretaker governments, thereby enhancing public trust and confidence in the democratic process? How can the state ensure the timely and credible conduct of elections, especially in the face of potential delays, to preserve the essence of democratic representation? In the pursuit of justice, how can legal proceedings be conducted while simultaneously safeguarding the human rights of individuals, and ensuring adherence to democratic norms? Moreover, how can political leaders bridge the gap between their decisions and the expectations of the electorate, effectively embodying democratic principles

and accountability?

The convergence of these challenges at this juncture underscores the critical nature of the decisions that Pakistan must make. The outcomes of these events will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of Pakistan's democratic journey. A steadfast commitment to transparency, accountability, and the protection of democratic values is essential to navigating these challenges successfully.

As Pakistan grapples with these interconnected dynamics, it stands at a crossroads that demands resolute action and a collective dedication to preserving and strengthening its democratic foundation. The threads of these events are woven into the fabric of the nation's future, and the choices made today will determine whether the democratic tapestry remains vibrant and resilient or frays under the weight of uncertainty. The ultimate test lies not just in weathering the challenges, but in emerging stronger, more transparent, and more inclusive on the other side. Only then can Pakistan's democratic spirit truly flourish and guide the nation toward a prosperous future.

## PM address, rekindling hope

#### Qamar Bashir



Acknowledging the instrumental role played by the Army chief and his team, the Prime Minister credited them for the project's swift implementation. Their efforts stood as a testament to the collaborative spirit between the government and military, further solidifying the nation's commitment to progress. Caretaker PM firmly outlined his approach...

N a landmark moment for Pakistan, the newly appointed Caretaker Prime Minister conducted his first Cabinet meeting (18th August, 2023), a telecast that left an indelible mark on the nation. His eloquent speech, clarity of thought, and unwavering commitment to a clear vision left an impression that resonated with citizens across the spectrum. The Prime Minister's introductory address underscored his intention to lead with a focus on development, a commitment that stood regardless of the duration of his tenure. His priorities were firmly set on organizing free, fair, and transparent elections, a testament to his dedication to democratic values.

What truly set this Cabinet meeting apart was the composition of the cabinet itself. Composed primarily of retired government officers, technocrats of specless reputation, and high-caliber professionals, the assembly presented a neutral and balanced representation. With only a few politicians or political affiliates, the emphasis was placed on ensuring an unbiased approach during their role as caretakers. The Prime Minister's recognition and commendation of each cabinet member demonstrated his faith in their abilities to lead their respective portfolios. This gesture laid the foundation for a collaborative and productive term, united under a common goal of national progress. He conveyed that Pakistan's inception was founded upon noble ideals and visionary aspirations. He underscored the collective responsibility of both the nation and individuals to safeguard these noble concepts and work diligently to translate the dream into tangible reality across all realms of national discourse. He invoked the ideals of Allama Iqbal, emphasizing the importance of enlightened thought in guiding the government's actions. Additionally, he stressed the significance of adhering to the principles of the nation's founding father, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, in fostering unity and progress.

A key focal point of the Prime Minister's address was the affirmation of equality for all citizens. He underlined that every individual in Pakistan has the right to pursue a prosperous life, devoid of fear, harassment, intimidation, or vandalism. Notably, he reiterated that minorities in the country enjoy equal rights as citizens and pledged to protect and support them. The disturbing incident of the vandalization of a church and desceration of the holy bible in Jaranwala drew strong condemnation from the Prime Minister. He assured the nation that the perpetrators would face exemplary punishment, underscoring the government's unwavering stance against any act of harassment or intimidation targeting minorities. The Caretaker Prime Minister, speaking with utmost clarity and directness, unequivocally condemned the May 9 incident. He made a firm commitment that this atrocious act will not be tolerated now or in the future, vowing to ensure that justice prevails for all those involved in this reprehensible crime. Emphasizing an unwavering dedication to upholding the rule of law, he asserted that the legal process will unfold without any bias or favoritism, with the intent to prevent the recurrence of such events.

In light of the prevailing polarization in politics, religion, and society, he stressed the need to establish a clear demarcation between citizens' rights and the enforcement of law and order. Drawing a striking analogy, he likened disrespect for the law to an AIDS virus that weakens the body's immune system, leading to a tragic demise. He underscored the urgency of addressing the May 9 incident as a top priority to safeguard the nation from its detrimental consequences. Echoing a resolute stance, he proclaimed that Pakistan rejects any form of religious, ethnic, or political extremism due to their perilous implications for both the country and society. He advocated for a firm and unyielding approach in dealing with such issues.

He especially referred to the creation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and hailed this initiative as a realization of a dream, revealing that the country holds hidden wealth and untapped treasures. With a focus on areas like information technology, agriculture, mineral development, and defense production, SIFC aims to attract foreign investment and drive economic growth and bring prosperity and development to the country.

Acknowledging the instrumental role played by the Army chief and his team, the Prime Minister credited them for the project's swift implementation. Their efforts stood as a testament to the collaborative spirit between the government and military, further solidifying the nation's commitment to progress. The Caretaker Prime Minister firmly outlined his approach towards conserving financial and economic resources, directing cabinet ministers to redirect all available resources towards the betterment and prosperity of the nation. He emphasized that the funds and provisions for this cabinet meeting, including tea and water, stem from the hard-earned money of taxpayers, who are the true proprietors and custodians of these resources. Reiterating the focus on the public's welfare, he pledged that all resources would be channeled into projects, programs, and initiatives aimed at providing essential civic

amenities to the populace. The Prime Minister highlighted the adoption of stringent financial controls, aiming to minimize government expenditures, and stressed the importance of optimizing economic resources for the betterment of the people, holding all members of the Cabinet accountable for the proper utilization of financial resources entrusted to them during their time in office. He assured that his cabinet is committed to a zero-waste policy during their tenure, ensuring that not even a single penny goes to waste. Lastly, the Prime Minister unequivocally expressed his stance on the Kashmir issue. He asserted that resolving the Kashmir matter stands as a cornerstone of our foreign policy, and it is firmly believed that the key to its resolution lies in the just and transparent implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Kashmir. These resolutions call for the conduct of a free and impartial plebiscite, allowing the Kashmiri people to exercise their inherent right to self-determination.

He emphasized that Pakistan maintains a steadfast commitment to its principled position, which dictates that any negotiations with India would not occur until India reverses its illegal and unilateral actions, namely the abrogation of articles 35A and 370 from its constitution.

The selection of a Caretaker Prime Minister hailing from my cherished province marks a positive stride within Pakistan's politics and society. With this auspicious beginning, I am optimistic that the Prime Minister will soon fulfill the pledges he made on his first day, offering much-needed relief and solace to the embattled nation and its citizens.

The inaugural interaction of the Caretaker Prime Minister with the general public, broadcasted live, could be likened to a compassionate doctor applying a soothing bandage to the nation's grieving wounds. His address was replete with promises and the prescription of appropriate remedies for the various challenges that the nation is grappling with. Undoubtedly, this address must have reignited the hope for a brighter future among the people of Pakistan and for the nation as a whole. In conclusion, the Caretaker Prime Minister's inaugural Cabinet meeting set an inspiring precedent for Pakistan's trajectory. His eloquence, clarity of thought, and unwavering commitment to unity and progress showcased a leader who envisions a prosperous future for all citizens, irrespective of their background. This address marked a pivotal moment in the nation's journey, emphasizing the power of collaboration, inclusivity, and a shared vision for a better Pakistan

# WORLD / SPORTS

### Briefs **President Arif** Alvi denies signing bills

### FROM PAGE 01

"I asked my staff to return the bills unsigned within stipulated time to make them ineffective. I confirmed from them many times that whether they have been returned & was assured that they were." "However I have found out

today that my staff undermined my will and command. As Allah knows all, He will forgive IA. But I ask forgiveness from those who will be effected," he added. It is pertinent to mention here that two PTI leaders - Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Imran Khan - were arrested after a first information report (FIR) was registered against them under Official Secrets Act for disclosing the contents of the diplomatic cipher for political gains on August 15. Following President Alvi revelations, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) expressed its deep concerns, saying that his post was unusual, alarming, and unimaginable from every aspect. "The president's tweet has exposed to the nation the deadliest infection spreading from top to bottom in the state system," the PTI wrote on its official X account. It added that the party spokesperson would respond after reviewing President Alvi's post in detail. Moreover, political and legal experts say that President Alvi should imitate legal proceedings against his staff as his apol-

ogy was not enough. The National Assembly, on July 31, passed the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023, aiming to penalise individuals with a potential five-year imprisonment term for disclosing sensitive information concerning national security or the armed forces.

#### 'President can either...

FROM PAGE 01 In the instant matter, it said, neither of the requirements were fulfilled. Instead, the president purposely delayed the assent, the ministry said in a press release issued here. "Returning the bills without any observations or assent is not provided for in the Constitution. Such a course of action is against the letter and spirit of the constitution," it was further added. The ministry said as per Article 75 of the Constitution, when a Bill was sent for assent, the president had two options: either to give assent or refer the matter to the parliament with specific observations. 'Article 75 did not provide for any third option. If the president had any observations, he could have returned the bills with his observations like he did in the recent and distant past and he could have also issued a press release to that effect, it was stressed. "It is a matter of concern that the President has chosen to discredit his own offi cials. The President should take responsibility for his own actions," the ministry further maintained.

## Spanish women make history by winning World Cup

Spain are the fifth team to lift the World Cup since the tournament began in 1991, joining outgoing champions the United States, Germany, Norway and Japan

#### **SPORTS DESK**

SYDNEY: Spain won the Women's World Cup for the first time in their history with skipper Olga Carmona sweeping in the only goal for a deserved 1-0 victory over England in Sunday's final.

In front of a crowd of nearly 76,000 at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Spain were the more accomplished side and had more chances, including missing a second-half penalty. Spain's triumph is vindication for Jorge Vilda and the Spanish football federation, who stuck with the coach even after 15 players last year said they no longer wanted to represent their country under him.

England coach Sarina Wiegman, who has now suffered back-toback defeats in the final, and her European champions can have few complaints. Spain are the fifth team to lift the World Cup since the tournament began in 1991, joining outgoing champions the United States, Germany, Norway



and Japan. In front of Spain's Queen Letizia, defender Carmona scored what turned out to be the winner, rampaging from left-back to thrash the ball in low and hard on 29 minutes. Wiegman had re-

sisted the temptation to recall Chelsea attacker Lauren James after her two-match ban and kept faith with the team that beat cohosts Australia 3-1 in the semi-finals. Playing in their blue second

kit, England had the first sniff of a chance in the fifth minute but Lauren Hemp shot weakly at goalkeeper Cata Coll. There was little to choose between them in the opening exchanges before both raise a smile on the sidelines.

## Sethi slams BCCI with another WC schedule change

#### DNA

LAHORE: The former chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Najam Sethi slammed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on his X, formerly known as Twitter, account for another potential change in the ICC World Cup 2023 schedule.

Sethi, 75, stated that the BCCI should have taken his advise of playing Pakistan's matches on a neutral venue to avoid scheduling problems. "@BCCI should have taken my advice re @TheRealPCB playing their WC games in a neutral country :) They are now in a mess with schedule tweaks being proposed every few days!"

Sethi wrote in a post on X.



The Pakistan-Sri Lanka was derabad Cricket Association (HCA) requested the BCCI earlier scheduled for Octoto tweak the schedule of two ber 12 but the date was later changed to provide Pakistan games, which it is set to host with enough time between on consecutive days, due to security concerns raised by fixtures after their match with India on October 14. It the local police. The New Zealand-Netherlands match must be noted that earlier on October 9 and the Pakithis month, nine matches stan-Sri Lanka fixture on the of the World Cup were refollowing will be held at the scheduled but, according to Raiiv Gandhi Stadium in the report, the HCA were

ter which is why they were forced to file a request for a change in the itinerary. With the tickets set to go on sale from August 25, it is still unclear whether the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will accept HCA's request and change the schedule once again. 10 teams will fight for the elusive title across 10 venues from October 5 to November 19, with the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad hosting

the tournament opener and the final. The Cricket World Cup will be played in the round-robin format with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches. The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals, which will be held in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16. The semi-finals and the fi-

### Jude Bellingham continues to impress Madrid fans

teams had golden opportunities

First, Manchester City forward

Hemp struck the bar with a curler

that had Coll well beaten. Spain went

up the other end and should have

scored but Salma Paralluelo - in for

Alexia Putellas - missed the ball in

the six-yard box. Then Alba Redondo

hit a first-time strike straight at goal-

keeper Mary Earps with the Eng-

land goal gaping. Hemp then had

another tame effort saved, before

the game was momentarily held up

in the 24th minute when a spectator

darted on to the pitch before being

Five minutes later Spain, who

had never won a knockout game at the Women's World Cup until

this tournament and had lost 4-0

to Japan in the group phase, were

ahead. MarionaCaldentey slid in

an inch-perfect pass for Carmona,

who came flying unmarked down

the left before lashing the ball into

the bottom corner. Vilda, who re-

called three of the 15 mutineers

for the World Cup, did not even

wrestled away by security.

on the quarter-hour mark.

MADRID: With every game played, Jude Bellingham continues to prove why Real Madrid paid a whopping amount of €103 million. The midfielder showcased his talent in the Los Blancos' away fixture against Almeria on Saturday night by scoring two goals and providing an assist. The 20-year-old scored an equaliser in the 19th minute after the Los Blancos suffered an early shock with their academy graduate Sergio Arribas scoring in the third minute on a brilliant counter-attack. Bellingham then scored the winner for his team in the 60th minute on a cross from Toni Kroos. The midfielder made a fantastic run in the box and scored a header to put his side ahead of the hosts. Just 13 minutes after scoring, he assisted Vinicius Junior and sealed the deal for his team after a tough game. He also became the first Real Madrid player since the legendary Cristiano Ronaldo to score in the first two games. Real Madrid fans praised the youngster for beyond-his-years maturity.

Playing as an attacking midfielder, Bellingham has been a kev to the Whites' press and overall attacking sequences. After the match, the midfielder talked about how his time at the Spanish capital is going and discussed what it is like to play for the 14-time Champions League winner. "I am 10 times better now than I was last year. I learned a lot playing with these guys," he began. "I hope the fans are happy. If they're happy, we're happy. No matter the result, they al-ways show us so much love. "Real Madrid's comeback DNA is real, I used to see it on TV when I was little, thinking "surely they can't do it" and then they do it. Now that I'm

## PML-N, PPP ask...

Islamabad **POST** 

Monday, August 21, 2023

FROM PAGE 01 the evening, and today sources reported that Asad Umar had been apprehended in connection to the case. In response, PPP spokesperson Faisal Karim Kundi termed the incident "unfortunate" and lamented that the president issued an apology "24 hours after it was reported on the media that he did". "I believe that such a person is not fit to remain in the presidency. This person does not know what's happening. He does not even know who has bypassed him," the PPP leader said.

In a statement, PPP Vice President Sherry Rehman said the development raises questions about Alvi's ability to continue as the president. "Is he trying to say that someone else signed the bills under from under his nose," Rehman wondered, saying that if that's the case, then the president should resign.

### PPP objecting...

FROM PAGE 01

the CCI. "There is a consensus of the entire nation on this census. New delimitation is a constitutional requirement," Sanaullah said. He explained that everyone objected to the 2017 census, but since elections were around the corner, a one-time "amendment" was made to hold polls on that

particular headcount. He stressed that holding elections on a "tainted census of 2017" would be unconstitutional. Therefore, delaying polls for another 80 or 90 days would not be an issue, he added.

In contrast to the PML-N's position, PPP Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman urged the ECP to duly announce the date of general elections in line with the provisions of Article 224 of the Constitution.

#### PML-N leaders...

FROM PAGE 01

senior party leaders as well. The visit comes amid speculation that Nawaz Sharif may be returning to Pakistan soon. PML-N Lahore President Saiful Mulok Khokhar confirmed that he and Faisal Saif Khokhar were scheduled to board a flight to London on Sunday. He said that the delegation would meet with Nawaz and discuss the party's future plans. The visit is likely to be closely watched by political observers, as it could provide clues about Nawaz's intentions.

### PTI to move SC over...

FROM PAGE 01 legal drafts, requires serious steps, the party spokesperson said. President Alvi, the PTI also said, has identified the deep-rooted issues within the state and the government, adding that the head of state is the symbol of the federation, part of parliament and supreme commander of the Pakistan Army. "The non-implementation of the president's orders is unconstitutional and unacceptable.'

The Imran Khan-led party said that they would approach the apex court over the matter. It added that the entire nation and the party are standing with the president for the supremacy of the Constitution and law. The PTI's legal team has said that it would challenge the bills in the Supreme Court in consultation with the party's core committee, saying that this law is against the Constitution and holds no legal justification. "It is the government's responsibility to withdraw this act," PTI's advocate Shoaib Shaheen said during a press conference. He said that the president did not sign the bills, adding that it is against the Constitution according to Article 75.

Earlier today. The Indian Express reported that the Hy- Uppal, Hyderabad.

not consulted on the mat- nal will have reserve days.

here, I see it, there's no panic anywhere. - Agencies

### 3 members of snatcher gang held, valuables, weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Koral police station team have arrested three wanted members of a former jailbird gang involved in numerous snatching activities and recovered two snatched motorbikes and mobile phone from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir khan. the Islamabad Capital Police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens. Following these directions, the Koral police teams used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending three wanted members of a former jailbird criminal gang involved in numerous snatching activities. The accused were identified as Jamshed Akram. Ali Raza and Muhammad Kashif. Police team also recovered two motorbikes and a mobile phone from their possession. - DNA

### PCB saddened with the passing of Naushad Ali

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board through its Chairman, members of Management Committee, Board executives and employees, has expressed its grief and sorrow over the passing of former Test cricketer Naushad Ali today. He was 79. Mr Naushad Ali, wicketkeeper-batter, featured in six Test matches - all against New Zealand in 1965. He had served the PCB as the manager of the Pakistan Men's team and had also served as a match referee. In a message, PCB Management Committee Chairman MrZaka Ashraf said: "On behalf of the PCB, I want to express my deepest condolences on the sad demise of Mr Naushad Ali. "We share the grief of his friends and family and extend our deepest sympathies." - DNA

take,"

with the Chinese Super

League, which sucked in

players for exorbitant sums

until clubs hit financial

problems. At one stage,

Guangzhou Evergrande

made little-known Argen-

tine Dario Conca one of

Pakistan clinch 3 medals in Asian Junior Squash Ch'ship Wa Sem of Malaysia 4/11, 11/6, 6/11, 12/10, 7/11, yester-

#### AFZAL JAVED

DALIAN: Pakistan finished Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship with three medals on Sunday in Dalian, China. Nauman Khan and Ahmad Rayyan Khalil both played the final of Under-13 age category. Nauman beat Ahmad with a game score of 9/11, 11/8, 6/11, 11/3, 11/9. Pakistan have won the title in the U13 category of the Asian Junior Squash Championship for the first time

since 2016, when Asadullah won the trophy. In the Under-17 category, Abdullah had Nawaz lost to Low

day, and as a result managed to bag the bronze medal. Yesterday, Nauman Khan beat Yen Tsz Long of Hong Kong 11/2, 11/5, 11/6 and Ahmad Khalil defeated LokkeshWigneswaran of Malaysia 11/2, 11/4, 11/9 to secure their place in the final. Earlier, Ahmad defeated India's Aryaman Singh 3-1 in the first quarter-final and secured his place in the next round. The Pakistani lost the first game but then showed great resilience and won three consecutive games. Meanwhile, Nauman dominated Malaysia's Yalvanthan Ravi Kumar and won the game 3-0 to cement his place in the semi-finals.



### Saudi football rise 'long-term project', says top official The no-expense-spared revamp is part of 37-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious Vision 2030 project, which aims to reshape the economy of the world's top oil exporter

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's extraordinary football expansion is a "long-term project" with strong government support, unlike the shortlived Chinese boom, a senior league official told AFP. The Saudi Pro League has a years-long commitment from the oil-rich kingdom's rulers in its goal to become one of the world's top competitions, chief operating officer Carlo Nohra said.

Nohra was speaking at Al-Hilal's unveiling of Brazilian superstar Neymar, who joins Cristiano Ronaldo. Karim Benzema and a host of other big names in a spending binge costing hundreds of millions of dollars. "It's not something that expect will happen we overnight. It's not a one-weekend event - this the world's best-paid playis a long-term project, and ers, and Shanghai Shenhua everybody accepts that was lavishing a reported that's what it's going to 730,000 euros (\$795,000) Nohra said at the a week on an ageing Carlos King Fahd International Tevez. "These comparisons Stadium late on Saturday. are inevitable," said Nohra. "And it's not a function of "But for us, the fact that throwing money at it and it this project is part of a will happen," he added. "It transformation project is ensuring that we do all that's moving this country the right things along the where it wants to go... provides the sustenance that way to bring everything and we need in order to keep everybody and the ecosystem up together." The Saumoving forward." di league's rapid expansion The no-expense-spared rehas drawn comparisons

vamp is part of 37-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's ambitious Vision 2030 project, which aims to reshape the economy of the world's top oil exporter. Also part of the de facto ruler's plans are Neom, a futuristic new city

costing \$500 billion, plus tourist resorts and sports events including Formula One and the upstart LIV Golf, which has effectively seized control of the US PGA Tour and Europe's DP World Tour. "The strategy is 360 degrees, many elements to it. At the heart of it, one of those objectives set for us is how do we improve performance on the pitch, with world-class sports performers." Nohra said Pro League clubs - including four recently acquired by the

Public Investment Fund. a sovereign wealth vehicle - were still on the hunt for players before the Saudi transfer window closes on September 20, three weeks after Europe's. "There are clubs that are still in the market looking for players," said Nohra, calling their targets a "closely guarded secret". Despite the enormous outlays - Neymar's Al-Hilal is the world's second biggest-spending club this summer – the budget is not bottomless, and the aim is for the teams to become financially viable and

perhaps go private. "There has been a (spending) limit set, yes, but we have understood from the outset, that in order to get the quality players that we need to come to make an impact here, we needed to pay a premium for that," Nohra said. "We're fortunate enough to have the support at the moment, and that will continue for some

time," he added. "But we also have the responsibility to ensure that they cross the bridge to the other side and become financially in-

dependent as well." Nohra said he was "definitely" confident the Pro League could become a top-five competition when measured by the quality of players, stadium attendances and commercial success. "There is no end to kind of the ambition of the people here," he said, citing the Asian Champions League as a major target of the Saudi clubs. "This strategy will continue to evolve over time. We'll correct course, we'll take a different shape as we feel we've arrived at a threshold that requires us to move to the next step." – Agencies

If he does return to Pakistan, it would be a major boost for the PML-N ahead of general polls.

Party sources said Nawaz has summoned the local leaders to London where all formalities for return to Pakistan will be discussed. Party sources claimed that Nawaz planned to return to Pakistan in the middle of September 2023.

#### 18 killed in a bus, car...

FROM PAGE 01 18 bodies had been removed from the bus and will be identified through DNA testing. It must be noted that there have been a number of such highway accidents, claiming numerous lives. Five people, including a woman and two minors, were killed, and 20 others injured when a bus overturned in the Fazilpur area of Punjab's Rajanpur district back in July.

With the devotees of a Sufi saint aboard, the bus was on its way back to Jacobabad from Sakhi Sarwar, when it turned over after the driver lost control of the vehicle as he "fell asleep", rescue officials said. People with severe injuries were shifted to Rajanpur district hospital, while the others were shifted to a local hospital in Fazilpur. The July accident came days after another unfortunate tragedy in the Geeti-Das area near Babusar Top, which killed eight people and injured several others. The tourist bus fell into a deep gorge while navigating a sharp turn on the mountainous terrain, and caught fire.

Before that, six lives were claimed in a similar accident in the Thalichi area of Diamer district on July 16.

In June, at least 12 people including women and children – died leaving 24 others injured after a passenger bus turned turtle on the Islamabad-Lahore motorway near Kallar Kahar.

# **BUSINESS / WORLD**

## **Briefs**

## Erdogan to attend Hungary's national day

BUDAPEST: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan left for Hungary's capital Budapest on Sunday to at tend the country's founding day celebrations.

At the invitation of Hungar ian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Erdogan will also attend part of the World Ath letics Championships.

During the visit, Erdogan and Orban will discuss all aspects of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues.

Erdogan is also expected to hold sideline talks with other counterparts, including Serbian President Aleksan dar Vucic, who will participate in the celebrations and events. Relations between Türkiye and Hungary were elevated to the level of strategic partnership in 2013 after the establishment of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council. The friendly ties have gained momentum in every field in recent years .-- DNA

#### Baghdad shuts advertising screens after porn screening

BAGHDAD: Iraqi authorities on Sunday ordered the shutdown of LED advertisement screens installed across Baghdad after a hacker managed to show a pornographic film on one, security forces said, announcing the arrest of a suspect. On Saturday evening, "a person managed to hack into an advertising screen in Uqba bin Nafia Square", a major intersection at the centre of the Iraqi capital, a security source who requested anonymity told AFP. The hacker "showed a pornographic film for several minutes before we cut the power cable," he said. Videos of the pornographic film being screened as cars passed by in central Baghdad were widely shared on social media. These "immoral scenes" prompted

# ICCI, CDA launch tree plantation drive He stressed that there is a need to replace the old sewage lines in the markets as the old lines are no

Monday, August 21 , 2023 Russia's Luna-25 probe crashes

Islamabad **POST** 

MOSCOW: The Luna-25 probe, Russia's first Moon mission in almost 50 years, has crashed on the Moon after an incident during pre-landing manoeuvres, Russian space agency Roscosmos said on Sunday. Communication with Luna-

25 was lost at 2:57 pm

(1157 GMT) on Saturday,

Roscosmos said. According

to preliminary findings,

the lander "has ceased to

exist following a collision

with the Moon's surface".

"Measures taken on August

on Moon

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Noorul Amin Mengal along with President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Director General Environment Protection Agency Ms. Farzana Altaf Shah visited Islamabad's posh commercial center F-6 Markaz and launched a tree plantation drive from markets by planting a saplings in the Supermarket. F-6 Markaz Traders Welfare Association President Shahzad Shabbir Abbasi, Secretary General Aqib Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur Rahman Khan, Akhtar Abbasi, Malik Shabbir Awan, Imtiaz Abbasi and others were also present on the occasion. Chairman CDA took a round of the market along with Chamber President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, DG EPA Ms. Farzana Altaf Shah and representatives of Traders Association and reviewed the ongoing development works. He issued instructions to the CDA officials to speed up the ongoing works and to advance other works as well. Talking on this occasion, he said that the development



work will be reviewed by visiting other markets soon. He also announced on the occasion that the Zero Point Bridge would be handed over to ICCI for its decoration and beautification. He directed the Director Environment, CDA to carry out the plantation drive in the markets in collaboration with ICCI while he

warned that an attack on

Niger would not be a "walk

in the park". General Ab-

dourahamane Tiani also

said in a televised address

on Saturday that he did

not wish to "confiscate"

power and a transition of

power back to civilian rule

himself would visit the markets. Speaking on the occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that ICCI had earlier planted thousands of saplings in Islamabad in collaboration with CDA and this year too, ICCI in cooperation with CDA and concerned market as-

sociations, would carry out the plantation drive in the markets to make Islamabad greener and promote a healthy environment. He said that along with planting new trees, a strategy should be made for proper maintenance of old trees so that they can be kept safe. He said that to determine the age of old trees in Islama-

them and special arrangements should be made for their proper maintenance so that they can be preserved for a long time. He said that only 10 to 15 percent of the saplings survive while the rest are lost, so special attention should be paid to the care of the saplings. He urged the representatives of the market associations to fully cooperate fully with CDA in plantation drive to make Islamabad more beautiful. Ms. Farzana Altaf Shah, Director General EPA, said that there is a need to plant more trees to protect the cities from the harmful effects of climate change and it is commendable that the ICCI in promoting the tree plantation drive in the markets in collaboration with CDA and trade associations, which will make the environment of Islamabad healthier. The President Supermarket Association Shahzad Shabbir Abbasi assured of full cooperation to make the plantation drive successful. He stressed that there is a need to replace the old sewage lines in the markets as the old lines are no longer able to bear the load due to the increase in popula-

tion and often get blocked.

bad, tags should be placed on

19 and 20 to locate the craft and make contact with it were unsuccessful," the space agency added. It said a ministerial investigation would be launched into the causes of the crash, without giving any indication of what technical problems might have occurred. With Luna-25, Moscow had hoped to build on the legacy of its Soviet-era Luna programme, marking a return to independent lunar exploration in the face of financial troubles and corruption scandals at the programme and growing isolation from

the West.-APP

#### **Firefighters** curb blazes threatening 2 cities in Canada

VANCOUVER: British Columbia (AP) – Firefighters kept wildfires at bay near the capital of Canada's Northwest Territories as well as a threatened city in British Columbia, though no one claimed victory as forecasters warned that drier and windier weather was coming. For Saturday at least, the weather was milder, providing some help for fire teams battling to contain the flames of Canada's worst fire season on record that destroyed structures, fouled the air with thick smoke and prompted evacuation orders for tens of thousands of residents. Officials said a huge wildfire again had been kept from advancing closer than 15 kilometers (9 miles) to Yellowknife, the capital of

## Pro-coup rally in Niger Military leader warns against foreign intervention

NIAMEY: Several thousand people demonstrated in the capital of Niger on Sunday in support of last month's military coup, whose leader has warned against outside intervention and proposed a three-year transition of power.

The demonstrators chantwould not go beyond three ed slogans hostile to foryears. Niger's new leaders mer colonial power France have accused France, a and West African regional close Bazoum ally, of bebloc ECOWAS, which is ing behind the anti-coup considering a potential stance taken by ECOWAS, military operation to rewhich on Saturday made a instate elected president fresh push for a diplomatic Mohamed Bazoum if ongosolution. After ECOWAS chiefs of ing negotiations with coup leaders fail. The Sahel state's new military leaders have officially banned demonstrations but in practice, those in support of the coup are allowed to go ahead. The demonstrators waved placards saying "Stop the military intervention" and "No to sanctions", in reference to the financial and trade restrictions imposed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) four days after the coup on July 26. Sunday's pro-coup rally was accompanied by musicians praising the new military regime, AFP journalists reported. The latest in a string of pro-coup rallies came a day after the new

ECOWAS delegation meets ousted Nigerien president

MAIDUGURI: A delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met Saturday with the ousted President of Niger Mohammed Bazoum in a new diplomatic push to tackle the crisis. Former Nigerian head of state, Abdulsalami Abubakar, said the delegation held talks with Bazoum in the Nigerien capital of Niamey in the presence of Prime Minister Ali Zaine, who was appointed by the Niger military administration after the July 26 coup. "We met Bazoum, we heard from him what was done to him. He told us about the problems he's facing," said Abubakar. An optimistic Abubakar said the meeting opened discussions that will lead to a resolution to the crisis. A previous ECOWAS delegation earlier in August failed to meet with the junta leaders as the military administration declined them an audience. The latest meeting came one day after military chiefs from the West African bloc met in Ghana where they decided to use force to restore Bazoum if talks fail. Thousands of men lined up Saturday in Niger to volunteer for the armed forces as the threat of ECOWAS military intervention looms.---Agencies

## Japan's premier visits Fukushima nuclear plant

TOKYO: Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Sunday visited the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant as Tokyo prepares to release treated radioactive water stored at the facility into the sea. The visit came days after Kishida met with his ministers on Tuesday to discuss when to begin the process, amid opposition from fishermen and some neighboring countries. He also plans to meet with the head of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations on Monday in an attempt to dilute fishermen's concerns.

The process will start possibly between late August and early September, Tokyo-based Kyodo News reported, citing unnamed government sources. Earlier on Friday, Kishida told reporters in Washington after attending a trilateral summit with the US and South Korea that the government is in "the final stage" of procedures before deciding on the timing of the water release.

Japan plans to begin releasing millions of tons of water into the Pacific Ocean as early as this summer, despite ehement criticism from China, North Korea, and sever-

the authorities to "turn off all advertising screens in Baghdad" while they review security measures, explained the security official. The interior ministry also announced in a statement that a suspect had been arrested, without giving details.

Several screens that usually show advertisements for household goods or political candidates before elections were switched off on Sunday morning, according to an AFP photographer. Largely-conservative Irao announced in 2022 that it was planning to block pornographic websites, but many have been left accessible.-APP

#### Firefighters make gains against Tenerife wildfire

LA OROTAVA: Firefight ers made gains in their battle against a vast wildfire on Tenerife on Sunday after better-than-expected overnight weather helped them keep the blaze from destroying homes on the Spanish holiday island, regional officials said. The huge fire broke out late Tuesday in a mountainous northeastern area, quickly morphing into the Canary Islands' biggest-ever. So far the blaze, which has a perimeter of 70 kilometres (43 miles), has burned through 8,400 hectares (20,800 acres), or just over four percent of Tenerife's overall surface area forcing more than 12,000 people to flee their homes. Despite expectations of a difficult night, things went "much better than expected", Canary Islands leader Fernando Clavijo said. "We warned of a complex situation, with rising temperatures and wind... and it's true the night started very hard with many calls saying the fire was very close to people's homes," he told reporters Sunday morning. But the firefighters "worked very intensively" and got through the night without losing a single home to the blaze, he said, describing it as "almost a miracle". Montse Roman, technical head of the operation, said overnight operations were "mainly focused on defending infrastructure.-Agencies

staff met in the Ghanaian capital Accra on Friday, the 17-nation bloc said it had agreed on a date for a potential intervention. It nonetheless sent a diplomatic delegation to Niamey on Saturday, led by former Nigerian leader Abdulsalami Abubakar. Niger television showed delegation members shaking hands with Bazoum. who remains in detention. It also broadcast footage of Abubakar speaking to Tiani but the content of the exchange has not been made public. In his televised address on Saturday, Tiani alleged that ECOWAS was "getting ready to attack Niger by setting up an occupying army in collaboration military ruler in Niamev with a foreign army", with-

US, Japan and Australia

plan joint navy drills

in S. China Sea

MANILA: The United States, Japan and Australia are plan-

ning a joint navy drill in the South China Sea off the west-

ern Philippines this week to underscore their commitment

to the rule of law in the region after a recent show of Chi-

nese aggression in the disputed waters, Filipino security

officials said Sunday. On Aug. 5, Chinese coast guard ships

used water cannons against Philippine vessels in the con-

tested waterway where disputes have long been regarded

as a potential flashpoint and have become a fault line in the

rivalry between the U.S. and China in the region. The drill

will include three aircraft and helicopter carriers sailing to-

gether in a show of force and undertaking joint drills. Their

commanders are set to meet with Filipino counterparts

in Manila after the offshore drills, two Philippine security

officials told The Associated Press. Both spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because they are not allowed to public-

ly discuss details of the planned drills. The U.S. plans to

deploy an aircraft carrier, the USS America, while Japan

would send one of its biggest warships, the helicopter car-

rier JS Izumo. The Royal Australian Navy would send its

HMAS Canberra, which also carries helicopters, one of the

two officials said, adding that the joint drill was planned

a few months ago. The Philippines would not be part of

this week's drills due to military logistical limitations but

is open to becoming a participant in the future, the offi-

cial said. The United States, Japan and Australia were among

several countries that immediately expressed support for the

Philippines and concern over the Chinese action following

the tense stand-off earlier this month. Philippine officials said

six Chinese coast guard ships and two militia vessels blocked

two Philippine navy-chartered civilian boats taking supplies to

the Philippine forces stationed at the Second Thomas Shoal.

One supply boat was hit with a powerful water cannon by the

Chinese coast guard while the other managed to deliver food,

water, fuel and other supplies to the Filipino forces guarding the

shoal, the Philippine military said. The Chinese coast guard ac-

knowledged its ships used water cannons against the Philippine

vessels, which it said strayed without permission into the shoal,

which Beijing calls Ren'ai Jiao. "In order to avoid direct block-

ing and collisions when repeated warnings were ineffective.

water cannons were used as a warning. The on-site operation

was professional and restrained, which is beyond reproach,"

the Chinese coast guard said. "China will continue to take

necessary measures to firmly safeguard its territorial sover-

eignty." The Philippine military said on Saturday that it would

again attempt to deliver basic supplies to its forces.-APP

out saying which country he meant. But he added: "If an attack were to be undertaken against us, it will not be the walk in the park some people seem to think." Tiani also announced a 30day period of "national dialogue" to draw up "concrete proposals" to lay the foundations of "a new constitutional life". ECOWAS leaders say they have to act now that Niger has become the fourth West African nation

since 2020 to suffer a coup, following Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali. The bloc has agreed to activate a "standby force" as a last resort to restore democracy in Niger. The Sahel region is struggling with growing jihadist insurgencies linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group. Those behind the military takeovers have pointed to frustration over the violence to justify seizing power.- Agencies

al Pacific nations. Tokyo will release about 1.25 million tons of treated water into the sea as part of an effort to decommission the power station devastated by the deadly 2011 tsunami. Currently, 1.32 million tons of contaminated water are in storage at the site of the crippled power station in northeastern Japan.

This wastewater, enough to fill more than 500 Olympic-size pools, is stored in over 1,000 huge tanks.

The nuclear plant's power supply and cooling systems were badly damaged by the tsunami, causing the reactor cores to overheat and contaminate water within the plant with highly radioactive material. Since then, new water has been pumped in to cool the fuel debris in the reactors. Furthermore, groundwater and rainwater have leaked in, resulting in more radioactive wastewater that now needs to be stored and treated. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, nuclear power plants worldwide release treated water containing low-level concentrations of tritium and other radionuclides in a controlled manner. In contrast to other radioactive materials like cesium and strontium, tritium poses little risk to human health and the environment as its radiation is very weak and cannot penetrate human skin. Many experts believe it is unlikely to accumulate in a living body.-DNA

the Northwest Territories that was left virtually empty when nearly all of its 20,000 residents fled for safety.

'We're by no means out of the woods yet," Mike Westwick, wildfire information officer for the city, told The Associated Press. "We still have a serious situation. It's not safe to return."

To the south, in British Columbia, raging flames were also kept away from Kelowna, a city of 30,000 people about 150 kilometers (90 miles) north of the United States border. The Kelowna fire is among more than 380 blazes across the province, with 150 burning out of control. The blaze near Yellowknife is one of 237 wildfires burning in the Northwest Territories. At a Saturday evening news conference, Shane Thompson, the minister of environment and climate change for the Northwest Territories, said the fires near Yellowknife had not grown very much in the past few days thanks to breaks in

#### Zelensky in Netherlands after 'heinous' Chernihiv attack am (0100 GMT), an atthe Orthodox holiday of tempt by the Kyiv regime the Transfiguration of the Lord as some attended

region, announced

people remain in hospi-

tals. 15 people underwent

surgeries," he said in a

post on Telegram, add-

ing that "more than 500

homes suffered damage".

Zelensky had noted the

dead included a six-year-

old girl and that there

were 15 children among

Denise Brown, UN hu-

manitarian coordinator

for Ukraine, said it was

"heinous to attack the

main square of a large

city, in the morning, while

people are out walking,

some going to church to

celebrate a religious day

Chernihiv, 150 kilometres

(90 miles) north of Kyiv

largely been spared from

major attacks since the

first months of Russia's

invasion as fierce fight-

ing rages in the east and

south. Ukraine launched

its widely expected coun-

had

from

for many Ukrainians".

towards Belarus,

the wounded.

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in the Netherlands on Sunday aiming to strengthen his country's air power, a day after a "heinous" Russian missile strike killed seven people and wounded 148 in Chernihiv.

The United States on Friday approved the transfer to Ukraine of Dutch and Danish US-made F-16 fighter jets, a key demand by Kyiv as it seeks greater firepower from allies during a grinding counteroffensive against Russia. Zelensky's flight landed at a Dutch air force base in Eindhoven at around midday (1000 GMT), a Dutch government spokesper-son told AFP, although details of the delivery of aircraft to Ukraine have not been unveiled. "Together with the First Lady and the team, we arrived in the Netherlands. As always, we will have substantive talks with Prime Minister Mark Rutte," Zelensky posted on Telegram in English. "The main issue is F-16 for Ukraine to protect our people from Russian terror. We are getting stronger." The Netherlands and Denmark are leading a plan to train Ukrainian pilots on using the USmade aircraft as part of an 11-nation coalition, with



to carry out a terrorist attack by drone on infrastructure in Moscow and the Moscow region was thwarted," the Russian defence ministry said in a statement.

Moscow-bound drone was destroyed by

"electronic warfare" and crashed into an uninhabited area after losing control, the ministry added, reporting no victims or damage. Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin thanked Russia's military for their work on the Telegram messaging app. Aviation agency Rosaviatsia said flights to the Domodedovo and Vnukovo international airports were "temporarily limited" at night before returning to normal, according to the RIA Novosti news agency. A Ukrainian drone raid also hit a railway station in the western Russian city of Kursk, injuring five people, the regional governor said early Sunday.

In the southern region of Rostov that borders Ukraine, Russian air defence intercepted two Ukrainian drones, the governor said.

Zelensky vowed "a tangiteroffensive in June but ble answer" to Saturday's has come up against fierce resistance attack on the northern Ukrainian city of Chernientrenched Russian forchiv, which came during es.-DNA

the weather.-APP Hurricane morning church services. Hilary moves Vvacheslav Chaus, govvery near ernor of the Chernihiv to Mexico people dead, 148 people received injuries" in an update on Sunday. "41

CABO SAN LUCAS: Hurricane Hilary neared landfall on Mexico's Baja California peninsula as a still-dangerous Category 1 hurricane carrying so much rain that forecasters said "catastrophic and life-threatening" flooding is likely across a broad region of the southwestern U.S. The National Weather Center in Miami said that as of 5 a.m. the storm was "very near" the Baja coast south of Ensenada, and 285 miles (460 kilometers) from San Diego, California. The maximum sustained wind speed dropped to 80 mph (130 kph) while spreading "heavy rains" northward over the peninsula. Meteorologists warned that despite weakening, the storm remained treacherous.

One person drowned Saturday in the Mexican town of Santa Rosalia, on the peninsula's eastern coast, when a vehicle was swept away in an overflowing stream. Rescue workers managed to save four other people, said Edith Aguilar Villavicencio. the mayor of Mulege township.--- Agencies

# The training potentially com-

plete by early 2024. Washington has strict rules on the sale or transfer of US military equipment by its allies. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said Moscow will regard Western F-16 fighter jets sent to Ukraine as a "nuclear" threat because of their capacity to carry atomic weapons.

Zelensky was in Sweden on Saturday, finalising with Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson the production of V90 armoured vehicles in Ukraine and Ukrainian pilots participating in test trials of Swedish Gripen fighter iets.

Russia said it thwarted Ukrainian drone attacks on Moscow and its region on Sunday, the second such incident in two days. Both sides have reported regular drone incursions during the conflict, with strikes on Russian territory becoming increasingly regular. "At around 4:00





Ambassadors show keen

interest in RCCI Health Expo



### **Briefs US urges** China to cease Taiwan pressure

#### DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States has urged China to stop pressuring Taiwan after Beijing launched war games around the self-ruled island as a "stern warning" over Taiwanese Vice President William Lai's recent stopovers in New York and San Francisco. The statement came as Taiwan said on Sunday that some 25 Chinese air force planes had crossed the Taiwan Straits median line over the past 24 hours. That included Su-30 and I-11 fighter jets, according to a map the ministry published, though there was no immediate sign China was continuing its exercises for a second day.

In a statement to the Reuters news agency, a spokesperson for the US Department of State said it would continue to monitor China's exercises closely, and urged Beijing to "cease its military. diplomatic and economic pressure against Taiwan and instead engage in meaningful dialogue with Taiwan". Taiwan and China split in 1949 following a civil war that ended with the ruling Communist Party in control of the mainland. Taiwan has never been part of the People's Republic of China, but Beijing sees the democratically-governed island as a breakaway province to be taken by force if necessary. While the US does not maintain official ties with Taiwan, Washington is Taipei's biggest source of weapons, and its political and military support for the territory has been a constant source of friction in its relations with Beijing.

PBC slams 'illegal raids' at lawyers' homes

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of different countries have shown keen interest in the two-day RCCI Health Expo and Summit 2023 at a local Hotel in Islamabad.

Atadjan N. Movlamov Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Turkmenistan, YerzanKistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhistan, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan UlanbekTotuiaev, Syrian Ambassador RameezAlraee, Ethiopian Ambassador Jamal Becker, among others, visited different stalls and appreciated the products.

Ethiopian Ambassador Jamal Becker in his tweet lauded RCCI efforts for a successful event, Med-Health Expo 2023, showcasing the health sector potential. He also desired for close cooperation in the health sector between the two countries. The official twitter and Facebook account of Kazakhistan embassy in Pakistan also highlighted the visit of ambassador of Kazakhistan, YerzanKistafin, at the RCCI

Med-Health Expo and Summit 2023. The major aim of the expo and Summit was to provide a platform to explore export potential and address the key challenges faced by the health and pharmaceutical sectors in Pakistan.

A panel discussion was also organized on the sidelines of the expo where speakers highlighted the export potential of pharmaceuticals in Pakistan given its capabilities in drug manufacturing, a skilled workforce and a growing global demand for affordable medicines. Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry was known for producing high-quality generic medicines at competitive prices and this cost-effectiveness makes Pakistani pharmaceutical products attractive to





countries seeking affordable healthcare solutions, they added. The topics for the panel discussion includes Medical Care

and Challenges in the Modern Era, Development of Health Care Equipment in Pakistan, Biological and Vaccine Development in Pakistan, Industry-Academia Linkage & Research in the Healthcare Sector in Pakistan, Health Tourism etc.

California braces

for arrival of

Hurricane Hilary

WEB DESK

CALIFORNIA: The US state of California is

bracing itself for Hurricane Hilary, which is

already bringing fierce winds and flooding to

Mexico's Pacific coast. It is lashing the Mex-

ican state of Baja California with winds of up

to 85 mph (140km/h). Hilary is then expected

to lose speed as it moves north. It is predict-

ed to reach southern California as a tropical

storm, the first to reach that state in 84 years.

There are warnings of "catastrophic" floods

## Donald Trump steals the show before Republican debate

#### **MONITORING DESK**

WASHINGTON: All eyes are on Donald Trump as the Republican White House hopefuls prepare to do battle in the first debate of the 2024 race on Wednesday with the main attraction threatening not to show up. Five months ahead of the start of primary elections to choose the party's flagbearer, the runaway frontrunner's grassroots support is as strong as ever, but numerous criminal cases have cast a pall over his comeback bid. The 77-year-old former president, who is rarely out of the headlines, has been vocal about possibly skipping the event in the city of Milwaukee, wary of sharing the limelight with lower-polling rivals. "I am leading the runner up, whoever that may now be, by more than 50 Points. Reagan didn't do it, and neither did others. People know my Record, one of the BEST EVER, so why would I Debate?" Trump re-



be ripe for broadsides from opponents over the four criminal and three civil trials he faces involving allegations before, during and after his scandal-plagued presidency. "Obviously, his legal issues are affecting this race," Fox News host Bret Baier, who will be moderating, told the Milwaukee iournal Sentinel.

"All these candidates have been asked non-stop about what's happening in courtrooms around the country. So he'll be a part of this debate whether he's

### Khairpur maid case: **Medical** report confirms physical violence

#### DNA

KHAIRPUR :The initial medical examination of the 10-year-old domestic worker, Fatima, who allegedly suffered fatal abuse by a spiritual leader in Ranipur, has confirmed signs of physical violence inflicted upon her. The deceased girl was employed as a domestic maid at a mansion owned by local influential PirAsad Shah in Khairpur'sRanipur area. A case was lodged against PirAsad on the complaint of victim's mother, Shabnam-Khatoon. Later, PirAsad was arrested by the police.

On Friday, Khairpur police constituted a medical board to exhume the victim's body and conduct a post-mortem analysis, which was completed yesterday. As reported by the Sukkur DIG JavedJiskani, the medical board has also expressed concerns about the possibility of sexual assault, prompting the collection of samples from the primary

suspect for DNA testing. Furthermore, the Sukkur DIG said the remand of the Ranipur station house officer and head muharrar, a doctor and a compounder, all of whom were included in the case's investigation, would be sought. These suspects are expected to be formally implicated in the case for tampering with evidence and burying the victim without a proper postmortem examination.

#### Russia says drone injures five at Kursk railway station

#### WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Russia says that a Ukrainian drone has struck a railway station in the Kursk region, injuring five people. Another drone

is said to have landed in the

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) on Saturday condemned the "unwar ranted" police raids at the residences and offices of lawyers across the country and the registration of FIRs against them while performing their professional duties. "[These actions are] unacceptable, unjustified, unethical and against the law and Constitution," read a statement issued by PBC Vice-Chairman Haroon-ur-Rashid and Executive Committee Chairman

Hassan Raza Pasha. The police recently raided the Lahore residence of Chaudhry Zubair Ahmad Kisana - the president of PTI's legal wing Punjab Insaf Lawyers Forum - and ransacked his furniture and other items. Kisana's family claimed that around 45 policemen in uniform and plainclothes reached the residence in in five vehicles and smashed open the main gate. A week earlier, PTI chairman Imran Khan's lawyer NaeemHaiderPanjutha was interrogated for eight hours by the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Cell in Islamabad in connection with Judge HumayunDilawar's controver sial Facebook post.

#### Saudi Hajj Minister arrives in Pakistan on four-day visit

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umra Dr. Taufeeq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabi ya along with a delegation arrived in Islamabad on Sunday evening on a fourday visit. He was cordially invited by caretaker Federal Minister for religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmad and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Saeed Almalki at the airport.

During the visit, the Saudi delegation will discuss with Pakistani officials various issues related to the facilities being provided to the Pakistani Hajj and Umra pilgrims, Road to Mecca project. Saudi Minister for Hajj will also meet with the President caretaker Prime Minister and the Chief of Army Staff. The visiting Saudi delegation comprises heads of the Saudi civil aviation and airlines and other department. – DNA

cently posted on social media.

side blast in N. Waziristan

Caretaker PM said it was heartbreaking to know

about the terrorist attack in North Waziristan

which claimed the lives of innocent labourers.

"Strongly condemn this senseless act of violence

and stand in solidarity with the families affected"

SHAWAL: 13 labourers were killed and two sustained injuries in a late night explosion in the Sha-

wal area of KP's North Waziristan district, a police official said on Sunday. North Waziristan Dis-

trict Police Officer Naik Muhammad confirmed the death toll to media and said the incident took

place in Shawal, near the Pak-Afghan border. The van in which the labourers were travelling was

completely destroyed by the blast, he added. The incident took place on Saturday night when over

a dozen labourers were heading to South Waziristan from the Shawal area of North Waziristan in

a vehicle, Inspector Abrar had told Dawn. Police officials had said the private vehicle carrying the

labourers hit a landmine in the Gull Meer Kor areas. Soon after the incident, sources had said, the

injured, as well as the bodies of the deceased, were shifted to the hospital. According to local lead-

er Yar Gul, terrorists had planted a bomb along the roadside to target a convoy of security forces.

Elders of the area said the bomb exploded as soon as the security forces convoy had passed by.

Among the labourers, 11 labourers hailing from the Mehsud tribe belong to the Spin Kamar area

of the district while the other two belong to South Waziristan's Lower Ahmedzai Wazir area. In

view of security concerns, all mobile services have been suspended in the area. Soon after the

blast, Caretaker PM Anwaar ul Haq Kakar said it was heartbreaking to know about the terrorist

attack in North Waziristan which claimed the lives of innocent labourers. "Strongly condemn this

senseless act of violence and stand in solidarity with the families affected." - Agencies

The New York Times reported on Friday that Trump had told aides he was planning to upstage his rivals by skipping the event, organised by Fox News, and instead sitting for an online interview with one of its former hosts, Tucker Carlson. "We haven't confirmed anything on our end," a campaign spokesman told AFP.

Whether he shows up or not, Trump will

there or not." Seven other candidates have qualified, including state governors Ron DeSantis and Doug Burgum, former vice president Mike Pence, Trump's UN ambassador Nikki Haley and South Carolina Senator Tim Scott. Businessman Vivek Ramaswamy and former New Jersey governor Chris Christie are threatening DeSantis's runner-up spot in early nominating states Iowa and New Hampshire, and will be looking for openings to attack him.

in both countries. One man died in Baja California Sur state while attempting to cross a stream, Mexican officials said. The Mexican government has placed 18,000 soldiers on standby to assist in rescue efforts. Nearly 26 million people in the south-western US are under flood watch. Hilary was downgraded to a Category 1 storm after weakening on Saturday, but officials kept up their warnings. In its first-ever tropical storm alert for California, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said "life-threatening flooding" was likely in Baja California and the US south-west.

#### **Rescue operations, evacuations** 13 labourers killed in roadas Sutlej sees high flood

LAHORE: Rescue and evacuation efforts continued in parts of Punjab on Sunday with high to very high level floods in Sutlej River at two points. Sutlej surged to "extremely high levels" at Ganda Singh Wala Barrage on Saturday, resulting in the evacuation of hundreds of families from 72 villages in Kasur and Chunian, while three people drowned in floodwater in Kasur while trying to find higher ground. The flood level in the river at Ganda Singh Wala reduced to very high today, according to 5pm update by the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD). The division also reported a high-level flood at Sulemanki-Headworks, in line with the FFD's forecast. Earlier, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in Punjab said the water level in Sutlej at Sulemanki was constantly rising and 56 locations in the Okara district were expected to be affected by the flood. The statement quoted PDMA Director General Imran Qureshi as saying that 36 boats had been provided to relevant authorities for evacuations from the area, from where 1,420 people had been moved to safe locations in the past 24 hours. The PDMA was also "fully cooperating" with relevant authorities in moving cattle to safe places, the statement said, adding that 30,448 acres of land was likely to be affected by the flood in the area. It said 11 medical camps were set up there and residents were being provided health services by mobile health teams. Moreover, the statement added, Punjab police personnel were deployed in the area to ensure security. It asked all the departments to remain on high alert. Meanwhile, a statement issued by Rescue 1122 authorities in Multan said its teams remained engaged in rescue services in Okara, Pakpattan and Vehari. The teams in these three districts were conducting rescue activities under the supervision of relevant district emergency officers, the statement said, adding that three boats and 21 rescuers were participating in the operations. "The rescue operation is under way and teams dispatched from Multan had moved several people, including women and children, to safe locations," the statement said, adding that animals were also being shifted from the affected areas. - DNA

#### Rostov region - which shares a border with Ukraine, like Kursk - but no injuries were reported. Russia also said it stopped a drone that was heading for Moscow, which then crashed in an unpopulated area. Allegations of drone strikes inside Russia have become increasingly common in recent months. Although Ukraine hasn't

claimed responsibility for specific drone strikes, President VolodymyrZelensky has previously said that attacks on Russian territory are an "inevitable, natural and absolutely fair process". Footage verified by the BBC shows smashed windows and a fire burning at the railway station in Kursk, which is about 150 km (93 miles) from the Ukrainian border. Five people were injured by glass fragments, Russia's RIA Novosti news agency reported. The roof, exterior, and platform of the station were damaged. The Russian foreign ministry said it "strongly condemns' the drone attack in Kursk. "Ukrainian nationalists literally dealt a blow to our common history," ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

FIA gets a day's remand of Qureshi in cipher case

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: A sessions court in Islamabad granted the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) a day's remand of Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Sunday in the cipher case.

Judicial Magistrate EhtishamAlam Khan issued the orders, asking the body to produce him before the court on Monday.

Qureshi, who served as foreign minister under ex-prime minister Imran Khan and is the vice chairman of the PTI, was arrested in the capital Islamabad on Saturday evening. Speaking with journalists before being sent on remand. Qureshi said no secret code of Pakistan has been compromised. He spoke about proving his responsibility and has "acted responsibly".

### **OIC delegates praise improvements in Xinjiang** The government was forced to relocate the community, as the residents faced water scarcity in the mountains and relied on herding for income. But now their lives have been transformed, and at no cost to themselves

BEIJING:A group of diplomats and delegates from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) began a visit to Xinjiang Uvgur Autonomous Region of China. In the city of Kashgar, they visited a residential community, a village known for planting mushrooms, and the ancient city. The group praised the progress made in the development of the city and region, CGTN reported on Sunday. Diplomats from

it to the Kunlunjiayuan residential community, in Xinjiang's Akto County. The government was forced to relocate the community, as the residents faced water scarcity in the mountains and relied on herding for income. But now their lives have been transformed, and at no cost to themselves. Syed Mohammad Fawad Sher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to OIC said, "The visit to Chi-

na is indeed a very thoughtful initiative, providing us with the opportunity to see its remarkable transformation. The visit to Xinjiang, and the cities of Kashgar and Urumqi, prothe OIC gained first-hand insight into the vided us with efforts of the local government during a visthe opportunity to see the reality, and will help to address the misconceptions attached with the region. It will also help the

ISLAMIC COOPERATION OIC to dismantle the misconceptions associated with the region." The delegates praise the policy to relocate the residents for free, saying it has

life of residents. Dya-Eddine Said Bamakhrama, Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the OIC and

clearly improved the quality of

Ambassador of Diibouti to Saudi Arabia said, "Our visit morning this covers many areas of this region. We are very

glad about what we saw. We saw the development of the region. And I hope this development will continue in this region and all parts of China." The delegates' next stop was

Noquchi-Eriq village, known for growing

mushrooms. The village now has over fifty greenhouses for growing them, allowing farmers to drastically increase their income. The delegates also visited the Kashgar Old City Protection and Management Memorial Hall, where they learned about people's lives in the city before and after its transformation.

Infrastructure in the city used to be poor, including a struggling sewage system. But since 2010, authorities have renovated about 50,000 dilapidated homes as well as water, heating, electricity, gas, roads and other critical infrastructure across 28 districts. The delegates say they're glad to see the area transformed. The delegates also visited the ancient city of Kashgar and the Id Kah Mosque. The group praised the preservation of the historic architecture, saying they're impressed by the modern infrastructure and facilities at the mosque. - Agencies

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