



Islamabad POST

Monday, August 21, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Donald Trump steals the show before Republican debate

Detailed News On Page-08

Niger leader warns against intervention

Detailed News On Page-07



Sethi slams BCCI over WC schedule

Detailed News On Page-06



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

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 reported that President Alvi has signed the Official Secrets Act and the Army Act Amendment Bill approved 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 leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi was arrested from his residence in

Continued on Page 06



SARGODHA: A view of burned bus after incident in which eighteen people lost their lives. - APP

Army Act, Secrets Law Gazette notifications issued

The gazette notifications were dated August 18

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Hours after President Arif Alvi denied signing 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 [Parliament] - were "deemed to have been assented by President Dr Arif Alvi". 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 Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Pakistan Army Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 as he "disagreed with these laws". The president said he asked his staff to return the bills unsigned within the stipulated time to make them "uneffective". "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 undermined my will and command. As Allah knows all, He will forgive Insha'Allah. But I ask forgiveness from those who will be affected," the president said.

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 pick-up 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

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 accident, after a deadly fire burnt down a passenger 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

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Justice to be done with Jaranwala culprits: FO

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In response to media queries about the remarks by some governments on the unfortunate 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 secretary-general of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Asad Umar has been taken 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 the classified document following a probe. The former federal minister Asad Umar was taken into custody 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.

Law, Info Ministers Presser 'President can either assent or return a bill'

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 Pakistan Army Amendment Bills 2023, clarified that Article 75 of the Constitution provided two options to the president either to give assent or refer the legislation back to parliament with observations, but in the instant matter, the constitutional course was not adopted. Law Minister Irfan Aslam and Information Minister Murtaza Solangi addressed the press conference and clarified various legal points.

Continued on Page 06

PTI to move SC over bills signing saga

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Hours after the controversy, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday announced that it would approach the Supreme Court after President Arif Alvi tweeted that he did not sign the bills seeking amendments to Official Secrets and Army Act. The president's opinion, related to his alleged assent to the most important

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Law Minister 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) supreme 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



AIR LINK FLAGSHIP STORE WINDIA MALL LAHORE



Head Office - 152/1 M, Quaid-e-Asam Industrial Estate, Kat Lakhpat, Lahore

www.airlinkcommunication.com @airlinkALC airlinkcommunication airlinkcommunication

CDA, NIAZ partner to improve mobility of workers with disabilities

DNA

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 is a significant step towards improving the lives of per-

sons with disabilities in Pakistan. It is a testament to the commitment of Niaz

Support and CDA to providing equal opportunities to all.

Railways earn over 5mln from salons in last three years

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 5,269,315 through 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 Executive Officer/General 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

Governor GB meets Governor KP

PESHAWAR: Governor 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 in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 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

Unstable Rupee keeps damaging economy amid tough IMF conditions

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has said that the unstable rupee value and its massive fall continued to damage the economy, as the local currency has hit a new all-time low mark against US dollar in the interbank market amidst rising energy cost and escalating markup rate owing to tough conditions of the International Monetary Fund, devaluing the rupee by 1.96% or Rs3.82 against the US dollar in the inter-bank market. FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar observed that there was a complete breakdown of economic policymaking, as the country's fiscal policy had become subservient to monetary and exchange rate policies. During the week, the rupee emerged as the worst per-

forming currency in Asia in the wake of strengthening of the greenback globally and a surge in its demand in Pakistan. Among all currencies, Pakistani rupee registered the largest decline of 26.6% in the past one year and the steepest drop of 22.3% in the first eight months of 2023. He said that the monetary tightening and exchange rate depreciation resulted in higher inflation, public debt and debt servicing. The empirical evidence showed that the one percent monetary tightening hiked the inflationary pressure by 1.3 percent in the case of Pakistan, he added. The FPCCI former president observed that besides increasing exports the caretaker government will have to take administrative measures, as a large demand of cash dollars are seen in the market. He said that the IMF has

continued to remain tough with Pakistan in the past to ensure its prerequisite conditions are implemented. Anjum 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 focus 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

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 ongoing hydropower projects 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

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

CM Naqvi says Islam teaches dignified treatment of minorities

DNA

JARANWALA: Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday said that Islam teaches its followers to treat minorities with respect. Addressing a function held at a church in Jaranwala, the chief minister said that work was in progress for the repair and restoration of homes and

churches, which had been destroyed and burnt in riots that broke out in the city a few days ago over the allegation of desecration of the holy Quran. "Rs2 million will be given to each family for the repair of their home," he announced. It was yesterday, on Saturday, that Justice Qazi Faez Isa, a senior judge of the Supreme Court (SC), visited Faisalabad district's

Jaranwala tehsil to talk to members of the Christian community after Wednesday's riots over alleged 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 punishment to be given to the perpetrators.



ISLAMABAD: Aug 20 - 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-informed 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 percentage of 77 percent was reported in Palas Kolai district followed by 70 percent in Upper Kohistan, 69 percent in Lower Kohistan, 61 in Torghar, 55 in Shangla, 53 in Lakki Marwat, and 51 percent each in Tank and Batagram districts. In erstwhile Fata, around 66 percent of children were out-of-school in North Waziristan, 63 percent in Bajaur, 61 in South Waziristan, 51 in Mohmand and Khyber, and 47 percent each in Kurram and Orakzai. "I left education in childhood after the untimely death of my father due to


blood cancer. After enormous financial problems, I started labour work to support my six sisters and an ailing mother," said Faizur Rehman (18), a resident of Pabbi Nowshera while tears rolling down his cheeks. "My father wanted to see me as an engineer but the fortune overturned and I was left with no option but to enter the painstaking construction labour work to support my family," he added. Besides poverty and socioeconomic imbalances especially in rural areas, he said most of poor students left education due to the expensive cost of books and

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

The Smooth Moving Connection

freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING




Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage



Head Office
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.
Tel: (+92-51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92-51) 2825132, 2274227.
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Karachi
Room No. 14 & 15, 3rd Floor, Nakhliya Mall,
Main Tariq Road, T-7 (Block-2, PE C-3),
Karachi. Tel: (+92-21) 34521747
Fax: (+92-21) 34521747
E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com

Lahore
F-4, Gulberg Centre,
Main Boulevard, Lahore.
Tel: (+92-42) 3579885, 3579785
Fax: (+92-42) 35711423
E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com

Peshawar
Office No. C-6, 2nd Floor, Zameer Plaza,
Laf Azeem Ring Road, Peshawar.
Tel: (+92-91) 2502779
Fax: (+92-91) 262558
E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com

Kabul
House # 4, Street # 4,
Charah Anzar Road, Shahr-e-Naw,
Kabul - Afghanistan.
Tel: (+92-91) 2502779
Fax: (+92-91) 262558
E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com

- 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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

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.



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.

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 Kionka to discuss improving Pak-EU economic ties, regional security, GSP+ benefits for sustainable development and aiding Overseas Pakistanis in the European Union.

Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar. Using his charitable arm, the Sohrab Foundation, Jawad Malik assists the most vulnerable parts of society. He was honored by the Pakistan Army for his relief contributions, earning national recognition. Since the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition took control after Imran Khan's vote of no-confidence, Jawad Sohrab has worked alongside PM Sharif's cabinet on various assignments. He's been appointed as SAPM to enhance government governance, entrusted with key responsibilities related to government operations and special tasks designated by the PM.

responsibilities 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. Jawad Sohrab is also the grandson of the former Nazim of Jacobabad, Begum Saeeda Soomro. His mother, Maliha Malik, wields political influence in Jacobabad.

PAF pays tribute to Rashid Minhas Shaheed

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 G (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 (CJSC) 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.

Bulbul-e-Pakistan 'Nayyara Noor' remembered

ISLAMABAD: Nayyara Noor also known as 'Bulbul-e-Pakistan' was remembered on her first death anniversary where fans from all walks of life through media platforms paid rich tributes for her unforgettable contribution to the entertainment industry. Nayyara 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 subcontinent. She was

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 Gharana. In 1977, her reputation 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 Khoobsoorat 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 celebrated work she produced

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 time. Her famous songs were Watan ki matti gawah rehna, 'Jalay tau jalao gori' and Kabhi Hum Bhi Khoobsoorat Thay. She also sang patriotic songs, including Sohni Dharti, as well as countless ones for Pakistani films.

No progress in power sector: PIAF

DNA
ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has stressed the need for overhauling the power sector through drastic measures, as there is no progress in this sector's financial position despite increase in electricity prices up to Rs51 per unit under the IMF's policy to remove inefficiencies, amidst escalating cost of line losses to a whopping level. PIAF Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol stated that the circular debt is projected to increase by another Rs545 billion by March 2024 despite a surge in electricity prices as foreign loans pegged with the so-called power sector reforms are limited to only increasing prices and ignore other critical issues. Pakistan eyes another loan of \$600 million 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

new \$3 billion standby arrangement. Yet, there is no improvement in the sector's financial health despite increase in electricity prices up to Rs51 per unit under the IMF's policy of fiscalization of power sector inefficiencies, a strategy that has led to a massive change in priorities of the low middle-income groups just to pay their bills. He said that in present scenario the energy efficiency and conservation are key measures used by countries across the globe to mitigate associated risks. However, in the case of Pakistan, both energy efficiency and conservation were generally treated as alien concepts. He noted that there was an urgent need for upgradation 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 action as a national priority. He estimated that a dollar outflow of around \$ 1.25 billion could be potentially saved annually through implementation of efficiency and conservation measures. He pointed out that the line losses ran as high as 9pc over and above the percentage 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 challenges, including from accommodative policies that resulted in uneven growth. Steadfast implementation of corrective policies and reforms remain essential to regain macroeconomic stability, address imbalances and lay the foundation for inclusive and sustainable growth. Efforts to strengthen the viability of the energy sector and reduce unsustainable losses are also essential. Further efforts to reduce poverty and protect the most vulnerable by enhancing targeted transfers are important, especially in the current high inflation environment.

Minister visits NHA headquarters

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister of Communications, Postal Services, and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Sunday paid a visit to the National Highway Authority (NHA) headquarters following his assumption of the portfolio. 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, Shaheel Anwar, General Manager of Establishment, Abdul Ghaffar Farooqui, Director of Establishment, Umair Saduzai, PRO to Chairman NHA, and others. He 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

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 Gandhara Resource Center (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.

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

Official notice from the Director of Security Services regarding the hiring of security services. Includes a table with columns for name, date of birth, and other details. The notice is signed by the Director of Security Services and includes the reference number IPL NO 6581.

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 (ICCP), 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 namedly Andaryas and recovered 150 gram heroin from his possession. The Sangjani police team arrested two accused namedly 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 namedly FuruKh Majeed and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession. Likewise, the Ramna police team arrested an accused namedly Aziz and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession. The Phulgran police team arrested an accused namedly 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 from Pakistan, 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 anti-encroachment 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 awareness 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 awareness drives and with the help of government we can establish special stroke units at each hospital.—APP



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

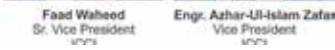
the country, while 5 to 6 million people are associated with the hotel industry. He said that since the 1990s, no new big hotel chain has come to Pakistan due to lack of a national tourism policy and a consistent policy framework from the government for the hotel industry. He said that the government 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. He said that according to the current market rate, land prices have increased many times while im-



Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari
President
ICCI



Mian Akram Farid
Sr. Vice Chairman
Pakistan Hotels Association



Faad Waheed
Sr. Vice President



Engr. Ahsan-Ul-Islam Zafar
Vice President

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.

Ecotourism a must for sustainable local development'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The experts call for practicing ecotourism for sustainable development of local resources and communities. Speaking to the participants of the National Centre for Rural Development Three-day training workshop on 'Ecotourism and Sustainable Development', they urged the participants to play their role in practicing the ecotourism framework right from individual and family picnics to larger group tourism. The experts also urged the authorities to ensure implementation of sustainable development models in letter and spirit engaging community-based interventions. The provincial government shall devolve powers to union council level and develop a system for local development and community empowerment. As many as 34 mainly mid-career profes-

sionals from different cities including northern parts of Pakistan participated in the three-day training workshop. It was organized by the Akhtar Hameed Khan National Centre for Rural Development (NCRD), and concluded on Sunday. The expert trainers included founder and director Pakistan Mountain Festival and Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed, EvK2CNR Scientific Advisor Ahsan Khan, PTDC managing Director Aftab-ur-Rehman, former IG Forests Syed Nasir Mahmood and former bureaucrat Zafarullah Siddiqi. Director Devcom-Pakistan Executive Munir Ahmed conducted a brainstorming session based on the SWOT analysis. He also presented a 10-point action agenda for the participants to take upon their future discourse. He urged the provincial governments to urgently form and establish the provincial tourism

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. Ahsan 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.

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 channel. "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 topline, 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

Thar Block-1 Project renovates cricket stadium in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Thar Block 1 Integrated Energy Project has completed the renovation of the Marvi Cricket Stadium in Islamabad, 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 there between cricket teams from Islamabad and the Thar Block 1 Project in celebration of the Independence Day. The match and festivities attracted hundreds of local fans and were attended by numerous dignitaries.

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 turned-out 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 (ICCP), 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 (ICCP) 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

FGRF first Pakistani NGO to respond to quake-hit Turkiye

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



051 8770065 / 66 / 67 | 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 5555335
UAN: 051 111 777 778 | @dinovalleypk | dinovalleypk

Women's World Cup is the best so far

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand have provided a tournament that has showcased the strength in depth of football across all continents. Four years 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 – £86m for the Women's World Cup against £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.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 321

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Putin conquers Russia's history

WHAT 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...

IN 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, address-

ing 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...

IN 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 speckless 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 desecration 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 target-

ing 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 the 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.

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 J-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

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) on Saturday condemned the "unwarranted" 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 Insaaf 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 five vehicles and smashed open the main gate. A week earlier, PTI chairman Imran Khan's lawyer Naeem Haider Panjutha was interrogated for eight hours by the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Cell in Islamabad in connection with Judge Humayun Dilawar's controversial Facebook post.

Saudi Hajj Minister arrives in Pakistan on four-day visit

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umra Dr. Taufeeq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiya along with a delegation arrived in Islamabad on Sunday evening on a four-day visit. He was cordially invited by caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmad and Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Sa'eed Almaliki 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

Ambassadors show keen interest in RCCI Health Expo

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, Yezzan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan Ulanbek Totuiaev, Syrian Ambassador Rameez Alraee, 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 Kazakhstan embassy in Pakistan also highlighted the visit of ambassador of Kazakhstan, Yezzan Kistafin, 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.

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-



cently posted on social media. 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

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 journal 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 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.

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 Mexican 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 predicted to reach southern California as a tropical storm, the first to reach that state in 84 years. There are warnings of "catastrophic" floods 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.

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's Ranipur 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 Javed Jiskani, 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 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 Volodymyr Zelensky 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 Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Sunday in the cipher case. Judicial Magistrate Ehtisham Alam 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".

13 labourers killed in roadside 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 Shawal area of KP's North Waziristan district, a police official said on Sunday. North Waziristan District 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 leader 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 Mehsood 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

Rescue operations, evacuations as 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 Chunan, 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

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 Uygur 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 the OIC gained first-hand insight into the efforts of the local government during a visit 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, provided us with the opportunity to see the reality, and will help to address the misconceptions attached with the region. It will also help the OIC to dismantle the misconceptions associated with the region." The delegates praise the policy to relocate the residents for free, saying it has

clearly improved the quality of life of residents. Dya-Eddine Said Bamakhrama, Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the OIC and Ambassador of Djibouti to Saudi Arabia said, "Our visit this morning 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

