



# Islamabad POST

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**Germany backs Ukraine's drone attacks in Russia**

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**China urges Japan to halt release of nuclear water**

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**Haris stars as Pakistan down Afghanistan**

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**CABLE CAR INCIDENT IN BATTAGRAM**

## Commandos rescue children

Questions raised about the capability of the administration; institutions to deal with such situations



SHAMIM SHAHID / DNA

**PESHAWAR:** More than 10 hours after a cable car incident, the Pakistan Army's Special Services Group (SSG) rescued all eight people — seven schoolchildren and a teacher — who have been dangling mid-air after the cable of a gondola broke in Allai Tehsil in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Battagram district on Tuesday. Two of the children were rescued with the help of an army helicopter. How

## PM directs ensure safety measures

**ISLAMABAD:** Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar had directed to immediately rescue the eight persons trapped in a chairlift at Pashto area in Battagram. According to a statement released by the Prime Minister office, the Prime Minister directed the National Disaster Management Authority, Provincial Disaster Management Authority and all relevant rescue agencies to rescue students and teachers by utilizing all resources. The Prime Minister also instructed to ensure safety arrangements on all such chairlifts in the hilly areas. He directed to immediately close the chairlifts which are in dilapidated condition and do not meet the safety standards. Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has directed to speed up the rescue operation to save the children and teachers stranded in Battagram chairlift. On the instructions of the Prime Minister, Pakistan Army has been requested to join the rescue operation. He said all resources should be used in the rescue operation. — DNA

ever, rescue operation via copter has been suspended due to darkness and the windy weather. While remaining people were rescued by arranging a mini cable car as the heli operation became impossible due to weather and darkness. The army decided to start a ground operation to save the remaining six people stuck inside the cable car with alternative means. Another cable car — smaller in size — has been hung on the same cable to retrieve the people. Moreover, the

other cable car is also being used to deliver food and water to those stranded. Moreover, the Pakistan Army has also brought in a local cable crossings expert for help. Earlier in the morning, the open cable car became stranded halfway across a ravine and was hanging by a single cable after the other snapped, Shariq Riaz Khattak a rescue official at the site told Reuters. Following the incident, helicopters of

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**KARACHI:** Interim Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar lays a floral wreath at Mazar-e-Quaid during his visit to Karachi. — DNA

## Bills issue Official 'refuses' to work as President's Secretary

Alvi had requested to appoint Humaira Ahmad, a grade-22 DMG officer

MAHNOOR ANSAR

**ISLAMABAD:** The controversy surrounding the approval of two controversial bills deepened further on Monday as the officer picked by President Arif Alvi refused to work as his principal secretary, media reported Tuesday. On Monday, Alvi requested the Prime Minister Office to remove Waqar Ahmed as his principal secretary and appoint Humaira Ahmad, a grade-22 DMG officer, currently working as federal secretary of national heritage and culture division, in his place.

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## Rupee falls to historic low of 299

NAZIR SIYAL

**KARACHI:** Rupee plunged to a historic low on Tuesday, depreciating by 0.63% against the US dollar in the interbank market due to an easing in import restrictions that has lifted demand for the dollar. The local currency fell by 1.88 against the greenback and closed at 299.01 at the end of the day's trading, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

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## National interfaith moot to be held next week

PM Kakar briefs the cabinet members about his visit to violence-hit Jaranwala

FAISAL SHEIKH / DNA

**ISLAMABAD:** The federal cabinet has decided to hold an interfaith harmony moot at national level next week. The decision was taken during a meeting of the federal cabinet held in Islamabad on Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar. PM Kakar briefed the cabinet members about his visit to violence-hit Jaranwala where some disgruntled elements burnt down churches and houses of the Christians a few days ago. The prime minister categorically stated that the state would not allow extremism and the religious confrontation in the society. He said it is the top most responsibility of the state to provide protection to the minorities in the country. He vowed exemplary punishment to the Jaranwala tragedy culprits. On this occasion, the cabinet also decided to arrange an interfaith harmony conference at national level next week. The national interfaith moot will invite in-

ternationally recognized scholars of various faiths and schools of thought. The conference will prove a milestone in the promotion of interfaith harmony in the society. Addressing the cabinet, PM Kakar said that the caretaker government's prime mandate was to assist, and monitor the electoral process which was the constitutional requirement. He said keeping in mind the prime mandate, the caretaker government would monitor its day-to-day activities to the best of its abilities. "We are here as a constitutional continuation for a limited period of time and we are not here to design the government model or structure," the prime minister said. He maintained that as a continuation of the previous government, the caretaker setup was generally supposed to carry on with the general policy until and unless there were any violations of rules or business. "The National Assembly has retired and we are waiting for the new elections," he said adding the second arm of

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### Shehbaz demands probe into Alvi's words

DNA

**LONDON:** Former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif has demanded a probe into the statement of President Arif Alvi. Talking to the media, he said that everything should be made clear through a fair inquiry. "The President sign the bill that is checked by him. There is nothing verbal in this regard. Why did the President wait for so many days? It is a big question mark over his statement," he added. Shehbaz Sharif said that this is not a simple matter and the President will have to answer to the issue. On Monday, Alvi requested the Prime Minister Office to remove Waqar Ahmed as his principal secretary and appoint Humaira Ahmad, a grade-22 DMG officer, currently working as federal secretary of national heritage and culture division, in his place.

### KP Governor likely to be replaced

SHAMIM SHAHID

**ISLAMABAD:** Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Haji Ghulam Ali is likely to be replaced after reservations from the coalition parties. As per details, Haji Ghulam Ali is expected to be replaced and the names of Owais Ghani, Shaukat Ullah and Alam Khattak are under consideration for the governor spot. Sources claimed that JUI-F was also convinced on the replacement of Governor KP. ANP and PPP had shown reservations on Ghulam Ali as governor KP. JUI-F's Haji Ghulam Ali was appointed as Governor KP after ANP, an ally of the PDM government refused from taking KP governorship.

## Six Indian arms, drugs smugglers arrested

Indian nationals were caught from Pakistani side of border

DNA

**RAWALPINDI:** Pakistan Rangers personnel have arrested six Indian arms and drugs smugglers at a border post, the Inter-Services Public Relations said Tuesday. According to a statement issued by the military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), on Tuesday, the Indian nationals were caught from Pakistani side of the border. They were detained from

Continued on Page 06

### Indian diplomat summoned

DNA

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan on Tuesday summoned senior Indian diplomat to register a strong protest over the killing of a 60-year old civilian at the Line of Control, consequent to the firing by Indian forces.

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**ISLAMABAD:** EU ambassador Riina Kionka calls on Interim Foreign Minister Jilani. They discussed Pakistan-EU relations & the progress made through several institutional mechanisms. — DNA

## 6 soldiers martyred in Waziristan encounter

Four terrorists sent to hell, while two terrorists were injured

KHAYAM ABBASI

**RAWALPINDI:** At least six soldiers were martyred while fighting terrorists during an intense exchange of fire in South Waziristan's general area Asman Manza in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, the military's media wing said in a statement on Tuesday. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly four terrorists were sent to hell, while two terrorists were injured. The ISPR statement added that sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. "Armed forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it added. Last week, the

## Funeral prayers of martyrs offered

NEWS DESK

**RAWALPINDI:** Funeral prayers of security personnel martyred in Asman Manza in South Waziristan district while gallantly fighting the terrorists were offered at Wana today. They will be laid to rest with full military honors in their respective hometowns. Corps Commander Peshawar and other senior serving officers attended the funeral prayers. Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the motherland at all costs. military troops had gunned down two terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in KP's Khyber district. The security forces, according to ISPR, conducted the IBO on the reported presence of terrorists in the Bara area of Khyber district on the night of August 18-19. Pakistan has

seen a steep rise in terrorist activities including several suicide bombings and gun attacks mainly targeting police and law enforcement agencies in the north-western provinces, which resulted in hundreds of deaths and damage to properties since the return of Taliban rulers in neighbouring Afghanistan.

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# Pak Bait ul Mal ready to work with ICCI on welfare projects

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Aamir Fida Paracha, Managing Director, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) said that his organization is ready to work with ICCI on welfare projects, so the Chamber should prepare its proposal for skills development and empowerment of women and send it to him that would be considered for implementation. He said that the PBM is being digitized to promote transparency and increase the confidence of donors. He said that they are working on devising a scoring system for beneficiaries on the pattern of Benazir Income Support Program, which will greatly facilitate the beneficiaries and reduce documentary requirements. He said that good projects of the previous government including the shelter homes have been continued, but those shelters have been closed which had no beneficiary and were costing great expenses. He said that many welfare projects including 50

sweet homes for orphans and 160 women empowerment centers are working under PBM. He said that the scholarships for poor students in the universities have been further increased while the scholarship for the poor students of Balochistan has been increased to 20%. He said that the government has increased the budget of Pakistan Baitul Mal from 6 billion rupees to carry forward the welfare projects. He expressed these views while addressing the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said that Pakistan Baitul Mal is rendering valuable services for the welfare of the poor and needy people of the society, which is laudable. He said that PBM is doing many welfare projects including provision of education & medical treatment to the poor segments of society, so he strongly appealed to the business community and the philanthropists

of the society to fully cooperate with PBM so that this institution can better serve the poor and needy members of the society. Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that PBM is carrying out a great mission by serving the suffering humanity and suggested that it should also play role in providing education to 20 million out-of-school children. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG, said that ICCI wants to start a project in collaboration with PBM for skills development and training of young girls for their economic empowerment. If this project is successful in Islamabad, then PBM can start it in other parts of the country. Khalid Chaudhry, Maqsood Tabish, Chaudhry Javed Iqbal, Imtiaz Abbasi, Shahid Zaman Shinwari, Naveed Abbasi, Ms. Nagina Khaliq, Ms. Nasira Ali and others also spoke on the occasion and suggested that PBM should streamline its documentary requirements for the beneficiaries to facilitate them.



KARACHI: UN agency UNDP representative Samuel Rizk is meeting Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House. —APP

## PPP terms 'Digital Census' as fake, far bigger damage to Sindh

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Taj Haider has expressed concern over the digital census saying that his party's central election cell has received disturbing reports about the undercount of the population from sources located in different provinces. He said that Initial computations in the province of Sindh reveal that the damage done to the province of Sindh as a result of the so-called 'Digital Census' is far bigger than what was initially feared and warned against when we now look at the population figures published in the Gazette notification of August 7, 2023, a communique said here on Tuesday. Sindh, which remains the destination of economic migrants from other provinces, Gilgit Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir, besides a large number of illegal migrants, has been allotted an average family size (AFS) of a mere 5.64. Punjab has an average family size of 6.43, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 6.94, and Baluchistan 6.42. He noted that the reduction of just one person in average family size results in a reduction of 18 to 20% in the total population of Sindh. He further said there were only four districts in Sindh, two of them urban in Karachi where the average family size is above six where rest of it in rural Sindh have less than that. All districts in Punjab (except Lodhran AFS 5.95) have an average family size well above 6. The lowest family size in Sindh is in Badin 4.89 and Dadu 5.11 both PPP strongholds. Ghotki has an average family size of 5.35. Adjacent Rahim Yar Khan District in Punjab has an average family size of 6.72. Senator Taj Haider said the reports were alarming received from the provinces of Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that even when no enumeration had been carried out in remote and sensitive areas of both provinces the notified population figures of various districts were significantly less than the ones that had been readily available in the digital census. In Sindh where such data was mostly available the figures of houses and residents in many districts obtained. —APP

## UN Resident Coordinator lauds PRCS services

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Julien Harneis, visited the national headquarters of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) on Tuesday. During his visit, he held a meeting with Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari to discuss potential areas of cooperation between PRCS and UN entities. Secretary General PRCS Muhammad Abidullah was also present during the meeting and briefed the UN Resident Coordinator on different interventions. Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari expressed his gratitude for Mr. Harneis' visit, underscoring its significance as a milestone in the collaboration between PRCS and the United Nations. He emphasized their shared commitment to alleviating human suffering and advancing humanitarian efforts. The meeting delved into PRCS's response to the Monsoon Floods of the previous year. Collaborating with IFRC, ICRC, and partners of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, PRCS had provided relief to over 2.7 million people across 55 districts in Pakistan, constituting 10% of the total affected population. Chairman Laghari discussed the challenges faced during the flood response and highlighted PRCS's mobilization of its own resources to assist the flood-affected population in the best possible manner. He expressed gratitude to the UN for its support in alleviating the suffering of vulnerable communities. In his remarks, UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Julien Harneis praised the efforts of PRCS volunteers during floods and other calamities. He commended PRCS's humanitarian initiatives and stressed the importance of collaboration with national and international humanitarian actors. He emphasized early preparedness and disaster risk reduction to bolster community resilience. He proposed the possibility of collaboration between PRCS and UN OCHA. He emphasized the significance of involving youth and volunteers in community services, underscoring the importance of utilizing digital tools for people to provide financial assistance aimed at aiding vulnerable communities.

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## Minister reviews situation after dissolution of PIDB

LAHORE: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired a meeting to review industrial projects implemented by Punjab Industrial Development Board (PIDB) and the situation after the dissolution of the board in 1997, here at TEVTA Secretariat on Tuesday. The minister was briefed that PIDB had set up 14 industrial projects including 5 sugar mills, 3 textile mills and 6 rice mills. All industrial projects undertaken by the board had been privatized, 18 cases were pending in various courts regarding recovery of dues. The cell is functioning under an administrator after the dissolution of the board to settle litigation and recovery of dues, the meeting told. Provincial Minister SM Tanveer said that expenditure of millions of rupees from the government treasury every year since 1997 to recover the dues of Rs 100 million was deplorable. In a difficult economic situation, the country could not afford to waste resources. Matters should be settled amicably with the stakeholders, he added. SM Tanveer said that Punjab Industries and Commerce. —APP

## CM's visit to Hospital unveils patients' complaints

LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Holy Family Hospital Rawalpindi, uncovering concerning inadequacies in medical facilities and distressing patient conditions. Patients and their attendants voiced a multitude of complaints during the visit, said a hand-out issued here on Tuesday. The CM issued a stern warning to Medical Superintendent and the vice chancellor of Rawalpindi Medical University, laying down a 7-day deadline for significant improvements. The hospital was marked by subpar sanitation arrangements, and patients complained about undergoing tests and acquiring medications from external sources. Additionally, grievances emerged regarding monetary demands from hospital guards for various services. Disturbingly, specific wards exhibited unsanitary conditions, including broken beds and bloodstains on bed linens. Patients also lamented treatment delays, prolonged reception queues, and the unavailability of ventilators. The visit revealed certain wards experiencing overcrowding and dire conditions due to insufficient resources. Expressing his deep concern over the dilapidated conditions, the CM ordered

measures to enhance facilities on an urgent basis. He checked the treatment facilities and inquired about the well-being of patients and the facilities provided to them. He inspected emergency, children and dengue wards and the medical unit, listened to the patient's problems and issued directions to resolve them. He emphasized enhancing efficiency within available resources to provide relief to patients. Quality treatment was a public right, he said and vowed to revisit the hospital while stressing the need for improvements. A significant development emerged as several guards, accused of extorting money from patients and their attendants, were apprehended by the police. Prompt action was taken based on complaints lodged during the chief minister's visit, resulting in immediate arrests and legal proceedings against the guards. Caretaker ministers Dr Nasir Jamal, Amir Mir, Vice Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University Prof. Dr. Muhammad Umar and Medical Superintendent Dr Ijaz Butt were also present. Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited the under-construction new emergency section of Services Hospital Lahore and

inspected the progress of ongoing construction activities. Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir accompanied him. The chief minister expressed his dissatisfaction with delay in the finishing work. He directed that all pending work be expedited, even if it required round-the-clock efforts. Noticing old beds outside the new emergency section, he expressed his displeasure and instructed for new beds to be provided promptly. Additionally, he voiced his dissatisfaction with the air-conditioning system and ordered its immediate improvement. Taking swift action, the CM promptly contacted the Secretary Communication and Works and instructed him to enhance facilities in the new emergency area. "Comprehensive planning should be made to stop water accumulating in the basement," he added. He conveyed his intent to inaugurate the new emergency room for patients only when fully satisfied. Mohsin Naqvi tasked the Principal of Services Hospital with supervising and ensuring the completion of all tasks with the utmost quality and efficiency. The Medical Superintendent of Services Hospital was also present. —APP

## ANF seizes over 3274 kg drugs in 35 operations; arrests 42

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 3274.386 kg drugs and 1193 liters of Hydrochloric Acid Chemical (HCL) worth US\$ 92.079 million internationally, arrested 42 accused including a woman and a foreigner and impounded 11 vehicles while conducting 35 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country during last week, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that the seized drugs comprised 105,200 kg Opium, 262,846 kg Heroin, 2667,938 kg Hashish, 203,402 kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 35 kg Crystal Heroin. ANF Balochistan recovered 2707 kg drugs and 1193 liters Hydrochloric Acid

Chemical (HCL) in seven operations and arrested five accused including a foreigner involved in drugs smuggling and impounded three vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 60 kg Opium, 255 kg Heroin, 2162 kg Hashish, 195 kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 35 kg Crystal Heroin. ANF Punjab recovered 179,607 kg drugs in 14 operations and arrested 17 accused besides impounding two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 4,400 kg Opium, 3,990 kg Heroin, 166,950 kg Hashish and 4,267 kg Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF KPK recovered 100 grams Methamphetamine (Ice) in an operation and arrested an accused.

ANF Sindh recovered 261,625 kg drugs in five operations and arrested eight accused besides impounding two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 1,600 kg Heroin, 256,800 kg Hashish and 3,225 kg Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF North in eight operations recovered 126,054 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused besides impounding two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 40,800 kg Opium, 2,256 kg Heroin, 82,188 kg Hashish and 810 grams Methamphetamine (Ice). All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 (Amended 2022) and further investigations are under process. — APP

## Students spent "a day with Pakistan Navy"

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Navy organized an event "A day with Pakistan Navy" for the students from various colleges of Lahore to enlighten them on functioning of Pakistan Navy, its organization and defence capabilities. The event was organized by Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore. A total of 200 x Male and Female students along with the faculty members from Government College University, Fazaia Degree College, Garrison College for boys and Bahria College Lahore along with faculty members attended the event. Commander Central Punjab Rear Admiral Javaid Iqbal addressed the audience. During his interaction with students and faculty he assured them that Pakistan Navy has all the capabilities and will to protect maritime frontiers of the country. He also highlighted the importance of maritime sector for developing countries and how stronger Naval Forces can facilitate economic development of their nation. Program was followed by a

demonstration of combat readiness of troops, arms and equipment display and an anti-terrorist demo by Pakistan Marines and Special

Service Group of Pakistan Navy. The students displayed keen interest while attending a briefing about PN roles & responsibilities, latest platforms

available in PN Fleet and four dimensions of Pakistan Navy. They also witnessed an exhibition about various arms of PN. The visiting students and


faculty members praised the state of morale, commitment and professional competence of the Maritime Defenders of the country.






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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### August

Aug 01/China  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzerland  
National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Syria  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Bukino Faso  
National Day

Aug 09/Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea  
Independence Day

Aug 15/India  
Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17/Indonesia  
Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine  
Independence Day

Aug 25/Uruguay  
Independence Day

Aug 30/Turkey  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/Kyrgyz  
Republic  
Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia  
National Day

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Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance.1122  
& Rescue Services.4451122  
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Motorway Police.9270601-20  
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## Hospitals

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RGH.....9290301-7  
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## Departments

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RDA.....5555864  
TMA.....5770886  
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Pak values its relations with UK, Iran: Sanjrani

British High Commissioner, Iranian Ambassador Meet Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani

MAHNOOR ANSAR

Islamabad; 22 August 2023: In a series of significant meetings, the British High Commissioner, Ms Jane Marriott, and the Iranian Ambassador, Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam, held separate meetings with the Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, at the Parliament House today. The meetings were marked by a thorough exchange of views on matters of mutual interest and the exploration of avenues for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and the respective countries. During the meeting between Chairman Senate and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, a comprehensive range of topics were deliberated upon. Issues of paramount importance such as trade, investment, parliamentary cooperation, and public relations between the two nations were discussed in detail. Chairman Senate highlighted the need to amplify partnerships between Pakistan and the United Kingdom across various sectors, particularly in the realms of health, education, and technology. The emphasis was placed on fostering collaboration through the mobilization of existing parliamentary friendship groups. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani underscored the abundant investment opportunities that Pakistan offers within a favorable economic environment. He emphasized the ongoing efforts to promote investment



and extend incentives to potential investors. The belief in the stabilizing impact of investor confidence on the economy was reiterated. Furthermore, the Chairman hailed Gwadar's emergence as a burgeoning economic hub and encouraged British investors to explore investment prospects in the region. The convergence of Pakistani expatriates in the United Kingdom as a bridge between the two countries was acknowledged, and Chairman Senate expressed his warm wishes for the British High Commissioner. Echoing the sentiments of

the Chairman Senate, the British High Commissioner praised Pakistan's hospitality and socio-cultural diversity. She affirmed Britain's recognition of Pakistan as a vital partner and expressed eagerness to advance and broaden the bilateral relationship. In a subsequent meeting, Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Chairman Senate and discussed various facets of bilateral cooperation. The talks encompassed parliamentary relations, trade cooperation, and the stability of economic ties be-

tween Pakistan and Iran. Sanjrani reaffirmed the shared pursuit of regional development and prosperity between the two countries. The commonalities in religious, cultural, and social dimensions were identified as robust foundations for advancing bilateral collaboration. The commendable history of international cooperation between Pakistan and Iran was lauded, reflecting the depth of their relationship. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani welcomed the reinforcement of political, social, and

economic stability in bilateral ties. He highlighted the recent agreement to bolster parliamentary relations between the two countries and expressed gratitude for Iran's assistance in restoring electricity to Gwadar and Makran divisions, alleviating the hardships faced by the local populace. Both the British High Commissioner and the Iranian Ambassador recognized the Chairman Senate's vision for enhancing the bilateral partnership and concurred on the imperative to fortify this cooperation across various dimensions.

## Pharmaceutical goods export increases 8.87% during July 2023

ISLAMABAD: The export of Pharmaceutical goods witnessed an increase of 8.87 percent during the current financial year (2023-24), against the exports of the corresponding period of last year. The country exported pharmaceutical goods worth US \$26.205 million during July 2023 against the exports of US \$24.069 million during July 2022, showing growth of 8.87 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the pharmaceutical goods export also rose by 144.27 percent from 2,098 metric tons to 5,125 metric tons, the data revealed. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, pharmaceutical exports went up by 19.58 percent during July 2023 as compared to the exports of US \$21.914 million in June 2023, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the country's overall merchandise export declined by 8.09 percent in July 2023 as compared to the export of July 2022.—APP

## Govt working tirelessly to upgrade facilities for Hujaj

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Tuesday said that the government is committed to providing all possible facilities to Pakistani pilgrims and to giving maximum concession to make the pilgrimage an exemplary one this time.

Pakistan authorities will discuss an increase in the country's quota for the Hajj pilgrimage during the Saudi Hajj Minister Dr Tawfiq Al-Rabiah's four-day visit, he said while talking to a Private news channel. Minister said the visit of Saudi minister is historic and was of great importance for Pakistan, adding, multiple issues related to facilities for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims and expansion of the Route to Makkah project to other Pakistani cities will be discussed. "We will also discuss the increase in Hajj quota according to the population of Pakistan under the new census and if they (the Saudi delegation) agree, then our Hajj quota will be the highest in the world based on the new census," he added.—APP

## Naqvi expresses annoyance over poor arrangements at HFH

During a visit to HFH, the CM in detail inspected various sections of the hospital and found bloody bed sheets in wards, long queues at reception, shortage of ventilators, while air conditioners were also shut down in several wards

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday directed the administration of the Holy Family Hospital (HFH) to improve the management of the hospital within a week else strict action would be taken against them. During a visit to HFH, the CM in detail inspected various sections of the hospital and found

bloody bed sheets in wards, long queues at reception, shortage of ventilators, while air conditioners were also shut down in several wards. He interacted with the patients and their attendants and inquired about the medical facilities provided to them. On the occasion, the patients complained to the CM that medicines were not available in the hospital and they were forced to buy medicines

and carry out medical tests from outside the hospital. The attendants also complained that security guards asked for bribes for entry into the hospital while medical staff delayed the patient's treatment. Naqvi inspected the Emergency, children and Dengue wards of the hospital and also visited the shelter home and reviewed the accommodation and food facilities. He directed the hospital's

management to improve the efficiency of the available resources as quality and timely treatment was the right of the patients. Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Dr Jamal Nasir, Information Minister Amir Mir, Vice-Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University Dr Muhammad Umer and Medical Superintendent Dr Ejaz Butt were present on the occasion.

## I-8 Markaz cameras to integrate with Safe City Project

ISLAMABAD: The cameras of I-8 Markaz would be integrated with Safe City Islamabad project to maintain high vigilance in the area by ensuring continuous access to surveillance feeds from shops, streets, and other key locations within the centre. According to official reports, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, has issued specific directives for this endeavour. As part of this process, the CPO Safe City/Traffic has extended an invitation to the business community in I-8 Markaz in a meeting to join hands with the Safe City Islamabad project. The primary objective of this meeting was to facilitate the integration of privately-installed cameras within I-8 Markaz with the Safe City Command and Control Center. This integration would empower the Islamabad Capital Police with continuous access to surveillance feeds from shops, streets, and other key locations within the centre, utilizing private camera systems. During the gathering, the CPO Safe City/Traffic assured the traders regarding the Islamabad Capital Police's technical team's active involvement in the installation and maintenance of additional camera systems. Moreover, the visiting traders had the opportunity to tour essential facilities, including the Police Operation Center, Data Hub Unit, E-Challan System, and Emergency Call Center, alongside the CPO Safe City/Traffic. The delegation of traders expressed their appreciation for the professionalism exhibited by the Islamabad Capital Police and conveyed their gratitude for the successful visit.

## Four-day training of delimitation committees to start from Sept 1

ISLAMABAD: The extensive four-day training for the five recently constituted delimitation committees, aimed at fixing the limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in response to changes in the 2023 population census data, will commence on September 1. According to Delimitation Schedule notified by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the training would be wrapped up on September 4. The committees will receive districts' maps and necessary data from the federal capital and provinces until August 31. Allocation of district quotas for national and provincial assembly seats to

delimitation committees is scheduled from September 5 to 7. Delimitation committees will conduct the initial delineation of constituencies between September 8 and October 7. Preliminary proposals will be made public on October 9. Representations on preliminary proposals can be filed between October 10 and November 8. The commission will address/hear these representations from November 10 to December 9. The final delimitation will be published on December 14. The Delimitation of Constituencies Act from 1974 mandates the redrawing of constituencies for National and Provincial Assembly elections after

each census. With the release of the 2023 census report, constituencies are being redefined to align with the allocated number of seats. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has opted to initiate the delimitation of constituencies following the approval from the Council of Common Interests (CCI) for the 2023 digital population census. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has already sought the assistance of provincial governments and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) for the delimitation process. This endeavor also involves the provision of essential guidelines.

After the Council of Common Interests (CCI) granted approval to the 2023 digital census results on August 5, an official notification was issued two days later. As per Article 224 of the Constitution, it is stipulated that following the dissolution of the National Assembly or a Provincial Assembly, a general election to the respective Assembly must take place within ninety days of the dissolution. Subsequently, the National Assembly was dissolved on August 10, and subsequently, the provincial assemblies of Sindh and Balochistan were also dissolved.—APP

## Railways expediting rehabilitation work on Quetta-Bostan track

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is expediting the efforts to complete the rehabilitation work of a 33.50-kilometre track 'through sleeper renewal' between Quetta-Bostan and Quetta-Chaman section at the earliest. "The track will not only facilitate the passengers and small businesses but also connect three major cities of the Balochistan province," an official source in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said the railway network in Balochistan province mainly consisted of Quetta Division having Dera Allah Yar Sibi-Quetta, Quetta-Chaman, Sibi-Khost, Spezend-Dalbandin-Taftan and Bostan-Zhob which were closed for the last 15 years. The source said there were two passenger trains namely Jaffer Express (40Up, 39 Down) and Chaman Passenger (349Up, 350 Down) operating in Balochistan while no stations had been closed during the last 15 years in the Quetta division. He said the overall length of the railway track in Balochistan was 1470.36 kilometres including the closed Bostan-Zhob section. "Most of the track was more than one-hundred-year-old and on certain stretches, engineering speed restrictions have been imposed due to deferred maintenance and owing to resource constraints," he said, adding that the routine maintenance of the track was being carried out with available resources. To improve railway services in Balochistan, he said the department was taking several steps like approval of PCI for the track's rehabilitation and the rehabilitation of another 100-km track between Ahmedwal Dalbandin on the Quetta-Taftan section. He said that 100-km rehabilitation of the track between Nokundi Kohi-Taftan on the Quetta-Taftan section while 160.024 kilometres of rehabilitation of the track between Bostan-Chaman on the Quetta-Chaman section would be carried out. The source said the tourist train's two trips had been started between Quetta-Bostan while the Bolan Mail passenger train would also be operational shortly to facilitate the passengers. He said the establishment of Chaman Terminal in collaboration with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and track renewal Sibi-Khost section was also in progress.—APP

## MoU inked between QAU and Linyi University

ISLAMABAD: The Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China's Linyi University. The collaboration aims to establish a Faculty of Computing & Technology and a Science & Technology Park at the QAU, says a statement, according to Gwadar Pro. Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, QAU and representative from the Linyi University signed the document. The initiative falls within the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and aligns with the broader Belt and Road Initiative, the statement added. It's a significant step forward in promoting academic exchange and technological advancements between the two institutions, the QAU VC stated in a separate post.—APP

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  - Manager Incharge, Regional Office, Trading Corporation of Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., House No. 47, Street No. 02, PHAF Residencia Kuri Road, Islamabad.
- The tender documents can also be downloaded from TCP's website [www.tcp.gov.pk](http://www.tcp.gov.pk) and PPR's website [www.ppr.org.pk](http://www.ppr.org.pk) also. Interested parties would however be required to provide separate Demand Draft/Pay Order of Rs.2,000/- as tender documents fee while submitting the bids without which their bids will not be accepted.
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- TCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to their acceptance as per PPR's Rule.

PID K 565/23

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## Briefs

## Pak-China MoU signed to rock carving art

DNA

ISLAMABAD: With the theme of Cave Temple Conservation in the Context of Climate Change, the first International Forum on Cave Temple Conservation was launched in Chongqing Municipality, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday. The event was held in the Baoding Mountains, whose carvings were made during Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) are regarded an important part of the Dazu Rock Carvings World Cultural Heritage Site, which was listed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1999. However, in recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in extreme weather events, and the impact of climate change on carvings is mainly reflected in two aspects: humidity and wind erosion. To protect the rock carvings, not only in Chongqing, but also around the world, heated discussions have triggered among scholars and experts from Germany, Pakistan, Italy and other countries on the protection of cave temple conservation and the mitigation of climate change through international cooperation. In such a context, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Establishing Friendly Relation and Cooperation between two institutions, the Academy of Dazu Rock Carvings and Museum of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar, was signed.

## Gwadar port to export 30 containers this month

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Thirty containers carrying pharmaceutical raw material will be exported to China from Gwadar Port this month. The material imported from South America and Africa will be exported by the Chinese Hangeng Agriculture group after being processed at the company's industrial park in Gwadar. Talking to Gwadar Pro, the company's CEO Andy Liao said that previously they were exporting 30 containers of pharmaceutical raw material to China, now adding these there will be a total export of 60 containers every month. "We participate actively to engage with BRI and CPEC. Our plan is to increase the export to 150 containers per month by the end of this year," he added. The agricultural group specialized in planting aloe vera, processing and exporting of agriculture products as well as animal husbandry has already established its processing unit in Gwadar South Free Zone and an under-construction factory in the North Free Zone.—APP

## COPHC chairman brands Gwadar as CPEC's pivotal axis

While acknowledging these advancements, Anwar's focus remained on fully unlocking CPEC's economic potential, looking toward COPHC and Chinese investors for guidance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman, Yu Bo, has termed Gwadar port as pivotal axis of CPEC. He made these remarks during his median meeting held at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) while shedding light on the transformative progress of Gwadar under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He showcased avenues for Pakistani investors to engage formally with Chinese companies for joint ventures in Gwadar. The first stage of Gwadar's port and city development, along with the Gwadar Free Zone, has been completed, marking a substantial achievement. We have been transforming Gwadar from a modest village into a thriving modern city, replete with cutting-edge technology," he added, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Yu highlighted China's substantial investments in Gwadar's growth, spanning construction, airport infrastructure, and healthcare facilities. The Gwadar Free Zone, which came under the auspices of the Free Zone Company in 2018, he said, has already established a vibrant phase one, spanning 25 hectares adjacent to the port. Notably, this area has attracted six companies. The North Free Zone, covering a sprawling 900 hectares, is positioned for industrial and warehousing purposes, and Yu emphasized its role in processing raw materials for subsequent export. Yu revealed significance of Gwadar port's operational status, its cargo handling capacity, and plans for the Gwadar International Airport's full-scale operation. He emphasized the port's role in facilitating barter trade with Iran, Afghanistan, and Russia, and highlighted Gwadar's strategic advantages over Port Qasim. The robust incentives extended to Chinese companies in the free zones, coupled with the prospect of win-win partnerships for Pakistani and Chinese businesses, was a recurring



theme, he added. Addressing Balochistan's economic issue, Yu highlighted the region's untapped potential, brimming with natural resources impaired by underdevelopment and negligible trade. The Gwadar port, however, is fully operational, equipped to manage both imports and exports, he asserted. Talking about the major existing obstacles to economic development in Balochistan, Yu emphasized that the region has great undeveloped potential, and the natural resources here have not been fully and sustainably developed due to the previous economic underdevelopment. However,

he asserted that the current operation of Gwadar Port has gradually entered the right track, and its import and export capabilities will gradually increase. On the occasion, LCCI President Kashif Anwar and Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Ch, alongside Mr. Wang, Deputy Manager of COPHC, Atif Khan, Convener of the LCCI S/C on Gwadar Coastal Tourism and Executive Committee Members were present. Yu's visit wasn't merely a formality; it was an invitation to the LCCI delegation to explore collaboration and investment opportunities in Gwadar. This gesture highlights

China's eagerness to foster joint ventures and establish industries, not just within Gwadar but also beyond its borders. LCCI President Kashif Anwar reciprocated with enthusiasm, announcing a forthcoming business delegation to Gwadar. He hailed Gwadar's paramount role within CPEC, accentuating its potential to catalyze regional connectivity, benefiting not only China and Pakistan but also adjacent nations such as Iran, Afghanistan, and Central Asian Republics. He viewed CPEC as a cornerstone for Pakistan's industrial and economic revitalization.

## India using brute force to suppress Kashmiris' voice

ISLAMABAD: All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders and parties have denounced the persistent use of military and police force to suppress the people's genuine voice for their inalienable right to self-determination. APHC leader Ghulam Muhammad Khan Sopori, Noor Muhammad Fayaz, Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir, Jammu Kashmir National Front, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement Chairman Jameel Ahmad, Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement Chairman Altaf Ahmed Butt and Jammu and Kashmir Pirpanchal Movement in their separate statements deplored that nearly one million Indian occupation forces were patrolling the roads and streets of IIOJK had utterly failed to block the legitimate right to self-determination demand a peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute as guaranteed by the United Nations resolutions. The statements, while expressing deep concern over the military and police siege in Kashmir, said that the overwhelming public support for the genuine demand for plebiscite and freedom despite the deprivation of their fundamental rights had frustrated one million Indian forces, their agencies, and the puppet regime on the ground level. They urged the United Nations to take serious cognizance of the deteriorating human rights situation and widespread gross human rights violations at the hands of Indian forces and the puppet regime.—APP

## Al-Shifa Trust's new strategy to deal with more patients

New initiative will empower trust to serve an additional two lakh people

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust has embarked on a new plan to cope with the increasing number of eye patients. An extension block at Chakwal Eye Hospital will be completed by the end of this year with an OPD capacity of 500 patients per day, while another hospital is being planned at Gilgit with the help of a donor organisation. This was stated by Al-Shifa Trust President Maj. Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan while briefing media persons about the development. He said that the new block at Chakwal Eye Hospital will be completed at a cost of Rs 150 million that has been donated by one family, which is highly laudable. The number of patients is increasing every year; therefore, we have to increase our capacity as we are already providing services to 1.3 million people

annually, Rehmat Khan added. Apart from the extension of the Chakwal Hospital, plan for a new 50-bed hospital is being finalised at Gilgit, and these two projects will enable the trust to provide services to an additional two hundred thousand people, he informed. He said that due to the extension of the hospital at Chakwal, Retina and glaucoma patients will also be treated. Maj Gen (Retd) Rehmat Khan said that besides this, an outreach team will be deployed in the villages near Chakwal to conduct school screening. And pick-up and drop-off facilities will be offered to serious patients. To reduce the waiting time at Rawalpindi Hospital, a new OPD block will be constructed with a capacity of treating 1000 patients per day, while the operation tables are being increased to 29. The president said that under the development plan, eight more experts will be

inducted at Kohat Hospital, and the number of contract surgeries will be increased. The outreach team will be available for far-flung areas. As far as Muzaffarabad Hospital is concerned, the outreach team is already performing duties. The target for this year is 300 OPDs per day and 25-30 surgeries a day, he said. He informed that 11 eye specialists are already treating patients at Sukkar Hospital, and by October, corneal transplants will be introduced there. Al-Shifa President told journalists that over the last 30 years, the Al-Shifa Trust has treated 30 million patients free of charge, a service worth Rs 13 billion. Thousands of glaucoma, retina and cancer surgeries are also included in this free treatment. He said that to cope with the increasing number of eye patients, the government should come forward and upgrade eye treatment facilities at the district level.

## Minister announces to organize literary conference

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah said that National level literary conference on linguistics and folk literature would be organized soon, aiming to promote literature and folk literary heritage. Talking to APP, Federal Minister Syed Jamal Shah said that the conference would offer a platform for regional literary academies from across the country and academicians to present and discuss the languages, cultures, and literature. The minister said that he has issued directions to the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) and the National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) to initiate work on organizing national-level literary conferences. Syed Jamal Shah emphasized the need of educating children with local literature and storytelling to arise their interest in reading to enhance their intellectual caliber as juvenile literature played a crucial part in education providing both knowledge and entertainment.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins had a fruitful discussion with Qibla Ayaz Chairman Ideology Council and Maulana Tahir Ashrafi. — DNA

## Chaudhary Rehmat Ali's Pakistan Vision

TAHIR MEHMOOD

Chaudhary Rahmat Ali was among the earliest proponents of the establishment of the state of Pakistan. A Pakistani Muslim nationalist, Rahmat Ali is widely acknowledged as the originator of the term "Pakistan" for a distinct Muslim homeland in South Asia, and he is credited as the initiator of the Pakistan National Movement. Ali was born in November 1895 into a Gujjar Muslim family in a district of Indian Punjab. From his early years, Rahmat Ali exhibited exceptional academic promise. Following his schooling, he enrolled at the Islamia College of Lahore. After completing his graduation in 1918, he initially taught at Aitchison College Lahore before later enrolling at Punjab University to pursue legal studies. However, in 1930, he relocated to England to join Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He acquired a BA degree in 1933 and an MA in 1940 from the University of Cambridge. In 1943, he was admitted to the Bar at Middle Temple Inn, London. Ali concluded his education in England, attaining MA and LLB degrees with honors from the universities of Cambridge and Dublin. Ali was ardent-

ly devoted to the cause of a separate Muslim homeland in South Asia and believed that the Indian Muslims needed political reform to emerge as a viable, independent community. His inspiration stemmed from Islamic history, particularly the accomplishments of Prophet Muhammad in uniting diverse Arab tribes during the inception of Islam. Ali advocated that in order to navigate the increasingly hostile Indian environment, Indian Muslims should unite under a common banner. He was also deeply influenced by the writings and philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Alongside the works of Muhammad Iqbal and others, Ali's writings significantly contributed to the inception of Pakistan. While Ali had previously articulated his concept of an independent Muslim state on the subcontinent before relocating to Britain, it was during his time there that he published his pamphlet titled "Now or Never: Are We to Live or Perish Forever?" in 1933. Issued on January 28, 1933, the pamphlet contained an appeal 'on behalf of the thirty million Muslims of PAKISTAN, who reside in the five Northern Units of India - Punjab, N. W. F. P. (Afghan Province), Kashmir, Sindh, and Baluch-

istan. The appeal conveyed their unwavering demand for recognition of their distinct national status, set apart from the rest of India, through the establishment of a separate Federal Constitution grounded in social, religious, political, and historical reasons. This renowned 1933 pamphlet, commonly referred to as the Pakistan Declaration, commenced with the iconic statement: "At this significant juncture in the history of India, while British and Indian statesmen are laying the foundations of a Federal Constitution for that land, we direct this appeal to you, in the name of our shared heritage, on behalf of our thirty million Muslim brethren living in PAKISTAN - denoting the five Northern units of India, namely Punjab, North-West Frontier Province (Afghan Province), Kashmir, Sind, and Baluchistan." As per one account, Rahmat Ali had already coined the term in late 1932, during a bus ride in London. Enclosed herewith is an appeal on behalf of the thirty million Muslims of PAKISTAN, residing in the five Northern Units of India - Punjab, North-West Frontier (Afghan) Province, Kashmir, Sind, and Baluchistan. It encapsulates their plea for recognition of their national status, distinct from the other inhabitants

of India, by granting Pakistan a separate Federal Constitution based on religious, social, and historical grounds. Rahmat Ali signed the letter as Rahmat Ali (Choudhary) and assumed the title of 'Founder, Pakistan National Movement'. This marked the first public appearance of the newly coined term 'Pakistan'. It marked the inception of an idea that would reshape the course of South Asian history. Ali's pamphlet was characterized by assertive arguments that aimed to drive home certain points. However, Ali was now a man with a purpose. In 1935, he authored a book titled "Pakistan: Its contents were a mix of fantasy - like his assertion of a 'Pak Empire' dating back to ancient times, and his insistence on using the term 'Paks' to refer to people even in that era. Some parts were idealistic - such as his vision of Islam as a unifying force that would transcend regional, caste, class, and linguistic differences. Nevertheless, it represented an effort to give tangible form to a dream. Meanwhile, the political landscape in India was undergoing a different transformation, a direction that Ali might not have disapproved of. In 1937, Jinnah abandoned any hope of reconciliation with the Congress. Following these

alternate geographical depictions of the subcontinent, Ali referred to himself as the "founder of the Siddiquistan, Nasaristan, and Safiistan National Movements". Mian Abdul Haq, a contemporary of Rahmat Ali at the University of Cambridge, noted that Rahmat Ali's mindset shifted after 1935 due to his extensive study of "major Nazi works, of which he knew many passages by heart". In October 1948, a mere month after Jinnah's demise, Ali was instructed by Liaquat Ali Khan, Jinnah's successor, to leave the country, and his possessions were seized. The partition had already inflicted substantial harm upon Ali. He had lost his ancestral lands in what was now Indian Punjab and had essentially forfeited his stable income. The command to depart Pakistan was another harsh setback. Upon returning to England, Ali spent his remaining years in genteel poverty. His passing in 1951 was solitary, with his body discovered several days later. It fell upon his former college to cover the costs of his funeral. The Pakistani government eventually reimbursed Emmanuel College for Ali's funeral expenses in November 1953, but only after prolonged correspondence.

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## Chinese economy: it looks bad

ASPATE of recent statistics shows that the Chinese economy is faring poorly. The country was supposed to rebound after ditching its draconian "zero Covid" policies, but, after an initial revival, things have gone awry. Earlier this month it slipped into deflation. Key indicators, including industrial production, investment and retail sales, came in well below expectations. The most concerning figure, however, is the one that we can't see. The youth unemployment rate was suspended from the monthly economic data release, having reached a record 21.3% in June – suggesting not only that July was grimmer, but that improvement is not expected soon. The government has stopped publishing swathes of statistics in recent years. While there are many reasons for that, and while some may still be released to data firms, it has probably helped to bury some bad news, and makes it harder to cross-reference information. Chinese economists are also under pressure to avoid discussing negative indicators. Under the Communist party, the economy has always served politics. But the subservience has not been so marked for decades. Tech giants have been reined in and bankers ordered to study Xi Jinping Thought. The question is whether political tightening is affecting not only economic performance, but our knowledge of it. The primary concern is the domestic audience, not least because the authorities, reluctant to turn to a stimulus, need them to spend. (Strikingly, the National Bureau of Statistics – NBS – stopped publishing a consumer confidence index in April.) But there is also growing hostility towards the outside world. But the leadership has its own blind spots. Li Keqiang, premier until this spring, once told an American diplomat that GDP figures were "man-made" and unreliable. Analysts like to inspect information from the lowest possible levels of bureaucracy because they know that figures are massaged at each stage by officials seeking approbation from superiors. Close watchers say that the NBS has worked hard to address such issues, meaning that at least some data is probably more accurate than before. But in a system where there is increasing pressure to manifest only "positive energy", people are frightened to bear bad news. Not only has investigative reporting been muzzled, but reportedly even the "internal reference" service for top officials – secret briefings by journalists and researchers, very different from their published work – is increasingly hampered by self-censorship or editing by gatekeepers along the way. "It is a system which is intended to put blinders on the public but also works for decision-makers," suggests the political scientist Prof Dali Yang. His book Wuhan notes how China carefully created a disease early-warning system after Sars – only for bureaucratic fragmentation and deliberate suppression of negative developments to prevent reports of the Covid-19 outbreak from reaching Beijing in the critical early stages. True, central planners watch the economy much more vigilantly. They unquestionably have a far better view of it than the rest of us. The question is whether their information is good, and fast, enough.

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## Japan's water rush opens Pandora's box

JAPANESE Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced on Tuesday that Japan will start releasing the nuclear-contaminated water that has been generated from the decommissioning of the tsunami-destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean as early as Thursday. It is no coincidence that the announcement came two days after he returned home from the Camp David meeting with his US and ROK counterparts. Both the Yoon Suk-yeol government and the Joe Biden administration have kept a studied yet condoning silence on the announcement that heralds Japan opening a Pandora's box. Not only are the long-term impacts on the marine environment unknown, but also the move will set a bad example for other countries which may treat the oceans as a free dumping ground. The way the Japanese leader claimed that his government has "removed" the so-called last obstacle to the move also shows how Tokyo has overstretched itself. The outcome of the hours Kishida spent on Monday lobbying Masanobu Sakamoto, head of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, for the organization's support were later presented in a different way. While the latter made his organization's firm opposition to the plan unequivocally clear, Kishida told reporters that Sakamoto's response signaled "improved understanding", and his government brazenly hinted that the last hurdle to the release of the radioactive water had been overcome. Sakamoto's "response" included his welcome to Kishida's pledge that the government will provide long-term subsidies and support to the fishing communities until the release ends. Does that really mean they have an "improved understanding" of the move? Do they really have the power to veto the plan that Tokyo has treated as a political and diplomatic undertaking rather than an environmental one from the very beginning? The Kishida government has smeared China's concerns as "politicized" and regarded those previously expressed by the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand and the Pacific island countries as "understandable but not necessary". But the question is whether that pledge will be binding on the future governments of Japan over the decades, and what about people in other countries that will be affected by the move. As Junichi Matsumoto, the Tokyo Electric Power Company executive in charge of the water release plan, told the media, the discharge is still only an initial step in a "daunting" decommissioning process that is expected to take decades. It is the acquiescence of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as reflected by its partial report on the release plan, that has emboldened Tokyo to press ahead with the discharging of the water which many experts say is "ill-advised" and "premature". Japan is making a shortsighted and selfish decision that the world is expected to pay the price for.

## Challenges to the Taliban's Quest for Acceptance on the Global Stage

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



An additional aspect worth considering pertains to the Taliban's view on international recognition. Their leadership sees diplomatic validation as desirable but not essential, and this nuanced distinction is crucial in comprehending their goals in the realm of international engagement.

The govt's primary objective is to bolster the struggling economy to safeguard its core economic interests, rather than overall well-being of Afghan populace. Moreover, they are striving to bypass international sanctions and exert strategic pressure...

TWO years subsequent to the resurgence of the Taliban into power, no sovereign state has accorded recognition to their governance, despite their most earnest endeavors. The Taliban leadership has dispatched envoys on several diplomatic missions abroad, spanning China, Pakistan, Qatar, and Russia, yet this assiduous diplomatic campaign has thus far yielded no success. Afghanistan remains ensnared in isolation and burdened by international sanctions. Three fundamental rationales elucidate the failure hitherto of their pursuit for recognition. Firstly, it resides in the Taliban's suppression of women. The curtailment of women's entitlements to education, occupation, and liberty of agency by the Taliban is precipitating the swift erosion of their sense of self. The state's subjugation of women has effectively excluded them from nearly every sector of the labor realm, and the recent proscription on women's cosmetic establishments has further truncated their prospects for employment. These draconian policies, emblematic of the Taliban's modus operandi, raise grave concerns concerning the human rights milieu in Afghanistan. A UN report in February underscores this stark actuality, contending that the denial of women and girls' rights may constitute gender-based violence, a transgression against humanity. Consequently, the Taliban's systemic campaign against women and their violations of human rights render their regime noxious. Any entity that transgresses this threshold is liable to evoke global censure. A further rationale resides in the Taliban's endeavor to establish an external governance that overtly discriminates against non-Pashtun eth-

no-linguistic groups within Afghanistan. The government has dismissed international calls for political inclusivity due to its capacity to do so, and the likelihood of a diverse Taliban-led government materializing is as tenuous as a government truly representing the populace. The Taliban opt to impose their narrow political predilections upon the Afghan populace, thereby employing coercive authority to suppress dissension, affording them the capacity to concentrate on cultivating domestic political legitimacy within their core base, namely the ethnic Pashtuns. Furthermore, they are enlisting staunch loyalists from their prior regime of ultra-conservative persuasion to contrive intricate networks of reverence, intermarriage, and ethno-linguistic affiliations. Given that the edifice of the Taliban's leadership hinges upon this specialized network, they are constructing a hierarchical and hierarchically centralized framework to administer external validation. In August 2022, an aerial strike targeted al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Kabul, demonstrating al-Qaeda's continued operations under Taliban support. A recent report from the United Nations Sanctions Monitoring Group has confirmed the rearmament, reorganization, and recruitment efforts of about 20 recognized terrorist factions within Afghanistan. The proliferation of these groups, facilitated by an environment conducive to their activities, contradicts the commitments made by the Taliban under the February 2020 Doha Agreement. Furthermore, the Taliban's local legitimacy stems from providing refuge to terrorist groups, which obstructs their pursuit of international recognition. Some of these groups represent the ethnic

minority populations of northern Afghanistan and Central Asia, making their exclusion untenable. The probability of these groups establishing their own spheres of influence, seeking autonomy, or competing with the Taliban remains uncertain. However, all factions, including the Taliban, are capitalizing on the strategic void left after the United States' withdrawal and the collapse of the Afghan government.

An additional aspect worth considering pertains to the Taliban's view on international recognition. Their leadership sees diplomatic validation as desirable but not essential, and this nuanced distinction is crucial in comprehending their goals in the realm of international engagement. The government's primary objective is to bolster the struggling economy to safeguard its core economic interests, rather than the overall well-being of the Afghan populace. Moreover, they are striving to bypass international sanctions and exert strategic pressure on host nations, as well as on former Afghan government diplomats abroad, in an attempt to secure recognition or replace Taliban representatives. Concurrently, the Taliban leadership is aware of the international community's keen interest in normalizing relations with their regime. This gives them the chance to leverage this interaction and maintain the prevailing power imbalance in their favor. Unfortunately, in assessing the Taliban, Western diplomatic relations have shown a recurring tendency to interpret matters in line with their own preferences. It would be much more effective for statesmen to perceive the Taliban as they truly are, rather than through a lens of bias in other words, not as a remedy for the current situation.

## How Washington views the war in Afghanistan two years on

Kerry Boyd Anderson

The US' war in Afghanistan covered two decades, including two Republican and two Democratic presidential administrations.

Among those administrations, Congress, the federal bureaucracy, the US military and Afghan leaders, there is plenty of blame to go around. While politicians engage in finger-pointing, foreign policy experts are trying to take a big-picture look at what happened and to identify lessons. This work is just beginning. In December 2021, Congress established a bipartisan Afghanistan War Commission to conduct ...

TWO years after the US and its allies withdrew from Afghanistan, partisan political views in Washington have hardened, while foreign policy experts are starting more comprehensive reviews of the entire war. The American public strongly supported pulling out of Afghanistan but was disappointed in how the war ended. Polling at the time of the withdrawal showed that a strong majority of Americans wanted to end the war and believed that the US had failed to achieve its goals in Afghanistan. Polling also found that a slight majority disapproved of President Joe Biden's handling of the withdrawal, while the event marked a notable decline in his approval ratings. The partisan political narratives have changed little. Republican leaders and commentators argue that Biden is solely responsible for the chaotic and deadly nature of the withdrawal, while ignoring the reality that Biden inherited limited options from the Trump administration. The Republican-controlled House of Representatives has held hearings to highlight the tragedy of the withdrawal and place blame on the Biden administration. Afghanistan is unlikely to be a major point in the presidential election, but Republicans will try to use it against Biden. On the Democratic side, there is a mix of blaming the Trump administration and simply hoping to move on. In April, the White House produced a report that largely blamed the Trump administration for its 2020 deal with the Taliban, its drawdown of troop numbers and a lack of planning for an intended withdrawal. Democratic leaders acknowledge that Biden made some errors but blame the Trump administration for the most important mistakes. With political perspectives set in stone, the discussion among foreign policy experts is more interesting. Within think tanks and among experts with experience shaping and implementing Afghanistan policy through multiple presidential administrations, there is a more thoughtful review occurring. A year ago, the fo-

cus in Washington was primarily on reviewing the last two years of the war, especially the Trump deal with the Taliban and then the final withdrawal under Biden. Now, two years after the withdrawal, there appears to be more space for broader, nuanced discussion about the entire 20 years of US combat in Afghanistan. The US' war in Afghanistan covered two decades, including two Republican and two Democratic presidential administrations. Among those administrations, Congress, the federal bureaucracy, the US military and Afghan leaders, there is plenty of blame to go around. While politicians engage in finger-pointing, foreign policy experts are trying to take a big-picture look at what happened and to identify lessons. This work is just beginning. In December 2021, Congress established a bipartisan Afghanistan War Commission to conduct a review of US policy toward Afghanistan during the full 20 years of war. For this commission and other experts, there is plenty of material already available for study and further documents and testimony will emerge. There is a general consensus that the war was a failure and that the withdrawal was a debacle. The questions are more about why and how. The expert discussion about the war is starting to take shape. Many experts – including some Republicans and even some who worked in the Trump administration – believe that the US gave up most of its leverage in return for very little in the 2020 deal with the Taliban. While it was obvious that the US wanted out of the war, better diplomacy could have contributed to a preferable conclusion. Previous administrations also bear some responsibility for missing opportunities to negotiate with the Taliban from a position of strength. The 2003 invasion of Iraq made Afghanistan a secondary priority for Washington, diverting many resources. The Obama administration recognized that and tried to correct course, but much of the damage was already done, and the Obama administration made its

own mistakes. Other critiques fall under the general category of failing to understand Afghanistan and adapt to the country's realities. For example, building a centralized Afghan military with good equipment but lacking in other fundamental areas was a mistake. The influx of foreign aid often was not wisely distributed. Corruption was a massive problem that absorbed significant amounts of aid. US policy also suffered from unclear and frequently changing goals. Was the US in Afghanistan solely to defeat Al-Qaeda? To defeat all terrorists? To ensure that the Taliban could never regain power? To conduct nation-building? To ensure stability? Leaders and policymakers often lacked clear answers to these questions and failed to clearly communicate their goals to the American public in honest and straightforward ways. While much of the power and thus responsibility was held by presidential administrations, Congress also failed to provide sufficient oversight – at least oversight that put the nation's interests ahead of scoring partisan PR points. There were other mistakes, including those related to military operations and political organization. These include losing Afghan support through the collateral damage of war. The US and its allies had some achievements. Afghan women gained far more rights and there were other significant economic and humanitarian successes. For many Afghans in cities, particularly Kabul, life improved. The desperate desire of so many Afghans to flee in August 2021 demonstrated what they expected from life under the Taliban. Americans will probably never reach a full consensus on what went wrong in Afghanistan. Scholars, policymakers and citizens still debate what went wrong in the war in Vietnam, why the US invaded Iraq, and so on. A consensus on Afghanistan will likely be elusive, but the coming years will produce improved understanding and perhaps some useful lessons.

– Courtesy: Arab News



## Briefs

Commandos  
rescue  
children

FROM PAGE 01  
The Pakistan Army Aviation and the Pakistan Air Force participated in the rescue operation along with the SSG troops. The rescue mission was complicated due to gusty winds in the area and the fact the helicopter's rotor blades risk further destabilising the lift, said Khattak. An initial report of the incident said that seven school-children and a local person were travelling in the cable car to go to the Batangi Government High School. According to the report, one cable of the gondola broke at around 7:45am which led to the cable car being stranded mid-air. The cable car hangs at a height of 6,000 feet. Abrar, Irfan, Usama, Rizwan Ullah, Ataulah, Niaz Muhammad, Sher Nawaz and Gul Faraz are stuck inside the lift. The report said that Battagram's deputy commissioner contacted Hazara's commissioner after he received report about the incident. The DC asked for the arrangement of a helicopter. Moreover, the SSG team based in Kaghan Valley was also contacted after which the helicopter reached the location at 11:45am. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) helicopter reached the site at 2pm. Meanwhile, the incident has not only unmasked the inability of the administration to deal with such situations, on the other hand it has unearthed the miseries of people living in the far-off areas. Locals have to adopt such kind of dangerous means of communication in the absence of necessary facilities. The respective governments do claim to have done a lot for the people or the remote areas but in fact nothing has happened on ground. This is not the first incident that has shaken everybody, many people have already lost their lives in similar incidents.

Six Indian  
arms, drugs  
smugglers...

FROM PAGE 01  
July 29 to August 3, the ISPR added. The ISPR statement alleged that the arrested Indians were involved in smuggling of drugs and weapons. The ISPR said that it is surprising that these smugglers could cross the heavily-fenced border under perpetual surveillance of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). It shows likely complicity of BSF troops in narco and weapons smuggling as the Indian border force has so far failed to report six missing citizens, the ISPR added. The ISPR statement said that these smugglers/criminals were trying to smuggle narcotics, weapons and ammunition into Pakistan and were arrested attempting to infiltrate Pakistani territory. Four of these smugglers, namely Gurmeel son of Guldeep Singh, Shinder Singh son of Bhora Singh, Juginder Singh son of Thakur Singh and Vishal son of Jagga belong to Ferozpur, Rattan Pal Singh son of Mahinder Singh belongs to Jalandhar and Gaurinder Singh son of Mukhtiar Singh belongs to Ludhiana. The ISPR said that these Indian smugglers will be dealt as per law of the land for illegally entering into Pakistan and indulging in nefarious activities. It said that the security forces of Pakistan will continue to maintain vigil and expect that Indian BSF will act professionally and sever their ties with smuggling rackets operating from their territory.

National  
interfaith  
moot to be...

FROM PAGE 01  
The parliament - the Upper House - was still there but it could not do legislation alone till there was the Lower House. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Finance, the federal cabinet fixed the amount of Diyat (compensation payable to the victim or legal heirs) which is equal to 30,630 grams of silver for the financial year 2023-24 at Rs6.7 million.

Serena Hotels honour the  
Special Olympics Squad

The Head of the Delegation and Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, Ms. Ronak Lakhani, expressed her gratitude to Allah and praised the outstanding performance of athletes



DINA  
ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels under the banner of Sports Diplomacy, honoured the Pakistani squad that represented and made history with their spectacular wins for the country at the Special Olympics held in Berlin, Germany, from June 17th to 25th,

2023. These exceptional athletes secured 80 medals, including 11 gold, 29 silver, and 40 bronze medals in total. This achievement has brought pride to Pakistan and garnered admiration from all 176 participating countries. The Head of the Delegation and Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, Ms. Ronak Lakhani, expressed her gratitude to Allah

and praised the outstanding performance of the athletes. She appreciated the hard work put into preparing for this auspicious event, saying how it had paid off in such a massive scale of wins. She mentioned the efforts of unified partners and coaches and how they played a pivotal role. Lakhani also acknowledged the parents for their support in nurturing the athletes

and thanked Serena Hotels for making the evening all about the special athletes and celebrating their win as it adds support and bolsters their self-confidence. Mr. Haseeb Abbasi, the Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger (SSIGM) Athlete Leader 2019-2023 Special Olympics Pakistan and eminent motivational speaker, and winner of 2 gold

medals for cycling in the 2013 Special Olympics Asia Pacific Regional games, at age 17 appeared in a TEDx Talk wowed the world through his story and is now a motivational speaker with a web channel which he uses for motivational messages for people with special abilities spoke about his journey and that of the winners of the 2023 Olympics.

2nd CNS all Pakistan  
squash championship 2023

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan Navy has old and deep rooted association with the game of Squash. This association of Pakistan Navy with Squash dates back to the independence of our mother land. The Game

of Squash started with a single Court at Manora and today Pakistan Navy has Pakistan's largest and world class Squash Complex at RKJK Karachi. The journey from single court to present place has been possible by very deep commitment of Pakistan Navy with this

game. The Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex (RKJK) was named after two legends of the game. Inaugurated by Admiral Yastur ul Haq Malik on 19 June 1991, this majestic complex comprises of six courts including newly built 4-Sided Glass Court.

The inauguration of 4 sided Glass Court at RKJK on 21 July 2023 is also a testament of Pakistan Navy's efforts in promotion of Squash as sport in the country. 1st CNS international Squash Championship was held in the year 2000, since then the championship has been organized without disruption. 2nd Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan Squash Championship 2023 is scheduled from 23 to 27 Aug 23 at RKJK Squash Complex. The Championship comprises of 54 Matches. First qualifying round will be comprised of 8 matches played by 16 players each, 8 winning players from both categories (men & women) will join the 8 top ranking National Players in the main round.

Emery wants to  
make 'new history'  
with Villa in Europe

LONDON: Unai Emery has urged Aston Villa to "write a new history" ahead of the Premier League club's first European campaign in 13 years. Villa face Scottish Premiership side Hibernian in the first leg of their Europa Conference League qualifying play-off at the Edinburgh team's Easter Road ground on Wednesday. Emery, a four-time Europa League winner as a manager, and said pictures of Villa's 1982 European Cup triumph on the walls of the Birmingham side's Bodymoor Heath training were an inspiration to him and his players. "Everyday when I go to the training ground there is the '82 European Cup (picture)," Emery said on Tuesday. "It's good to have that memory. "This is the history for Aston Villa and it's amazing. Of course we want to write a new history now, doing it our way and hopefully we can do something important here. "Always when I go in my office I am passing this (picture) and I am always watching the trophy," the 51-year-old added. Emery won the Europa League with Sevilla three years running (2014, 2015 and 2016) and lifted the trophy again with fellow Spanish club Villarreal in 2021. He was also a runner-up when in charge of Arsenal in 2019. "We play Hibernian and have to play two matches to try and get to the group stage and that is the objective," he said. "I'm so happy about this and want to share my mindset with the players and the supporters because Europe always is something amazing for everybody. - Agencies

Odegaard says  
players must adapt  
to new rules

LONDON: Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard believes players will have little choice but to adapt to new Premier League rules even if the initial yellow card that led to teammate Takehiro Tomiyasu being sent off against Crystal Palace was "harsh". The Gunners won 1-0 away to their London rivals on Monday but had to play the final quarter of the match at Selhurst Park down to 10 men after Japan defender Tomiyasu was dismissed. He received a second yellow card for a relatively minor foul on Jordan Ayew just seven minutes after being booked for wasting time at a throw-in. Premier League referees are under instruction to clamp down on time-wasting, although Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said after Monday's match a stopwatch may be needed to ensure consistency in decision-making. Odegaard, who scored the only goal of the game with a penalty after Eddie Nketiah had been tripped by Palace goalkeeper Sam Johnstone, said it would take time for players to adjust. - Agencies

Arteta opens up after Arsenal  
down Palace with 10 men

LONDON: Arsenal were forced to play around half an hour with 10 men but hung on to in Monday's 1-0 win at Crystal Palace. Defender Takehiro Tomiyasu was sent off for a pull of Jordan Ayew's shirt in the 67th minute. He had also received a yellow for time wasting earlier in the second half. Due to the intense ending to the match, Arsenal celebrated like they had won the title after the final whistle. "It shows how much we want it," Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta said of the celebrations. "When you see the players on the bench ... they have to come and help the team. They were magnificent and they changed the dynamic of the game. I say thank you so much to them because they really contributed to winning the game," he added. Arteta said it would take some time for teams to adjust to the strict time-wasting regulations that has led to more yellow cards and

additional time being added on at the end of each half. "It's going to be very difficult for us. I guarantee you, we will have to play with 10 or maybe with nine or with eight depending where we put the standards and the level. We can play eight against eight, it can be very entertaining," the 41-year-old said. Arteta's Palace counterpart Roy Hodgson, who has dealt with a lot of changes over the course of his 50-year managerial career, also shared his opinion on the new laws. "These rules and these ideas are thrust upon us, we don't have too much say in the matter, but we have to learn to live with them," he told Sky Sports. The only goal of the match was scored by Martin Odegaard after he converted a penalty in the 54th minute. Arsenal have won both their games in the new Premier League season, so far, and are currently on third position on the table. - Agencies

## Haris stars as Pakistan down Afghanistan

DINA  
HAMBANTOTA: Haris Rauf claimed a five-wicket haul as Pakistan beat Afghanistan by 142 runs in the first ODI of the series in Hambantota, Sri Lanka, on Tuesday. Chasing a target of 202 runs, Afghanistan were dismissed for only 59 runs in 19.2 overs. This was the first five-wicket haul for Haris Rauf in Pakistan colours, who claimed 5-18 in 6.2 overs. Earlier, Shadab Khan stood solid for Pakistan after Imam-ul-Haq's departure as the green shirts were all out for 201 in 47.1 overs. Afghanistan bowlers rattled Pakistan's top order on a terrific spinning track. Fazalhaq Farooqi picked up Fakhar Zaman in his first over to immediately send Pakistan on the back foot. Pakistani skipper Babar Azam, who is the number one ODI batter, fell to Mujeeb ur Rehman's spinning delivery right in the next over for a duck. Mohammad Rizwan and Imam

settled at the crease for a brief period of time but they both could only add 33 runs together. Mujeeb was the man who also bagged Rizwan (21) on an LBW which looked a bit doubt-

ful and has raised questions on social media. Iftikhar Ahmed, who usually has the finisher's role in the team, this time had a responsibility to anchor the score. He did it so well

alongside Imam who meanwhile also completed his 17th ODI half-century. They both scored 50 off 69 to somehow give Pakistan a breath of fresh air. However, the right-handed

smasher got out after scoring 30 runs to Mohammad Nabi in the 27th over. Rashid Khan and Nabi bagged two wickets each to contribute strongly to Afghanistan's bowling. Imam alongside Shadab built-up his third partnership of the day. This time they scored 40 runs together before Imam lost his control against Nabi and gave a catch at mid-on which was well taken by Rashid. Imam, who survived on two back-to-back dropped catches previously, scored 61 off 94 balls. Shadab then got himself the support of tailender Naseem Shah, who had ensured a nightmare for Afghans in last year's T20 Asia Cup. Naseem hit two consecutive sixes on the last two match-deciding balls of Fazalhaq Farooqi to notch an unbelievable victory for Pakistan last year. Naseem and Shadab stitched 34 runs off 47 balls before Shadab got run out. Rahmat Shah took the last wicket of Haris Rauf as Afghanistan bowled out Pakistan for the first time in ODI history.

Indian  
diplomat  
summoned

FROM PAGE 01  
The Indian Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, following the killing to 60-year-old civilian Ghias, resident of Oli village of Kotli District. The incident took place in the Nikial Sector of the Line of Control (LoC) on August 21, a Foreign Office statement said. Emphasizing the need for maintaining peace and tranquillity at the LoC, it was underscored that such acts were in clear violation of the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, reaffirmed in February 2021. It was stressed that utmost caution should be exercised by the Indian forces as targeting innocent civilians was contrary to human dignity and international human rights and humanitarian laws. The Indian side was urged to investigate the incident and respect the Ceasefire Understanding.

Official  
'refuses' to  
work as...

FROM PAGE 01  
A day after President Alvi's startling revelation about not signing the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the President's Secretariat said that the services of Waqar Ahmed were no more required and are surrendered to the Establishment Division with immediate effect. Subsequently, in a letter to the principal secretary to the Prime Minister (PSPM) Dr Syed Tauqir Hussain Shah, it was requested to replace Waqar with Humaira - a grade-22 DMG officer. Humaira had earlier served as PSPr and opted to leave the assignment at her own request and was posted as federal secretary science and technology before being transferred to the national heritage division.

Rupee falls  
to historic  
low of 299

FROM PAGE 01  
Its previous record low was 298.93, which was hit on May 11. On Monday, the rupee closed at 297.13 against the dollar as compared to Friday's close of Rs295.78. Head of research at Arif Habib Tahir Abbas said he expected the rupee to trade between 295 and 305 to the dollar for the time being. "The declining trend is mainly attributable to the ease off in the import restrictions coupled with clearance of backlog for goods and services," he said. He added that multinational corporations were able to repatriate some profits, furthering rupee outflows.

New approach  
used to train  
Pakistani  
boxers

DINA  
LAHORE: Pakistan's boxing coach Arshad Hussain has said that this time the national fighters are being trained differently and with new approach for the 19th Asian Games. The event is slated to be held in Hangzhou, China, from September 23 to October 8. "Yes, we have made some changes in our training by bringing in some innovative approach both in enhancing the skill level and fitness of the fighters," he told The News from Islamabad on Monday. "We want fighters with strong muscles and for that we have applied some new exercises and we have done also differently in enhancing the skills of the boxers," Arshad said. "And another thing is that in the past we used to work on physical fitness first and then would work on skills but this time we are working on both areas every day. "Our boxers mostly are not highly educated and they don't know what will be the benefit of a particular exercise and what will be its side-effect. These days we are working with great intensity and we will start reducing the load just two weeks before the event in the Asian Games." He was happy that lot has achieved top fitness this time ahead of Asian Games.



## Briefs

Thavasin  
elected  
Thailand's  
new prime  
minister

BANGKOK: Thai lawmakers, including those selected by the former junta administration, on Tuesday elected former real estate tycoon Srettha Thavasin the country's new prime minister. Thavasin, nominated by Pheu Thai Party (PTP) leader Chonlapan Srikaw, secured 482 votes, easily beating the 376 needed for victory, according to the Thai Public Broadcasting service. A total of 747 lawmakers were eligible to vote, with 165 voting against Thavasin while 81 abstained. At least 19 lawmakers were absent from parliament. The PPT had claimed support of a 314-vote coalition from 11 parties. Today's vote was the second to elect the nation's 30th premier since general elections were held in May. Last month, Move Forward Party chief Pita Limjaroenrat failed to win the premiership. Separately, Thailand's Supreme Court on Tuesday sent former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to prison for eight years upon his return from over 15 years in exile. Shinawatra faced corruption charges and three convictions from his long absence. — DNA

Germany  
misses its  
own climate  
targets set  
for 2030

GENEVA: Germany will not meet its own climate targets by 2030, according to the 2023 projection report on future greenhouse gas emissions published Tuesday. The report was commissioned by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA). Germany had set itself the goal of blowing 65% less carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the air in 2030 than in 1990. But according to the report, prepared by a research consortium, 746 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> were still emitted in 2022. That's only a reduction of about 40%. The experts do not expect that to change fast enough.

According to the researchers' model calculation adding up how much CO<sub>2</sub> will be emitted in Germany from 2023 to 2030, the country will see a total climate protection gap of 331 million tons. "331 million tons is already considerable," a UBA spokeswoman told public broadcaster NDR. She added: "The total gap by 2030 is more than 40% of our current annual emissions. To save that, further measures are needed." The transport and construction sectors in particular stand out negatively in the report because both exceeded their maximum permissible emissions in 2022. This is the second time in a row that the transport sector has done so. However, according to the report, it is still possible to achieve Germany's 2030 climate protection targets in all sectors. UBA refers to its own study published at the beginning of July under the title Climate Protection Instruments Scenario 2030 (KIS-2030). According to the KIS-2030, a reduction in emissions of 68% compared to 1990 would be possible through a variety of climate protection measures. — Agencies

OIC delegation  
commends  
China's action  
in Xinjiang

BEIJING: A delegation from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) who recently visited Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, spoke highly of China's economic and social progress and commended the Chinese government for its strong commitment to protecting the multi-ethnic culture there. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Tuesday. The member of the delegation noted the success of China's people-centered governance in Xinjiang, including the effective counter-terrorism and de-radicalization policy, which has brought peace and happiness to people of all ethnic backgrounds in Xinjiang, he said during his regular briefing. — Agencies

## Incompatible' with UN's spirit

Turkish FM Fidan condemns  
peacekeepers actions on Cyprus

Enjoying friendly and neighborly relations, Türkiye has supported Bulgaria's integration with Euro-Atlantic institutions. Sofia joined NATO in 2004 and became an EU member in 2007

## DNA

ANKARA: Recent actions by the UN peacekeeping force on Cyprus are "incompatible with the founding spirit of the UN," Türkiye said on Tuesday. "The recent events have unfortunately once again demonstrated how some practices of the UN on the island do not actually align with the founding spirit of the UN," Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said at a news conference with visiting Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mariya Gabriel in the capital Ankara. Fidan's remarks came after the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) last week intervened in road construction work to link the Turkish Cypriot village of Pile in the buffer zone with the rest of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). The road expansion is strategically important for residents as it will give them more options to reach Pile, where Turks and Greek Cypriots live together. The Greek Cypriot

administration and the UN are opposed to the project. Residents of Pile will be able to travel shorter distances and will not have to pass through British bases when crossing to the Turkish side when the 11.6-kilometer (7.2-mile) construction and repair work ends. The first 7.5 km (4.66 mi) of the road will pass through the village of Yigitler, and the second 4.1 km (2.55 mi) will pass through Pile. A road construction project from Yigitler has always been on the agenda to deliver the necessary humanitarian aid to the Turkish community in Pile, Fidan said, adding that the UN had never condemned or tried to hinder a road-way built by the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus in Pile. Türkiye observes that the civilian and military presence of the UN on the island lacked internal coordination, Fidan said, adding: "Because there are longstanding negotiations between the civilian representative and the officials of the TRNC. These talks have been going on for a long time. They had been informed



when this road would be built." Ankara did not welcome the sudden accumulation of UN vehicles in the buffer zone, said the Turkish foreign minister. "We think that the UN has lost its neutrality on this issue," he added. Türkiye will keep supporting Northern Cyprus in every field, including for its recognition by the whole world, Fidan underlined. Fidan and Gabriel also discussed bilateral relations, Türkiye's EU membership process, and regional and international issues. On Ankara's EU membership process, Fidan said Türkiye's integration with the bloc would reinforce Brussels'

position as a "global actor," but that member states chose not to see the matter this way. Turkish membership would offer "new opportunities to both the EU and our region. I recommend that EU officials and leaders take advantage of this new window of opportunity before it closes," he added. Ankara expects the EU to reconsider its stance, Fidan said. "All of a sudden, the opening of chapters stopped for political reasons ... The process of rational evaluation of the EU criteria was suspended and the process of political evaluations began." Türkiye applied for EU membership in 1987 and has been a candidate country since 1999. Negotiations for full membership started in October 2005 but have stalled in recent years due to political hurdles erected by some countries. Gabriel, for her part, underlined Bulgaria's strong support for Ankara's EU membership process. "Türkiye is in the EU membership process. Bulgaria, as a member, supports Ankara's initiative towards Europe," she added.

The two ministers also discussed possible future steps on irregular migration and terrorism. Pointing to Ankara's serious efforts to curb irregular migration, Gabriel said the country had largely prevented irregular migrants from crossing the border into Europe. "This is a priority area for Bulgaria. In particular, it is our priority to be included in the Schengen area," she said, adding that Türkiye also saw the matter as a priority. Türkiye has been a key transit point for irregular migrants who want to cross into Europe to start new lives, especially those fleeing war and persecution. On bilateral cooperation in the areas of economy, trade, culture, tourism, transportation, and energy, they stressed the importance of ensuring security in the Black Sea region as NATO allies.

Enjoying friendly and neighborly relations, Türkiye has supported Bulgaria's integration with Euro-Atlantic institutions. Sofia joined NATO in 2004 and became an EU member in 2007.

Ukraine counting on Bulgaria for  
alternative to Black Sea grain deal

## German FM backs

## Ukraine's drone attacks

KIEV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that he was counting on Bulgaria's support for establishing alternatives to the Black Sea grain deal. "Ukraine is ready to use alternative ways for the 'grain corridor.' We count on Bulgaria's support in this regard," Zelenskyy said during a meeting with Bulgarian Prime Minister Nikolai Denkov in the Greek capital Athens, according to an official statement. The deal gave a safe passage for the transportation of grains from Ukraine's Black Sea ports averting a global food crisis. But Russia suspended its participation in the deal this July. Zelenskyy thanked Denkov for Bulgaria's "comprehensive support" for Ukraine, including through provisions for defense. "He (Zelenskyy) thanked Nikolai Denkov for his support of the Ukrainian Peace Formula and the readiness of the Bulgarian side to participate in the implementation of its specific points. The Head of State also noted Bulgaria's accession

to the Joint Declaration of Support for Ukraine adopted by the G7 countries at the NATO Summit in Vilnius," it added. Zelenskyy's peace formula, which consists of 10 conditions, was laid out at the latest G20 summit in Indonesia, with its final step being signing a peace accord. It also focuses on issues such as nuclear safety and food and energy security. Zelenskyy later met with his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic, during which they both noted mutual support of territorial integrity and sovereignty is "an important part of the partnership between Ukraine and Serbia." A statement by the Ukrainian presidency after the meeting said Zelenskyy informed Vucic of the situation at the frontline. Both presidents discussed "the most important issues of regional security, bilateral relations, and prospects for their development." Zelenskyy and Vucic also discussed the common challenges on their path to EU membership, the statement further said. He thanked Vucic for Serbia's humanitarian aid

to Ukraine and its hosting of Ukrainian refugees. Vucic on Instagram said he discussed bilateral, regional and global matters with Zelenskyy. "We looked back at the events in

Ukraine and Kosovo, and I once again pointed out that Serbia respects the territorial integrity of Ukraine, which we have been saying clearly.—Agencies

UK plan to tackle  
migration could bring  
perma-backlog

LONDON: The British government's plan to curb Channel crossings via small boats risks creating a "perma-backlog" of people with cases deemed "permanently inadmissible" to the asylum system, according to a UK-based think tank. In a report, published late Monday, the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) stated that the "perma-backlog" risk posed by the Illegal Migration Bill could continue indefinitely "given arrivals likely to outpace removals," even if the controversial Rwanda plan is deemed lawful. The bill aims to deport asylum seekers arriving in the UK by small boats, and the plan includes detaining the majority of those arriving in small boats for the first 28 days without bail or judicial review. "Illegal Migration Act and Rwanda plan are unlikely to have a major deterrent effect on arrivals. But migration patterns may shift, leading to more undetected arrivals who do not make asylum claims and a growing undocumented population," the report warned. Recalling the sharp increase in arrivals by small boat from less than 300 in 2018 to over 45,000 last year, the report highlighted that there is no reason to expect a "significant decline by 2025." The think tank researchers claimed that the asylum backlog, which currently stands at more than 130,000 cases, will most likely remain significant in coming years. "With a general election expected in the next 12-18 months, the UK's asylum system is in crisis," said the report, noting that the system costs around £3.6 billion (approximately \$4.6 billion) a year in asylum support costs. Comparing potential scenarios for asylum policy over the next 12-18 months, the study predicted that there would still be a growing perma-blog situation with continuing small boat arrivals in the best-case scenario. "Under most plausible scenarios – even those most advantageous from the government's perspective – the likelihood of small boat arrivals falling to zero or negligible amounts is very low." —Agencies

EU reiterates support  
for membership  
aspirations

LONDON: The European Union on Monday reiterated its support for the membership aspirations of the Western Balkan countries, Ukraine and Moldova in the bloc. European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen attended an evening dinner in the Greek capital Athens on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Thessaloniki Declaration, in which the bloc reiterated its full and unequivocal commitment to the EU membership perspective of the Western Balkans and its support for the acceleration of the accession process and related reforms. Michel, who released a statement on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, said he had productive meetings with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Moldovan President Maia Sandu. "Western Balkans, Ukraine and Moldova have a common European heritage, history and future. Enlargement remains a top priority for EU – a strong tool to foster peace, security and prosperity on our continent. We need to find the way forward to make this vision of Europe a reality," he said. Von der Leyen said: "We need to bring our friends, the aspiring members of the EU, much closer to us and much faster. Glad to be in Athens to discuss the European perspective of our neighbors and partners in the East and the Western Balkans. We will keep bringing down barriers between our regions." She said she met separately with Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic. Von der Leyen said they discussed issues related to reducing tensions in northern Kosovo, returning to the EU-facilitated dialogue and implementing agreements aimed at normalizing relations between Kosovo and Serbia.—APP

Cultural Counselor of Chinese  
embassy calls on Minister Jamal

ISLAMABAD: Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Zhang Heqing on Tuesday called on Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah here at Heritage and

Culture Division. Chinese Counselor felicitated Jamal Shah on assuming charge as Federal Minister. Meeting, they discussed mutual interest issues particularly cultural exchange programs. Chinese Counselor

extended special invitation to the Federal Minister for attending ongoing Gandhara exhibition being held in China. The Federal Minister assured to visit the exhibition during his visit to China. The Counselor also congratulated

renowned artist Jamal Shah on releasing his first ever Pak China joint feature film Ba'tie Girl. The federal minister said that Pak China should collaborate in all fields of art as there lies huge scope.—DNA

## African Union suspends Niger over coup

ADDIS ABABA: The African Union said Tuesday it had suspended coup-hit Niger until civilian rule is restored and announced it would assess the implications of any armed intervention in the Sahel nation. In a crisis now nearly four weeks old, the West African regional bloc ECOWAS has threatened to use force to reinstate Niger's elected president, Mohamed Bazoum. The Peace and Security Council "requests the AU Commission to undertake an assessment of the economic, social and security implications of deploying a standby force in Niger and report back to Council," the bloc said, following strong differences on the matter. Army officers toppled Bazoum on July 26, prompting the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to approve activation of a "standby force to restore constitutional or-

der" in Niamey. The bloc has said it is ready to intervene as a last resort but is continuing to press for a diplomatic solution. The AU last week held a meeting on the crisis against a backdrop of divergent views within the bloc over any military intervention. The coup has heightened international worries over the Sahel, which faces growing jihadist insurgencies linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group. Niger is the fourth nation in West Africa since 2020 to suffer a coup, following Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali. The new military ruler General Abdourahmane Tiani has proposed a three-year transition back to democracy, a call rejected by ECOWAS, which sent a delegation to visit Niger on the weekend in a final diplomatic push. Abdel-Fatau Musah, ECOWAS

commissioner for politics and security, described the proposal as "a joke" and said the bloc would "never accept it." "We want constitutional order to be restored as soon as possible," he told Al Jazeera in an interview broad-



cast on Monday. "Military action is not off the table," he warned. In a televised address on Saturday, Tiani accused ECOWAS of preparing to attack Niger by set-

ting up an occupying force in collaboration with a foreign army, without referencing which country. ECOWAS has given no date or details about any intervention. Unlike a previous ECOWAS mission in early August, this time the delegation held talks with Tiani and also met Bazoum, who is being held with his family at the presidential palace and could be facing treason charges. Images on Niger television showed Bazoum smiling and shaking hands with members of the delegation, as international concern grows over his conditions in detention. The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) warned last week that sanctions and border closures were crimping vital food and medical supplies into Niger. ECOWAS has imposed sanctions on Niger while Benin and Nigeria have

closed their borders. However, the juntas in neighbouring Burkina Faso and Mali have said that any military intervention in Niger would be considered a "declaration of war" against their countries. Around 300 trucks arrived in Niger's capital of Niamey on Monday from Burkina Faso, most of them carrying food, the Nigerian authorities said. The Sahel state ranks among the most turbulent and poorest countries in the world, often lying at the bottom of the UN's Human Development Index, a benchmark of prosperity. Bazoum's election in 2021 was a landmark, opening the way to the country's first peaceful transition of power. He survived two attempted coups before finally being toppled. His ouster marks the fifth putsch since Niger gained independence from France in 1960.—Agencies

RSF says it  
killed 260  
Sudanese  
soldiers

KHARTOUM: Sudan's main paramilitary group the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) said Monday that they killed 260 soldiers of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) amid intensified clashes. The RSF said in the statement that it also captured part of an SAF tank unit in southern Khartoum and seized tanks and military vehicles. "Our forces have made a great breakthrough in the battles today around the SAF tank unit in the Al Shagara neighborhood (of Khartoum) and seized a lot of weapons and killed 260 from the enemy forces and arrested hundreds of others," it said. However, the SAF denied the claims, confirming that the army's special forces repulsed an attack by the RSF on the tank unit. "Our forces have repulsed a failed attempt of attack by the RSF. An SAF special unit has defeated the RSF and is still tracking them and inspecting the neighborhoods around the tank unit," it said in a statement on social media. Eyewitnesses said there were aggressive battles Monday between the two sides in southern Khartoum and Omdurman with intensive airstrikes, bombings and drone strikes. The RSF has repeatedly attacked the tank unit in the Al Shagara neighborhood, prompting the residents of the nearby neighborhoods of Gabra and Al-Sahafa and other areas to leave their homes. Thousands of people have been killed and more than 4 million displaced since the beginning of the war between the RSF and SAF on April 15, especially in Khartoum and Darfur state.—APP

Hun Manet  
elected as  
Cambodia's  
new PM

PHNOM PENH: Hun Manet was elected Tuesday as Cambodia's new prime minister, succeeding his father Hun Sen, Asia's longest serving leader. A total of 123 lawmakers voted in favor of the candidate of the ruling Cambodian People's Party, which won 120 seats in July elections, state-run AKP News reported. Hun Sen served as prime minister for 38 years. Cambodia's parliament has 125 seats, of which 16 are occupied by women, while the eldest lawmaker is 89 years old and the youngest is 37. After being elected prime minister, Manet, 45, delivered his first speech to lawmakers of the seventh parliament, known as the National Assembly. The new Cabinet will include 10 deputy prime ministers and 40 other ministers.—Agencies

Ethiopia to  
launch joint  
Saudi probe

Addis Ababa: Ethiopia will launch a joint investigation with Riyadh into a Human Rights Watch report that accused Saudi border guards of killing hundreds of Ethiopian migrants trying to enter the Gulf kingdom, the foreign ministry said Tuesday. "The Government of Ethiopia will promptly investigate the incident in tandem with the Saudi Authorities," the ministry said on X, formerly Twitter, a day after the publication of the HRW report sparked global outrage. The allegations, described as "unfounded" by a Saudi government source, point to surge in abuses along the perilous route from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia, where hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians live and work. One 20-year-old woman from Ethiopia's Oromia region, interviewed by HRW, said Saudi border guards opened fire on a group of migrants they had just released from custody. Read moreCrimes 'beyond imagination': Saudi border guards killed hundreds of migrants, HRW report says "They fired on us like rain. When I remember, I cry," she said. Washington, a longtime ally of Riyadh, urged "a thorough and transparent investigation" into the allegations, which were dismissed by a Saudi government source who spoke to AFP. "The allegations included in the Human Rights Watch report about Saudi border guards shooting Ethiopians while they were crossing the Saudi-Yemeni border are unfounded and not based on reliable sources.—APP



## Briefs

### Imaan Mazari gets bail in damage case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pronouncing a reserved verdict, a district and sessions court in Islamabad on Tuesday accepted the bail application of human rights lawyer and daughter of former PTI leader Shireen Mazari, Imaan Hazir Mazari, in the case of interference in official duty and causing damage to public properties in lieu of bail bonds of Rs30,000 each. Two FIRs had been registered against Imaan and former member of the National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazir belonging to the Pash-tun Tahafuz Move-ment (PTM) at Tarnol police station of the federal capital. The same court, however, send Wazir to Adiala Jail on judicial remand. An anti-terrorism court in Islamabad had on Monday granted to the police three-day physical remand of Imaan Mazari and former lawmaker Ali Wazir in a sedition case. Wazir was arrested on Saturday, while Imaan was picked up from her home in the early hours of Sunday.

### Life returns to normalcy in violence-hit Jaranwala

DNA

JARANWALA: Life starts returning to normalcy seven days after riots in Jaranwala as traffic is back on roads and markets have also opened. On the other hand, on the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, work is in progress for the rehabilitation of members of the Christian community whose homes were destroyed and even churches were burnt by mobs of people who had gone berserk after hearing reports of desecration of the holy Quran. A relief camp has been set up at city's Danish School where besides the provision of other facilities, teams of doctors are also present for the treatment of patients. Earlier, Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar and CM Naqvi had distributed cheques among the affected members of the community. Rs2 million were given to each affected person. Similarly, different NGOs, too, have provided ration to the victims of violence. Over 80 homes and 19 churches were vandalized and torched when thousands rampaged through a Christian neighborhood in Jaranwala last week. Terror and panic gripped the town for hours as the mob armed with batons, push carts and patrol cans stormed Christians' homes and churches, ransacked them and even burnt them.

### North Korea airline flies first int'l flight since Covid

WEB DESK

PYONGYANG: North Korea's flagship carrier has flown its first international flight since the pandemic. Air Koryo's JS151 left Pyongyang Tuesday morning and landed at Beijing Capital Airport at 09:16 local time (01:16 GMT), data from real-time flight tracking service Flightradar24 showed. It is unclear who was on board or how many passengers JS151 was carrying. Travel agency Koryo Tours said the Pyongyang-Beijing route was reopened as a means for North Koreans to get home. According to Flightradar24, flight JS151 was flown on a Tupolev Tu-204 aircraft, which can carry up to 210 passengers. It is unclear how many passengers were on board the plane, scheduled to depart for Pyongyang from the Chinese capital at 13:05. But Kyodo News reported that Air Koryo's check-in counter at Beijing airport was packed with passengers wearing North Korean flag pins on their chests and pushing trolleys full of baggage.

# Pak students get highest Indonesian scholarships

Indonesian Embassy hosts recipients of Indonesian scholarships, including cultural exchange non-degree program of Dharmasiswa scholarships

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia organized a gathering for the recipients of Indonesian scholarships, including cultural exchange non-degree program of Dharmasiswa scholarships. The event served as an exceptional platform to honor academic excellence and facilitate students as they embark on their academic journey to Indonesia. Indonesian Ambassador Mr. Adam Tugio expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the scholarship awardees. He stated that Pakistan is currently the highest number of Indonesian scholarships in various categories. More than 140 Pakistani students were granted fully funded scholarships in many world's leading universities in Indonesia. "The keen interest of applicants from Pakistan in continuing their higher studies in Indonesia testifies the growing bilateral academic linkages and spirit of friendship between Indonesia and Pakistan", added Tugio. Addressing the awardees, the Envoy underscored the importance of Dharmasiswa programs as it provides an excellent opportunity for the students to cultivate a deeper understanding of rich and diverse culture of Indonesia. "Upon completing your education, you will play more con-



structive role as a cultural ambassadors of both nations", stated Tugio. The gathering was also attended by several alumni of previous scholarship programs who engaged in a meaningful interactions with the fresh participants by sharing their experiences of living and studying in Indonesia. An KNB Alumni, Mr. Muhammad Zalkifal shared his experience that studied in Bogor Agriculture Institute or IPB which has one the best research

labs on agriculture in the world. "It was so enriching and has given a life time opportunity for me to learn from research experts and excel in my field", he added. Following the completion of his master degree in IPB, Moh. Zalkifal will pursue doctorate degree in universities in UK. The event concluded with a Q&A session allowing scholarship recipients to raise queries and concerns, ultimately facilitating a smoother transition into their

educational endeavors which was followed by a memorable group photograph capturing the shared enthusiasm and determination of the scholarship recipients and alumni. Indonesian government and some best universities offers fully-funded scholarships on annual basis to Pakistani students to pursue higher education on science and social science. Interested applicants are encouraged to check the Embassy's website and its social media.

## Asad Umar secures pre-arrest bail

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Asad Umar on Tuesday secured pre-arrest bail from a special court in Islamabad – established a day earlier to hear the cases filed under the Official Secrets Act – in the ongoing cipher case. The bail was approved with surety bonds of Rs100,000. Talking to reporters outside the court, he also refuted media reports regarding his arrest by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). These reports emerged after a first information report (FIR) was registered against PTI Chairman Imran Khan and party leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi under the Official Secrets Act. It also named Umar as one of the "associates" that investigators wanted to question in this connection. A day earlier, the special court remanded Qureshi into FIA custody for four days. Separately, the agency also recently interrogated Imran in Attock jail, where he is currently serving a sentence in the Toshakhana case. Umar, along with PTI lawyer Babar Awan, reached the special court in Islamabad. – DNA

# Trump plans to turn himself in over Georgia indictment

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: Former U.S. President Donald Trump plans to surrender on Thursday in Atlanta in connection with his indictment in Georgia on charges he sought to overturn his 2020 election loss in the state, he said on social media on Monday. "I'll be going to Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday to be ARRESTED," Trump, who is running for reelection in 2024, said on his Truth Social platform. He described the indictment as a politically motivated effort to derail his reelection campaign. US media earlier reported that Trump planned to turn himself in at the Fulton County jail in Atlanta on Thursday. The date was set during negotiations between Trump's lawyers and the Fulton County district attorney's office on Monday over Trump's consent bond and release conditions, according to media.

In a 98-page Georgia indictment revealed last week, Trump and 18 other defendants were charged with a total of 41 criminal counts in connection with efforts to reverse his defeat in the state's 2020 election. John Eastman, Trump's former personal lawyer who has also been indicted in the Georgia case, plans to surrender to Fulton County authorities on Wednesday, a court filing showed on Monday. Eastman had reached a \$100,000 bond agreement with Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis earlier on Monday. The Georgia case marked Trump's fourth indictment. He faces a New York state trial in March involving a hush money payment to a porn star and a federal trial in May in Florida for allegedly mishandling federal classified documents. Another indictment, in Washington federal court, accuses him of illegally seeking to overturn his 2020 election defeat. U.S. Special Counsel Jack Smith has request-

ed a January trial, but a date has not yet been set. Trump has pleaded not guilty in all criminal cases and could spend much of next year in court, even as he campaigns to retake the White House. In Georgia, the former president will face a \$200,000 bond and orders not to send threatening social media messages as he awaits trial, according to a bond agreement on Monday signed by Trump's attorneys and the Fulton County district attorney. Security will be tightened around the jail when Trump surrenders, the local sheriff's office said. Trump has repeatedly asserted without evidence that indictments against him are "witch hunts." He has regularly attacked Willis online and called her "radical left" and "corrupt." Trump, the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, and his co-defendants were indicted on Aug. 14. Willis gave them until Friday at noon ET (1600 GMT) to surrender or face arrest.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem AlZaabi calls on Interim Foreign Minister Jalil Jilani. – DNA

## TOSHAKHANA VERDICT

# IHC adjourns Imran Khan's plea till Aug 24

PTI to wants IHC CJ not to hear Imran Khan cases

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday adjourned the appeal filed by former premier Imran Khan –

currently incarcerated in Attock Jail – against his conviction and sentence in the Toshakhana case till Thursday. Today, the IHC also took up the plea seeking "better class/A-Class" jail facilities for Imran while also urging that his detention in At-

tock Jail be declared "illegal" and for the ex-premier to be shifted to Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi. On August 5, a trial court in Islamabad found the PTI chief guilty of "corrupt practices" in a case pertaining to concealing details of state gifts and sentenced him to three years in prison. The verdict also means that he stood disqualified from contesting general elections for five years. A day ago, a report by Additional District and Sessions Judge Shafiq Ullah Khan stated that the "grave concern" regarding a lack of privacy around Imran's prison cell's toilet facilities due to a CCTV camera's presence was "genuine" and point towards a violation of prison rules.

## China urges Japan to halt release of contaminated water into sea

BEIJING: China strongly urges Japan to cancel the plan to release nuclear-contaminated water into the sea and dispose of it responsibly, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Tuesday in Beijing. Spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a news briefing that in disregard of the strong concerns and firm opposition from the international community, the Japanese government announced the decision to start releasing the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean from August 24. "This is extremely selfish and irresponsible, as the discharge will spread the risks of nuclear contamination to the rest of the world, and by doing so, Japan is putting its selfish interests above the long-term wellbeing of the entire humanity. China is gravely concerned and strongly opposed to this. We have made serious demarches to Japan," said Wang. For the past two years and more, the legitimacy, legality and safety of Japan's ocean discharge plan has been questioned over and over again by the international community. Japan has yet to address major international concerns such as the long-term reliability of the purification facility, the authenticity and accuracy of the nuclear-contaminated water data, and the effectiveness of the monitoring arrangement, he said. China and other stakeholders have pointed out on multiple occasions that if the Fukushima nuclear-contaminated water is truly safe, Japan wouldn't have to dump it into the sea and certainly shouldn't if it's not, said Wang, adding that it is unjustified, unreasonable and unnecessary for Japan to push through ocean discharge plan. – APP

# Europe's heatwave turns deadly as 18 bodies found

In Spain, where most of the country was in very high or extreme risk of wildfire as a consequence of the summer's fourth heatwave, authorities were struggling to stabilise a huge wildfire that has been ravaging forests on the island of Tenerife for a week

ALEXANDROUPOLIS: Eighteen charred bodies were found in a remote village in northern Greece on Tuesday, where wildfires have been raging for days, the fire brigade said as a heatwave hitting southern Europe turned deadly. Greek media, without citing sources, said the bodies found south of the village of Avantas in northern Greece were thought to be migrants. The broader Evros region is a popular route for migrants crossing from Turkey into Greece. On Monday, the burned body of another man believed to be a migrant was found in

the region, a local police official said. Firefighters were also battling blazes in Spain, Italy and Portugal as well as two new blazes that broke out near the Greek capital, Athens, as the region suffered hot, dry and windy conditions that scientists have linked to climate change. In Spain, where most of the country was in very high or extreme risk of wildfire as a consequence of the summer's fourth heatwave, authorities were struggling to stabilise a huge wildfire that has been ravaging forests on the island of Tenerife for a week. Temperatures were likely to reach or ex-

ceed 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in large areas of the southwest and northeast of the Iberian peninsula, national weather agency AEMET said. In the Greek port town of Alexandroupolis, not far from Avantas, wildfires forced the evacuation of dozens of hospital patients, including newborn babies. A ferry was turned into a makeshift hospital after 65 patients were evacuated from the University Hospital. Elderly patients lay on mattresses strewn across the cafeteria floor, paramedics attended to others on stretch-

ers and a woman held a man resting on a sofa, an IV drip attached to his hand. "I've been working for 27 years. I've never seen anything like this," said nurse Nikos Gioktsidis. "Stretchers everywhere, patients here, IV drips there ... it was like a war, like a bomb had exploded." The burned body of a man believed to be a migrant was found in a rural area near Alexandroupolis on Monday, a local police official said. "Weather conditions are extreme and will remain extreme for the coming days," Fire Service spokesman Vassilis Varthakogiannis told ERT TV. – Agencies

## 30 new Covid cases reported in last week

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Tuesday said that 30 new coronavirus cases were reported during the last week across the country. As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.39 per cent while two patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus last week while 7,676 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination said that the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19. He said there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country including airports. There will be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports. He added 90 per cent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine. – APP

## Saudi Arabia increases Umrah visa to 90 days

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah Dr Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al Rabiah has announced that Umrah visa for Pakistani pilgrims has been extended up to 90 days and more sites in Makkah and Madinah will be opened for pilgrims to promote religious tourism in Saudi Arabia. The announcement came at a press conference. The Saudi minister was accompanied by Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed. Dr Tawfiq said the pilgrims coming to Saudi Arabia from Pakistan would be facilitated during their religious pilgrimage and assured a close working relationship between the Pakistani and Saudi authorities in this regard. He added that another 100 historical and religious places are being opened in the two holy cities to promote religious tourism. Dr Tawfiq also spoke about Riyadh's efforts to reduce Hajj expenses for Pakistani pilgrims.

## Zardari, Bilawal grieved over martyrdom of soldiers

DNA

KARACHI: Former President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have expressed their profound sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of security personnel in South Waziristan. They said that these martyrs are the heroes of the nation who sacrificed their lives protecting the motherland and fighting against the terrorists. They condoled with the families of security forces. They said that the war against terrorists will continue till the elimination of the last terrorist and their patrons.

## PIA grounds 11 aircraft; 3 beyond repair

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has grounded 11 aircraft, including three of its Boeing 777s, as the national flag carrier faces a serious financial crisis due to the uncontrolled flight of dollars and increase in prices of petroleum products. According to sources, the airline, which operates around 30 aircraft, has been facing serious difficulties in procuring spare parts for the past three years due to scarcity of funds, which has resulted in the grounding of 11 planes. Two of the three wide-body Boeing 777 aircraft were grounded in 2020 and one in 2021. Five A320 aircraft have also been grounded – two in 2021 and three in 2023. PIA also grounded three ATR aircraft – one each in 2020, 2022 and 2023.