



# Islamabad POST

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**Xi Jinping calls for BRICS unity as bloc weighs expansion**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Malaysian FM denounces US sanctions on Iran**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Keep the Faith – Kipyegon makes history**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Toshakhana case

# Trial Court verdict seems one-sided, opines apex court

Court observes prima facie Imran was not heard properly; not given enough time to plead his case

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Wednesday observed that the trial court judge announced the verdict in the Toshakhana case in haste. The remarks from the top judge came during the hearing on a petition filed by former prime minister Imran Khan against a verdict of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on the transfer of case to another court. On August 4, the IHC annulled the sessions court's verdict on the maintainability of the Toshakhana case against the PTI chief as a temporary relief to him but rejected his request to transfer the case to another court. Later on August 5, Khan's lawyer Khawaja Haris filed an application in the SC against the IHC's decision, with a diary number attached to the petition. The former premier was found guilty of corrupt practices in the Toshakhana case and sentenced to three-year. The PTI chief's plea is heard by a three-member apex bench comprising CJP Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Sayeed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel. As the hearing commenced, chairman PTI's lawyer Latif Khosa's presented his arguments before the top court. The chief justice came down hard on the trial court verdict, saying the judge announced the order in haste. Khosa had prayed to the top court that his client had filed three appeals against the high court's order. "Six members of the National Assembly sent a reference against the PTI chairman to the speaker seeking his disqualification," he said. "The speaker then sent the reference to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) under Section 137 of the Election Act." Advocate Khosa prayed to the court that his client had been accused of misdeclaration of his assets. On the query of Justice Naqvi, Khosa read Section 137 and sub-section 4 of the Election Act, 2017. "Do the members of the assembly have the authority to send a reference against their fellow members?"

Continued on Page 06

## Imran instructed UK lawyers to approach UN

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan instructed British solicitor Rashad Yaqoob to seek legal recourse through the United Nations (UN) and international courts for his cases, an investigation conducted by a private news channel showed Tuesday. Yaqoob has also been instructed to lobby the UN and international bodies to intervene on his behalf at the international and domestic levels over the events following the May 9 violent militant attacks on Pakistan Army installations across the country, the evidence establishes. The instructions to approach the UN and to raise funds for the legal work were passed most confidentially to Human Rights Legal Aid Foundation (HRLAF) CEO Rashad Yaqoob to hire leading English lawyers to take Imran Khan's cases to the UN Human Rights Council, the UN, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and other international forums, according to the evidence. The instructions also included highlighting the cases of dozens of influential PTI leaders arrested over the May 9 attacks. They include Khadijah Shah,

Continued on Page 06



KARACHI: Flanked by Governor Sindh and Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing a press conference in Karachi.3 – DNA

## China, UAE envoys call on FM

Minister Jilani assured to further cement relations

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates Hamad Alzaabi and Chinese Charge d' Affaires Pang Chunxue on Wednesday separately called on Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani here. In the meeting with the UAE envoy, the two sides discussed bilateral, regional

Pictures on Page 03 & Back Page

as well as multilateral issues of mutual interest and the potential of enhancing trade and investment ties between the two countries, a Foreign Office statement said. During the meeting with Chinese Charge d' Affaires, the two countries reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Co-operative Partnership between Pakistan and China.

# PM Kakar resolves to relentlessly pursue terrorists

Says such acts of terrorism cannot weaken Pakistan's resolve in the fight against terrorism

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar resolved to not surrender before radicalisation, extremism and intolerance under any circumstances while praising the Pakistan Army's sacrifices to protect the nation. The prime minister's remarks came during a presser held at the Governor House in Karachi, where he asserted the government's plan to counter terrorism-related challenges a day after 10 military personnel were martyred in Waziristan. Flanked by Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, PM Kakar said that such acts of terrorism cannot weaken Pakistan's resolve in the fight against terrorism. He added that those behind such acts mistakenly believe that the war on terrorism will exhaust the nation. "Wars are not fought by individuals, but nations," he maintained. PM Kakar emphasised Pakistan will neither forget the sacrifices of its martyrs nor refrain from making further

Continued on Page 06

## ATC permits arrest of PTI chief

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) has allowed arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief in Jinnah House attack case. As per details, a plea was filed by the DIG investigation to permit the arrest of PTI chief in Jinnah House attack case. The court was informed that the PTI premiere was convicted under the Election Act and is currently under arrest. The ATC accepted the plea and granted permission to police to conduct the inquiry and arrest of the former prime minister in Jinnah House attack case. Sources within police said that an investigation team will be sent to Attock jail to conduct inquiry from the PTI chief.

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### Justice Qazi Faez urges journalists to be truthful

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice-designate Qazi Faez Isa says freedom of expression and access to information are the fundamental rights of every citizen. Justice Isa said so while addressing the swearing-in ceremony of the cabinet of the Press Association of the SC. The CJP said the purpose of all laws was to bring out the truth and justice was done on the basis of truth. He said when the decision comes, any party could say the decision was good or bad. A visible difference between news and opinion is important. Opinion can be disagreed with while no one can disagree with the facts.

### 'No political friends, enemies'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Wednesday reiterated that the interim dispensation had 'No political friends and no political enemies'. While talking to a private television talk show, he said all political parties had the freedom to present their viewpoint. "Criticism is their democratic right, we cannot take this right from them. We are not in favour of against any political party," Murtaza Solangi said. The minister said the caretaker government had no intention to interfere in any activity under the constitution and law of the country.

# COAS Gen Asim Munir Terrorists to be hunted down till surrender

Martyrs are our pride and their sacrifices will not go in vain

STAFF REPORT



PESHAWAR: Army Chief General Asim Munir inquire about health of a soldier injured in a fight with terrorists. – DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir vowed on Wednesday that terrorists, their affiliates and abettors working on the behalf of hostile agenda to destabilise Pakistan will be hunted down until their surrender to the state. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Pakistan Army chief expressed the resolve during his visit to Sherwangi area near Asman Manza in South Waziristan district where six brave soldiers had embraced martyrdom a day earlier while fighting gallantly against terrorists. Upon arrival, COAS was given a detailed briefing on the prevailing security situation including ongoing intelligence and counter-terrorism operations. He also interacted with officers and troops deployed in the area and appreciated their unflinching resolve in fighting the menace of terrorism. COAS said, "Martyrs are our pride and their sacrifices will not go in vain till the return of complete peace and

Continued on Page 06

## US dollar maintains historic high rate

DNA

KARACHI: The US dollar maintained its historic high rate in the Pakistani currency market. Wednesday's trading session opened with a further rise in the mighty currency. Currency dealers said the dollar returned after marking a triple century. The currency gained a further 63 paisas in the interbank market,

Continued on Page 06

## INDIA ON THE MOON

# Chandrayan-3 successfully completes historic landing

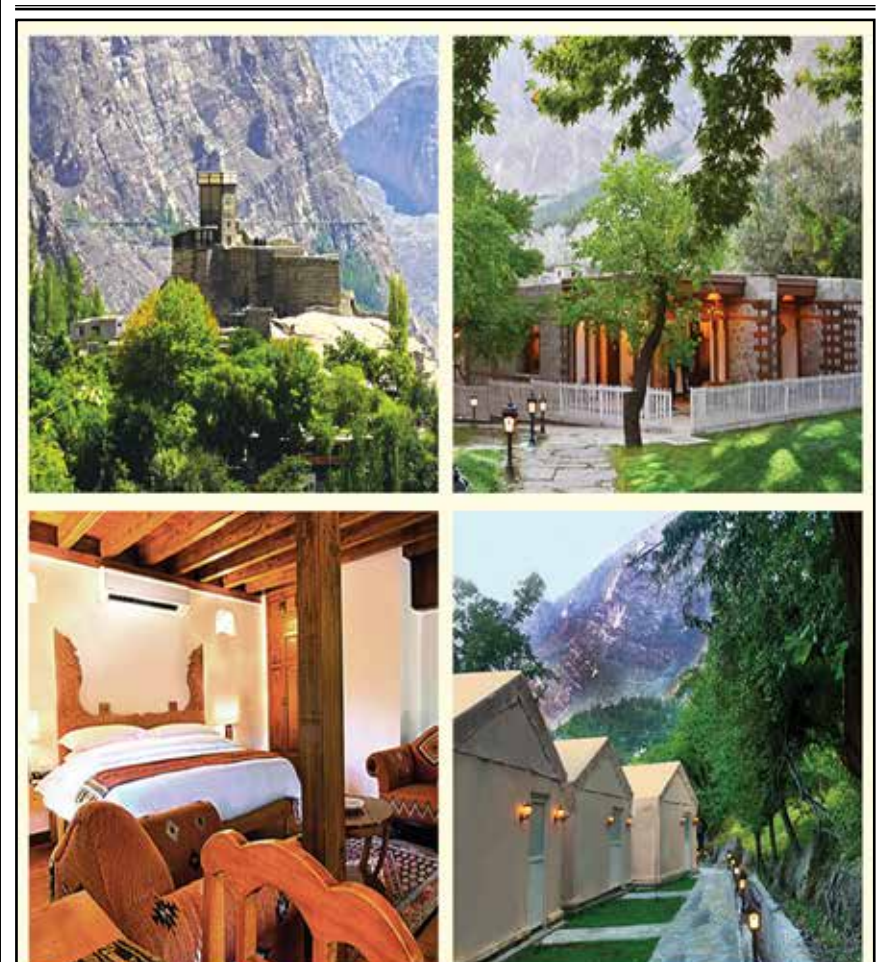
This was India's second attempt to land a spacecraft on the moon

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: An Indian spacecraft landed on the moon on Wednesday, the space agency said, in a mission seen as crucial to lunar exploration and India's standing as a space power, just days after a similar Russian lander crashed. For India, the successful landing marks its emergence as a space power as the government looks to spur investment in private space launches and related satellite-based businesses. People across the country were glued to television screens and said prayers as the spacecraft approached the surface. The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft landed on the lunar south pole, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said. This was India's second attempt to land a spacecraft on the moon and comes less than a week after Russia's Luna-25 mission failed. Chandrayaan means "moon vehicle" in Hindi and Sanskrit. In 2019, ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission successfully deployed an orbiter but its lander crashed. On Wednesday, ISRO said it was all set to activate the automatic landing sequence of the spacecraft, triggering the algorithm that will take over once it reaches the designated position and help it land. The Chandrayaan-3 is expected to

remain functional for two weeks, running a series of experiments including a spectrometer analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface. "Landing on the south pole (of the moon) would actually allow India to explore if there is water ice on the moon. And this is very important for cumulative data and science on the geology of the moon," said Carla Filotico, a partner and managing director at consultancy SpaceTec Partners. A few hours before the scheduled landing, the mood was upbeat at the spacecraft command centre on the outskirts of Bengaluru as ISRO officials and scientists hunched over massive screens monitoring the lander. Anticipation before the landing was feverish, with banner headlines across Indian newspapers and news channels running countdowns to the landing. Prayers were held at places of worship across the country, and schoolchildren waved the Indian tricolour as they waited for live screenings of the landing. Children gathered on the banks of the Ganga river, considered holy by Hindus, to pray for a safe landing, and mosques in several places offered prayers. At a Sikh temple, known as a gurdwara, in the capital New Delhi, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri also

Continued on Page 06



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# KP govt orders inspection of all chairlifts

DNA

PESHAWAR: The caretaker government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has ordered the inspection of all chairlifts installed in the province and conduct their safety audit following the cable car incident in Battagram. The directives from the provincial government came on Tuesday just hours after the Pakistan Army's special unit and zipline experts rescued eight people, including six school boys, trapped for hours in a stricken cable car high above a remote valley in Allai Tehsil. The daring rescue began with a helicopter plucking one child in the air

to safety after almost 12 hours as daylight faded, but the chopper was forced back to the base due to nightfall. Then rescuers used a cable, to keep the gondola from plunging into the valley, as a zipline to rescue the rest of those stranded late into Tuesday night. According to fresh directives issued to all the deputy commissioners in KP, they are tasked to carry out a safety audit of chairlifts within their jurisdictions. Immediate checking of chairlifts at all commercial, domestic and recreational places should be carried out by the provincial government, stated the advisory, adding that inspection of cable cars installed over rivers and canals should also be

done by the relevant authorities. The DCs have been asked to review the design, capacity and safety measures of all chairlifts and submit reports within a week. It has also been made mandatory to get a No Objection Certificate from the district administration before the installation of cable cars. Cable cars that carry passengers – and sometimes even cars – are common across the northern areas of KP and Gilgit-Baltistan, and are vital in connecting villages and towns in areas where roads cannot be built. In 2017, 10 people were killed when a chairlift cable broke, sending passengers plunging into a ravine in a mountain hamlet near the capital Islamabad.

## Empowering Voices

# NCRC Chairperson launches book 'Zor se kehna, NAHEE!'

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) takes a monumental step towards child protection with the launch of the much-awaited book, "Zor se kehna, NAHEE!" Authored and illustrated by UK-based special needs expert, Aftree Rubbani, and published by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) publications, the book's unveiling ceremony was held at the Commission's Committee Room in Islamabad. With child protection and empowerment at its core, "Zor se kehna, NAHEE!" offers vital guidance for children to navigate unsafe situations confidently and prevent child sexual abuse. The book is designed to be reader-friendly, ensuring its accessibility to parents, guardians, teachers, and

children themselves. The book introduces concepts of 'good touch and bad touch' alongside fostering an understanding of 'achay walay log' (trusted individuals). Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC), spearheaded the launch event, emphasizing the importance of equipping children with knowledge and tools to ensure their safety and well-being. She commended Aftree Rubbani's expertise and dedication in creating a resource that addresses a critical aspect of children's rights. Through captivating storytelling and vibrant illustrations, Aftree Rubbani shed light on child safety, fostering open conversations. The author's presence was deeply appreciated by all present as she had flown from UK for the

book launch, as a very major milestone in her life to offer her best skills for child safeguarding. Chairperson NCRC highlighted the book's significance in creating a safer environment, while Dr. Ambreen Ahmad praised its practical approach to building children's life skills and self-defense skills. "Zor se kehna, NAHEE!" has been hailed as a beacon of empowerment, aimed at sensitizing children to their rights, encouraging open conversations, and fostering a safe environment for their growth. The book's launch aligns seamlessly with the NCRC's commitment to protecting the rights of every child in Pakistan, regardless of background or circumstance. This groundbreaking publication not only contributes to child protection but also advocates for a society

that prioritizes children's well-being. "Zor se kehna, NAHEE!" is set to become a valuable tool in Pakistan's efforts to create a safe and nurturing environment for its youngest citizens. The book launch was graciously hosted by the NCRC and witnessed the presence of more than 100 participants and activists esteemed guests, including Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Chairperson NCRC, Ms. Manizah Bano E.D Sahil; Dr. Ambreen Ahmad, Rozan, Dr. Maryam Chughtai Director National Curriculum Council; Dr. Tabassum Naz Deputy Director Academics - FDE, Dr. Raja Mazhar Hameed, Managing Director National Book Foundation; Syed Ishtiaq Gilani, CEO-U Good, and Ms. Maham Ali, Advisor Pakistan Learning Festival. The Launch was moderated by Baela Raza Jamil, CEO ITA.



# Governor praises Tribal sacrifices, vows issue cooperation

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Wednesday highlighted the sacrifices of tribal people for country's sovereignty and said that peace is a prerequisite for the development and prosperity of an area. He was talking to a 45-member delegation of tribal elders of Tehsil Shagai, South Waziristan. The delegation was led by a former member provincial assembly, Adnan Wazir and Chairman Tehsil Wana, Moulana Saleh. The delegation apprised the KP Governor about their problems and said that Shagai was given tehsil status in 2012 but proper notification has not been issued yet. They urged the governor to play his role and said that it would help address the concerns of people living in that area. They also highlighted issues including the establishment of the NADRA Office in the area, rehabilitation of infrastructure, blacktopping of roads in Mantoai and Santoi, construction of a hospital in Shagai area and completion of projects relating to water supply and sanitation. Speaking on the occasion, the governor assured his cooperation to resolve these problems and said that the development of tribal areas is among the topmost priorities of the government. He said that the availability of all the needed basic amenities would be ensured to tribal people and added that funds would be released to local government representatives aiming for the initiation of developmental work at the grassroots level. Haji Ghulam Ali said that NADRA officials would be contacted to provide a mobile registration van for Shagai till the establishment of a proper NADRA office in that area. He also urged tribal elders to focus education of their children including girls and added that students of merged districts were being provided scholarships to get higher education.—APP

# Burning churches, Christian homes and their property is a rebellion against Islamic teachings

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



Prophet Muhammad PBUH established a precedent of respecting the rights of religious minorities through his actions and teachings. Pakistan's founding father, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, envisioned a nation where all citizens, regardless of their religion, would have equal rights and protection under the law. The Constitution of Pakistan explicitly guarantees the right to freedom of religion, and various laws are in place to protect the rights of religious

minorities. In Faisalabad's Jaranwala tehsil, some miscreants have tried to destroy the peace of Pakistan by burning the churches and Christians' properties. These reprehensible actions, carried out under the guise of righteousness, stand in stark contradiction to the tenets of Islam, a faith that emphasizes peace, compassion, and justice. Such actions not only violate the core principles of Islam but also undermine the fabric of civilized societies. The urgency to address this issue is paramount, as these acts not only tarnish the image of Pakistan and the Muslim Ummah but also threaten the safety and harmony of both Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Attacking without awaiting the findings of a thorough investigation contradicts the very essence of justice. It is imperative that any accusations are substantiated through a transparent and unbiased process before any action is taken. Rushing to judgment and inciting violence only serves to escalate tensions and perpetuate a cycle of hatred. One cannot argue for justice while advocating for the mistreatment

of those who are detained on charges, be it blasphemy or any other offense. The principles of justice dictate that individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Engaging in inappropriate behavior or attempting to take the law into one's own hands is not reflective of the civilized values that underpin a just society. It's important to remember that the actions of a few misguided individuals or groups should not be used to define an entire religion or nation. Educating people about the true teachings of Islam, promoting interfaith dialogue, and taking legal action against those who commit such acts of violence are crucial steps toward upholding the principles of religious freedom, tolerance, and justice. To prevent such conflicts and promote religious harmony, it is essential for religious leaders, scholars, and followers to engage in open dialogue, education, and mutual respect. Islamic teachings encourage believers to reach out to people of other faiths, share knowledge, and build bridges of understanding. By fostering an environment

of acceptance and empathy, societies can counter the divisive narratives that contribute to conflicts. It is lamentable that a handful of misguided individuals can cast a shadow over an entire nation and faith. The miscreants who engage in such heinous acts not only betray the teachings of Islam but also compromise the reputation of Pakistan and the broader Muslim Ummah on the global stage. This demands a unified and resolute response from every corner of society, irrespective of religious background, to denounce such behavior and work collectively to rectify the situation. The solution to eradicating religious extremism and fanaticism is multifaceted and demands a concerted effort. Raising awareness among those who are susceptible to the influence of religious extremists is paramount. Education and enlightenment are key to dispelling the misconceptions and misinterpretations that can lead to violent ideologies taking root. By nurturing an environment of open dialogue, promoting critical thinking, and encouraging a deeper understanding

of religious principles, we can foster an atmosphere where extremism finds no fertile ground. In addressing matters of blasphemy or any perceived offense, it is crucial to uphold the rule of law. Resorting to violence or incitement only perpetuates a culture of chaos and vigilantism. Instead, these incidents should be reported to the appropriate authorities who can then conduct a thorough and impartial investigation. The law should be applied equitably, ensuring that punishments are meted out only to the actual perpetrators and not to entire communities. We are privileged to be part of a global community that strives for progress, understanding, and harmony. It is our collective responsibility to stand united against the forces of ignorance and intolerance. It is also worth mentioning that the Muslims saved the lives of many Christians by sheltering them, when the churches were burnt, they invited the Christians to worship in the mosques, which is an admirable act. The spread of such peaceful thinking will promote harmony among religions.



ISLAMABAD: Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of Iran attended seminar titled "Iran-Pakistan Relations in the New Era" at IPRI. He had an opportunity to share ideas on Bilateral Relations, Capacities & Challenges, New World Order, Multipolar Vs. Unipolar World System, Iran Achievements despite Sanctions & Pressures etc.—DNA

## Water flowing at Talwar post in Sutlej River: Commissioner

DNA

LAHORE: Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa has said that the current flow of water at Talwar post in Sutlej River was 118,000 cusecs. On the instructions of Commissioner Lahore, DC Kasur Muhammad Arshad Bhatti on Wednesday visited the flood relief camps of Kothi Fateh Muhammad, Attar Singh Wala, Baqirka, Tatar Kamil and Talwar Post. The Commissioner said that a total of 40,913 people have been shifted to safe places from the flooded areas, adding that 26,600 cattle have also been moved to safe places. He said that 26,000 people were provided with food in the third phase of relief activities for the flood victims yesterday while 912 people were given medical aid in Kothi Fateh Muhammad Flood Medical Camp today and a total of 8490 animals were provided treatment in the Livestock Camp. The Commissioner said that all the resources of MCL, LDA, and WASA have been given at the discretion of the Kasur administration. A total of 7531 people have been given medical aid and medicines from 11 medical camps, while 1100 people have been treated from mobile hospitals.

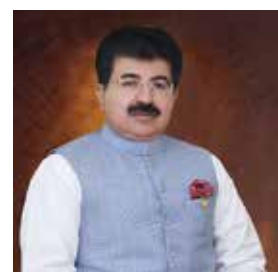
## 84 bakers arrested for selling underweight roti

PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar has arrested 84 bakers (nanbais) for selling underweight roti during a crackdown on profiteers here on Wednesday. The profiteering bakers were arrested during inspection of the weight of the roti carried out on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) in various bazaars of Cantonment, University Road, Hayatabad, Kohat Road, Ring Road, Faqirabad, Charsadda Road and other localities of the district.—APP

# Chairman Senate, CEO Qesco discuss critical matters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CEO Quetta Electric Power Supply (Qesco) Abdul Karim Jamali held a productive meeting with Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani to address critical matters concerning the efficient power supply to Balochistan. During the meeting, both engaged in comprehensive discussions on the pressing issues pertaining to the uninterrupted and reliable supply of electricity to the province. Qesco chief presented their strategies and initiatives aimed at enhancing the power distribution infrastructure in Balochistan to cater to the growing energy demands of the region. Chairman Senate acknowledged the importance of align-



ing strategies to overcome challenges and achieve the common goal of delivering consistent electricity to all corners of Balochistan. Discussions also revolved around harnessing renewable energy sources and implementing advanced technologies to optimize energy distribution and consumption. Ceo Qesco and Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani expressed their commitment to continued collaboration, transparency, and effective communication to address the energy-related concerns of the region. They affirmed their dedication to pursuing solutions that would not only alleviate the current energy challenges but also contribute to the overall prosperity of Balochistan.

# Poliovirus detected in Rawalpindi's environmental sample

FAISAL SHEKH

ISLAMABAD: An environmental sample from Rawalpindi has tested positive for wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1). The virus was found in an environmental sample collected from the Safdarabad site on August 10. According to the Pakistan Polio Laboratory at the National Institute of Health, which is also the WHO Regional Reference Laboratory for the Polio Programme. This is the second positive sample from Rawalpindi this year and the isolated virus is genetically linked to the virus cluster circulating in the Nangarhar province of neighbouring Afghanistan. Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan said, "I have formulated a comprehensive strategy to eliminate polio and special attention is being given to high-risk areas." He said that an emergency plan has been formed to stop the spread of the virus. "My maximum time is for eradicating poliovirus."

Dr Nadeem Jan said that the presence of poliovirus in the environment is highly concerning as it poses a continued threat to the well-being of children. "The best way to protect children from the debilitating poliovirus is the polio vaccination." Parents and caregivers must ensure that their children receive multiple doses of the vaccine to ensure lifelong disability," he said. The minister added that the Polio Programme has prevented the virus from establishing circulation in earlier detections and will continue to focus its efforts on early detection and swift response to

eliminate the poliovirus wherever it is found. Dr Shahzad Baig, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Center for Polio Eradication, said the Pakistan Polio Programme is maintaining a highly sensitive polio surveillance network which is evident from the swift detections of the virus in the environment. "We are holding frequent vaccination campaigns in the country and are also working closely with the Polio Programme in Afghanistan to strengthen vaccination at the Pakistan-Afghanistan border to mitigate the risk of spread," he said.

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RFP-10, RFP-11, RFP-12, RFP-13

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		Water Cooling & Filtration Plant	Nos.	01	
		Insect Killer	Nos.	05	
2	RFP-11	Digital Multifunctional Photocopier Machine	Nos.	01	40,000/-
3	RFP-12	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of CCTV Camera	Nos.	10	50,000/-
		Officer/ Official Tables of different sizes	Nos.	43	
4	RFP-13	Officer/ Official Chairs of different sizes	Nos.	56	200,000/-
		Waiting Chairs of different sizes	Nos.	100	
		Sofa	Set	2	
		Coffee Table	Set	8	
		Credenza	Nos.	4	

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بھارتی حکومت اور قومی اداروں کے لیے  
بھارتی حکومت کی اطلاع کے لیے



## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### August

Aug 01/China  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzerland  
National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Syria  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Bukino Faso  
National Day

Aug 09 /Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea  
Independence Day

Aug 15/India  
Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17 /Indonesia  
Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine  
Independence Day

Aug 25/Uruguay  
Independence Day

Aug 30 /Turkey  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/Kyrgyz  
Republic  
Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia  
National Day

## Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

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

## Enquiry

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



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# ICCI urges CDA to develop G-11 Markaz as a Model Market

Ch. Aftab Gujjar, Group Leader welcomed the ICCI delegation to their market

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) urged the CDA to develop the G-11 Markaz as a model market that would facilitate the traders in promoting trade activities. He said that the Chamber is working with CDA for the better development of the markets and the issues of various markets have also been forwarded to the Chairman CDA in writing for redress. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with the Traders Welfare Association, G-11 Markaz in resolving key issues of its members. He expressed these views while congratulating the newly elected office bearers of the Market Association of G-11 Markaz during a visit to their market along with a delegation of ICCI. Naeem Akhtar Awan President, Farrukh Khan, Secretary General, Chaudhry Aftab Group Leader, Raja Amin Chairman of Traders Welfare Association, G-11 Markaz, Islamabad and others were present on the occasion. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG, said that the Office Bearers of Market Associations are playing an important role in solving the problems of the traders. They even sacrifice their business and family responsibilities to serve the cause



of traders, which is commendable. He said that in order to recognize the valuable services of the Office Bearers Market Associations, ICCI had organized an award ceremony for them in which the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf was the chief guest. He said that ICCI will continue to take

steps to recognize the role of Office Bearers of Markets in the future also. Naeem Akhtar Awan, President and Farrukh Khan, Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association G-11 Markaz, Islamabad said that due to the inattention of CDA and MCI, their market is deprived of the basic facilities and traders are facing many problems. They stressed for a parking facility, carrying of roads, repair of footpaths,

installation of a filtration plant and construction of public toilets in the G-11 Markaz to facilitate the traders. Ch. Aftab Gujjar, Group Leader welcomed the ICCI delegation to their market. He said that ICCI is a big brother for them and they would work with the Chamber to address issues of traders. He said that Zafar Bakhtawari and Ahsan Bakhtawari have rendered great

services for the business community and they would work with them to make Islamabad a business-friendly city. Raja Muhammad Imtiaz, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur Rahman Khan, Rao Faisal, Zafar Gujjar, Nasir Chaudhry, Chaudhry Irfan, Zarif Khan, Zia Chaudhry, Waseem Chaudhry and others were in the ICCI delegation.

## Fire erupts in Islamabad as four parked buses ignite

ISLAMABAD: A startling incident unfolded as four buses parked at the NATCO office on the back side of Sabzi Mandi police station Islamabad were engulfed in flames at 7:40 am on Tuesday and no loss of life fortunately occurred due to swift action by the police and fire brigade. A police spokesman said that swift action by the local police and fire brigade managed to douse the fire, preventing any loss of life. He said that three old defunct buses were completely damaged while one bus was partially burnt. Local law enforcement and fire brigade units sprang into action within minutes of receiving the emergency call. Firefighters battled the inferno with high-pressure hoses, successfully gaining control of the flames in a short period. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation and authorities are conducting a thorough inquiry to determine the precise cause.—APP

## Islamabad Police issues new safety guidelines

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has introduced a set of fresh safety guidelines for protecting passengers traveling inter-district and ensuring safe travel for them. The SSP CTD, along with the Chief Traffic Officer and Zonal DPOs would ensure the implementation of these guidelines for the safety of travelers which have been introduced after a recent accident on a motorway leaving around 18 persons unidentified. As a part of these measures, detailed information regarding passengers and their destinations will be systematically collected from the respective bus station managers. A comprehensive daily log of passenger data will be maintained, aiding in the efficient tracking and management of travelers. Stricter enforcement of parking regulations at bus stands will be implemented, ensuring orderliness and safety for all. The allocation of specific areas within bus stands will be done to facilitate organized passenger boarding and disembarking.—APP

# Pak-EU cooperation can help mitigate climate change effects

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a workshop on climate change held here Wednesday observed that a mass level of cooperation between EU countries and Pakistan can help mitigate climate change effects in the country due to the release of green gases and CO2. The workshop titled "Emerging Trends and Technologies: Carbon Capture and Storage, Climate Change and Net Zero" was jointly organized by COMSATS University Islamabad (CUIS) Pakistan, at Wah Campus. Cranfield University, UK, and several institutions from Pakistan including NUST, GIKI, NEO, University of Karachi, and Okara University have

joined hands as partner institutions with the CUIS-Wah Campus for this event. The Workshop was funded by the British Council, Islamabad under Pak-UK Education Gateway Mobility Partnership for Faculty. The workshop aims to foster academic and research collaborations in the area of carbon capture storage, climate change, clean energy, net zero, and related issues. The workshop benefited the participants from academia, industry, research organizations, government and non-government organizations, contributing towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Lecturer/Team Lead from Cranfield University, UK, Dr. Syed Adnan welcomed the participants of the workshop

in the opening remarks. He shared the introduction, research facilities, and strengths of Cranfield University. He acknowledged the British Council and Higher Education Commission, Pakistan for their support and funding. Manager of Higher Education, British Council Islamabad, Mubashir Sheikh highlighted the aims and details of the mobility program launched by the British Government from the year 2018 for the faculty members of Pakistani Universities. Dr. Nasir Ahmad team lead from NUST, Pakistan also highlighted the importance of this mobility grant. The Executive Director, COMSATS, Ambassador, Dr. Mohammad Nafees Zakaria was the chief guest at the inaugural session of

the workshop.

He expressed that carbon emission is becoming more dangerous for Pakistan as this is a powerful source of climate change and disasters in the region. In his remarks, the Rector of CUI, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, extended his gratitude for organizing this workshop at COMSATS University and organizing it successfully to strengthen the scientific collaboration between the British Council, Higher Education Institutions of Pakistan and the UK. He shared the success of CUI within 25 years and its aim for more internationalization, working in emerging technologies, and always took the lead to bring research and academic programs for the benefit of Pakistan.

## US, UK and China top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports during July 2023

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first month of the current financial year 2023-24, followed by the United Kingdom (UK) and China. Total exports to the US during July 2023 were recorded at US \$432.803 million against the exports of US \$499.686 million during July 2022, showing a decline of 13.38 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$169.789 million against the exports of US \$160.114 million last year, showing an increase of 6.04 percent. China was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$147.385 million during the month under review against the exports of US \$174.056 million, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at US \$134.002 million against US \$109.772 million last year, showing an increase of 22.07 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$121.175 million against US \$113.026 million last year, data said. During July 2023, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$106.080 million against \$114.886 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$96.274 million against \$105.300 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$119.583 million against the exports of US \$92.327 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$42.173 million against \$ 31.757 million last year.—APP

## Madad Sindhi terms education as only way to combat challenges

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi Wednesday termed education as the only way to combat the present-day challenges being faced by the country. Addressing the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) Part-I and II Annual Examination Result Declaration ceremony held at the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE), the minister said that the country can achieve stability only by promoting education. He emphasized ensuring transparency in the compilation of results so that bright and capable students can come forward and contribute to national development. Madad Ali Sindhi congratulated the girl students who bagged top positions in the exams and advised the boy students to do more hard work to excel in their academic pursuits next year. The federal minister said that his ministry will devise a roadmap for the promotion of education and elevating its standard which is unfortunately deteriorating with the passage of time. Chairman FBISE, Qaiser Alam highlighted the steps taken by FBISE to improve its working and appreciated the efforts of its staff towards the preparation of results ensuring complete transparency. He also congratulated the position holder students for their hard work and commitment and advised others not to lose hope and pay more attention to their studies to achieve good positions. According to the HSSC Part-I and II 1st Annual Examination results announced during the ceremony, a total of 88381 candidates enrolled in HSSC Part-I exam and 86495 in the Part-II exam out of which 54049 and 71518 could pass the exams respectively with the overall pass percentage of 61.82 and 83.86. According to the HSSC-I result notification, a total of 84944 regular candidates took part in the exams out of which 53313 could pass the exam against 736 private candidates out of 2507 who appeared in the exam.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome calls on Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani.—DNA

## Girls grab all top positions in HSSC Part-II examination

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Maintaining the previous trends, girls bagged all the top positions in the Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) Part-II 1st Annual Examination as per the declaration of the result by the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) on Wednesday. In the pre-medical group, Eishal Shahnour Fatima from Punjab College Campus of Hill House Boarding School, H-11/4, Islamabad secured first position with 1075 marks while Hanaya Usman from Army Public School and College (Girls), Rawalpindi Cantt obtained second position with 1072 marks and Rida Malik from Army Public School and College Girls Pasban, Rawalpindi Cantonment stood third with 1066 marks. In the Pre-Engineering Group, Ushba Fatima from Army Public School, Rawalpindi

Cantt secured first position with 1069 marks, Ayesha Zafar from Army Public School and College, Rawalpindi Cantonment second with 1059 marks, and Zoya Ahmad from Army Public School and College for Girls, Rawalpindi got third position with 1054 marks. In the Science General group, Hira Arif from KRL Model College for Girls, Kahuta, Rawalpindi bagged the first position with 1045 marks, Mahnoor Taran from Army Public School and College, Askari-XIV, Rawalpindi second with 1044 marks and Ummara Amin from Islamabad Model College for Girls, I/8/4, Islamabad stood third with 1038 marks. In the Commerce group, Hamda Ashfaq and Gulshan Fatima from Punjab College, Attock Refinery Road, Rawalpindi secured first position with 1064 and 1031 marks respectively while the third position was obtained by Imaan Khan from Punjab College of Information Technology, Islamabad with 1030

marks. In the Humanities group, Hafiza Tanzeela Shehar from Askaria College (Girls Wing), Rawalpindi bagged the first position with 1018 marks, and Aafaf Tahir from Pakistan International School (Pakistan Section), Saudi Arabia got second position with 1003 marks. The third position was obtained by Saleeha Nawaz from Fauji Foundation College for Girls, Rawalpindi with 1000 marks. According to the HSSC Part-I and II 1st Annual Examination results announced here in a ceremony, a total of 88381 candidates enrolled in HSSC Part-I exam and 86495 in the Part-II exam out of which 54049 and 71518 could pass the exams respectively with the overall pass percentage of 61.82 and 83.86. According to the HSSC-I result notification, a total of 84944 regular candidates took part in the exams out of which 53313 could pass the exam against 736 private candidates out of 2507 who appeared in the exam.

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## Briefs

## IT and solar sectors have potential to pull the economy out of ICU

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Wednesday that the IT and solar industries can play a fundamental role in raising the country's economy from its death bed.

IT exports can be increased to 25 billion dollars, for which the problems of this sector have to be solved, it has to be developed, and the tax burden has to be reduced, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that apart from this, the taxes raised on the internet have to be withdrawn because the internet is closely linked to the internet.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Pakistan and India gained independence together, Pakistanis are more qualified than Indians, and better results can be achieved by training them.—APP

## Two street criminals arrested

RAWALPINDI: In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police here on Wednesday arrested two street criminals and bike lifters and recovered Rs 110,000, two motorcycles, six mobile phones and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Airport police arrested two members of a gang including Hamza, ringleader and Danish, wanted in various cases. Police recovered Rs 110,000, two motorcycles, six mobile phones and other items from their possession.—APP

## ICTA tightens noose around beggars, held 11

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) has tightened the noose around beggars and arrested 11, its spokesman Dr Abdullah Tabassum said on Wednesday. The assistant commissioners were taking action against alms-seekers across the city following deputy commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon's directions.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan addressing on the seminar regarding breast feeding. —APP

## President directs refund of Rs 4.1 mn to fraud victims

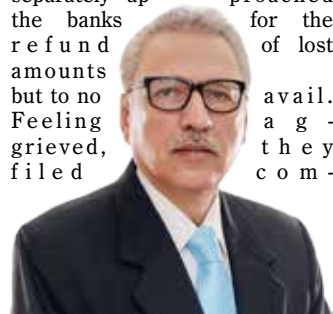
The President said that the loss of money occurred due to the reason that the banks made EFT operational without the account holders' request, therefore, the banks committed maladministration and were liable to make good the loss of the customers

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has directed two private banks to return a collective sum of Rs 4.1 million to four customers, who were swindled out of their money by fraudsters. The banks had activated the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) without obtaining the consent of the customers and were found negligent in complying with the State Bank of Pakistan's various regulations regarding online fund transfer facilities, disclosing the terms of fund transfer in a clear and simple language to customers, and assigning limits to fund transfer. The President said that the loss of money occurred due to the reason that the banks made EFT operational without the account holders' request, therefore, the banks committed maladministration and were liable to make good the loss of the customers. The

President gave these remarks while rejecting three representations filed by Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB) and one by Allied Bank Ltd (ABL) against the orders of the Banking Mohtasib directing these banks to refund the lost amount to victims of bank fraud. As per details, Ms Sumera Allahditta, Mr Afzal Abbas Kazmi, Ms Farah Muhammad Khan, and Dr Kanwar Shakeel Ahmed (the complainants) lost Rs 1,558,700, Rs 985,000, Rs 960,000, and Rs 598,000 respectively when these amounts were transferred from their bank accounts without their consent. Dr Kanwar received a call from a number resembling ABL's helpline and asked for his personal banking information to update the bank account. After he shared his banking information, Rs 598,000 were transferred from his account. Ms Sumera, Mr Afzal, and Ms Farah found out that huge amounts were missing from their bank accounts even though

they hadn't shared their personal details with anyone. They separately approached the banks for the refund amounts but to no avail. Feeling aggrieved, they



plaints with the Banking Mohtasib (BM) which ordered the banks to refund their amounts as maladministration had been established on the part of the banks. The banks, however, filed representations with the President against BM's decisions. The President observed that the complainants had not requested their respective banks to open

EFT facilities and the banks also did not put in place adequate systems and controls to mitigate the risk of fraudulent activities. He said that the fraudsters took advantage of banks' weak systems and controls and managed to get themselves registered and conducted disputed transactions. He also noted that new devices for conducting online transactions were registered with the banks only a few days before the fraudulent transactions were conducted. The President further stated that the banks were found negligent and in non-compliance with SBP's rules and regulations on obtaining the consent of customers before opening online fund transfer facilities, informing the customers about the pros and cons of EFT facility in writing in simple language, and transaction limits. He said that the banks' stance that OTP was utilized for conducting transactions and was considered as customers' consent

was preposterous. He highlighted that the first step was obtaining the consent of the customer for opening the EFT facility and the second step was the customer's authentication for security before conducting the transaction. He added that the banks were mixing two separate steps with each other. The President concluded that the banks were given ample opportunity to controvert the claims of the customers and present evidence that customer consent was obtained. He held that had the EFT channel not been opened without consent, the customers could have avoided financial loss. "The banks failed to discharge the burden and statutory liability cast upon them under the law, hence, maladministration on the part of banks was established", he said. The President, therefore, rejected the representations of banks and directed them to pay the collective sum of over Rs 4.1 million to the aggrieved customers.

## Railways to procure 230 passenger coaches, 820 High Capacity Wagons

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is set to procure 230 passenger coaches and 820 High Capacity Wagons under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) aiming help to improve the speed of the trains and ensure adherence to fixed timings. "Out of the total, around 46 Completely-Built-Up (CBU) passenger coaches have been procured up till now while the remaining 184 would be manufactured in the country and the coaches would be able to travel at the speed of 160km/h," said an official in the Ministry of Railways. He said, "Pakistan Railways is putting maximum efforts to complete rehabilitation and reconstruction work on the railway track, improving the speed of the locomotives to carry passengers to their respective destinations on time."—APP

## 'Cardiologist stresses public awareness

ISLAMABAD: The health expert on Wednesday urged the media to play an active role in educating the public about Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP) therapy in Pakistan for high blood pressure, coronary artery disease, and elevated lipid levels. Renowned cardiologist Dr. Raja Mehdi Hasan while speaking to PTV news explained that Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP) therapy is a safe surgical procedure for treating angina (chest pain) in people with coronary artery disease. EECP machines help blood vessels open new pathways around blocked arteries, he said, adding that EECP treatment is a natural bypass for chest pain. In response to a question, he said this type of therapy could reduce patients' need for medication and increase their ability to remain active without experiencing symptoms.—DNA

## Indian forces' personnel arrest a dozen youth in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Indian forces' personnel have arrested a dozen youths in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, Indian troops and police personnel arrested eleven persons Syed Azharul Haq, Muhammad Rafiq Hajam, Asif Ahmed Khan, Mumtaz Ahmad Khan, Talib Ahmed Shah, Ahmed Hayat Mir, Bilal Ahmed Ganai, Nisar Ahmed Khan, Bazil Ahmed Mir, Abdul Majeed Kumar and Aftab Hussain Shah from various parts of Kupwara district. They have been booked under black laws Public Safety Act (PSA) and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS-PIT) in fake cases.—APP

## PAF-IASST, Chinese University to jointly launch BSc program

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-Austria Fachhochschule, Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (PAF-IASST) has invited applications for admissions in the BSc Mechanical Engineering Technology in collaboration with Chengdu University of China. This program marks the Institute's first technology offering, launched within the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, as stated on August 21. It's a joint degree program with Chengdu University, where students will spend two years in China, fully sponsored by the Chinese government, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.—DNA

RAWALPINDI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. Bids on items/percentage rates for the following works are hereby invited from the contractors enlisted in HUD&PHE Department / RDA in the respective category/field for the current year.

Sr. #	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Period
1.	Annual repair & maintenance of street lights alongwith accessories installed at Airport Road, Rawalpindi (2023-24).	Rs.7,699,990/- (Including 16% PRA) vide T.S No. RDA/CE/285/Rwp	Rs. 231,000/-	12 Months

2. Bidding documents alongwith the detailed specifications can be obtained from the date of publication of Notice in the PPRA website from the office of Dy. Director (Engg) RDA, during office hours upon written request of prescribed tender fee @ Rs. 10,000/- in the form of CDR/Bank Draft/Cash in favour of Director (Admin & Finance), of any scheduled Bank & are available on RDA website but it must be accompanied with the Tender fee in the form earlier described.

3. Rates & amount should be filled in figures as well as in words & bids should be sealed / signed as per general directions given in the bidding documents.

4. Bidding documents will be issued upto 11.09.2023 & will be received in sealed envelopes on 12.09.2023 in the office of Dy. Director (Engg), RDA upto 11.00 a.m. & will be opened on the same day at 11:30 a.m. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representative.

5. Conditional Bids & Bids not accompanied with earnest money @ 3% of estimated cost in shape of CDR/Bank Draft/Cashier's Cheque of any scheduled Bank in favour of Director (Admin & Finance), RDA will be not entertained.

6. Tenders will be issued to those firms who have valid PEC registration certificate upto June,2024 with appropriate category code EE05, EE06 and valid electric license issued by Electrical Inspector, Islamabad renewed for the current F.Y for execution of E&M works at Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.

7. Bids will be received as per single stage one envelope bidding procedure of Punjab Procurement Rules, 2014.

Dy. Director (Engineering)  
RDA, Liaqat Bagh, Murree Road,  
Rawalpindi.

IPL NO 6770

## Collaborative productions a gateway for filmmakers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Collaborative productions will be a gateway for Pakistani filmmakers to enter into China's film market, said Jamal Shah Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture. "The Pakistani film industry needs substantial support; and assistance from China holds significant value, especially given China's emergence as the largest film market globally. With over 70,000 cinema screens within China, this presents a golden opportunity for our filmmakers to capitalize on by engaging in collaborative productions," the Minister stated this in an interview with Gwadar Pro. Mr. Shah, has already ventured into joint productions with China and was interested in further collaborations in Pakistan's film and cinema industry.

"It's an area of keen interest; beyond that, we're also looking at the prospect of China's involvement in developing cinemas and cultural infrastructure within our country," he added, "We can also exchange ideas with Chinese both in visual arts, performing arts, and cinema". The experience with "Ba'tie Girl" was truly remarkable, marking the first successful Pak-China co-produced and filmed within Pakistan. Humerkada facilitated the entire process by offering various amenities, including casting support, equipment, and authorized locations. The film has recently been released, and plans are in place for additional premieres and screenings across various cities.

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## War in Ukraine has raged for 18 months

**N**EARLY half a million casualties, including almost 200,000 dead – that is the staggering toll to date of the slaughter by which history will remember Russian President Vladimir Putin's lawless invasion of Ukraine. The estimates, by U.S. officials, are a running count as the war reaches its 18th month this week. The numbers will surely climb. No end to the carnage is in sight, and calls for a negotiated solution are wishful thinking at this point. As Mr. Putin invests in Russia's war economy, he shows no signs of giving up his fantasy of Russian neo-imperial glory. That hard truth leaves the United States and its European allies with few appealing options, especially as Ukraine's grinding military offensive, launched in early June, remains far short of its goal: to evict Russia's forces. Deeply entrenched in a miles-deep maze of defensive lines behind some of the most heavily mined terrain on Earth, the occupiers retain control of roughly 18 percent of Ukrainian territory.

According to a recent Post report, U.S. intelligence officials have concluded that Kyiv is unlikely to achieve its main objective this year: breaking south through enemy lines and reaching the Sea of Azov. The idea was to sever the occupied corridor through Ukraine that connects Russia to the Crimean peninsula, which Moscow seized illegally in 2014. Washington's intelligence assessments have been wrong in the past, specifically by overestimating the proficiency of Russia's military and the competence of its political leadership, and by underestimating Ukraine's resolve and resourcefulness on the battlefield. Reports from the front lines and from Russian military bloggers suggest that Ukrainian morale remains high and that badly led, poorly supplied Russian troops are increasingly desperate. Kyiv's forces continue to make modest gains despite the daunting challenge of advancing against Russia's massively fortified positions. Skip to end of carousel. The D.C. Council voted on Tuesday to stop pulling police officers out of schools, a big win for student safety. Parents and principals overwhelmingly support keeping school resource officers around because they help de-escalate violent situations. D.C. joins a growing number of jurisdictions, from Montgomery County, Md., to Denver, in reversing course after withdrawing officers from school grounds following George Floyd's murder. Read our recent editorial on why D.C. needs SROs. Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) just withdrew Virginia from a data-sharing consortium, ERIC, that made the commonwealth's elections more secure, following Republicans in seven other states in falling prey to disinformation peddled by election deniers. Former GOP governor Robert F. McDonnell made Virginia a founding member of ERIC in 2012, and until recently conservatives touted the group as a tool to combat voter fraud. D.C. and Maryland plan to remain. Read our recent editorial on ERIC. In Vietnam, a one-party state, democracy activist Tran Van Bang was sentenced on Friday to eight years in prison and three years probation for writing 39 Facebook posts. The court claimed he had defamed the state in his writings, according to Radio Free Asia. In the past six years, at least 60 bloggers and activists have been sentenced to between 4 and 15 years in prison under the law, Human Rights Watch found.

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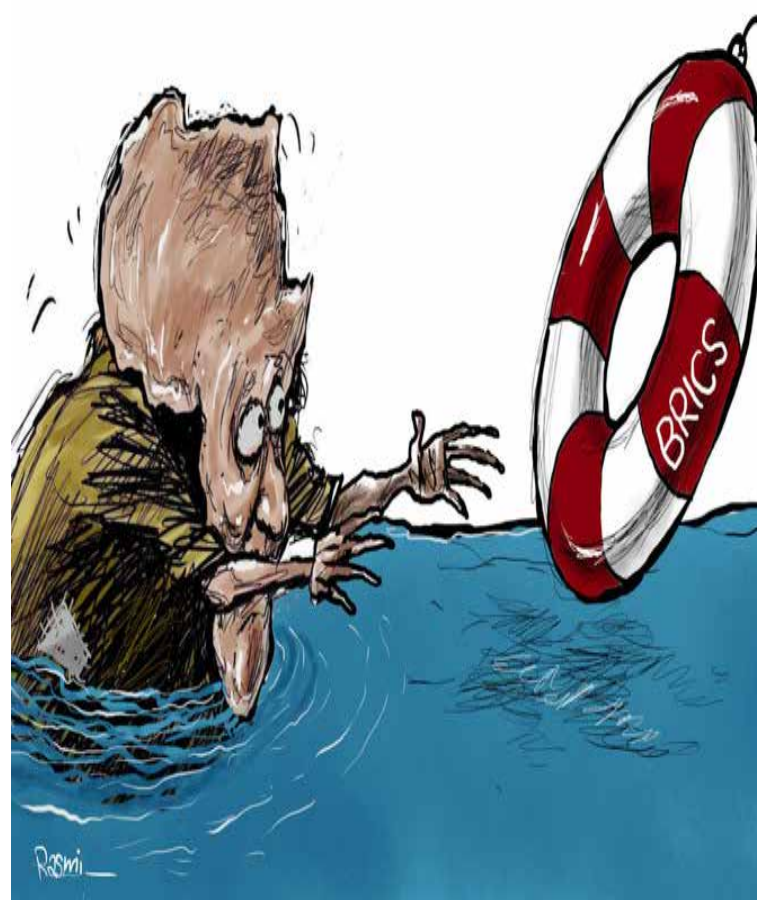
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Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## Cooperation benefits both China and US

**I**N 1973, before diplomatic relations were established between China and the United States, at the beginning of what would be a decades-long honeymoon for their bilateral ties, the US-China Business Council was set up under the auspices of the White House, and the US State Department and Commerce Department. For half a century, the private nonprofit, non-partisan business association has been instrumental to economic and trade exchanges between what are now the world's two largest economies. As the USCBC celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding, however, rather than pushing for the ever expanding economic and trade connections between the two countries, the group has found itself struggling to navigate the changed and still changing landscape of bilateral economic and trade relations. With the Joe Biden administration imposing increasing controls on US technology exports to China and US investments in key Chinese technology sectors, each step Washington takes under its "Indo-Pacific" strategy sends shock waves, undermining bilateral economic and trade exchanges.

Premier Li Qiang impressively understated the situation when he told the visiting USCBC delegation led by Marc Casper, the council's chair, on Monday that "China-US relations and economic and trade cooperation are facing some difficulties". The Chinese and US economies and their long-standing interdependence have fallen prey to the strategic game Washington seems determined to play against China. They are no longer each other's biggest trading partners, and keep sliding down the corresponding lists. The China hawks in Washington, on Capitol Hill in particular, would ideally like to kick China completely out of US supply chains, even global supply chains. Although the slogan has changed from "decoupling" to "de-risking", their song remains the same.

It is encouraging therefore that both sides announced on Tuesday that US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo will visit Beijing and Shanghai from Sunday to Wednesday to deepen communication between the two sides on a range of issues related to commerce and trade. This visit carries on the positive momentum of the two sides keeping their communication channels open after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen visited China over the past two months. Hopefully, the discussions can help the two sides better handle relevant issues and challenges in commercial relations, and explore areas for potential cooperation.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not because of cheap labor or a huge market that US businesses are in China but because of the quality of its tooling engineers and its responsive whole of industry supply chains help make them globally competitive. The Chinese premier's patient elaboration of the Chinese government's efforts to continue expanding market access, optimize the business environment, promote fair competition, and protect the property rights of enterprises and the rights and interests of entrepreneurs was testimony to China's sincere wish that economic and trade cooperation serve the interests of both sides.

## Preserving treasure trove of the cultural capital

Abdul Rashid Shakir



The Govt of Punjab, under the leadership of its active and a gile Caretaker CM Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, is taking remarkable measures not only to preserve Punjab's rich cultural heritage but also to promote its valuable historical treasure. It recent decision to recover, develop and open for tourism 12 historical gates of the Walled City of Lahore, besides rehabilitating other historical sites in Punjab like Ram Piyari Mahal Gujrat, Ranjit Singh Haveli Gujranwala and Kharak Singh Haveli Lahore is a major initiative in this regard. The Government has directed the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) to work expeditiously on resurrecting old cultural...

**H**OW mesmerizing were the chants of "Lahore Lahore Eiy" and "Jinne Lahore Nai Takya, Jammiya Nai" a top double-decker bus of Punjab Tourism Department, built especially for an enriching tour of the Lahore city in order to acquaint riders with the cultural heritage, architectural landmarks and historical footprints of the past. Mall Road, Jail Road, Ferozpur Road, Data Darbar (Ali Hajveri Shrine), and Greater Iqbal Park housing three historical sites of Minar-e-Pakistan, Badshahi Masjid and Lahore Fort were the major attractions enroute. Rich culture of Punjab, including circus, theater, death well, vending kiosks, food stalls, merry-go-round and other adrenaline-inducing swings and rides, was attracting tourists of all ages, gender and interests. Strolling in the spacious grassy lawns, boating in the winding lake, colorful dancing fountains, well-lit buildings and engaging background music were added a lot to make this excursion really memorable and worthwhile.

The Government of Punjab, under the leadership of its active and a gile Caretaker Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, is taking remarkable measures not only to preserve Punjab's rich cultural heritage but also to promote its valuable historical treasure. It recent decision to recover, develop and open for tourism 12 historical gates of the Walled City of Lahore, besides rehabilitating other historical sites in Punjab like Ram Piyari Mahal Gujrat, Ranjit Singh Haveli Gujranwala and Kharak Singh Haveli Lahore is a major initiative in this regard. The Government has directed the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) to work expeditiously on resurrecting the old cultural glory of the Punjab province. Reminiscent of the hey days of Mughal, Sikh

and British empires, 12 gian this to ricalgates of the Walled City of Lahore include Delhi Gate, Roshnai Gate, Bhati or Bhatti Gate, Sheran waor Khizri Gate, Lohari or Lahori Gate, Kashmiri Gate, Akbari Gate, Yakkior Zakki Gate, Masti Gate, Shah Alam Gate, Mochi Gate, Taxalior Taxali Gate. Connected with a thirty feet high fortified wall, these 12 Gates along with a Mori (Asmallholeinthewall) were the 13 entrances or passage ways to the Walled Cityor' Androon-e-Shehr' Lahore. Out of these 13 Gates or entrances of Lahore, only 6 survived ravages of time while other 7 have go neextinct. ExistingGatesincludingDelhiGate, Bhati Gate, Sheranwala Gate, Kashmiri Gate, Lohari Gate and Mori Gate were actually reconstructed during the British era.Only Roshnai Gate and in its original form. On the other hand, the traces of the remaining gates namely Taxali Gate, Masti Gate, Yakki Gate, Mochi Gate andAkbarigateceasedtoexist. Data Darbar (Shrine of Hazrat Ali Hajveri, RA) is located right outside Bhati gate; Wazeer Khan Mosque islocatedinsideDelhiGate, and canal so be approached from Kashmiri Gate; Muslim Masjid,tombofQutb-Ud-DinAibak, and the mostfamousAnarkalibazaararesituatedinfrontofLohariGate; Hazuri Baghis located right beside Roshnaigate; and the narrow alleys of Sheranwalaor Khizri Gate throng with various necessities of life. The largest wholesale and retail market of Lahor, 'Akbari Mandi', is located closet othe place where Akbari Gate is supposed to be; the other busiest and biggest whole sale market of Lahore, Shah Almi market, is located in side Shah Alamor Shah Almi Gate. The area is filled with different bazaars including Rang Mahal, Soha Bazaar, Kanari Bazaar and Dabi Bazaar.

Everything from garments to footwear, and jewelry to crockery can be found here. MastiGateislocatedrightbehindLahoreFort,andisfamousforitsfoodlikeRabri-Wala Doodh. Mochi Bagh, a major site for political gatherings, was located insideMochiGate.NisarHaveliandLaal-Haveliaremajorlandmarksofthearea. TaxaliorTaxaliGateisnamedafterTaxol(Royal-Mint) which used to exist near the gate. However, neither the Gate nor the mint exist today. Famous eateries like Phajja Paye and Halwa Puriare found here. Yakkior Zakki Gate is famous for a school for blind individuals nearby, apart from numerous Havelis. Mori Gate was the smallest gate of the Walled City, hence named Mori whichmeans a small hole in Urdu. Had the Mori Gate existed, it would have been foundbetweentheLahorianandBhatiGates.UrduBazaarislocatedacrosstheMoriGate. Rehabilitation and maintenance of these historical gates would not only preservetherichcultural-heritageofLahorebutwouldalsoprojecta-softierimageofthecountrybypromotingvariousculturalandtouristactivitiesinthearea. Thesedeadline-driven interventions of the Punjab Government would not only attractscoresoflocaltouristsbutwouldalsolureinhistory-lovingforeignvisitors. The Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) is doing a commendable job inpreserving the rich cultural heritage and architectural monuments of the gloriousbygone days of the history of the Subcontinent. It is a semi-governmentalorganization established by the Government of the Punjab under The Walled Cityof Lahore Act 2012 for the conservation, development, and management of theWalledCityofLahoresideslookingaftertherightsitesintheentireprovince.

– [arshakir.pmo@gmail.com](mailto:arshakir.pmo@gmail.com)

## Legal realism and its impact in Pakistan

Mohammad Salman Iqbal



The court often does give a unique verdict, which may surprise many. Furthermore, Llewellyn points out that judges are human and there are many non-legal considerations at play when judgments are passed. These non-legal considerations include personal biases or political considerations. His quote "Behind decisions stand judges; judges are men..."

**O**THERS may argue that law is what a statute says or law might be what a regulation says explicitly. A legal positivist might argue that law is a command backed by a sanction. A naturalist may argue that law is divine and it is God's command given to us through his commandments, but nonetheless, what all these definitions have in common is that they argue that law is a command either of a sovereign, or of God. The legal realist on the other hand points out that law is not in the commands of the sovereign, rather law is what courts interpret law to be. Justice Wendell gave this definition of law in a realist sense and his argument further goes on to elaborate that law is found in judgments of the court. The theory of legal realism is further expanded by a famous legal scholar named Karl N Llewellyn. He builds on the approach of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes and argues that when cases reach the Superior Courts (in our case the Supreme Court of Pakistan), the courts often do not consider strict legal commands such as statutes and precedents. The court often does give a unique verdict, which may surprise many. Furthermore, Llewellyn points out that judges are human and there are many non-legal considerations at play when judgments are passed. These non-legal considerations include personal biases or political considerations. His quote "Behind decisions stand judges; judges are men; as men they have human backgrounds" beautifully sums up the argument he presents. What this entails is that the judge's personality has a huge role in the judgment he passes. Furthermore, a quote by KytheBye adds more depth to the premise present by Llewellyn by stating "legal realism exposed the role played by politics in judicial decision-making and, in doing so, called into question conventional efforts to anchor judicial power on a fixed, impartial foundation." Llewellyn describes the US example of two contradictory approaches, first, that the court must interpret the statute and not exceed it and second, the approach that if a situation requires the judge to go beyond the statute to achieve the desired result of the legislation, he is free to do so, hence, Llewellyn argues that judges can always have various interpretation of the same law. Lastly, he points that judges are not actually constrained by

judicial precedent because they can characterize decisions according to facts to avoid the precedent or set the facts in a way to make the past precedent binding. Applying, the concept of Legal Realism in the Pakistani Superior Court system, we can observe through various ways that it has a very strong presence. The doctrine is followed by many, and this we can see through the various judgements that have been passed in our judicial history. We can see ignorance for precedence, we can see political biases of judges, as well as at times complete disregard of statutes. The judgments are really reflective of the present political as well as economic order. Since, the inception of Pakistan, the courts have at various times heard the matter of presidential dissolutions. The Supreme Court heard these cases and employed various tests. The tests were surprisingly different for every case, despite having similar material facts altogether. The test in Haji Saifullah case was that for dissolution of assembly, it must be proven that the machinery of the government had completely broken down, however, in the Tariq Rahim case, the test employed was that the government could be dissolved if there was an "imminent" threat of breakdown of governmental and constitutional machinery. In the third dissolution case, the court ruled in favor of Nawaz Sharif and declared the dissolution invalid, by going back to the Haji Saifullah case precedent. In this case, we can see that the judges leading opinion favoured a "narrow interpretation." In these cases, the court and judges kept on shifting back and forth from a narrow interpretation to a broad interpretation and vice versa of Article 58(-2)(b). For example Justice Shafiqur Rehman in the Tariq Raheem case penned down his judgement using a broad interpretation but in the Nawaz Sharif case, the same judge opined using a narrow interpretation.[1] This maneuvering, we can argue, is not based on legal prepositions, the same article and it's interpretation was in question, but the judgement of the cases were totally different. We can confidently say that other factors did have a role in these judgements. These factors include personal political beliefs, patronage factors as well as the prevailing political situation at hand. This example perfectly illustrates the points that Llewellyn has put forward. Similarly, from a criminal law perspective, courts have

considerable leeway in the interpretation of the statute. It is the courts that derive tests for the statute, and eventually decide if that particular statute applies to the case at hand or not. We can also see that a law does not become operational until the courts allow start to interpret it.[AUK1] A famous example is with respect to grave and sudden provocation. Grave and sudden provocation was initially part of Section 300, PPC. Later on it was declared to be against the provisions of Islam by the Federal Shariat Court in the Gul Hasan case and eventually it was repealed in 1994. However, even after its repeal the court kept on accepting grave and sudden provocation as a valid defense. The court kept on accepting this defense till 2020, when a bench led by Qazi FaezEsa in Jail Petition No.499 of 2015 outright declared that grave and sudden provocation is not a valid defense and should not be accepted anymore. The court even after the repeal of the statute kept on using these provisions and in PLD 2018 Supreme Court 840, Justice Asif Saeed Khosa decided a case using this doctrine. He contended that the case at hand did not attract the provisions of grave and sudden provocation, but held that it is a valid defense. This example proves well that law is what the courts implement and actual law is found in judgements only. Once the courts stop interpreting or applying a law only then can it become non-operational, or in the opposite case operational. Another non-legal factor that influences the superior courts in Pakistan is public opinion and public emotions. We have often seen Chief Justices using their Suo Moto powers in cases where there is huge public sentiment. We have noticed that cases that are being followed by the nation are given more importance such as shorter hearing dates etc. The argument that realism is dying down is not true and even now the courts have considerable discretion when applying the law. Fixed interpretations and precedents do not constrain the Superior Courts. Moreover, every sanction either by a regulatory authority or a law enforcing agency, is up for challenge in a court. So law is actually what is found in the judgment of the courts and law is what the courts say it is.

– [Mohammad Salman Iqbal is a law graduate from LUMS and is currently doing his apprenticeship in a law firm.](mailto:MohammadSalmanIqbal@lums.edu.pk)



## Briefs

## Trial Court verdict seems one-sided...

FROM PAGE 01  
Justice Naqvi inquired, "Under which law can assembly members send references against other parliamentarians?" To this, Khosa replied that members of the assembly did not have the authority to send the reference, only the NA speaker does. He further told the apex court that the electoral body could only take action against an MNA within a fixed time of 120 days after the submission of financial statements. "The present case is not whether a reference could have been sent against Chairman PTI or not, Justice Mandokhel said. "You have challenged the decision of the Islamabad High Court."

CJP Bandia also told lawyer Khosa that the issue of the case's jurisdiction had been challenged. "You yourself are saying that the case is pending in another court," the CJP said. After hearing arguments from Khosa and ECP counsel Amjad Perwaiz, the CJP Bandial remarked, "We will not interfere in the Toshakhana case today and we will look at the IHC hearing tomorrow and resume the hearing."

In his appeal, the PTI chairman requested the SC to overturn the high court's order directing Khan to reappear in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar.

He had requested that the trial court be restrained from holding proceedings till a verdict on the new petition is announced. The petition further argued that the trial judge had "improperly and hastily" declared the Toshakhana case arguable, and that the IHC committed a legal error by sending back the case to Judge Dilawar. "How can the judge, who has declared a case maintainable, freely rehear it," the petition questioned, declaring that IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq had deprived the petitioner of his fundamental rights in the latest order.

## Imran instructed UK lawyers..

FROM PAGE 01  
Dr Yasmin Rashid and Sanam Javed among others. Channel's investigations have confirmed that HRLAF has been lawfully engaged with a significant number of clients starting with Imran Khan and several petitions to the United Nations, Parliamentary Union and other quasi-judicial bodies have already been filed. Following the instructions, prominent human rights lawyers such as Michael Mansfield, KC, Gareth Pierce and Ben Emerson, KC, were hired to act on behalf of Imran Khan and others for alleged excesses by Pakistani institutions, including the secret agencies. The UK legal team, it is understood, is also investigating potential actions under universal jurisdiction. On the weekend, PTI leaders, including PTI UK leaders, Sher Afzal Marwat, Zulfi Bukhari, Naem Panjhoti and others, criticised Rashad Yaqoob for launching a legal action and fundraising campaign for Imran Khan and taking his case to the UN through British lawyers.

## US dollar maintains...

FROM PAGE 01  
as per the State Bank of Pakistan. They added that the greenback was being traded for Rs299.63. In the open market, the US currency strengthened by a further Rs3 to trade at Rs310. On Tuesday, the US dollar had reached its highest peak in the history of Pakistan's open market. On Tuesday morning, the American currency thrashed all previous records and recorded an increase in value by Rs8 to trade at Rs312. In just one day, the currency reached its highest level in history. Moreover, in the interbank market, the greenback gained Rs1.87 on Tuesday afternoon, and is being currently traded at Rs299. On the other hand, the British pound is being traded in the interbank market for Rs382.34, the euro for Rs326.5, the UAE dirham Rs81.41, Saudi riyal Rs79.72, Australian dollar Rs192.46, and Canadian dollar Rs220.9, as per the rates updated by forex.pk.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the burnt buses of NATCHO as in morning suddenly with unknown reasons, fire caught dump buses near fruit and vegetable Market of I-11 in federal capital. - Online

## Al Nassr come from behind to snatch Asian Champions

Cristiano Ronaldo, a five-time UEFA Champions League winner, was making his debut in Asian football's top club competition after signing for the Riyadh club last December. Al Nassr opened the scoring in 11 minutes when Taslica headed home a Brozovic corner

## SPORTS DESK

RIYADH: The Saudi Pro League side came from behind to triumph 4-2 in the play-off at Mrsool Park, with Brazilian Anderson Talisca scoring twice and Croatia international Marcelo Brozovic rounding off the win. Al Nassr had been two minutes from exiting the tournament. The result means Al Nassr, runners-up domestically last season, move into the group phase, which begins next month. Cristiano Ronaldo, a five-time UEFA Champions League winner, was making his debut in Asian football's top club competition after signing for the Riyadh club last December. Al Nassr opened the scoring in 11 minutes when Taslica headed home a Brozovic corner. However, Yahya Al Ghasani levelled for UAE champions Shabab Al Ahli seven minutes later, the winger slotting the ball into the Nassr net after the Dubai side countered. Cristiano Ronaldo, 38, left the pitch at half-time clearly frustrated and could be



RIYADH: Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr qualified for the Asian Champions League group stage after they secured an injury-time victory against Shabab Al Ahli. - DNA

seen arguing with the referee. The Portuguese star, the Nassr captain, believed he should have had two penalties in the first half. Then, one minute after half-time, Al Ghasani raced clear of the Al Nassr defence to flick the ball over Nawaf Al Aqidi and put Shabab Al Ahli in front. However, Al Nassr equalised with two minutes of normal time remaining, when full-back Sultan Al Ghannam's header was diverted into his own goal by Walid Abbas. Al Nassr's comeback was complete five minutes into the allotted seven minutes of injury time, with Talisca nodding home from close range. Moments later, as Shabab Al Ahli chased the equaliser, Ronaldo teed up Brozovic to drill his shot into the net and make safe the game. Elsewhere in the west zone, UAE side Sharjah qualified for the tournament proper with a 3-1 victory away to Iran's Tractor FC, while Uzbekistan's Navbahor Namangan defeated Al Wakrah of Qatar 1-0 after extra time. In Tuesday's other play-off, Uzbek side AGMK Olmaliq defeated Qatar's Al Arabi 1-0.

## Pak blunt Australia to reach final

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan blind cricket team on Wednesday, booked their spot in the final of the ongoing International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Blind Games with a resounding six-wicket victory over Australia. Opting to bat first, Australia's batting lineup failed completely and could only accumulate 107 runs before being bundled out in the final over. Australia's opening pair of M Cameron and M McCarthy scripted a decent start for their side with a brilliant 53-run stand. The pair, however, found it hard to score freely against a disciplined Pakistan bowling attack before the Australian captain faltered. Muhammad Salman provided a much-needed breakthrough to the Pakistan blind cricket team by casting McCarthy, who could score 19 off 27 deliveries. His dismissal opened the floodgates and Australia soon ran into a collapse. Cameron, however, stood his ground firm and kept the scoreboard ticking singlehandedly while losing partners at the other end. He waged a lone battle for Australia with a cautious 41 from 47 balls. Besides the openers, none of the Australian batters could make it to the double figures. Matuallah, Israr Hassan and Fakhar Abbas bagged two wickets each for Pakistan blind cricket team while Muhammad Salman and Muhammad Asif struck out a batter apiece. Chasing a modest 108, Pakistan comfortably recorded their third consecutive victory in the tournament for the loss of just three wickets and 33 balls to spare. Mohsin Khan spearheaded Pakistan run chase with a 35-ball 37, hitting a boundary while Matuallah scored an unbeaten 23. Besides them, Moain Aslam (15) and Zafar Iqbal (12) made notable contributions. Their third consecutive victory powered the Pakistan blind cricket team to book their spot in the final. The Green Shirts, however, next face England in their last group match on Thursday. Notably, Pakistan kick-started their World Blind Games campaign with an 18-run victory over arch-rivals India before handing a seven-wicket thrashing to Bangladesh on Tuesday. - Agencies

## Keep the Faith - Kipyegon makes history at worlds

BUDAPEST: Kenya's Faith Kipyegon won a historic third world 1500m gold on Tuesday and although Qatari high jumper Mutaz Essa Barshim missed out on a fourth crown, he became the first man to win five medals in the event. Kipyegon produced an imperious front-running performance to add to her 2017 and 2022 titles, her face creasing in joy as realisation of her feat struck home. Sifan Hassan never landed a punch and once again, as at the Tokyo Olympics, had to make do with bronze. For Kipyegon, 29, it crowned an annus mirabilis having already broken three world records. "I told myself, 'You are the strongest and just keep going,'" said Kipyegon. - Agencies

## PFF names 23-member squad for SAFF U-16 championship

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) on Wednesday, announced a 23-member squad for the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023 to be held in Bhutan next month. The Green Shirts will kick off their campaign against home side Bhutan on September 1 at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu. While, in their second game, they will face Maldives at the same venue on September 3. Pakistan Squad for SAFF Under-16 Championship Defenders: Abdul Rahman, Mohammad Hasnain Saleem, Najeem Khan, Sameer Ahmed, Obaidullah Khan, Majid Ali, Syed Mohammad Abis Raza, and Umar Javed. Midfielders: Abdul Samad, Mohammad Faraz, Farhad, Haroon Rashid, Hikmatullah, Khabib Khan, M. Shahab Ahmed and Muhammad Khan. Forwards: Abdul Ghani, Hasnain Wali Raza, Subhan Karim and Syed Kabir Ali Shah Goalkeepers: Adil Ali Khan, Balach Khan and Ghulam Abbas. The 2023 SAFF U-16 Championship is the 8th edition of the tournament and will be played from September 1 to September 10 in Thimphu, Bhutan. India are the current champions as well as the most successful team in the tournament's history, having won the tournament in 2022, 2019, 2017 and 2013. Meanwhile, Pakistan have won the inaugural edition of SAFF U-16 championship in 2011. The first edition of the SAFF U-16 championship took place in Nepal in August 2011. The competition was launched under the leadership of SAFF President Kazi Salahuddin who was elected in 2009. - DNA

## Nepal team reaches Karachi for Asia Cup

The upcoming edition of the Asia Cup features six teams, divided into two groups, the top two teams from each group will then qualify for Super 4s

## DNA

KARACHI: Nepal cricket team has reached Karachi to participate in the upcoming ACC Men's Asia Cup 2023, commencing on August 30. The team landed at Karachi airport under tight security measures and was subsequently taken to the hotel. According to the details, Nepal had requested the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to practice in Pakistan to prepare themselves for the Asia Cup. Consequently, the associate team will now practice at the National Bank Cricket Arena in Karachi on August 24 and 25. Meanwhile, they will also play a practice match on August 26 in Karachi Gymkhana. The visiting side will subsequently leave for Multan on August 27. Nepal is led by young all-rounder Rohit Paudel and will make their Asia Cup debut in the upcoming edition having qualified for the first time.

They will play host Pakistan in the curtain raiser on August 30

in Multan. Nepal squad: Rohit Paudel (c), Kushal Bhurtel, Aa-

sif Sheikh, Bhim Sharki, Kushal Malla, Aarif Sheikh, Dipendra

Singh Airee, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami, Karan KC, Sandeep Lamichhane, Lalit Rajbanshi, Pratish GC, Mousom Dhakal, Sundeep Jora, Kishore Mahato, Arjun Saud. Pakistan will host a total of four matches including a Super 4s fixture, while the rest of the games including the final will be played in Sri Lanka.

The upcoming edition of the Asia Cup features six teams, divided into two groups, the top two teams from each group will then qualify for the Super 4s. The continental event will run from August 31 to September 17. Hosts Pakistan are placed in the same group as arch-rivals India and Nepal while the other group includes defending champions and co-hosts Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The Asia Cup 2023 will be played in the ODI format and will serve as an opportunity for the Asian teams to bolster their preparations for the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup.



## Chandrayan-3 successfully completes...

FROM PAGE 01  
offered prayers for Chandrayaan-3. "Not just economic, but India is achieving scientific and technological progress as well," Puri told reporters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi watched the landing from South Africa, where he is attending the BRICS summit. Rough terrain makes a south pole landing difficult, and a first landing is historic. The region's ice could supply fuel, oxygen and drinking water for future missions. For India, a successful moon landing marks its emergence as a space power as Modi's government looks to spur investment in private space launches and related satellite-based businesses.

## PM Kakar resolves to relentlessly..

FROM PAGE 01  
sacrifices in the war on terrorism. Expressing the nation's firm resolve, he said terrorists will be relentlessly pursued. Stressing on efforts being made towards owning the fight against terrorism, the premier clarified that the nation is not doing so through donations, but with the taxes being paid by Pakistanis. He said those rendering their lives on the Line of Control (LoC), Waziristan and other areas are our sons, who are playing a commendable role in meeting internal and external challenges. PM Kakar said the security personnel, who protect the nation by putting their lives on the line, do not offer their services or sacrifices for the sake of any remuneration, but the respect and honour for their service constitute their true reward. The prime minister strongly abhorred terrorist acts and suicide attacks, emphasising that the nation is not afraid. He said that the country will continue to fight against these misguided elements and they will be taken to task as per the law. The premier also expressed satisfaction over the successful rescuing of eight people in the Battagram cable car operation, commending the armed forces, the district administration and locals for their efforts in this regard. The defense institutions, he mentioned, are not only taking care of external aggression but also remain at the forefront in coping with disasters and internal rescue challenges.

## ATC permits arrest of PTI chief

FROM PAGE 01  
Furthermore, the complete report will be submitted to the court however the arrest of PTI chairman will be delayed, sources added. Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan were arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday. The protests were held in remote and major cities as the party workers were agitated due to their chairman's arrest, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order. Army installations and Corps Commander's house in Lahore came under attack during a protest by PTI workers. It is pertinent to mention here that PTI Chairman Khan was arrested from his Lahore residence on August 5 after he was slapped with a five-year disqualification and a three-year prison term in the Toshakhana criminal case.

## Terrorists to be hunted down till surrender

FROM PAGE 01  
stability in Pakistan". Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Peshawar Corps. A day earlier, six soldiers were martyred in an encounter with terrorists in the Asman Manza area. The military's media wing also added that at least four terrorists were also killed while two were injured in the fighting.



## Briefs

## Polls open in Zimbabwe's general elections

HARARE : Zimbabweans started to cast their ballots for a new president, parliament and local authorities Wednesday, with delays reported in the opening of some polling stations. Incumbent President Emerson Mnangagwa cast his ballot at Sherwood Primary School in Kwekwe, a city in the Midlands province of central Zimbabwe. Mnangagwa's main challenger is Nelson Chamisa of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party, who is expected to cast his vote in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

Long queues started forming at most polling stations in Harare before the scheduled opening time of 7 a.m., local time, but many expressed frustration over the delay in opening. "I have been here since 5:30 a.m. but it's now 8:45 a.m. and voting has not started. I wanted to vote early so that I can go and sell my products. I am a vegetable vendor but now with this delay, my business will be affected," said 40-year-old Margaret Muduri at one of the polling stations in Harare.

EU chief observer Fabio Massimo Castaldo told reporters at a polling station in Harare Wednesday morning that there was a significant delay in opening by about 30 percent of the total polling stations. "So far around 30 percent of the polling stations there was significant delay in the opening procedures. The delay was very often linked to lack of essential materials and in some cases the delay was above one and half hours," Castaldo said. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission said in a statement that some polling stations in the country, particularly in Harare and Bulawayo, did not open on time due to late deployment of election material due to last-minute legal challenges that had been lodged by contestants in the run-up to the poll.—APP

## Turkiye continues battle against wildfire

ANKARA : Efforts to fight a raging wildfire in Türkiye's west are ongoing, the country's interior minister said Wednesday. "The efforts to fight the fire in Canakkale continue uninterrupted," said Ali Yerlikaya. More than 2,600 fire fighters and rescue workers, eight airplanes, 26 helicopters, 240 sprinkler trucks, 71 water tankers, and 328 vehicles and equipment have been dispatched to the scene, he added. So far, 337 families and 1,251 individuals across nine villages in the affected region have been evacuated, he said. The Canakkale (Dardanelles) Strait was closed to north-south ship passage because of the fire which broke out earlier Tuesday and rapidly spread due to strong winds.—APP

## Japan's move to discharge wastewater 'irresponsible'

TOKYO : Japan announced on Tuesday that it will start releasing nuclear-contaminated water from the destroyed Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean as early as Thursday, a move that sparked widespread criticism from the international community and local residents. China voiced strong opposition after the announcement, saying that the act is "extremely selfish and irresponsible". It strongly urged the Japanese government to reverse its wrong decision. On Tuesday, Vice-Foreign Minister Sun Weidong summoned Japanese Ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi and lodged solemn representations over the decision. Sun said that Japan's move disregards the strong concerns and firm opposition of the international community. Condemning the decision as "extremely selfish and irresponsible", Sun said that Japan is putting its own interests above the long-term well-being of the entire humanity. "China is gravely concerned.—APP

## 4,000 vendors, buyers through two-day Pak Expo in Canada

The event was inaugurated by High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua while Consul General of Pakistan to Vancouver Janbaz Khan and a large number of Pakistani Canadian entrepreneurs, vendors, producers, businessmen, tradesmen, ministers and legislators were also present

DNA

OTTAWA: Nearly 4,000 vendors and visitors thronged a two-day Pakistan Expo held in the Canadian city of Vancouver to showcase Pakistani products to the local buyers and customers and help forge business-to-business collaborations between Pakistan and Canada. The event was inaugurated by High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada Zaheer A. Janjua while Consul General of Pakistan to Vancouver Janbaz Khan and a large number of Pakistani Canadian entrepreneurs, vendors, producers, businessmen, tradesmen, ministers and legislators were also present. The two-day expo was the first of its kind held in Western Canada. It was jointly organised by the Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association (PWCTA) and the Consulate General of Pakistan in Vancouver. A large delegation of Pakistani vendors from various parts of the country also attended the event.

Addressing the opening gala of

the event, High Commissioner Zaheer A. Janjua lauded the or-

ganisers for visualizing and actualising the Pakistan expo within a short span of time in Canada. He said the participation of a large number of trade delegates and businessmen from Canada and Pakistan and the attendance of thousands of local buyers and visitors

was an affirmation of the quality and success of the event.

and it is playing an important role in the development of both Canada and Pakistan and bringing the two countries closer," he added. He hoped the Pakistan Expo Vancouver 2023 would serve as an ideal platform for an increased cooperation between the private sectors of both countries that would impetus to the bilatera-



commerce and trade. He told the audience Pakistan High Commis-

ion had recently arranged Pakistan fashion and culture shows and exhibitions in Toronto and Ottawa and it had started working actively on plans to arrange a Pakistan Fashion Industry Expo in March 2024, and the Pakistan Trade Expo in October 2024.

and August 2023. During the change-of-command ceremony in Bahrain on Monday, CMF Deputy Commander Cmdr. Philip Dennis welcomed Philippine Navy Capt. Mateo Carido as the new commander of CTF 151. The task force quoted him as saying that "the Republic of the Philippines makes history, taking command of CTF 151 for the very first time." Carido will lead a team of seven Philippine Navy officers supported by 11 officers and two enlisted personnel from 13 CMF member states.—Agencies

da and Pakistan and bringing the two countries closer," he added. He hoped the Pakistan Expo Vancouver 2023 would serve as an ideal platform for an increased cooperation between the private sectors of both countries that would impetus to the bilatera-

## Philippines takes command of counter-piracy task force

MANILA: The Philippine Navy this week took the lead in efforts to prevent piracy attacks near the Arabian Gulf after it assumed command of a multinational response task force in Bahrain for the first time. A 38-member multinational partnership known as Combined Maritime Forces established the so-called Combined Task Force 151 in 2009 to conduct maritime security operations aimed at countering piracy and armed robberies at sea. Saudi Arabia, the US and Japan are also members of the CMF, which is headquartered at the US Navy

base in Bahrain. Operations target terrorism, drug-trafficking, smuggling and other illegal activities. "It is the first time for the Philippine Navy to command CTF 151, a very rare opportunity given to us," Eduard Pablico, public affairs officer of the Philippine Navy, told Arab News on Wednesday. "Piracy remains suppressed, but not eradicated, within the Combined Maritime Forces area of operations. It means that there are existing factors which detrimentally affect legitimate trade and may cause the re-emergence of piracy if

not sustained." CTF 151 was set up in response to piracy attacks in the Gulf of Aden and off the eastern coast of Somalia that posed a threat to international fishing vessels and shipping. The force operates across about 3.2 million square miles of international waters, including some of the world's most important shipping lanes. Leadership of the task force is rotated among member nations. The Philippine Navy assumed command after the South Korean Navy, which was in charge between February

and August 2023. During the change-of-command ceremony in Bahrain on Monday, CMF Deputy Commander Cmdr. Philip Dennis welcomed Philippine Navy Capt. Mateo Carido as the new commander of CTF 151. The task force quoted him as saying that "the Republic of the Philippines makes history, taking command of CTF 151 for the very first time." Carido will lead a team of seven Philippine Navy officers supported by 11 officers and two enlisted personnel from 13 CMF member states.—Agencies

## Six killed in road accident in N. Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN : Six commuters were killed due to a road accident in north Afghanistan's Balkh Province on Tuesday, provincial hospital spokesman Khair Mohammad Khair Khwa said Wednesday. The accident occurred due to reckless driving on the Jawzjan-Balkh highway in the Chaharbolak district of Balkh on Tuesday afternoon when two cars collided, and some of the injured were in critical condition, Khwa added. This is the fourth road accident in the country since Aug. 19. Over the past four days, three more people have been killed and 26 others injured in different road accidents in the country's Badakhshan, Ghazni and Laghman provinces. Ramshackle roads, old vehicles, lack of safety measures during travel and reckless driving on congested highways are the main reasons for road accidents in the mountainous country, as nearly 400 people have reportedly been killed in road mishaps in the war-torn country over the past three months.—Agencies

## Spain opp head to face Sept investiture vote

MADRID : The head of Spain's conservative opposition Popular Party (PP) will face a parliamentary debate and vote to become prime minister in September, the president of the parliament said Wednesday. The announcement comes a day after Spain's King Felipe VI called on PP leader Alberto Nunez Feijoo to seek to form a new government, despite his party not having a majority following a snap general election on July 23 that produced a hung parliament. The two-day debate will start on September 26 with the vote on Feijoo's bid on the 27, said president of the parliament Francina Armengol. "I believe that this date gives more than enough time for the candidate to carry out the appropriate negotiations with the representatives of the different political formations," Armengol said. The PP won the most seats but neither it nor acting Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's Socialists emerged with a clear path to achieve the 176-seat majority needed to win an investiture vote and take office. On the face of it, Feijoo will fall short as his PP has 137 parliamentary seats while potential allies far-right Vox and two small regional parties only have 33 between them. If pooled, those would give a PP-led coalition only 172 votes. And if Feijoo fails to get a majority during a first investiture vote, he will face a second vote where just a simple majority of more yes than no votes are needed. If he loses again, the king has to pick a new candidate - most likely Sanchez, whose party finished second. If no candidate secures a majority within two months of the first investiture vote, new elections have to be called, which has happened with elections in both 2015 and 2019. Sanchez wants to return at the head of a "progressive" government of centre and radical left, and insists he could garner more votes than Feijoo. He has the support of far-left formation Sumar and could cobble together a majority with the support of Catalan and Basque pro-independence parties.—Agencies

## Niger observers link coup to president's support for EU migration policies

NIAMEY : Observers have linked Mohamed Bazoum's support for European Union policies aimed at stifling migration routes through north Africa to his ousting as president of Niger last month. Army officers toppled Bazoum on 26 July, as Niger became the fourth west African country since 2020 to have a coup, following Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali. Domestically, Bazoum had been closely associated with a law against people smuggling that was brought in by Niger's government with the support of EU authorities in 2015, at the height of the European refugee crisis. Under the terms of a deal struck with EU leaders, Niger - one of the poorest countries in the world and a transit point for people heading for Libya and then southern Europe - received aid money in return for blocking routes north. Bazoum became interior minister in 2016, the same year the law was imple-

mented. The legislation became known as the "Bazoum law". In 2021, he was feted by the international community including the former colonial power France after winning elections that ushered in Niger's first peaceful transition of power. The legislation was opposed by figures in the Nigerien military who had previously benefited financially from bribes paid by people smugglers and those being smuggled. Alkotch Mohamed, a community leader in Agadez - a desert city through which thousands of people used to pass - said everyone related to the people-smuggling industry had been affected by the law. "The army officers who used to stand on the checkpoints, the people who drove the migrants, the people who would take migrants into Libya - the whole population used to depend on this business," he said. On Sunday, people from the Tuareg and Touhou communities protested

in front of the offices of the International Organization for Migration and the UN-HCR to call for the law to be repealed. The reasons the army launched a coup were many, according to a university professor in the Nigerien capital, Niamey, who did not want to be identified. "Among them was the impact of their loss of revenue from illegal migration, but also the fact that Bazoum comes from a minority group in Niger." Jérôme Tubiana, a French researcher and journalist who has covered conflict and displacement issues across the Sahel region and Horn of Africa, said the EU had ignored warnings that its Niger policy could undermine democratic progress in the country. "Much like in Sudan, EU countries like Italy and Germany were not listening to warnings of the destabilising effects of the migration policy, they were just obsessed with [reducing]

migration," Tubiana said. "Now, I'm afraid that within the French establishment voices who believe Africa is not ripe for civilian democracy will rise again, since they see that armies are turning against France only when France supports civilian democracies." The coup has heightened international worries over instability in the Sahel region, which faces growing jihadist insurgencies linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. On Monday, a representative of the west Africa bloc Ecowas described a call by the coup leaders for a three-year transition back to democracy as unacceptable. Ecowas has agreed to activate a "standby force" as a last resort to restore democracy in Niger and has said it is ready to act, though it is still pursuing diplomacy. But the regional bloc has given no date for or details about any potential military intervention.—Agencies

## China conducts patrol around disputed islands

BEIJING: China on Wednesday said its coast guard conducted patrol around disputed islands in the East China Sea. The China Coast Guard (CCG) 2502 fleet "patrolled the territorial waters of China's Diaoyu Islands on Wednesday," the CCG said in a statement. "It is a rights-safeguarding patrol carried out by the Coast Guard in accordance with the law," the CCG said in a statement to broadcaster CGTN. The uninhabited islets, controlled by Tokyo and known as Senkaku Islands in Japan, and claimed by China as Diaoyu Islands, continue to cause tension between the two countries.—APP

## South Korea holds air raid drill

ISTANBUL : South Korea held the first air raid exercise in six years on Wednesday, as North Korea prepares to launch a space rocket carrying a satellite, local media reported. Civil defense sirens went off across the country and 216 vehicles were mobilized, simulating evacuation of civilians during emergency situations, said Seoul-based Yonhap News. Around 480 multiuse facilities took part in the drill, however, hospitals along with subway, train, aircraft, and ferry services functioned without disruption. The drill was not conducted in the 57 regions that were labeled as special disaster zones last month due to heavy rainfall and Typhoon Khanun. Roughly 17,000 sites, which encompass places like basement areas of apartments and subway stations, were assigned as shelters for the purpose of defense drills in the previous year. The 20-minute drill was an element of the four-day Ulchi civil defense training, coinciding with a combined military maneuver involving South Korea and the US, known as the Ulchi Freedom Shield.—Agencies

## Indonesia pursues free and active foreign policy



DNA

JAKARTA : The part one of the 10th Session of the OIP on the Contemporary Dynamic of Indonesia was held on August 22, 2023. The OIP which is a collaboration between Indonesian Embassy and Bahria University, Islamabad hosted Prof. Anak Agung Banyu Perwita, Professor of International Relations, Department of International Relations, National Defense University, who shared his insight on the evolution of the "Indonesian Foreign Policy". While sharing historical background of Indonesia's foreign policy defined as "Bebas-Aktif" or "Independent-Active" the speaker

said that these two key and basic principles are the hallmark of the Country's foreign policy since 1948. He said that the Indonesian Vice President Mohammad Hatta termed the Foreign Policy as "Rowing between Two Reefs" since the country envisioned a policy of not aligning itself with world's major powers and maintaining a balance between them. Prof. Anak stated that Indonesia's foreign policy focuses on promoting economic development, regional integration, conflict resolution, and multilateral engagement, prioritizing national integrity, economic stability, pluralism, democracy, and global peace efforts. "Indonesia's foreign policy is derived from its unique cultural values, historical experiences, aspirations of the society and its strategic position in world politics" the speaker informed the participants. He further informed that historically, these principles and values are essential part of the preamble of 1945 constitution adding that Indonesia committed itself to abolish colonialism and create a world order based on Independence peace and social

justice. With these basic principles, Indonesia's foreign policy, a blend of diplomacy and struggle, successfully maintained and defended its freedom against the Dutch and gained international recognition. It chose not to align with the US and USSR, acting as an active agent to decide its own standpoint. The policy also aimed to mitigate ideological rivalry among elites and evolve a consensus for secular nationalism over religious-nationalism. In this context of cold war between US and USSR, the Asia-Africa Conference, hosted by Indonesia in 1955, and organized by Indonesia, Burma (Myanmar), India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Pakistan was the first large-scale Asian-African Conference of newly independent twenty-nine countries that represented a total population of 1.5 billion people, 54% of the world's population. The meeting of these leaders was a key point in the history of developing countries that gave rise to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the concept of the Third World or the South. Moving on

to the New Order Era of 1967-1998 the speaker said that under the President Soeharto, the New Order's first foreign policy initiative was to radically change Indonesia's foreign policy and commit to a good neighborhood policy, leading to the establishment of ASEAN in 1967 to promote domestic political stability and economic development by removing conflict sources" he apprised the participants. He described the next priority of President Suharto foreign policy was to restore Indonesia's relations with US and Japan by implementation of "diplomacy for development" to attract foreign investment in managing the domestic economy through the creation of IGGI in 1967. The speakers underlined that since then ASEAN has been the cornerstone of Indonesia's Foreign Policy which has contributed to its international and regional standing, has helped attracted investment and has opened up markets for exports. He shared with the participants that ASEAN has fostered regional harmony through the 1976 Treaty of

Amity and Cooperation in SEA contributing to a more autonomous regional order, providing international leverage and promoting security cooperation. Prof. Anak Perwita described that during the COVID-19 pandemic, President Jokowi emphasized the importance of bilateralism, regionalism, and multilateralism as the pandemic had multi-dimensional implications. In Q&A session the speaker said that Indonesia is concerned about the rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific region and aims to play a bridging role between major world powers. Indonesia underscores the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) that emphasizes ASEAN's role in maintaining peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," he concluded. At the upcoming session 11, Dr. Yayan G.H. Mulyana, Deputy of Foreign Minister / Head of Foreign Policy Agency Strategy Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia will deliver lecture on topic of "The Rise of Indonesia as a Middle Power" on August 24, 2023



## Briefs

### Opening ceremony of Pakistan-KSA joint exercise held

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Opening ceremony of First Pakistan-KSA "Joint Special Forces Exercise AL BATTARI" was held at Cherat. Pak-Royal Saudi Special Forces are participating in two weeks long exercise. The exercise is aimed at further harnessing the historic military to military relations between both the countries, including nurturing of joint employment concept and identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaboration, with a view to accrue maximum benefits from each other's experience in employment against terrorism. National anthems of both countries were played at the start of the ceremony. Senior officials from both the Armed Forces were present on the occasion. Such joint Military Exercises between armies of both brotherly countries are aimed at enhancing existing bilateral relations and benefiting from each other's experience.

### Russian general who ran Ukraine war fired

DNA

MOSCOW: One of Russia's leading military figures, Gen Sergei Surovikin, has reportedly lost his job as air force chief after weeks of speculation his disappearance from public view. Ria Novosti agency said he had been relieved of his post, citing a source. For several months Gen Surovikin was in charge of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine but he has not been seen since the Wagner mutiny in June. Observers believe his removal dates back to the botched rebellion. One Russian report quoted a defence ministry source as saying he had been dismissed because of a transfer to a new job and he was now on a short vacation. His role as head of aerospace forces has been taken on by air force chief of staff, Gen Viktor Afzalov, Ria Novosti adds. During the hours that Wagner mercenaries marched towards Moscow on 24 June, Gen Surovikin appeared in a video appealing to them to return to base. But his awkward performance was later compared to a hostage-style video. The general was known to have good relations with Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who reserved his loathing for other figures in the defence hierarchy. In the weeks after the June revolt, there were unconfirmed reports by Russian military bloggers that Gen Surovikin had been detained for questioning. But officials denied he was being held in a pre-trial detention centre and one retired general said that he was merely "resting" and unavailable.

# Xi calls for BRICS unity as bloc weighs expansion

BRICS group countries have economies that are vastly different in scale and governments that often seem to have few foreign policy goals in common, complicating decision-making



NEWS DESK

JOHANNESBURG: China's President Xi Jinping called for unity among his BRICS counterparts at a summit in South Africa on Wednesday as he pushed the case for expanding the grouping to face a global "period of turbulence and transformation". Leaders of the bloc of leading developing nations Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are meeting in Johannesburg with discussions around establishing a framework and criteria for admitting new members topping the agenda. While all BRICS members have publicly expressed support for growing the bloc, divisions remain over how much and how quickly. Bloc heavyweight China has long pushed for expansion and views its deteriorating relations with Washington as well as heightened global tensions resulting from the Ukraine war as adding urgency to the enlargement project. "The world is undergoing major shifts, division and regrouping ... it has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation," Xi said. "We, the BRICS countries, should always bear in mind our founding purpose of strengthening ourselves through unity." BRICS group countries have economies that are vastly different in scale and governments that often seem to have few foreign policy goals in common, complicating decision-making. The economy of China for example, is more than 40

## Dollar's domination of world trade will end

JOHANNESBURG: The days of the US dollar's domination of trade among BRICS countries are numbered, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday. Putin told the bloc's summit that members would discuss switching trade away from the dollar and into national currencies, and the BRICS New Development Bank would play a key role. "The objective, irreversible process of de-dollarization of our economic ties is gaining momentum," he said. Russian President Vladimir Putin took multiple shots at the West on the opening day of an economic summit in South Africa, using a prerecorded speech that was aired on giant screens Tuesday to rail at what he called "illegitimate sanctions" on his country and threaten to cut off Ukraine's grain exports permanently. Putin, the subject of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant related to the war in Ukraine, did not travel to Johannesburg for the summit of the BRICS group of emerging economies. Instead, he plans to participate remotely in the three-day meeting of the bloc that encompasses Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. His 17-minute speech recorded in advance centered on the war in Ukraine and Russia's relationship with the West — even though South African officials had said East-West frictions should not dominate the first in-person BRICS summit since before the COVID-19 pandemic and hoped to guide the conversation away from the deteriorating geopolitical climate. Sitting at a desk with a white notebook in front of him and a Russian flag behind, Putin said a wartime deal to facilitate Ukrainian grain shipments that is critical for the world's food supply would not resume until his conditions — the easing of restrictions on Russian food and agricultural products — are met. — DNA

times larger than South Africa's, Africa's most developed country. Russia, isolated by the United States and Europe over its invasion of Ukraine, is also pushing to quickly grow BRICS and forge it into a counterweight to the West. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is wanted under an international arrest warrant for alleged war crimes, sees BRICS membership as a way of showing the West he still has friends. He did not travel to South Africa but used a video address to attack Western powers. "I want to note that it was the desire to maintain their hegemony in the world, the desire of some countries to maintain this hegemony that led to the severe crisis in Ukraine," he said. South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Tuesday that he and Xi had similar positions on BRICS expansion. But pushback has come from Brazil and India, which have both forged closer ties with the West. Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Tuesday rejected the idea the bloc should seek to rival the United States and Group of Seven wealthy economies. While he is pushing for neighbour Argentina to join, he said any new members would need to meet certain conditions, so the group does not become a "Tower of Babel". Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday his country, which is wary of Chinese dominance, fully supported expansion. However, an Indian official familiar with discussions late on Tuesday between the leaders said Modi indicated "there have to be ground rules about how it should happen and who can join". India and China periodically clash over their disputed Himalayan border. More than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining BRICS, say South African officials, 22 of whom have formally asked to be admitted. Details of criteria for joining could be included in a joint declaration due to be finalised on Wednesday. Beyond the enlargement question, boosting the use of member states' local currencies in trade and financial transactions to lessen dependency of the U.S. dollar is also on the summit agenda. South African organisers had said there would be no discussions of a common BRICS currency, an idea floated by Brazil as an alternative to dollar-dependence.

## NEPRA increases electricity price

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Wednesday approved Rs5.40 per unit increase in power tariff on the account of quarterly adjustment for the fiscal year of 2022-23. The regulatory body has given initial approval for increase in the power tariff while the final decision will be taken by the federal government. Nepra said the increase in tariff would not be applicable to K-Electric and lifeline consumers, adding that the detailed verdict in this regard would be issued later. Earlier this month, the caretaker federal government had announced massive increase in petroleum prices for the second fortnight of August 2023. — DNA

## India: 26 killed as railway bridge collapses

GUAHATI: A railway bridge being built in India collapsed on Wednesday killing at least 26 workers and injuring two, police said, as the state-run railway authority opened an investigation. The accident happened in Sairang town in the northeastern state of Mizoram, its chief minister, Zoramthanga, said on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Charge d' Affaires, Pang Chunxue, met with FM Jalil Jilani today to affirm their commitment to enhance the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China. The discussions aimed to further strengthen the diplomatic ties that bind the two nations. — DNA

## Malaysia denounces US sanctions on Iran

TEHRAN: Malaysian Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir has expressed his country's opposition to US sanctions on Iran, saying Kuala Lumpur will never recognize the cruel sanctions. During a meeting with Iran's President Ebrahim Raesi in Tehran on Tuesday, Zambry described the Islamic Republic as Malaysia's "very important partner" in the region and the Muslim world. He also hailed "positive" meetings with Iranian officials during his trip to Tehran on August 20-23. Zambry further called for the development of bilateral relations, especially in the fields of agriculture, medicine, science, and technology. Raesi, for his part, said that devising a long-term strategic cooperation plan between Iran and Malaysia will "open up new horizons" in bilateral ties. He also expressed hope that the cooperation plan will lead to enhanced relations and economic exchanges. The top Malaysian diplomat paid his first official visit to Iran since assuming office last December, upon an invitation by his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. In a Monday meeting, Zambry and Amir-Abdollahian held talks about further improvement of Iran-Malaysia ties and some leading regional and international issues. They further agreed to speed up the extradition of criminals and the exchange of prisoners. The Iranian foreign Minister said that a session of the Iran-Malaysia joint economic commission would convene in Tehran in the near future and its sub-committees would hold regular sessions to discuss consular, trade, economic, and cultural issues and the fight against terrorism. He noted that diplomatic efforts are underway to organize visits by President Raesi to Kuala Lumpur and the Malaysian prime minister to Tehran. — Agencies

## Greek fires rage after migrant tragedy near border

ATHENS: Water-dropping planes from several European countries joined hundreds of firefighters Wednesday battling wildfires raging for days across Greece that left 20 people dead, while major blazes also burned in Spain's Tenerife in the Canary Islands and in northwestern Turkey near the Greek border. Greece's largest current forest fire was burning out of control for the fifth day near the city of Alexandroupolis in the country's northeast, while another major blaze on the northwestern fringe of Athens was burning homes and heading towards the Parnitha national park, one of the last green areas near the Greek capital. Over three days, 209 wildfires had broken out across Greece, fire department spokesman Ioannis Artopios said Wednesday morning. The blazes, fanned by gale-force winds and hot, dry summer conditions, led authorities to order the evacuations of dozens of villages and the main hospital in Alexandroupolis, where nearly 70 of the more than 200 patients were transferred to a ferry docked in the city's port that was turned into a temporary floating

hospital. Although gale-force winds were gradually abating in many parts of the country, the risk of new fires remained high. "Conditions remain difficult and in many cases extreme," Artopios said. Firefighters searching recently burnt areas in the Alexandroupolis region, which is near the border with Turkey, discovered the bodies of 18 people believed to be migrants in a forest Tuesday. Another two people were found dead on Monday, one in northern Greece and another in a separate fire in central Greece. With firefighting forces stretched to the limit, Greece called for assistance from other European countries. Germany, Sweden, Croatia and Cyprus sent water-dropping aircraft, while Romania and the Czech Republic sent dozens of firefighters and water tanks. Evacuations were ordered for several areas on the northwestern fringe of the Greek capital as a wildfire that started Tuesday raced up a mountain towards the Parnitha national park, threatened a military base in the area and torched homes in the foothills. — Agencies

## President Alvi invites CEC Raja for meeting

Elections Act 2017 empowered the Election Commission of Pakistan to announce the dates for polls unilaterally

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has invited Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja for a meeting to "fix an appropriate date" for general elections. Alvi wrote a letter to the CEC today, citing the constitutional requirement for the president to decide a date for general elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly (NA). In the letter, posted on the Presidency's account on X, the president noted that the NA was dissolved on the advice of then-prime minister Shehbaz Sharif on August 9 — three days ahead of its mandated period. And "by virtue of Article 48(5) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the president is obliged to appoint a date not later than 90 days from the date of dissolution for the holding of general elections of [the] assembly", the letter read. In view of this, he added, the CEC was invited

to meet him today or tomorrow to set an "appropriate date" for elections. While the president has cited the constitutional provisions that elaborate on his role in deciding the election date, a recent amendment to the Elections Act 2017 empowered the Election Commission of Pakistan to announce the dates for polls unilaterally without having to consult the president. Alvi's invitation to the CEC also comes against the backdrop of the Election Commission of Pakistan having ruled out elections this year, following the notification of the latest 2023 digital census. Since the NA was dissolved three days before the end of its constitutional term, Article 224 of the Constitution mandates that elections be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the assembly. But at the same time, Section 17(2) of the Elections Act states that "the commission shall delimit constituencies after every census is officially published."

## ECP to consult all parties including PTI

MEHTAB SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to consult all major political parties, including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), regarding the date of general elections that are expected early next year, sources told. According to the sources, the political parties will be consulted separately, with the consultations revolving around the election roadmap as well as issues related to delimitation and voter lists. The ECP's meeting with the political parties, the sources added, is expected to begin in the next few days. The major parties that the electoral watchdog will be holding meetings with include Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Awami National Party (ANP) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F). After receiving a briefing on the new Result Compilation System (RCS), a day earlier, the ECP expressed its satisfaction with the mock exercise with regard to its use. Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja presided over a meeting of the commission at its secretariat in Islamabad, which was attended by members, secretary and other senior officers. The commission was given a briefing on the RCS, which allows the presiding officer to send the results immediately to returning officer through a mobile app.

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Ph: +92 51 228 7691 | +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693