



# Islamabad POST

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

**Pakistan, US share view on promoting gender security**

Detailed News On Page-08

**China backs settlement of Palestine issue**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Babar Azam hits fastest 19 ODI centuries**

Detailed News On Page-01



## Briefs

**Kakar to address UNGA session**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is likely to attend the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which opens on September 5, it emerged Wednesday. Caretaker PM Kakar will apparently be the first interim prime minister to represent Pakistan at the UN General Assembly. He will be addressing the UN summit on September 22 and he would return the same day after delivering his speech. A small delegation will accompany the caretaker prime minister including interim Foreign Minister Syed Jalil Abbas Jilani, interim Information and Broadcasting Minister Murtaza Solangi, interim Climate Change and Law and Parliamentary and Water Resources Affairs Minister Ahmad Irfan Aslam and Foreign Secretary M. Syrus Qazi. A UN press statement marked Sept 19 as first day of high-level general debate that is addressed by world leaders.

**EC to approach India over IIOJK**

DNA

BRUSSELS: European Commission (EC) has decided to approach India over atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said that the commission will take up the Kashmir issue with the India administration. She said that president and vice president of the European Commission will write letters to the members and will raise voice over the human rights violations in Indian Occupied Kashmir. Earlier the former foreign minister (FM) Bilawal Bhutto lambasted the international community for "turning a blind eye" to India's atrocities in IIOJK, saying it was "not wise to sacrifice timeless principles for short-term interests". "I asked those who champion the rules-based international order and place a premium on protecting and promoting human rights."

**Police arrest PTI Sindh President**

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Sindh chapter president Haleem Adil Sheikh on Wednesday was arrested outside the Sindh High Court (SHC). Sheikh's arrest came as he was reportedly suspected of involvement in the violent protests triggered by party's chairman Imran Khan arrest in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust on May 9. Sheikh and other PTI politicians in the province were reportedly among rioters booked for the violent protests in Karachi. Speaking with journalists outside the court before his arrest, the senior PTI leader said false cases were made against him "Blowing up balloons have also become terrorism," he said.

## Inflated electricity bills

# Shamshad rules out subsidies

Finance Minister says International Monetary Fund to be taken on board; protests over inflated energy bills continue unabated

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: As the country continues to brave rising inflation, interim Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar on Wednesday warned that Pakistan's economic situation was "worse than anticipated" and the government did not have "fiscal space" to provide subsidies. Her remarks, made during a meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance today, asserted that the interim set-up had "inherited" the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, hence, it was "non-negotiable". The finance minister's statement comes as Pakistan remains plagued by the inflated cost of living, particularly exorbitant electricity prices that have forced residents to take to the streets across the country. So far, the caretaker government has failed to come up with any relief measures as it tries to strike a balance between avoiding drawing the IMF's ire and causing more citizens to blow a fuse. In the cabinet meeting presided over by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar a day earlier, the interim set-up expressed helplessness on how to address the issue,



**IMF asks to share relief plan in writing**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday asked Pakistan to share the plan in writing to provide relief in electricity bills as the protests continue countrywide, sources told media. The development comes after the caretaker government decided to seek the lender's nod before announcing any relief to the consumers. A meeting of the federal cabinet was held on Tuesday with interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar in the chair to mull options but ended without announcing any measures. The Power Division shared its proposals with the authorities but due to strict IMF loan conditions, it was concluded that the lender should be taken on board first. Islamabad had signed a \$3 billion loan agreement with the Fund in July and agreed to stringent

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

# COAS witnesses field fire, battle exercises

COAS appreciated the synergy displayed by Airforce, Army Aviation and ground troops in execution of various operational drills

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir visited Tilla Field Firing Ranges near Jhelum where he witnessed the field fire and battle drills, a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednesday. According to the military's media wing, the army chief was briefed on training objectives set for the exercise with a view to validating the operational readiness of the formation in a challenging environment. The army chief, during his visit, appreciated the synergy displayed by the Air Force, Army Aviation and ground troops in the execution of various operational drills. Gen Munir also praised the troops for their combat proficiency and offensive spirit, appreciating their high morale and battleworthiness of the troops. Upon his arrival, the army chief was received by Lieutenant General Syed Aamer Raza, Commander 4 Corps. Last week, COAS Munir said that terrorists, their affiliates and abettors - working on the behalf of a hostile agenda to destabilise Pakistan - will be hunted down until they surrender to the state. The army chief made



these remarks during his interaction with officers and troops deployed in the Sherwangi area near Asman Manza in South Waziristan district, KP, where six brave soldiers had embraced martyrdom a day earlier while fighting gallantly against terrorists, the military's media wing added. The COAS appreciated the troops' unflinching resolve in fighting the menace of terrorism. "Shuhada are our pride and their sacrifices will not go in vain till the return of complete peace and stability in Pakistan." During the visit, Gen Munir was also given a detailed briefing on the prevailing security situation including ongoing intelligence and counter-terrorism operations.

# US diplomat urges free, fair elections in Pakistan

Acting Deputy Secretary Nuland and FM Jilani discussed the importance of timely, free and fair elections in a manner consistent with Pakistan's laws and Constitution

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland has emphasised the importance of timely and free and fair elections in Pakistan in a telephone conversation with caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani, according to a statement issued by the US State Department on Tuesday. "Acting Deputy Secretary Nuland and Foreign Minister Jilani discussed the importance of timely, free and fair elections in a manner consistent with Pakistan's laws and Constitution," the US State Department said in a statement. The top US diplomat spoke over the phone with Jilani to congratulate him on his appointment as interim foreign minister and discussed broadening and deepening the US-Pakistan partnership on issues of mutual concern. According to State Department spokesperson Mathew Miller, matters related to Pakistan's economic stability, prosperity, and continued engagement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were also deliberated upon. Pakistani politics has been in a crisis for over

a year, with former prime minister Imran Khan - who was ousted in a parliamentary vote of no confidence last year - being at the centre of it. Khan blamed the US and Pakistan's former army chief General (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa for his ousting. Both Washington and the military have denied his claims. The State Department statement on the call between Nuland and Jilani made no mention of Khan. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday suspended the incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's sentence on corruption charges in the Toshakhana case, but he would remain behind bars as a judge had already ordered his detention in another case. The conviction of Khan has also barred him from



contesting elections for five years. Pakistan swore in a caretaker cabinet under interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in mid-August, tasking it with running the country until fresh elections, which may be delayed beyond November as constituency boundaries are redrawn. The caretaker cabinet's top job would be to lead Pakistan towards economic stabilisation, with the \$350 billion economy treading a narrow recovery path after getting a last-minute \$3 billion bailout deal from IMF, averting a sovereign debt default. On August 17, the ECP announced the schedule of new delimitations to be carried out as per the new census approved by the Council of Common Interest (CCI). The ECP schedule showed that fresh delimitation would take nearly four months,

meaning the general elections in the country cannot be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the provincial and national assemblies. As per the schedule, the new delimitation of constituencies nationwide will be notified in December this year. On August 29, the Foreign Office said it had not yet received any such communication from any capital after reports of some senior diplomats expressing reservations regarding the delay in polls in Pakistan surfaced, sources informed The News. If a country raises any doubts and concerns, the FO said, the authorities can address them. The FO's response came after reports floated about some senior diplomats suggesting that a delay in the elections could have negative effects on Pakistan's relationships with democratic nations. It was also reported that a few countries have engaged with the authorities concerned about the electoral process to gauge the possibility of any unwarranted postponement of the polls. Highly placed sources within the FO informed The News on Monday that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has already unequivocally stated there are no plans to postpone the elections.

## VICTORY DAY OF TURKIYE



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Lt. General Muhammad Ali Quarter Master General (QMG) Pakistan Army, Foreign Secretary Syrus Qazi, Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmet Pacaci and others cutting cake to mark the Victory Day. - DNA

**MBS likely to pay visit to Pakistan**

The possible visit of Saudi Crown Prince will be for four to six hours



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) is expected to pay a short visit to Pakistan in the second week of September. According to diplomatic sources, the Saudi crown prince will leave for Pakistan in the first phase of his visit.

Continued on Page 06

# Victory Day of Turkiye celebrated

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan congratulate the August 30 Victory Day of our honourable nation, of the Turkish Cypriots, and of more than 7 million Turkish citizens living all across the world

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmet Pacaci and Naval Attache Capt (N) Goksel Ortamevzi hosted Victory Day reception, which was attended by a large number of guests hailing from various walks of life. Lt. General Muhammad Ali Quarter Master General (QMG) Pakistan Army was the chief guest while Senators, former members of the Parliament and civil and military high ranking officers attended the reception. Ambassador Pacaci in his speech welcomed the guests and extended his heartfelt feelings, affection and respect. The Ambassador also read out the message of the President of Turkiye. Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Here is the text of the interview. "On this proud day, as we reach the 101st anniversary of the Great Victory, I would like to congratulate the August 30 Victory

Day of our honourable nation, of the Turkish Cypriots, and of more than 7 million Turkish citizens living all across the world. On behalf of myself, my country and my nation, I would like to thank all our friends who share our joy of celebration. The August 30 Battle of the Commander-in-Chief is one of the most critical milestones in our nation's centuries-long struggle for survival. In the words of Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Great Victory is "a great achievement that once again exemplified in history the enormous might and heroism of the Turkish Army, Turkish Officers and Command Staff". With this victory, which is the "immortal monument of the Turkish Nation's idea of freedom and independence", our nation declared to the whole world that it would not let its will be subjugated and its independence and

Continued on Page 06

# Pakistan thump Nepal in Asia Cup opener

SPORTS DESK

MULTAN: Pakistan defeated Nepal by a whopping 238 runs in the opening match of the Asia Cup 2023 at Multan Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. The hosts played a complete match and dominated the visitors in all aspects of the game. The Green Shirts set a massive target of 343 runs in 50 overs after winning the toss and deciding to bat against Nepal in the first match of the series. Skipper Babar Azam and Iftikhar Ahmed led the way for Pakistan with brilliant centuries. Ahmed remained unbeaten on 109 runs in 71 balls with the help of 11 fours and four sixes. Meanwhile, Babar was dismissed after scoring 151 runs in 131 balls which included 14 fours and four sixes. Asia Cup opener is



taking place at Multan Cricket Stadium as Pakistan hosts the regional cricket event after 15 years. Azam, 28, broke former South Africa batter Hashim Amla's record as he became the fastest player to 19 ODI centuries. He reached this feat in just 102 innings while Amla did it in his 104th.

Continued on Page 06

# ICCI, WFP discuss coop to address food insecurity issues

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Rei Ishii, Head of Supply Chain, World Food Program (WFP) visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and discussed areas of collaboration between WFP and ICCI to address the food insecurity issues in the region.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the visiting guest and said that WFP is providing critical relief and nutrition support to vulnerable segments of society in Pakistan, which is commendable. He assured that ICCI is ready to mobilize its member companies to join hands as partners with WFP in terms of suppliers and vendors in its efforts to strengthen the food and nutrition security for the vulnerable people of Pakistan. He said that many member companies of ICCI from pharma and food sectors

have outreach to communities and they can join hands with WFP in its efforts to provide prompt response in emergency situations like natural disasters and floods etc. He also exchanged views with the visiting guest on many common areas of mutual cooperation.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Rei Ishii, Head of Supply Chain, World Food Program said that WFP has provided over 3.8 million flood-affected people with 80,000 metric ton of food and nutrition assistance and US\$ 31 million in cash-based transfers since August 2022. She said that Pakistan is confronted with substantial multidimensional risks that are obstructing its advancement towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2025. She said that WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2023-27 supports Pakistan's achievement of its national development priorities and the agenda for sustainable development, with a

focus on zero hunger. She said that WFP provides policy and advisory support to the Government of Pakistan to strengthen food systems in Pakistan. She said that ICCI member companies have good outreach to the communities and their cooperation with WFP would strengthen its efforts to address food insecurity issues in Pakistan more effectively. She said that their support as suppliers and vendors with WFP would be helpful in providing quality and nutritious food to the deprived segments of the society.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that providing food and nutrition support to poor people is a very noble cause and assured that ICCI and its members are ready to extend all possible cooperation to WFP in this noble mission. Faseeh Ullah Khan, Executive Members ICCI also highlighted various areas of mutual cooperation between ICCI and WFP that would be beneficial for both organizations.



## KU talk emphasizes positivity in youths

KARACHI: The department of Psychology of the University of Karachi in collaboration with Sindh Higher Education Commission and Paigham-e-Pakistan organized a plenary talk on 'mental deprivation: hindrance in the progress of youth'. The event was held at the Chinese Teachers Memorial Auditorium and the plenary speaker Muhammad Abdullah Hamid Gul talked about the role of youth in the progress of Pakistan and highlighted the significance of hope as a way of coping with life difficulties. Meanwhile, during his presidential address, KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi mentioned that the solution-oriented approach of young people contributed to the success of a country. He stressed the harmony of relationships between youth, adding that he wanted to see youth become forward-moving and empowered, those who could resolve issues, have to be vocal and expressive in life. Earlier, the KU chairperson of the department of Psychology Professor Dr Anila Amber Malik emphasized the significance of youth contribution in the development of any country. On this occasion, the Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Professor Dr Shaista Tabassum emphasized the role of youth as future leaders.—APP

## Data Ganj Bakhsh will be held from September 5

DNA

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Auqaf and Religious Affairs, Housing, Zakat and Ushar Barrister Syed Azfar Ali Nasir has said that the 980th Urs of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh will be held from September 5 to 7. On the special instructions of the chief minister Punjab, foolproof security arrangements had been made regarding Urs, he added. These views were expressed by the minister with Secretary Auqaf Dr Syed Tahir Raza Bukhari and Director General of Religious Affairs Asif Ali Farrukh in a joint press conference.

ence at Committee room here on Wednesday. On this occasion, the minister said that the Urs celebrations would start on September 5 at 11am with the ceremony of Chadar Posh on the grave of the great saint of the Sub-continent after which the traditional milk Sabil will be inaugurated. Barrister Azfar Ali Nasir said that special publication of two books, "Ma'arif Syed Hajvair" and "Tasheel Kashf Al-Mahjub" had also been arranged as the Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi will launch these two books. On the occasion, more than 500 religious and spiritual gatherings and academic sessions have been arranged.

Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman will inaugurate the international conference on August 31 at 2 pm. He said that the Auqaf Department had allocated Rs 12.5 million for Langar and other ceremonies besides arrangements of Urs for pilgrims. Talking about security arrangements, he said that 155 CCTV cameras, more than 3000 security personnel would be deployed. Lady constables will be engaged in women area. Medical camps had also been set up near Data Darbar for the convenience of pilgrims. Barrister Azfar Ali Nasir said and added that the parking lot had been opened.

## MIA calls for reforms in energy sector

PESHAWAR: All Pakistan Marble Industries Association (AMIA) Wednesday called for massive reforms in energy sector including the privatization of all distribution companies (DISCOs) and abolition of single buyer system across the country to promote wheeling system. These proposals were flouted by Chairman AMIA, Asghar Khan

while addressing a press conference along with office bearers from various marble industrial estates here. He said that Pakistan had 2300 large marble industrial units and over 400 marble show-rooms and giving direct and indirect employment to over 0.2 million people, which spoke crucial role in the economic development of the coun-

try. He said that consecutive increase in the power tariff had rendered 40% to 50% marble units closed and if the issue was not addressed then the remaining units would stop operation. He demanded abolition of taxes from the electricity bills to provide maximum relief to marble and granite industries to save the workers from going unemployed.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Senator Sana Jamali presents award certificates to the winners of the making Short Movie on "Drug traffickers endangering our youth" as Country Representative of the UNO-DC Pakistan Jeremy Milsom and Chairperson KKAFF Cristina von Sperling Afridi are also presents on the occasion, in Federal Capital.—Online

## PYMA appeals to PM for cut in power tariff

DNA

KARACHI: Sohail Nisar, Senior Vice Chairman, Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association (PYMA), has termed the recent increases in electricity rates as destructive for businesses and industries, has appealed to the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar and Caretaker Minister for Energy, Power and Petroleum Muhammad Ali to reduce the power tariff. Otherwise, it could lead to the shutdown of businesses and industries.

In an appeal, PYMA SVC stated that excessive costs have made it extremely challenging to do business and running the industries. "The huge increase in electricity rates, coupled with the heavy taxes, will cripple businesses and industries. Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) will be completely devastated, causing massive unemployment." He further stated that the role of SMEs is crucial for economic stability. Developed countries around the world take steps to support and promote SMEs, but unfortunately, in Pakistan, SMEs are being continuously ignored. If the SMEs are not given relief and not saved from destruction, it will have very negative effects on the national economy. Sohail Nisar requested the caretaker government to engage with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on more lenient terms for the sake of saving the economy from disaster. He also emphasized that concrete proposals for relaxation of conditions should be discussed, and public interests should be a priority when making future agreements.

## Work on WB-funded uplift of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital's

DNA

KARACHI: The work on the upgradation and rehabilitation of the gynae ward of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital in Karachi was launched on Wednesday. The World Bank has already approved the funding for the project to make the ward fully functional with an aim to provide proper medical care to people of the area. Mayor of Karachi Murtaza Wahab inaugurated the project for the upgradation and renovation of the medical facility, a press release said. Under the project, the renovation work would be

carried out in three wards comprising 100 beds and two operation theatres would be equipped with state-of-the-art machinery. Besides, the labour, recovery and sterilization rooms, kitchen, reception lobby, washrooms and rooms for doctors as well as consultants would also be renovated. Nursing counters would be relocated to make them more easily accessible to the patients. The renovation work would take four months to complete the entire ward. Addressing the ceremony, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab said that efforts

would be made to complete the project as early as possible. He said that makeshift arrangements had also been made to treat the potential patients to avoid any inconvenience. Wahab said that the rehabilitation of hospitals for the local community was part of the government's objective to provide quality healthcare to its citizens. The citizens of the local community appreciated the Mayor for his efforts to rehabilitate the ward. The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Mayor Salman Murad and other notables.

## People reject protest against inflated bills :KP

PESHAWAR: The payment of electricity bills on Wednesday continued in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Peshawar despite protest demonstrations against an inflated bills in some areas, and the consumers started clearance of their monthly dues to get uninterrupted power supply in the sizzling heat. Rejecting the politically-motivated protest of handful of elements, the consumers of all districts of KP in substantial number were seen at banks and mobile franchise units besides post offices on Wednesday where they paid their electricity bills. Besides many other consumers, Riazul Haq, a former PST teacher and a resident of Pabbi Nowshera district has also cleared his electricity bill of August charged by the Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO). "Payment of electricity bill is essential for providing uninterrupted

power supply to the consumers," he said, adding majority of his relatives had paid their electricity bills. However, he said the burden of free units consumed by PESCO or Wapda employees and stolen electricity should not be shifted on law abiding consumers. Misal Khan, a retired civil servant, who was paying his electricity bill at Post Office Mohib Banda Nowshera said, "I visited Pabbi PESCO Circle Office the other day and get relief by dividing my electricity bill for payment as an installment." "Burning or non-payment of electricity bill was no solution to the problem of inflated bills. We need to conserve energy by switching off an extra electricity appliances to cut our bills," he said, adding we need to adopt the culture to save and protect electricity like the way we protect our lands, jewelry and other valuable. However, he complained about trippings and fluctuations of

transformers/power lines that were causing burning of electricity appliances and inflicting economic losses to poor people. Demanding strict action against power stealers, he said Pakistan was confronting to the monster challenge of energy shortfall owing to non-construction of dams. He said our past governments had failed to construct new dams after Turbella, which resulted an increase of load shedding, power circular debt and inflation that negatively impacting humans, agriculture and industrial consumers. Professor Dr Muhammad Naeem of Swabi University told APP that protest against inflated bills were no solution rather we need to fully exploit KP hydel power potential by constructing new dams that would help reduce electricity cost and address problems of load shedding.—APP

## RISJA elects new office bearers for next term

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Senior journalist Atfal Javed was elected President of Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA-registered) while Nasir Abbas Naqvi and Sohail Raja were elected general secretary and finance secretary respectively for the next term during electoral meeting held the other day. All office-bearers were elected unopposed to their respective offices. The electoral general council meeting of RISJA was held here at Islamabad Tennis Complex, under the supervision of chairman Election Committee Faheem Anwar Khan. The Council paid rich tributes to Abdul Mohi Shah and passed a unanimous resolution appreciating his services for welfare of the association members and conducting award ceremonies for members who were part of the association during January 2022 elections. The house also approved a membership list and procedure to attain RISJA membership in future. The other newly elected office bearers are Arslan Shirazi (PTV) Senior Vice President, Gabriel De Souza (The News) and Hafiz Ubaid ur Rehman (NNI) Vice Presidents, Nasir Abbas Naqvi (Ausaf) General



Secretary, Khurram Shahzad (Daily Musman) and Asim Nawaz Abbasi (The Dayspring) Joint Secretaries while Sohail Raja (Pakistan) elected as Treasurer of new body. During meeting RISJA (R) executive body also formed headed by senior sports journalist Faheem Anwar Khan while Shahryar Khan (SUNO TV), Shahzad Ali (SamaaTV), Zeeshan Qayyum (PTV), Rehan Shaikh (AAJ) and Qaisar

Shahzad (INP) will be part of the executive body of the association. Addressing the meeting, former President National Press Club Shahryar Khan and others appreciated the services and efforts of Abdul Mohi Shah for conducting the RISJA award ceremony. Abdul Mohi Shah also expressed the hope that the new body will play a key role for the welfare of the association. Mohi

Shah also donated his individual award gift back to RISJA funds. The newly elected president of RISJA, Atfal Javed and Secretary Nasir Naqvi, thanked all the members for showing full confidence and said that the association will organize regular activities while RISJA will continue to play its positive role for the development and promotion of sports and welfare of sports journalists.

## Open House for Diplomatic Missions

Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is an icon reflecting the past and the present history of the subcontinent.

Murree Brewery Company is pleased to invite friends from diplomatic missions to visit us and share the experience of our efforts towards keeping it afloat for over 160 years of operation.

We cordially invite diplomatic missions to visit us on any Saturday from 10 am to 1:30 pm to enjoy our hospitality and our products tasting. However, since, we are located in the Red Zone / Prohibited area and it will be mandatory to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance of the intended visit date. We look forward to welcoming you all soon.

For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman  
Mobile: 0300 8553342

**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 Enquiry.....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

# Afghanistan poised to become nucleus of trade in the region

**Webinar on Regional Connectivity and Maritime Security held**

**MUHAMMAD ADIL**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-based research and media lab, South Asia Times (SAT), achieved a significant milestone with its debut webinar titled "Regional Connectivity and Maritime Security: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Beyond." The event united experts, policymakers, academics, and practitioners to discuss the vital role of connectivity and maritime security in shaping South Asia's future. In an era defined by unprecedented globalization and interdependence, the importance of regional connectivity and mar-

itime security has never been more pronounced. The Maritime Silk Route, steeped in historical significance encompassing trade, culture, and diplomacy, has reclaimed its strategic importance in shaping the geopolitical landscape. Furthermore, regional connectivity initiatives, such as the Trans Afghan Railway Line, have emerged as compelling drivers with implications for both geopolitics and geo-economics. The webinar served as a comprehensive platform for leading minds to exchange insights, identify challenges, and propose innovative solutions pertaining to regional connectivity and mar-

itime security, with a specific focus on Pakistan and Afghanistan. Central to these deliberations was the acknowledgment of Pakistan's pivotal role as a critical node in the fabric of regional connectivity projects and the Maritime Silk Route. Its strategic significance as a conduit for trade and energy flows, bridging landlocked regions like Afghanistan and Central Asia with the Arabian Sea, was a key highlight. Additionally, Pakistan's position as a gateway for Iran to foster connections with its neighboring nations was underscored. The unique challenges posed by Afghanistan's landlocked status added depth to the discussions.

Afghanistan, poised for stability and development, aims to leverage its strategic positioning to become a nucleus for regional trade and transit corridors. The webinar examined how Afghanistan's integration into regional connectivity projects and the Maritime Silk Route can be harnessed to stimulate economic growth, bolster regional stability, and foster cross-border cooperation. Esteemed panelists, including Dr. Abdul Latif Nazari, Acting Deputy Minister of Economy, IEA; H.E. Mr. Fereydun Piroloen, Deputy Counsel General of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Quetta, Dr. Nazir Hussain, Professor at Quaide-Azam Uni-

versity, Islamabad; and Ms. Anna Malik, President of COPAIR; Pakistan, provided invaluable insights, infusing the discussions with their expertise and diverse perspectives. The keynote address, delivered by Vice Admiral (Retd) Ahmed Saeed HI(M), Director General of the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), delved into the challenges, strategies, and shared prosperity associated with navigating the course of regional connectivity and maritime futures. SAT's inaugural webinar marks a step towards fostering cross-border cooperation, partnerships, and envisioning shared prosperity and security for South Asia.

## ANF seizes 464 kg drugs in six operations

**RAWALPINDI:** Anti-Narcotics Force while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 464 kg of drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that in an operation near Motorway Toll Plaza Sheikhupura, 62.4 kg hashish and 3.8 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle. Three accused residents of Okara were arrested during the operation. In an operation at Allama Iqbal International Airport, 645 grams of heroin was recovered from a parcel being sent to Kuwait. In the third operation, ANF conducted a raid at an uninhabited house in Qilla Abdullah and recovered 380 kg of Ice drug and 158 litres of prohibited chemicals. 2000 litres of chemical was destroyed on the spot during the operation. In the fourth operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, 1667 grams of Ice drug was recovered from a passenger's trolley bag. The accused, a resident of Lucky Marwat, was leaving for Jeddah on flight number SV-797. During two operations in the Zakha Khel area of Khyber, 16 kg of hashish concealed for smuggling was recovered. The spokesman informed that separate cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are under process.—APP

## Jamal Shah visits Aiwan-e-Quaid Building



**MEHTAB PIRZADA**

ISLAMABAD: Jamal Shah, Interim Minister for National Heritage and Culture on Wednesday conducted a visit to Islamabad's Fatima Jinnah Park, where he expressed the desire to enhance the facilities at the Aiwan-e-Quaid Building during his tour. During the visit, senior officials at Aiwan-e-Quaid provided him with an overview of the different amenities accessible within the building. The Federal Minister also toured several amenities within the Aiwan-e-Quaid Building, which encompassed the Quaid-i-Azam Gallery, Quaid Public Library, Auditorium, documentation center, as well as the Training and Research Center. The Federal Minister conveyed his intention to enhance the facilities, aiming to transform the location into a more valuable space for the community's cultural, educational, and literary endeavors. The Minister also explored Bagh-e-Shuhada, currently under development next to the Islamabad Art Gallery. Among its various elements, the garden will include portraits of martyrs and a captivating monument, designed to raise awareness among people, especially children and the younger generation, about the sacrifices made by these heroes. The Minister confirmed that a formal inauguration of Bagh-e-Shuhada is planned for September 6. The proceedings will begin with an elegant ceremony, succeeded by a musical concert aimed at paying homage to the martyrs. Simultaneously, an art exhibition will be held at the Islamabad Art Gallery as a part of the tribute.

## PTA conducts quality of service survey

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) conducted Quality of Service (QoS) surveys in 19 cities of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, and in Islamabad Capital Territory to measure the performance and quality of services offered by Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) to customers. During the survey, in accordance with Next Generation Mobile Service (NGMS) licenses and Cellular Mobile Network Quality of Service (QoS) Regulations, 2021; mobile network coverage, QoS KPIs of Voice, SMS and mobile broadband were checked using state-of-the-art automated QoS Monitoring and Benchmarking Tool, said a news release issued here on Wednesday. The drive test teams selected survey routes to cover main roads, service roads and majority of sectors, colonies in surveyed areas. Based upon the compliance level of each KPI against threshold defined in the respective licenses and QoS Regulations, CMOs have been ranked between 1st to 4th position in Mobile Network Coverage and Voice Services as per compliance level in surveyed cities. Similarly, in Mobile Broadband Speed segment, the ranking is with respect to the highest data download and upload speed, network latency and webpage loading time. The survey results revealed that CMOs are compliant with respect to upload and download speed to a great extent, while improvement is observed in network latency and webpage loading time as compared to earlier surveys. Moreover, some of the Voice KPIs have been found below the licensed threshold in few areas. Necessary instructions have been issued to the operators for taking corrective measures so as to ensure improvement in the service quality up to standards. PTA field teams are diligently conducting service quality monitoring activities with the objective of urging mobile operators for provision of better mobile services and foster a competitive environment among them.—DNA

## Govt taking steps to promote religious tourism

**ISLAMABAD:** The government has already taken numerous measures to promote religious tourism in the country as this sector can play an important role in reviving the national economy. According to the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) spokesperson, a total of 480 tourist destinations exist in the country, out of which 120 are religious sites. He said that Pakistan is blessed with multiple religions such as Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism and due to its magnificent blend of cultural, religious and natural tourism opportunities. Almost 0.9 million international tourists visit the recreational and historical sites across the country annually, he added. The government was improving the law and order situation to attract the immense number of tourists coming from various countries as religious-based tourism is flourishing and attracting different communities, he said. It is important to realize that religious beliefs and practices are sacrosanct to their followers. Acknowledging, respecting and accommodating these beliefs generates massive goodwill. Pakistan is situated in a region that has been home to diverging civilizations, the world's two major religions Buddhism and Sikhism have been dominant in this land for many centuries.—APP

## Power sector wiping out middle class

**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 power sector is destroying the economy and wiping out the middle class. There will be no middle class in Pakistan if the electricity tariff is not reduced immediately, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that if the price of electricity can vary in different states and provinces in neighbouring India, why is it not possible in Pakistan? Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the policy of punishing honest consumers for power theft elsewhere should be abolished. He said that the electricity tariff in different areas of India is 16 to 24 rupees in terms of Pakistani rupees. Most of the electricity in India is generated from local coal, while in Pakistan, only 2600 MW of electricity is generated from local coal. Power houses are manufactured locally in India while in Pakistan everything is imported, he said, adding that wind, solar, and hydro-power are also cheaper in the neighbouring country, and payments to the investors are made in local currency, while in Pakistan we are forced to pay in dollars. In addition, other countries in the region have not seen massive currency devaluation and skyrocketing interest rates, while in Pakistan, the rupee is depreciating due to an annual gap of \$20 billion in revenue and expenditure. Due to the difference in income and expenditure, the country remains under pressure, and electricity also becomes expensive. Line losses, unpaid bills, and electricity theft are also rampant in Pakistan, he said. The business leader said Rs 800 billion worth of electricity is stolen per year, and honest consumers of electricity have to pay for these losses. There are frequent interruptions in the supply of electricity; consumption of electricity in summer is 30000 MW, in winter it is only 9000 MW and in view of future needs, there is an installed capacity of 40000 MW, which results in huge amounts of capacity payments. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the production of electricity from Thar coal should be increased, and the production of electricity from furnace oil should be completely banned. Surplus electricity should be provided to industries at cheap rates in the winter.

## AIIOU holds painting, speech competition

**FAISAL SHEIKH**

**ISLAMABAD:** A national song, painting, and speech competition was organized by the Islamabad regional campus of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIIOU) at Zargham Mazhar Shaheed Model College, Islamabad. Many students from schools and colleges of Rawalpindi/Islamabad participated in this event, said a news release. Anwaar Haider took the first position in the speech competition, followed by Hamza Aziz in second place and Ahsan Ali in third place. In the national song competition, Shakeel Ahmed, Muneebullah and Rabeet Hasan secured the first, second, and third positions respectively, while Hasan, Anas Ali, and Ayan took first, second, and third place respectively in the painting competition. Director General Regional Services, Dr. Tauqir Ahmad Khan presided over the event while Regional Director Islamabad, Ahsan Shakur and Regional Director Rawalpindi, Nasreen Akhtar Mirza were also present on this occasion. Dr. Tauqir Ahmad Khan congratulated the students and expressed the interest of Vice Chancellor AIIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood in providing opportunities for co-curricular activities. He congratulated the students who secured positions and participated in the competition on behalf of the Vice Chancellor and guaranteed that the university would continue to offer these opportunities. Moreover, the Department of Sociology, AIIOU organized a seminar on "Climate Change and Impacts of Floods" in connection with World Humanity Day in the main campus of AIIOU. Adil Shiraz, Country Head of Care International was the chief guest. Head, Department of Sociology, Dr. Syed Imran Haider, faculty members and students also participated in the seminar.

## PAC organized young artists Islamic calligraphy exhibition

**STAFF REPORT**

**RAWALPINDI:** Punjab Arts Council in collaboration with Mehr-e-Qalm organized a young artist Islamic Calligraphy exhibition Islamic. Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood was the chief guest of the opening ceremony along with Naheed Manzoor, Waqar Ahmad and Shabir Ahmad Zia. While addressing the ceremony Senator Talha Mehmood said that Islamic calligraphy has a very close relationship with the Quran Pak. Quranic verses and suras are well used in this style of calligraphy. Islamic calligraphy is not based on the belief that photography is prohibited in Islam, but because Islam places great importance on writing. For centuries, the main focus of attention of Muslims is the word of Allah, in shape of Quran Pak. It is a miracle of the Quran that Muslims were exposed to a pure art like Islamic calligraphy, he added.



Muhammad Talha Mehmood has further said that today's young people are entering the field of Islamic calligraphy with creative thinking. A person gets peace of mind and heart in this world and the hereafter by following Quranic verses. In the end, he lauds Punjab Arts Council's role in promotion of Islamic Calligraphy. Naheed Manzoor said that the art of calligraphy has a special place in our culture. Punjab government is paying full attention to the promotion and development of all genres of arts. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that Islamic calligraphy is actually the name of presenting hand writing and calligraphy in an artistic way. It is usually seen in countries with a common Islamic cultural heritage. It is a fact that by following the Quranic teachings, a person gets mental and emotional peace in this world and the hereafter. Without it, human life cannot reach its ascension, he added. Shabbir Ahmed Zia, Ayesha Nosheen, Jazeb Ali Qureshi, Sadia Rana, Nazia Sultan, Kaiba Noor, Faiza Khan, Sania Shabbir, Muhammad Zeeshan, Huzaifa, Tahrim Bashir, Touba Waqar, Zainul Abedin Shafi, Tahira Imran, Aziz Jalal Hosni, The artworks of Sadra Younis, Iqra Maqsood, Sandus Mehk, Komal Jameel, Hadiya Khan, Noor Fatima, Sameera, Faizan Malik, Imtial Malik, Laiba Irshad, Sandus, Manza Nusrat and Mehk Afzal were exhibited in the exhibition. At the end of the event, certificates of appreciation were also distributed to all the young artists. The exhibition will continue till September 1.

## Cement export up by 186.86% during July 2023

**ISLAMABAD:** The export of cement witnessed an increase of 186.86 per cent during the first month of the current financial year (2023-24), against the exports of the corresponding period of last year. The country exported cement worth US \$16.145 million during July 2023 against the exports of US \$5.628 million during July 2022, showing a growth of 186.86 per cent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the cement export also rose by 291.87 per cent from 105,141 metric tons to 412,141 metric tons, the data revealed. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, cement exports however decreased by 24.17 per cent during July 2023.—APP

## Briefs

**Cotton yarn exports up by 36% to \$97 mln in July**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exports of cotton yarn increased by 35.96 percent during the first month of current fiscal year compared to the exports of the same month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Exports of the commodity during July 2023 were recorded at \$97.032 million as compared to the exports of \$71.365 million in July 2022, according to the latest PBS data. Meanwhile, on month-on-month basis, the exports of cotton yarn however decreased by 9.40 percent in July 2023 when compared to the exports of \$107.097 million in June 2023. The overall textile exports reached \$1,311.659 million during the first month of the current financial year (2023-24). Textile exports showed a decline of 11.44 percent from \$1,481.173 million during the same month of last year (July 2022-23). It is pertinent to mention here that the trade deficit witnessed a decline of 41.16 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding month of last year. The trade deficit during the month under review was recorded at \$1.607 billion against the deficit of \$2.731 billion in July 2022, a decline of 41.16 percent. The exports during the month were recorded at \$2.057 billion against \$2.250 billion last year, showing a decline of 8.57 percent. On the other hand, the imports witnessed a sharp decline of 26.44 percent by falling from \$4.981 billion last year to \$3.664 billion during July 2023.

**Tourists advised to avoid traveling Babusar Road after 6pm**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) on Wednesday advised tourists venturing into Northern Areas to avoid traveling and commuting after evening hours to refrain from any inconvenience and untoward situation. According to an advisory of PTDC, Babusar Gilgit-Baltistan Road was closed for all kinds of traffic after 6 p.m. in the evening due to recent floods that submerged a major portion of the thoroughfare leading to the scenic tourism magnet. Tourists and commuters were requested to complete their journey before 6 p.m. to avoid inconvenience. Tourists and travelers have also been advised to contact the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Kite Project Helpline (1422) to get fresh updates on weather, roads, and flood situation.

# Pakistan economy linked with IT development: Alvi

The president said in today's time, every person irrespective of which filed he or she was in, should be familiar with the basics of modern technology including Artificial Intelligence, IT, and clouding etc

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday stressed the need to equip youth with skills of latest technology saying that the Pakistan's economy was linked with the development of Information Technology in the country. He said Pakistan had become the second largest free lance market in the world, however the people were facing issues related to financial transactions. He underlined that by easing the financial movement and financial transactions in Pakistan, the country's economy could further boost and its GDP growth rate could increase by 2-3%. Addressing the closing ceremony of Huawei ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) competition 2022-23 here, the president said IT had now become unavoidable part of almost every filed of life. He informed that Huawei was going to open its global service center in Pakistan which would create employment opportunities besides ensuring technology transfer to the youth of the country. This ICT Competition Program from Huawei speaks volumes of the efforts made in the past decade and how this Industry-Academia Relationship has been thriving towards providing the solid backbone towards the ICT Industry of Paki-



stan", he added. The president stressed that the universities should arrange boot camp in the campuses to train the university graduates and make them ready for the market. He also urged the universities to start two-year undergraduate associate degree programs for the students as the growing technology around the globe does not need degrees but skills. Huawei Technologies held the closing ceremony of Huawei ICT Competition 2022-23 here at the Aiwan-e-Sadar, celebrating the success of the Pakistani teams that brought home prizes in the regional competitions. The students from Pakistan had won second and third prize in the Network Track and third prize in the Innovation Track at the Huawei ICT Competition 2022-2023 Global Final concluded at Huawei Headquarters in Shenzhen, China. The first to be held in person since 2019, the event's culmina-



tion was a competition between finalists in 146 teams from 36 countries. The president said in today's time, every person irrespective of which filed he or she was in, should be familiar with the basics of modern technology including Artificial Intelligence, IT, and clouding etc. He said the political and bureaucratic leadership must also be equipped with the basic skills of IT and modern technology. He said a program was initiated by the government to train 1000 bureaucrats in IT field but despite several years, only 800 received the required training due to lack of will by the officers. Expressing disappointment over a high rate of out of school children in the country, the president said 27 million or 32% children were out of school. The government, he said would need to build 55000 new schools to accommodate all the children which would need huge resources. Therefore, he

said the online education system should be launched to address the issue on emergency basis. He said knowledge was no more in the books but it was in the clouds that did not need any specific infrastructure. He said the government had launched Prime Minister Digital Skills Programme under which 2.2 million people got the free IT training. President Alvi said the youth should not be worried about the country's weak economic situation as it would get better soon but they should continue focusing on developing their skills. "Use your talent and grow up in the world", he advised the youth. He said women in Pakistan were culturally not very active in outdoor activities, so this platform was an ideal way for them to earn money while sitting at home. Earlier, Dr. Alvi presented the second prize certificate in the Network Track

to Muhammad Faez Ali, Asad Anwer from Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro and Maryam Fareed from Lahore College for Women University. Caretaker Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif said Pakistan was blessed with immense potential and talent in the shape of youth that comprised of around 67% of total population. He said the South and East Asia was now becoming center of gravity in science and technology, and Pakistan was considered as the rising power in the region. President Public Affairs and Communication Huawei Technologies Middle East and Central Asia Wang Shunli said the Huawei ICT Competition 2022-2023 attracted 120,000 students from over 2,000 universities and colleges across the globe. The objectives of the competition, he said were to encourage knowledge transfer in latest technology such as 5G, Artificial Intelligence and Clouding etc to the Pakistani talented youth. He said the competition also helped promoting digital transformation and sustainable development for both business and the society in Pakistan. "The achievements of Pakistan students and teachers have made, reflect on the great vision and determination of Pakistan government towards ICT talent nurturing, innovation and technology adaptation", he added.

## Masses are being sacrificed for the interests of elite

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Saifuddin Sheikh, Executive Director of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Wednesday said that the integrity of the country and interests of the masses are being compromised for the sake of the elite. The previous government has left after creating a crisis in the country and exposing people to unmanageable problems, he said. The IMF will have no objection to reducing the price of electricity; therefore, people should not be misled on the issue of electricity rates, he added. Saifuddin Sheikh said in a statement

issued here today that the electricity bill is kept within ten percent of the income of a common man, and more than that is considered cruel in civilised nations. But the situation is otherwise in Pakistan, where the people are not given any facilities but are subjected to excessive taxation and the highest possible electricity tariff. He said that if the IMF were asked to reduce electricity bills, it would have no objection, but the lender would demand a plan to cover the deficit, which would mean increasing the government's income. Increasing government income will be very difficult

as the tax-paying sector is already paying too much tax and cannot bear any more burden while collecting tax from the non-tax-paying sector was never a priority. Similarly, the corrupt and ruthless elite will not be brought into the tax net in any case, even if it affects the integrity of the country, he observed. He said that the government would be left with the option of making gasoline more expensive and increasing the tax on imports to increase revenue. He said that tax collectors are more interested in collecting benefits than fulfilling their responsibilities. They always avoid

direct taxation, and they are totally dependent on indirect taxes, which means that even if these institutions are closed, the tax revenue of the government will decrease by only 10%. He said that the price of sugar had increased by 23 rupees in the month of August, and now it has become more expensive than flour. India has banned the export of sugar, but its smuggling from Pakistan continues unabated because the smugglers pay the sugar mafia in dollars. He noted that serving elites is the common agenda of all the administrations in Pakistan, and they have nothing to do with the welfare of the masses.

## Posters urge people to pay tribute to martyred Gilani



ISLAMABAD: More posters have appeared in different areas of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir urging the people to conduct a march towards Hyderpora graveyard in Srinagar on Friday (September 01) to pay tribute to the veteran Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Gilani, on his 2nd martyrdom anniversary. According to Kashmir Media Service, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has called for a march on Friday towards the Hyderpora graveyard where Syed Ali Gilani is buried. All pro-freedom organizations have supported the call. The posters have been once again pasted on walls, pillars and electric poles in different areas of the occupied territory by APHC, Peoples Resistance Party, Jammu and Kashmir Justice and Peace Initiative, Nawjawan-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Justice League Forum, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Movement, Resistance Youth Forum Jammu and Kashmir, Democratic Youth Forum Jammu and Kashmir, Wareseen-e-Shuhada, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Freedom Lovers and other organizations urging the people to march towards Hyderpora to pay tributes to the veteran leader on September 01. They have also asked imams and khateeb of mosques to hold special prayers for Syed Ali Gilani and other Kashmiri martyrs. The posters read that the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs would not be allowed to go to waste and their mission would be accomplished at all costs. The posters have also been circulated on social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp. Meanwhile, APHC leaders including Hakeem Abdul Rasheed, Abdul Ghani Butt and Chaudhry Shaheen Iqbal in their statements issued.—APP

tribute to the veteran Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Gilani, on his 2nd martyrdom anniversary. According to Kashmir Media Service, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has called for a march on Friday towards the Hyderpora graveyard where Syed Ali Gilani is buried. All pro-freedom organizations have supported the call. The posters have been once again pasted on walls, pillars and electric poles in different areas of the occupied territory by APHC, Peoples Resistance Party, Jammu and Kashmir Justice and Peace Initiative, Nawjawan-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Justice League Forum, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Movement, Resistance Youth Forum Jammu and Kashmir, Democratic Youth Forum Jammu and Kashmir, Wareseen-e-Shuhada, Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Freedom Lovers and other organizations urging the people to march towards Hyderpora to pay tributes to the veteran leader on September 01. They have also asked imams and khateeb of mosques to hold special prayers for Syed Ali Gilani and other Kashmiri martyrs. The posters read that the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs would not be allowed to go to waste and their mission would be accomplished at all costs. The posters have also been circulated on social media platforms including Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp. Meanwhile, APHC leaders including Hakeem Abdul Rasheed, Abdul Ghani Butt and Chaudhry Shaheen Iqbal in their statements issued.—APP

## Pakistani meat enterprise expands into China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan exported meat and meat preparations worth \$34,866,000 in July against the exports of \$25,409,000 during the same period of last year, showing a growth of 37.22% with a quantity of 8,910 M.T, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In fiscal year 2022-2023, Pakistan exported meat and meat preparations worth \$426,708,000 as compared to \$341,006,000 in fiscal year 2021-2022, an increase of 25.13%. The major export destinations were the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. Mr. Bilal Tata, a member of the All Pakistan Meat Exporters & Processors Association of Pakistan (APMEPA), attributed the growth in exports to the increased competitiveness of Pakistani products in the international market due to currency depreciation and enhanced demand from existing GCC countries and new markets such as Jordan, Uzbekistan after recovery of the global economy. A vast untapped

export potential stemming from its large livestock population leaves it well-positioned to grow its meat industry, including the processed meat market segment. A more efficient supply chain that reduces the operating costs of animal sourcing for meat processors also holds tremendous potential for significant growth in export revenues and farm income. Beef export holds significant importance among all meat exports. With approximately \$300 million of export revenues generated in 2020, of which \$245 million worth of bovine meat exports, meat - and beef in particular - has progressively emerged as a leading agricultural export product, according to the UN Comtrade, 2020. Tata Best Foods Ltd is one of three processing plants proposed for export to China by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Pakistan. Bilal Tata, owner of the company, said China has a very large consumption and is becoming a new export destination for Pakistani meat. Efforts are being made to comply with extensive requirements regarding animal disease management, processing conditions, storage, certification, packaging, transportation.

## Body cameras distributed among cops

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have distributed body cameras among the dedicated personnel of the Dolphin Squad to bolster transparency and accountability within the force. Under the direct orders of Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), the SSP Safe City initiated the distribution of these body cameras, coupled with comprehensive training on their proper usage. The primary objective behind this initiative is to ensure the secure and verifiable recording of interactions between police officials and the public. By doing so, the Islamabad Capital Police aims to foster a safer environment, deter criminal activities, and keep a vigilant eye on any suspicious individuals or events.—APP

## COURT

In the Court of Muhammad Amir Sultan Kalachi Civil Judge Gujrat  
Title: Nisar Ahmad. Versus Muhammad Afzal etc.  
Notice to: 10C-Ali Raza Son, 10D-Saba Afzal, 10E-Rabia Afzal D/o. Muhammad Afzal R/o. Mahay Tehsil & District Gujrat. Suit for Partition of Land etc.

Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 07-09-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## COURT

In the Court of Naveed Abbas Mangat Civil Judge Gujrat  
Title: Atif Makhdoom. Versus Farhan Nawaz  
Notice to: Farhan Nawaz S/o. Muhammad Nawaz cast Jutt Warraich R/o. Chak Kamala Tehsil & District Gujrat. Suit for Permanent Injection

Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 28-09-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

## 12 more dengue cases reports in Rawalpindi

DNA

RAWALPINDI: As many as 12 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 188 in the district. District Coordinator Epidemiology Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Wednesday said that, among the new cases, six cases had arrived from Potohar town urban, five from Chakdala Cantonment and one from Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi area.

## Mental health problems in a school setting in children and adolescents



ZAHRA ALI

This piece of writing aims to explain factors in a school setting that affect mental health and the importance of mental health problems for students' scholastic development. In education, teaching quality and school leadership are most important factors in raising students' academic achievement. Teacher juggle an overwhelming number of unfamiliar issues such as classroom management, students' learning difficulties, instructional method-

ologies, curriculum, parent relations, interaction with students, and when they are left to themselves they are vulnerable in developing counterproductive behaviors. There are manifold reasons as to why there is a growing concern about mental health problems among children and adolescents within a school setting. The educational environment plays a crucial role in shaping the overall well-being and development of young individuals, and various factors within the school context can significantly impact their mental health. One fundamental factor is academic pressure. While striving for academic excellence is important, an excessive emphasis on grades, standardized testing, and competition can lead to heightened stress and anxiety among students. The fear of failure,

constant comparison with peers, and the perception of self-worth being tied solely to academic achievements can contribute to the development of mental health issues. Moreover, the social dynamics within a school can greatly influence mental health. Children and adolescents are in a phase of life where they are establishing their identities and seeking acceptance among their peers. Bullying, social exclusion, and the pressure to conform to social norms can lead to feelings of isolation, depression, and anxiety. The prevalence of cyber-bullying through online platforms has further extended these challenges beyond the classroom walls. The lack of adequate mental health support within the school system is another significant concern. While teachers play a vital role in students' lives, they

may not always have the training or resources to identify and address mental health issues effectively. Limited access to school counselors or psychologists exacerbates this issue, as struggling students may not receive the timely help they need. Furthermore, the rapid advancement of technology and social media has introduced new dimensions of stress. The constant exposure to idealized images, the pressure to maintain an online persona, and the addictive nature of digital devices can impact sleep patterns, self-esteem, and overall emotional well-being. Recognizing the importance of mental health in students' scholastic development is essential. Mental health problems not only hinder academic performance but can also have long-term effects on individuals' lives. Untreat-

ed mental health issues in childhood and adolescence can persist into adulthood and affect various aspects of life, including relationships, career choices, and overall quality of life. Incorporating mental health education into the curriculum, promoting open conversations about emotions and stress management, training teachers to identify signs of distress, and providing access to mental health professionals within the school setting are crucial steps toward addressing these challenges. A holistic approach that considers both academic success and emotional well-being is necessary to create a supportive and nurturing school environment that fosters positive mental health outcomes for children and adolescents. —The writer is a Psychologist

**DINO VALLEY**

**10 Minutes Drive From The Monal**

☎ 051 8770065 / 66 / 67    📞 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 5555335  
 UAN: 051 111 777 778    📱 @dinovalleypk    🌐 dinovalley.pk

## Trilateral summit in Seoul

ACCORDING to a News Agency report on Wednesday, the Republic of Korea, China and Japan have been engaged in discussions to arrange a trilateral summit in Seoul. First held in December 2008, the summits were suspended after the eighth gathering in December 2019 because of the dispute between the ROK and Japan over forced labor compensation and they did not resume because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Talk of reviving the tripartite summit has emerged following a thawing of relations between Seoul and Tokyo after the Yoon Suk-yeol government took office in May last year, which has adopted a let-the-past-be-past attitude toward the historical issues with Japan. However, the United States' China containment strategy still casts a shadow over the resumption of the summit, as both Japan and the ROK, after Yoon took office, are deeply involved in the US strategy. Although the ROK and Japan both regard the recent resumption of group tours between them and China as a sign of thawing ties, Japan's stubborn pressing ahead with its discharging of the nuclear-contaminated water from the tsunami-destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea has further strained the already fraught Sino-Japanese relations. It was against this backdrop that the head of Japan's Komeito party, the junior partner in the coalition government and which is friendly to China, postponed his visit to China that was planned for the end of this month. Japan's discharging of the toxic water into the ocean has also put tremendous pressure on Seoul. Despite the ROK people strongly opposing Japan's irresponsible, selfish and risky move, the Yoon government has not criticized Tokyo and it euphemistically refers to the toxic water as "treated contaminated water". Although the ROK and Japanese leaders have met with each other on multiple occasions — with their meeting with the US leader earlier this month at Camp David being the latest — Seoul should refrain from attributing the difficulty, if not future failure, of resuming the summit to Beijing. As Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a meeting of the three countries' foreign ministers in July, with broad common interests, the three countries stand at a crossroad in history, and they should learn from the past, and maintain the right direction of cooperation, eliminating external influences. There is no doubt that the Yoon government wants to raise the ROK's profile by acting as a bridge between the US club and China. But it must realize that even if the three sides have more to talk about than in 2019, the proposed summit will not materialize in the absence of a proper atmosphere and a solid foundation for productive discussions.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 330

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



## A golden opportunity for reform

AD Luis Rubiales expressed sincere regret after landing an inappropriate post-match kiss on the World Cup-winning star Jenni Hermoso, he might not currently be the most derided and isolated public figure in Spain. Instead, the head of the Spanish football federation (RFEF) issued a transparent non-apology, claiming the act had been misunderstood and was a consensual moment of celebration. When Ms Hermoso firmly disagreed, Mr Rubiales disgracefully used his power to try to discredit the player and threatened her with legal action for lying. That in itself should have been sufficient for him to be forced out of office if — as proved to be the case — he refused to resign. What has since unfolded has been a global embarrassment for Spain, exposing to the world the hidebound attitudes and sense of masculine entitlement at the top of one of its most important civil institutions. An extraordinary assembly of the RFEF, held last Friday, amounted to an attempted public humiliation of Ms Hermoso and the repositioning of Mr Rubiales as the victim of the episode. Calls for his resignation, he told the meeting, had been prompted by a "false feminism" and a witch-hunt against him. Prior choreography ensured a craven standing ovation from cronies — in an audience in which some female members said they had been pressured to sit on the front row. Amid widespread public revulsion, many of those present U-turned within hours, and said their president should resign after all. Mr Rubiales has proved himself a narcissistic, confrontational bully. Having overstepped professional boundaries in such a grotesque fashion, it is inconceivable that he should remain the institutional face of Spanish football. The entirety of the women's World Cup squad has said that it will go on strike while Mr Rubiales stays in post. It would have been helpful if more high-profile male players had offered support. But condemnation has come from across the Spanish political spectrum and, belatedly, from the RFEF itself. Fifa, world football's governing body, has suspended him from football activities. He has to go. Once that happens — as surely it will — Mr Rubiales's arrogance may eventually be seen to have done women's football, and Spain more generally, a favour. In the words of Yolanda Diaz, a deputy prime minister in Spain's caretaker government, the past week has egregiously laid bare "the worst of Spanish society, of the structural machismo of this country". In recent years, Spain has pioneered progressive legislation on rape, domestic violence and equal pay, and boasts one of the most vibrant feminist movements in the world. But, as elsewhere in Europe, liberal reform has been countered by the emergence of a virulent "anti-woke" politics on the right. During its recent rise to prominence, the far-right Vox party has made a point of railing against "feminazis" and "gender ideology". Mr Rubiales attempted to channel some of that agenda for his own purposes. Hearteningly, the move spectacularly backfired. The breadth of support expressed for Ms Hermoso, inside and outside football, clearly indicates which side Spain is on in this particular culture war. As for the country's female footballers, this crisis has overshadowed what should have been an unforgettable summer for happier reasons.

## Prime Minister's letter from Jail to the President

Qamar Bashir



The charge is that even up to this date I have remained irreconcilable to the concept of Pakistan. Mr. President, you, who have worked with me particularly when I was 'Prime Minister' do you believe it? What I have done for the concept of Pakistan and what I have suffered, I alone know; and when little men make such a charge against me what can I say? I referred very briefly to what I did for Pakistan and its concept. I even might like to take you back to the speech I made at the last Muslim League Convention at Delhi, Pakistan is my very life, and to make this filthy charge against me speaks of some cesspools in your administrative machinery...

ON the evening of August 29, 2023, during a dinner-time talk show, I had the privilege of hearing an intriguing discussion about a prominent historical figure, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. He was not only a former Prime Minister but also a key figure in the Muslim League, second only to Jinnah himself. He laid the foundation of PML in Bengal and played a pivotal role in its success. However, his legacy was marred by multiple arrests and the painful charge of being a traitor. Fueled by curiosity, I delved into the depths of the internet to uncover more about the matter. My search led me to a book titled \*Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy: A Biography\*, written by Begum Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah, a cousin of Mr. Suhrawardy. As I began reading the book, it became apparent that its contents would grip me until the very end. This was a treasure trove of facts that conventional history books might never reveal — a history that had been manipulated by intellectuals, writers, and rulers, all of whom sought to rewrite the past according to their own narratives. For the esteemed readers, I'll share a few excerpts from a letter that was included as an appendix in the book. The letter opens with a resolute declaration: 'Pakistan is my life, my passion.' In the opening para he said, "I was arrested on 30 January 1962, and have since been detained under the Security of Pakistan Act 1962, in the Central Jail at Karachi. On 5 February 1962, I received the 'Reasons' for my detention. They are so vague and indefinite that it is impossible to make any representation regarding them other than a denial, and a reference to my past services as proof of their untruth."

I do not refer to the 'Reasons' of my detention, for these are so obviously and patently false that they could not have been the real reasons for the order of detention. You gave reasons and made charges not one of which is to be found among the 'Reasons' of my detention. Hence, it is quite clear that I have been arrested for reasons other than those supplied to me". I claim that my patriotism is above suspicion and cannot be tarnished by any such contact. I have noted, with great pain, that you are alleging that I accepted monetary assistance from those who are hostile to Pakistan. Pardon me, Mr. President, what possible justification have you for making such a serious charge; My only consolation is that such a statement will not be believed by any one in Pakistan or outside, except by those who wish to believe it. What you said to the Press clearly shows that my detention is based on raised 'Reasons.' I have been charged with misusing my personal influence and friendship in attempting to alienate the sympathies of some countries friendly to Pakistan. Let me tell you, Mr. President, what you do not know, that Pakistan is my life. I believe, played a great part in bringing it into existence. Bengal was the only province— among the Muslim majori-

ty provinces—that gave a Muslim League Ministry to the Quaid-i-Azam—Bengal was the pawn in his hand due to which the Congress accepted the partition of India. And to make Bengal accept the Muslim League, and align itself in the struggle for Pakistan, I had to work night and day, at the cost of my own living, health and safety. To charge me that I would say anything that may alienate the sympathies of the friendly countries is, pardon me, Mr. President, a damnable lie. I wish all those friendly countries would align themselves more openly with us, and come to our help whenever the occasion required. I am alleged in the course of the last three years to have openly aligned myself with elements outside the country who are opposed to the various reforms carried out by the present regime. This charge is frankly so meaningless that I am beginning to wonder if it does not refer to the Revolution itself—not to the reforms of the present regime; but to the present regime as a reform. I am charged with having insidiously set up cells in various cities of both East and West Pakistan where I am alleged to carry on propaganda against the achievements of the present regime. I have neither the capacity nor the ability nor the machinery nor the knowledge or experience of how to set up cells. When you banned political parties, that was the end of my party and of all organizations. It is true that people cannot cease to be politically minded by merely banning parties, and it can be taken for granted that as a rule people have some nostalgia for the parties to which they belonged. But as political parties go, your fiat was enough for me; and my party stood abolished and all the leaders ceased to exist as such. It is absolutely ridiculous that I should have set up cells in various cities, etc. I am charged with having consistently preached hatred and contempt against the regime to my followers and colleagues of the now banned Awami League. On the face of it, the charge is ridiculous. Why should I preach hatred and contempt to them? Where was the occasion and what was the purpose?—Need I deny this fantastic charge? Have I become insane that I should indulge in such piffle? Those who see me in Court do not think so. The charge is that even up to this date I have remained irreconcilable to the concept of Pakistan. Mr. President, you, who have worked with me particularly when I was 'Prime Minister' do you believe it? What I have done for the concept of Pakistan and what I have suffered, I alone know; and when little men make such a charge against me what can I say? I referred very briefly to what I did for Pakistan and its concept. I even might like to take you back to the speech I made at the last Muslim League Convention at Delhi, Pakistan is my very life, and to make this filthy charge against me speaks of some cesspools in your administrative machinery, which have not been brought to your notice. By unjustified criticism of the Foreign Policy of this country in the formulation of which policy you (I) played a leading role, you are (I am) causing

serious embarrassment to the present Government'. I am grateful to the authorities that they have been gracious enough to admit that I played a leading role in the formulation of the Foreign Policy of Pakistan. Foreign Policy is for the Government of the day to formulate, to amend and to apply according to the circumstances. And now, Mr. President, permit me, having dealt with the 'Reasons' to refer to your own statement which you made to the Press, which give reasons for my detention which are different from the charges and the reasons supplied to me. These reasons given by you must be the real reasons for my detention, for you have uttered them. Presumably, the reasons supplied to me have been manufactured in the Office...FOR ME, PAKISTAN IS ONE AND INDIVISIBLE. It is for this I have risked and grown old. Both must remain together. East Pakistan stands in the greatest danger of being overwhelmed and destroyed and annexed by police action if it secedes. This is my reaction to any suggestion of secession. Again I say we must stay together and our safety is in cooperation with West Pakistan. I was called a traitor to East Pakistan, and I was told I was selling East Pakistan, but I held my ground and won for the sake of an integrated Pakistan. And do you think I could have been a party to secession? Alas! Mr. President, by keeping me under detention with such terrible charges against me, you have destroyed my utility. I did not and never wanted and do not want any office or representation. I could have helped, if ever the occasion arose and my words would have proved useful to point out how necessary it was that the two wings must remain together, and that we must get rid of Provincial feelings. The charges leveled against me show only too clearly, Mr. President, what little information you have about me and the services I have rendered in the creation of Pakistan. It is impossible for those who have not struggled on this behalf to have any conception of the fire of the love of Pakistan which burns in us, and how anxious we are to see Pakistan fulfill itself as a great nation. I wonder if you, Mr. President, can realize how humiliating it is to have to proclaim and justify my patriotism to those who are not aware of our past history. I see no advantage in being released if you do not believe what I have said and you are against me, for then I shall always be in danger. Even a smile, a joke, a word, my presence at a party will be misunderstood, and if the aim is to find reasons, reasons will also be forthcoming. Shaheed Suhrawardy died on 5 December 1963. East Pakistan seceded from Pakistan on 26 March 1971, just eight years after Shaheed Suhrawardy's death.

— The writer is the *Former Press Secretary to the President Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC*

## Electricity bills or electric shock

Waheed Hussain



The breakup of the bill amount is as follows: units consumed 924, cost of electricity, Rs. 34118, fuel price adjustment, Rs. 1415.42, F.C surcharge, Rs. 2984.52, QTR Tarif adjustment Rs. 1153.98, PTV fee, Rs. 35, GST Rs. 6886, GST on Fuel Price Adjustment Rs. 255. The payable amount is Rs. 50450. The actual price of the electricity as mentioned above is Rs. 34118...

PEOPLE are angry. They are sick of inflation and price-hike. Every new day comes with the fresh financial challenge to the citizens. The power and energy sectors prices have turned the public helpless and mad. No doubt there is a method in their madness. The unlimited and sudden increase in the prices of electricity have completely crushed the masses disturbing their household budget, which is unmanageable. The rising gape between the income and expenditure is pushing the lower middle and salaried classes into poverty. Even the middle and upper middle classes are feeling the heat of perpetual increase in inflation. When someone, either state or non-state actors take away the day-to-day food and other facilities from the public, what would one expect that how would it react? When people are being pushed to the wall, they would react, and react in harsh manner. When huge number of people gather for the same cause without a leader they could turn into mob and ultimately violent as well. In this time of historic inflation in the country, when they are forced to pay thousands of rupees to power and energy companies, how would they be able to manage their families' budget? This is the cause of conflict and disagreement between the power supplying companies and the consumers. There is many a slip between cup and the lip. When they pay 40 to 50 percent of their income to the energy sector in shape of utility bills charges or the petroleum prices what would they eat? How would they meet their other expenses including house rent, children school, college or university fee, and health facilities (when the government hospitals are inefficient without health facilities, and the private hospitals are out of reach of the general public, in case of serious illness, they might be forced to sell their precious assets including property for getting the treatment)? Unfortunately, today majority of our population is passing through the same pain and agony. In such a dismal condition, how the public could afford to pay thousands of rupees for the electricity bills? When the purses and pockets got empty, the masses came out of their houses and took to the streets. They moved towards power supply companies' offices and installation

to record their displeasure and anger over new rates and additional taxes added to their monthly electricity bills. The protesters burnt their bills, chanted slogans against the power companies and government. The media reported that in some areas, the protesters tried to attacked the companies' offices, installations and employees. Series of incidents were reported in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Karachi, Multan including numerous small cities and towns throughout the country. As result the power supplying companies requested the home department and police to provide security to their offices and sensitive locations. If we see the current month electricity bills and conduct a comparative study-analysis, it is observed that the rate of per unit electricity has gone up to Rs. 37. While writing these lines I have collected a bill of a consumer for the month of August 2023. The bill belonged to a family of five members residing in a two bed-rooms portion in Islamabad. It was informed that the household uses only one air-condition. In the month of August, the family consumed 924 units of electricity and received Rs. 52,000 bill. The breakup of the bill amount is as follows: units consumed 924, cost of electricity, Rs. 34118, fuel price adjustment, Rs. 1415.42, F.C surcharge, Rs. 2984.52, QTR Tarif adjustment Rs. 1153.98, PTV fee, Rs. 35, GST Rs. 6886, GST on Fuel Price Adjustment Rs. 255. The payable amount is Rs. 50450. The actual price of the electricity as mentioned above is Rs. 34118, while over Rs. 16000 are various kinds of taxes being imposed by the government. We have to keep this fact in mind that in this bill per unit cost is Rs. 38, which in 2018, it was Rs. 16. So, if the rate had been Rs. 16 the total cost of the units consumed would have been Rs. 14784. If the government includes Rs. 4000 taxes, the bill would have been just Rs. 19000 or so. The calculation reflects that Rs.31000 are being taken extra from a single household. That is the trouble and agony the masses are going through. By no means this kind of legalized (Jagha Tax) would be justified. Since 2018 the power and energy sectors have witnessed the unprecedented increase in the prices. The last 16 months' PDM government was

a nightmare for the public. The so-called experienced cabinet ministers including the speedy Shabbaz Sharif blamed PTI, held IMF responsible for new taxes and inflation in the country, however, those Ian Steyn didn't shoulder any responsibility of the situation. Even a kid knows that increase in the electricity prices were being agreed by the previous government with IMF. Therefore, the caretakers have no fault at all. The care taker Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq kakar held several meetings with the power and finance divisions to provide some relief to the masses in their present electricity bills, but the IMF is reluctant to allow the government to provide any concession to the already over-burdened masses. The margin of relief is very low. The care takers are between devil and the deep blue sea. On the one hand the overburdened public while on the other hand the IMF SBA program agreed by the out-going government. It was agreed that in the current financial year the government will generate Rs. 1800 billion extra from the power sector to reduce the circular debt. It was informed that government has a plan to reduce August-September bills from 30 to 33 percent and adjust the amount during winter's six months from October 2023 to March 2024 in staggered manner. The decision has yet to be taken, however, one thing is very clear that in the given economic situation of the country, the government has no option to go against the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On-going political instability has been adding to the economic worries. The increasing hopelessness among the masses is dangerous. They don't see any light at the end of the tunnel. What is the solution. All the stakeholders of the state should think beyond their ownself. They have to give up their personal likes and dislikes. They should kill their ego (a jahad against the Naafs). Nobody should be winners or losers, let the people of this great country be the winners. Instead of reinventing the political system let us hold free and fair elections, providing people a chance to elect their representative and let the new government start working with fresh energy and vision, to bring the country out of present political and economic quagmire. We need to give people a hope.

## Briefs

## Shamshad rules out subsidies

FROM PAGE 01  
even on spreading electricity bills in instalments unless the IMF cleared it. Later, interim Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, who didn't immediately hold a presser after the cabinet's meeting, told a private TV channel that the government was engaging with the IMF regarding relief measures for electricity consumers and an announcement was expected soon. A source privy to the meeting told Dawn that the cabinet noted that the interim set-up could not give any relief to consumers, but it could allow breaking up the bills into four to six instalments. "Even in case of instalments, the government will have to get prior permission from the IMF," the source said. Addressing a meeting of the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance today, Akhtar said government institutions were suffering "unbearable losses" and underscored the need to accelerate privatisation. According to the finance minister, 70 per cent of Pakistan's tax revenue was being spent on debt relief. Moreover, she said the rupee was under pressure due to the dollar's low inflows and high outflows. "The next elected government would have to re-engage with independent power producers," Akhtar stated. She went on to say that if the IMF agreement was not implemented, the dollar inflow would stop and the economic situation would worsen. But at the same time, the minister highlighted that measures other than the IMF programme needed to be taken.

## IMF asks to share relief plan in...

FROM PAGE 01  
financial discipline during the programme. Under the bailout package, the previous government of the Pakistan Democratic Movement okayed a massive increase in electricity rates which are now being reflected in the bills. As per the cabinet instructions, Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar held a virtual meeting with IMF representative Esther Perez and discussed relief measures, the sources said. They were briefed on the current situation as protests continue unabated across the country. The Pakistani team submitted various proposals for relief in electricity bills but the IMF officials sought the relief plan in writing which would be shared with them today, the sources added. They further said that the officials of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) also had virtual contact with the Funds on tax collection in July. "The two sides will hold another session in the next few days."

## Pakistan thump...

FROM PAGE 01  
It must be noted that Babar Azam came to bat after Pakistan had an early collapse as they were 25-2 after Fakhar Zaman and Imam-ul-Haq lost their wickets. The 28-year-old stood tall on the crease and formed a crucial 86-run partnership with Mohammad Rizwan before the wicketkeeper batter got run out in a bizarre way. Rizwan scored 44 runs in 50 balls. After Rizwan lost his wicket, Salman Agha (5) came to bat he, too, did not last long and lost his wicket while attempting a reverse-sweep shot to Nepal's Sandeep Lamichhane. After Agha's wicket, Azam formed a solid partnership of 214 runs in only 131 balls with Ifthikhar Ahmed. Nepal, as a team, and Multan, as a venue, will make their debut in the Asia Cup. It is also the first match between Pakistan and Nepal at the top level. Pakistan enter the Asia Cup on a high as they topped the ICC rankings for ODI teams on Saturday after a 3-0 clean sweep over Afghanistan in Sri Lanka. This is the second time the Pakistan team topped the chart since April.

## Asia Cup 2023 begins with glittering opening ceremony



## SPORTS DESK

MULTAN: The Asia Cup 2023 began with a glittering opening ceremony at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. Renowned singers Aima Baig, from Pakistan, and Trishala Gurung, who hails from Nepal, performed at the opening ceremony. The first match of Asia Cup will be played between Pakistan, the top-ranked One-Day International side, and Nepal in the Group A clash in Multan today. Nepal, as a team, and

Multan, as a venue, will make their debut in the Asia Cup. It is also the first match between Pakistan and Nepal at the top level. "It is always a great feeling to play in front of the passionate Multan crowd and we all are very excited that the Asia Cup is beginning from this city," Pakistan captain Babar Azam said on the eve of the contest.

"I want to congratulate Nepal for qualifying for the Asia Cup and I hope that their participation will give a boost to the development of the sport in the country. We are looking forward to playing Nepal and I am sure it



will be a good contest." Pakistan enter the Asia Cup on a high as they topped the ICC rankings for ODI teams on Saturday after a 3-0 clean sweep over Afghanistan in Sri Lanka. This is the second time the Pakistan team topped the chart since April. Azam also opened up about whether there is an added pressure for being the top-ranked side during the Asia Cup. "I would not say that there is a pressure. Rather, we enter this tournament with more confidence. This team has put in a lot of hard work and effort over the last few years and

we achieving the top spot is a testimony of it. The job, however, is not done as we want to win the Asia Cup and the World Cup. We have some competitive and exciting next few months lined up and we are eager to do well for our country," he said. "Every player in this side wants to win matches for his country and raises their hand. They are always ready to put in the hard yards and never shy away from tough and difficult situations. We have had some amazing last few months and now it is time to build on the momentum."

## Pak-China hold consultations on arms control, non-proliferation



## DNA

BEIJING: The 8th round of Pakistan-China Bilateral Consultations on Arms Control & Non-Proliferation was held in Beijing from 29-30 August 2023. Mr. Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, Additional Secretary (Arms Control & Disarmament/Policy Planning) from Pakistan and Mr. Sun Xiaobo, Director General, Department of Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs of China led their respective delegations. Additional Secretary, prior to talks, called on Mr. Sun Weidong, Vice Foreign Minister of the Republic of China. During the meeting, both sides exchanged in-depth views on China-Pakistan relations, international and regional security situation and a range of issues of mutual interest. During the Consultation, the both sides discussed a broad spectrum of topics related to Arms Control, disarmament & non-proliferation including

regional and global security situation. Pakistan's delegation also visited leading think-tanks in Beijing including China's Arms Control & Disarmament Association (CACDA) & Chinese Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR). It was agreed, during the visits, to further enhance strategic outreach between think tanks & research institutes of both countries. The Two sides agreed to hold the 9th round next year on a mutually agreed date.

## Iran bans weightlifter for handshake with Israeli

TEHRAN: An Iranian weightlifter has been given a lifetime ban by authorities in the Islamic republic after shaking hands with an Israeli competitor at an event in Poland, state media reported. Mostafa Rajaei, aged in his 40s, shook hands with Israeli weightlifter Maksim Svirskey on Saturday after they both stood on the podium at a World Masters championship in Wieliczka, Poland. "The weightlifting federation bans athlete Mostafa Rajaei for life from entering all sports facilities in the country and dismisses the head of the delegation for the competition, Hamid Salehinia," the body announced in a statement cited by state news agency IRNA. Iran does not recognize Israel, its sworn enemy, and prohibits all contact between Iranian and Israeli athletes. According to the IRNA report, Rajaei "crossed the red lines of the Islamic republic" at the event where the Iranian delegation had been "sent with the support of the federation." Rajaei is a former member of the Iranian national team and represented his country at the Asian Weightlifting Championships in 2015 in Thailand. In 2021, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged athletes "not to shake hands with a representative of the (Israeli) criminal regime to obtain a medal." For years, Iranian athletes have managed to avoid meeting Israelis in competitions, often by getting disqualified or providing medical certificates testifying that they were unwell. - Agencies



## MBS likely to pay visit to Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01  
He will reach India in the second phase of his visit. Muhammad bin Salman is expected to arrive in Pakistan on September 10. The possible visit of the Saudi Crown Prince to Pakistan will be for four to six hours. After staying in Pakistan for a few hours, the Saudi Crown Prince will leave for India. The Saudi crown prince will arrive in India after the 18th G20 summit. The 18th G20 summit will be held in Delhi from September 9-10. Mohammed bin Salman will arrive in India on September 11. During his visit to Pakistan, Salman will meet with Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar. MBS is also expected to meet with the Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir. During the meetings, discussion will be held to strengthen Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations and defence ties. Joint exercises of armed forces will also be discussed during the meetings. The establishment of an oil refinery in Pakistan by Saudi Arabia will also come under consideration during these huddles.

## President Alvi wants...

FROM PAGE 01  
his Military Secretary early this month, the President's Secretariat has desired amendment in the Fourth Schedule of President's Salary Allowances and Privileges (Amendment) Act, 2018 to allow president's salary, a) Rs1,024,325 per month with effect from July 1, 2021, and b) Rs1,229,190 per month with effect from July 1, 2023. According to the letter, "In Pursuance of para 3(2) of President's Salary, Allowances and Privileges (Amendment) Act 2018, published in the Gazette Notification (Part I), the remuneration of the President shall be a symbolic one rupee higher than the salary of any holder of Public Office in relation to affairs of the Federation. Accordingly pay of the honorable President was fixed @ Rs846,550/- per month in 2018 as reflected in the Fourth Schedule of Act ibid."

## Afridi sent his best wishes to the Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Sharing a special message ahead of Asia Cup 2023, former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi sent his best wishes to the national side and hoped that the Green Shirts would play with passion and bring glory to the country. "Excited to see the #AsiaCup kick off in Pakistan after 15 years!" Afridi posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Let's also extend our warmest hospitality to all other teams and make this tournament a true celebration of the sport!" The Asia Cup 2023 will begin today with Pakistan, the top-ranked One-Day International side, facing Nepal in the Group A clash at the Multan Cricket Stadium. Nepal, as a team, and Multan, as a venue, will make their debut in the Asia Cup. It is also the first match between Pakistan and Nepal at the top level. The fans will be treated to an absorbing opening ceremony before the match, which begins at 14.30 PST. The 2023 Asia Cup will be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka between August 30 and September 17. All the matches of Asia Cup will not be played in Pakistan because the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) refused to send their team to Pakistan due to security concerns. Four matches will be played in Pakistan, while nine, including the final, will be played in Sri Lanka. Pakistan are in Group A alongside Nepal and India. Meanwhile, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka are in Group B. The T20 and ODI formats have alternated at the Asia Cup since 2016. The 2023 edition will be played in the 50-over format in order to help the teams prepare for the World Cup in India later this year. - DNA

## England women's match fees equal to men's

LONDON: England women's match fees for internationals have been increased to equal the men's with immediate effect. The change was recommended in the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket (ICEC) report, which found discrimination is "widespread" in English and Welsh cricket. It said women were paid 25% of men's fees for white-ball and 15% for Tests by the England and Wales Cricket Board. England captain Heather Knight said the change was "fantastic to see." "It's really important that we continue to drive the women's game forward," she added. "The direction of travel for the women's game has always been the most important thing, creating a sustainable product that people want to watch and play, and I'm sure this will make cricket an increasingly attractive sport to girls and young women as we continue to grow the game." The move also follows this summer's women's Ashes series, which attracted record-breaking crowds. ECB chief executive Richard Gould said: "We are currently considering all the recommendations made by the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, but equalising match fees is one immediate step we are pleased to make now. "We all want cricket to be the team sport of choice

for female athletes, and with the investments we are making - and increasingly lucrative opportunities around the world - we are seeing cricketers become some of the highest earning female athletes in UK team sports. "However, we know there is still much further to go as we ultimately strive for equality across the game." The change has been introduced in time for England women's T20 series against Sri Lanka, which starts on Thursday. - DNA



## US Open: Andy Murray calls VAR debut a 'farce'

## SPORT DESK

NEW YORK: Grand Slam tennis got its first experience of a video-assist review system at the US Open - but the moment of history was labelled a 'farce' by Andy Murray after the technology malfunctioned. With Britain's Murray serving for victory in his New York first-round match, his opponent Corentin Moutet requested the technology to check a double bounce which was called against him by umpire Louise Engzell. The official pulled out a tablet to watch an instant replay of the incident. But, after a long delay, Engzell announced the video review was "not working." "It took about four minutes to make a decision," said Murray, who was 15-30 down in a game where he was serving for the match. "I'm pro using technology to get to the right calls - but you've got to have it working. When it goes like that, it turns into a bit of a farce." The Swedish umpire being unable to see the replays on her personal screen meant she could not make a ruling, despite the big screens inside the Grandstand court at Flushing Meadows showing her, the players and the crowd what had

happened. "This is supposed to be the official feed," Engzell told the two players as she pointed to her tablet. "I have nothing here. VR has stopped working." Addressing the whole stadium, she said: "Unfortunately, the VR [video review] is

not working, what you are watching here is from television so the original call stands." US Open officials confirmed the dedicated on-court tablet had malfunctioned and stopped the reviewable video from being delivered. "Per protocol, a video review and

any call based off a review must be made by the chair umpire via the video delivered to their tablet on court," organisers said.

"If the video is not available on the chair umpire's tablet, the original call on the court stands. "Immediately following the match, the malfunctioning tablet was repaired." Technology has been a key part of tennis for many years to decide line calls but it is the first time the umpires have been able to access a video-assist review. The US Open introduced the system for chair umpires to be able to immediately check incidents - double bounces, hindrance and a player touching the ball or the net - if they are challenged by a player. "I knew there is VR, I don't know how they use it," said Murray, who levelled at 30-30 after the decision and went on to serve out the match in the same game. "Maybe it wasn't on the umpire's tablet but it was on the big screens where they are showing multiple different angles and it is pretty clear from the second angle it had bounced twice. "I don't know who makes the call because she said it wasn't available to her so went to the original call. "I'm pleased the original call stood and I got the point."



The Swedish umpire being unable to see the replays on her personal screen "It took about four minutes to make a decision," said Murray

## Briefs

Turkish,  
Russian FMs  
to meet Aug  
31

ANKARA: Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan is set to meet his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow Thursday for two-day talks, Turkish diplomatic sources said Wednesday. The pair will discuss Turkish-Russian relations, as well as global and regional developments, sources added, which was also confirmed by Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova. "Lavrov and Fidan will discuss the situation in the region, particularly in Ukraine, Syria, Libya, Transcaucasia," Zakharova told reporters. The meeting will follow Fidan's visit to Kyiv last week where he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss efforts to end the war with Russia, Zelenskyy's 10-step Peace Formula and the revival of the crucial Black Sea grain deal. The talks are also preceding a key meeting between Turkish and Russian leaders. Ankara confirmed Monday President Recep Tayyip Erdogan would travel to Sochi "soon," likely next week, to meet President Vladimir Putin to bring Moscow back to the grain deal.—DNA

Khamenei  
hails Ræisi  
admin's  
foreign policy

Tehran: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has expressed his gratitude to the Ræisi administration for its foreign policy achievements, including its "good neighborliness" policy and efforts to join international organizations. The neighborliness policy must be pursued vigorously, he said during a Wednesday meeting with President Ebrahim Ræisi and members of his cabinet in Tehran on the occasion of the Government Week. "We must not be in conflict with any of our neighbors," he said. "Every conflict must be turned into cooperation. This is doable and has already been done to some extent." Ayatollah Khamenei also described Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS group of emerging economies as two great achievements within a short span of time.—Agencies

China  
backs early  
settlement of  
Palestinian  
issue

ISTANBUL: China said Tuesday that the Middle East has never been the "backyard of any major power" as it expressed its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Arab nations. Beijing's renewed support to Arab countries came during a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Adel Al Asoomi, the speaker of the Arab Parliament, who is currently visiting China, said a statement by China's Foreign Ministry. China supports the "just and reasonable settlement of the Palestinian issue.—APP

## Gabon coup

President under house arrest  
as military annul election

Army officers appear on national TV, annulling results of Saturday's election, in which President Bongo was declared winner for 3rd time

## NEWS DESK

DOUALA: Military in Gabon on Wednesday staged a coup in the central African country, saying it has taken power after President Ali Bongo was declared winner in Saturday's election. Army officers appeared on national television to say they were annulling the results of Saturday's election, in which Bongo was declared the winner for a third term. The victory proclaimed Wednesday morning by the national electoral authority on national television housed within the presidency in Libreville, the capital, was rejected a few minutes later by officers of the presidential guard live from the same channel. The results of this election are "truncated", declared the military, deciding to cancel it and put an "end to the regime" of Bongo. The Gabonese people voted on Saturday to elect a new president from among 13 candidates in a ballot marked by irregularities and suspicions of fraud, resulting in the military coup on Wednesday following the results announcement. Gabon's current president, Ali Bongo Ondimba, 64, was first elected in 2009 following the death of his father, Omar Bongo Ondimba, who ruled from 1967 to 2009. He was re-elected for the second time in 2016 in a poll marked by deadly violence and accusations of rigging. Bongo, whose political party, the Gabonese Democratic Party

(PDG), holds strong majorities in both houses of parliament, won a third term in office on Wednesday following the Aug. 28 election with over 64% of the vote, compared with over 30% for opposition candidate Albert Ondo Ossa, his former education minister and rival in the 2009 presidential election. Tension was first felt during voting on Saturday when polling stations suspended by the electoral body were reopened in the diaspora. Some polling stations that opened late due to a lack of voting materials were also closed for several hours, according to public television. Immediately after his vote during the day, Ondo Ossa denounced "fraud" and demanded to be declared the winner at the end of the ballot. He called on Bongo to step down, "guaranteeing" his safety and declaring that "there will be no negotiation." He made this announcement in a video broadcast on social networks shortly before the internet was cut off by Rodrigue Mboumba Bissawou, Gabon's Minister of Communications. Speaking via national television, Bissawou also announced a night-time curfew in the name of "the nation's higher interest." He said it was necessary to counter "calls for violence" and "false information" on social networks. "The government has shut down the internet as a precautionary measure following some provocative statements by opposition politicians," said Environment Minister Lee

White on X. Local and international observers saw the internet blackout as a violation and a measure to conceal evidence of irregularities during the polls. "The post-election context was very tense due to the closure of the internet and borders, and this heralded tampered results since the presidential election itself took place behind closed doors," said Regis Hounkpe, a Beninese geopolitical scientist and director of Interglobe Conseils, a company specializing in geopolitical expertise, told Anadolu. "To say that this putsch was foreseeable would be going too far, but the ingredients of a political crisis were obvious to observe," Hounkpe observed. For other observers, this coup was "predictable." It could have been avoided, according to Dany Ayida, Togolese International Development and Governance Specialist and Resident Director of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who blames "sham elections that don't pass muster." "We're pretending to believe that things could happen democratically in an anti-democratic system," he declared. For him, the Gabonese army has put an end to the long 60-year cycle of the Bongo dynasty. "This country has not made a successful transition to democracy," he added. Meanwhile, the EU defense ministers gathered on Wednesday to discuss recent developments in Africa and the bloc's support for

Ukraine. The EU defense and foreign ministers held a two-day informal meeting in Toledo, Spain, hosted by the Spanish government that assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union on July 1. On the way to the reunion, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that the ministers will discuss the news about the military takeover in Gabon. A group of high-ranking Gabonese military officers announced earlier on Wednesday that they had seized power and declared the results of Saturday's general election null. Borrell noted that the information about the developments in the country is "confusing," but stressed that if a military coup is confirmed, it "will increase instability in the whole region." At their meeting in Toledo, the EU defense chiefs will also assess the situation in Africa's Sahel region and options to "improve" EU policy towards the conflict zone as it is a "big issue for Europe," Borrell added. He explained that the ministers will also hold a "deep discussion" on maintaining support for Ukraine and "study the ways of ensuring the stability and sustainability for the financial support for" the country. According to Borrell, the EU must continue backing Ukraine even when the war ends, and this "has to include security guarantees." Meanwhile, China urged "all sides" for the safety

of Gabon's President Ali Bongo Ondimba after a group of military officers seized power in a coup on Wednesday. "China is closely following the developing situation in Gabon," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said. "We call on all sides in Gabon to proceed from the basic interests of the country and the people, resolve differences through dialogue, and restore normal order as soon as possible," he added. Wang urged all parties to "guarantee the personal safety of President Bongo, and uphold national peace and stability," China's state-run broadcaster CGTN reported. Beijing's reaction came hours after some officers of Gabon's military appeared on national television to say they have seized power. The attempted coup followed official results that showed Bongo winning a third term in office following the country's election on Saturday. The military, however, announced a cancellation of the result, and the dissolution of the country's institutions, amid reports of gunfire in the capital Libreville on Wednesday. Earlier, the country's electoral body announced that Bongo won Saturday's election with over 64% of the vote. Bongo's family has held power in Gabon for 56 years. Gabon is the latest country in Africa to experience a military takeover after members of Niger's military seized power in the West African country late last month.

Azerbaijani,  
French  
presidents  
discuss  
situation in  
Karabakh

BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on Tuesday spoke over the phone with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron to discuss the situation in Karabakh, according to the Azerbaijani presidency. During the call, Aliyev and Macron discussed the situation in the region and the opening of the Aghdam-Khankendi and Lachin-Khankendi roads, a presidency statement said. Aliyev told Macron that Armenia and "the puppet regime, which it created and supports in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, are deliberately creating artificial obstacles for the use of the Aghdam-Khankendi road, and are exploiting this for political manipulation," according to the statement. "The President of Azerbaijan noted that Armenia and the puppet regime refused the initial agreement reached on the transportation of goods via the Aghdam-Khankendi road through the mediation of the International Committee of the Red Cross," it said, adding: "The Armenian leadership also brought goods, which it claimed were for humanitarian purposes, in the direction of the state border without the Azerbaijani side's agreement, and the purpose here is political speculation." Aliyev said that his country invited representatives of the Armenian population of Karabakh to Baku and other cities of Azerbaijan to discuss reintegration issues, but they refused and "purposefully made allegations about the tense humanitarian situation." "President Ilham Aliyev noted that following the opening of the Aghdam-Khankendi road, the Lachin-Khankendi road can be used by observing the customs and border regime rules of Azerbaijan," the statement said. It said that Macron also expressed France's willingness to contribute to the stabilization of the situation and de-escalation of the prevailing tension, and proposed to continue contacts between the relevant authorities of Paris and Baku. Azerbaijan earlier on Tuesday said that comments made by French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna about the situation in Karabakh a day earlier were "unacceptable." "French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna's statements such as this, which do not serve peace and stability in the region and show a one-sided pro-Armenian position, are unacceptable.—Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Devcom Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed along with Mehkta Pakistan chief Chaudhary Liaquat Ali presenting an appreciation of services award to Mayor Working (Surrey) Muhammad Ilyas Raja. —DNA

## Spain protests over 'serious incidents' near Gibraltar

OVIEDO: The Spanish government has lodged a diplomatic protest with the UK Embassy in Madrid over what it called "three serious incidents" that violated the country's sovereignty, Spanish daily El Pais revealed on Wednesday. In the complaint, accessed by El Pais, Spain's Acting Foreign Affairs Minister Jose Manuel Albares expressed his "most energetic protest" around what has been happening this month. The first incident transpired on Aug. 1, when a tanker spilled as much as 2,000 liters (528 gallons) of fuel while bunkering. The spill closed Gibraltar's port for a day and a half, according to the complaint, and fuel reached Spanish beaches. Despite Gibraltar authorities allowing the practice, Spain reminded the UK that the coast is part of a natural conservation area where bunkering is illegal under Spanish law. A second event took place

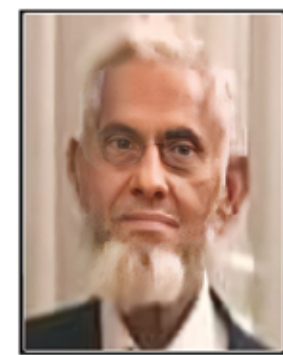
on Aug. 14, when a Spanish patrol boat became suspicious of a Gibraltar-based ship sailing without proper lighting and started pursuing it. Gibraltar authorities denounced Spain for going into its waters and three British ships got in the patrol boat's way, which Spain considers an "unjustifiable interference." Most recently, a Spanish fishing vessel was reportedly harassed by UK state vessels near Gibraltar and charged with fishing off the

eastern side of the country. Since it occurred in what Spain says are its waters, the Foreign Ministry said this is a violation of Spanish sovereignty. Gibraltar, a British overseas territory on the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula, has been a source of tension between the two countries for centuries. Spain claims maritime rights to all areas except inside the ports, as was established in the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht.—Agencies

China, Pak joint air  
exercise to contribute  
to regional peace

BEIJING: In a first since Pakistan inducted Chinese-made J-10CE fighters into its air force, the two countries kicked off a joint air exercise with experts saying that the drill will further enhance exchanges and cooperation between the two militaries and contribute to regional peace and stability. After more than a year's independent practice and use, the Pakistani pilots should have already grasped and developed skills and tactics on the J-10CEs, and their first joint exercise with China using the aircraft will benefit both countries' pilots when they exchange experiences, Fu Qianshao, a Chinese military aviation expert, told the Global Times. The Pakistan Air Force uses the J-10CE as its main combat force, while the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force also operates a large fleet of J-10C fighter jets, Fu noted. The exercise can enhance the two countries' interoperability under informal systems of modern warfare, Fu said. The Shaheen-X joint air exercise kicked off on Monday in Chinese territory as part of efforts to further boost training and coordination between the two militaries and deepen their exchange and cooperation on military technology. According to a statement released last week by China's Ministry of National Defense, the exercise is scheduled to be held until mid-September, in Jiuquan, Northwest China's Gansu Province and Yinchuan, Northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. The two sides will send fighters, early warning aircraft and several other types of aircraft, as well as ground forces such as ground-to-air missiles and radar and signal troops to participate in the exercise.—DNA

## CONDOLENCE



APNS expresses profound grief over the sad

demise of

**Mr. Hafeez Ulfat**

**Publisher and Chief Editor**

**Daily Sarhad Peshawar**

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace

and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.



All Pakistan Newspapers Society

## A Comprehensive Look at Digestive Disorders

SEERAT FATIMA



The human digestive system does many important things. It helps break down food, absorbs the good stuff from it, and gets rid of what we don't need. This system involves organs like the mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, liver, gall bladder, and pancreas. When these organs don't work properly, it can lead to serious illnesses. Many people in Pakistan have digestive problems, around 30% to 40%, which is more than the global average. These problems often start small but can get worse if people ignore the signs and don't

take them seriously. Gastrointestinal patients often have stomach, intestine, or digestion problems. They can face issues like Gastritis, Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), Peptic Ulcers, Gastroparesis, Gastroenteritis, Functional Dyspepsia, Helicobacter Pylori Infection, and even Stomach cancer. But the most common issues are diarrhea and constipation. Diarrhea means having loose and watery bowel movements. It can come with cramps, pain, fever, and bleeding. It can lead to dehydration because you lose a lot of water. Contaminated food or water with bacteria and viruses can cause diarrhea, so it's important to be hygienic. Constipation is when you have trouble passing stool. It can make you feel like you didn't finish, and it often happens when stool stays too long in your large intestine. Constipation can be caused by a lack of fiber in your diet. Moving your body through physical activity can help digestion and reduce constipation. Some painkillers and antacids can cause constipation too. Pregnant women might get constipated because of hormonal changes. Your diet plays a big role in these diges-

tive issues. Some foods can make things worse. For example, dairy products like milk can slow down digestion because they lack fiber. Some people can't digest lactose, which is in milk, and that can cause constipation. Bananas are a good fruit to eat, but unripe ones are harder to digest. Ripe bananas are better for both diarrhea and constipation. Fruits like apples, pears, and bananas help regulate digestion. Citrus fruits like oranges and lemons can be irritating for the gut, so it's better to avoid them. For dinner, it's best to keep it light and easy to digest. Grilled fish without spices is a good choice because it's a lean protein. Gastro patients should avoid red meat, spicy foods, and certain spices like red chili, black pepper, garlic, and onion because they can irritate the stomach lining. Instead, use ginger and turmeric in your cooking; they have anti-inflammatory properties. Drinking plenty of water is essential for both constipation and diarrhea patients. Constipation can happen if you're dehydrated, and diarrhea can cause you to

lose a lot of water and electrolytes, which are minerals your body needs. Stress can affect your digestion too. It can either slow down or speed up the digestive process. Managing stress through exercise, sleep, and a healthy diet can help. It's important to eat fresh, healthy food and stick to regular meal times. Chewing your food properly helps with digestion. Taking a short walk after eating can improve digestion, while lying down right after a meal can lead to indigestion. In short, taking care of your digestive system involves eating the right foods, staying hydrated, managing stress, and maintaining healthy eating habits. This can help prevent and alleviate common digestive issues like diarrhea and constipation. At the end, I thank to Respected Sir Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer for his valuable source of guidance. He generously shared his time and knowledge, providing me with valuable feedback and constructive criticism that has significantly improved the quality of my work. His patience, encouragement, and willingness to engage in meaningful discussions have been truly inspiring.

## Briefs

### IHC bars police from arresting Imaan Mazari

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Human rights lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir's counsel, Barrister Salman Akram Raja, on Wednesday said the Islamabad High Court (IHC) made it clear that his client could not be arrested in any cases registered after August 20, the day she was taken into custody. In a video posted on X (formerly Twitter) by journalist Asad Toor, Barrister Raja can be heard explaining the IHC order in Imaan's case, saying that the court issued directives to present a record of all the FIRs registered against her throughout the country so that they could be reviewed by the judges. "The court has said that since she was arrested on Aug 20, if any FIR is registered after that date, she will not be arrested in that," her lawyer said. "If this court can grant relief, we will take it from here otherwise from other concerned courts," Barrister Raja further said. "Or we will file for a protective bail in this court." We contended before the court that the fundamental rights mentioned in the law and Constitution are for every citizen of the country.

### Servicemen can become Nadra chairman

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The interim federal cabinet has approved the controversial rules for the appointment of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) chairman, which opens doors to the servicemen to be deputed as the head of this institution, a Pakistani newspaper reported. Citing credible sources that the summary received by the Cabinet Division from the Ministry of Interior, in which filling the extraordinary position of NADRA chairman on a deputation or secondment basis has been clearly approved for inclusion in the new rules. The sources also expressed surprise at this development because the process of appointing the head of a sensitive institution like Nadra had reached the names of at least three final candidates. The final candidates were former Nadra chairman Usman Mubeen, bureaucrat and former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif's appointed acting Nadra chairman Asad Gilani, and Ahmed Kamal who is associated with a private mobile phone company.

### MQM-P to join anti-inflation protests

DNA

KARACHI: Muttahida Qami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Farooq Sattar said on Wednesday his party was going to join the protests being held across the country against inflation and exorbitant electricity bills. Mr Sattar made the announcement in a press conference along with members of a timber traders' association in Karachi. Referring to ongoing protests, he said there was a reaction when traders are suppressed. He said higher electricity bills coincided by massive loadshedding had left the masses in distress. The MQM leader said they would play their role in getting the issues being faced by traders resolved. "We stand with traders," he announced. He said the delegation of traders visited the MQM-P office and problems related to electricity, gas and water supply were discussed in the meeting. He said the timber traders' leader Sharjeel Goplani had taken a stand for rights of his community. He also lashed out at the K-Electric, saying there would be tit-for-tat if the power supply company took any illegal moves. "We will block all illegal actions," he resolved.

# PM stresses significance of war games in naval war plans

## The debrief of the exercise was attended by high-level government officials and senior officers from tri-services

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Wednesday emphasized the significance of war games in validating naval war plans in sync with military and national security policy, besides exploring operational concepts and refining deployment strategies. The prime minister, addressing the debrief session of Pakistan Navy's war game Shamsheer-e-Bahr IX, lauded the well-deliberated plans of the force commanders and the insightful analysis of the war game, which would help crystallize operational plans for maritime security and seaward defence of Pakistan, a PM Office press release said. He also highlighted the enhanced responsibilities of the Pakistan Navy in ensuring the security of China-Pakistan Economic



Corridor and Gwadar Port. Prime Minister Kakar expressed complete confidence in the preparedness of the Pakistan Navy to meet all threats and challenges, and reassured the government's commitment to provide all available resources for its capacity building. Earlier upon arrival at the venue, the prime minister was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. While presenting the overview, the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) outlined the objectives of the war game which was conducted in tri-service format, with participants of relevant ministries and divisions as well. He highlighted various concepts tried during the war game and recommendations pertaining to the Pakistan Navy's deployment strategies. The debrief of the exercise was attended by high-level government officials and senior officers from tri-services.

## 'President has no role in election date'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Law on Wednesday told President Arif Alvi that he has no role in the announcement of date for general elections "following the amendment in Elections Act". The law ministry has forwarded its response to President Alvi's letter, seeking opinion on Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) stance that "only it had the authority to decide the election date". In the letter, the Law ministry said that the right of announcing the date of election rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). "According to Article 48(5) of the Constitution, where the National Assembly is dissolved by the President, he shall appoint a date for election and appoint a caretaker cabinet in accordance with the provision of Article 224 or as the case may be under Article 224-A," the ministry said in the letter. Under Article 58, the letter noted, the President shall act on and in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister and such advice shall be binding on him. "An advice sent under Article 58 shall take effect within 48 hours", it added. The ministry further said that the system will witness a distortion if President's authority to give election date is accepted. "The purpose of amending the Election Act was a single authority can give date of elections," it added.

## Macron to meet French opp. leaders

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron will meet leaders of all of France's political parties Wednesday, including his most bitter opponents, outside Paris in a bid to break the deadlock of a hung parliament. Deprived of an absolute majority in the National Assembly lower house since last year's parliamentary elections, Macron said he wanted a "frank, honest and direct discussion" aimed at "acting together" for the benefit of voters. In a letter inviting party bosses from the hard left to far right, Macron vowed to work together on writing new laws and "if need be" organising referendums - a rare political tool that has previously backfired. - Agencies

# Imran to remain behind bars

## Special court extends Khan's judicial remand

### Qureshi sent on 14-day judicial remand in cipher case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: A special court established under the Official Secrets Act extended PTI Chairman Imran Khan's judicial remand till September 13 in the cipher case, hearing of which was held at the Attock District Jail. Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain, who arrived at the jail to conduct the hearing, issued the decision in the case of the missing cipher, a classified state document that Khan had waved during his political gathering ahead of his ouster from office last year. Hearing of the case took place at the Attock District Jail following approval by the Law Ministry amid security concerns expressed by the Interior Ministry. Khan has been imprisoned in the said jail since his conviction in the Toshakhana case on August 5 for failing to properly declare gifts he received while in office. While the Islamabad High Court, a day earlier, overturned a lower court's decision to jail him for three years with a Rs100,000 fine - a judgment that kept him from contesting upcoming elections, he remains behind bars due to his judicial remand in the cipher case till August 30. The FIA had officially arrested the former prime minister in the cipher case earlier this month after booking him under Official Secrets Act. Subsequently, the PTI chief was sent on judicial remand in the cipher case till August 30 (today) at the same time while he was serving his sentence in Toshakhana case at Attock jail.

## SC judge takes jab at PTI chief

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked on Wednesday that the court must take into account who the petitioner challenging the recent amendments in the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) was. Sitting on a three-member special bench, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Shah said that "if the NAO amendments were such a big problem, a citizen would have challenged them, no financial institution challenged the amendments, nor any political party, a fugitive politician from the parliament approached the SC". "To date it remains unclear what aspects of the law are contrary to fundamental rights provisions," he observed expressing "surprise" that the court has been hearing the case for so long. Today marked the 50th hearing of a petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan challenging the National Accountability (Second Amendment) Act 2022 passed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition govt. - DNA

# EU purchases of Russian LNG up 40%: Study

MONITORING REPORT

BRUSSELS: The European Union vowed to drastically cut imports of gas from Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine but data shows the bloc's purchases of Russian-made liquefied natural gas (LNG) have soared. According to new findings released by Global Witness, an environmental watchdog organisation, the European Union bought 21.6 million cubic metres (mcm) of Russian LNG between January and July of this year, a small increase compared to the same period in 2022, when imports totalled 21.3 mcm. But when the 2023 figure is measured against the same period in 2021, prior to the Kremlin's decision to wage war on Ukraine, it results in a 39.5% surge, an embarrassing percentage for a bloc that has forcefully condemned the invasion as an illegal, brutal and ruthless attempt to subjugate Ukraine's independence. Making matters more uncomfortable, three member states can be found among the five major clients of Russian LNG in the first seven months of his year: China came on top with 8.7 mcm in purchases, followed by Spain (7.5 mcm), Belgium (7.1 mcm), Japan (7 mcm) and France (4.5 mcm). As coastal countries, Spain, Belgium and France have become busy destinations for LNG carriers, which need to unload their supplies on sophisticated terminals where the cooled-down liquid is turned back into gaseous form and sent to power plants. The Netherlands, Greece, Portugal, Finland, Italy and Sweden were also listed by Global Witness as current consumers of Russian LNG. The numbers are based on shipping data obtained from Kpler, an analytics firm. Overall, the EU is

estimated to have bought 52% of all of Russia's LNG exports between January and July, a market share that exceeds the 49% mark of 2022 and 39% of 2021. This year's shopping spree was worth €5.29 billion, Global Witness said, an amount that throws into question the bloc's efforts to weaken the Kremlin's war chest, which is fundamentally sustained by international sales of fossil fuels. Since the start of the war, the EU has banned imports of Russian coal and Russian pipeline oil but has conspicuously spared those of Russian gas. While flows of pipeline gas have been dramatically reduced through national plans and Vladimir Putin's retaliation, tanks of Russian LNG appear to be warmly welcomed at European ports. "Buying Russian gas has the same impact as buying Russian oil. Both fund the war in Ukraine, and every euro means more bloodshed. While European countries decry the war, they're putting money into Putin's pockets," Jonathan Noronha-Gant, a senior fossil fuel campaigner at Global Witness, said in a statement. Data from Eurostat paints a similar pattern: in the first quarter of 2023, Russia was the EU's second-largest supplier of LNG, only behind the United States and ahead of Qatar, Algeria, Norway and Nigeria. Market data analysed by Bruegel, a Brussels-based economic think tank, shows no considerable variation in the flows of Russian LNG, despite the multiple rafts of sanctions and growing evidence of possible war crimes committed inside Ukraine: the EU bought 1.99 mcm of Russian LNG in March 2022, the first full month of the invasion, and 1.59 mcm in July 2023, the last month on record. The European Commission did not immediately reply to a request for comment.



DUSHANBE: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, CJCS, who is on official visit to Tajikistan, calls on Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan. Chairman JCSC also had separate meetings with other government and military officials during which matters of mutual interests were discussed. - DNA

## Pakistan, US share conviction on promoting gender security: Blome

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United States in Pakistan Donald Blome on Wednesday said that the United States and Pakistan shared a conviction that promoting gender security means the full integration and participation of women in decision-making, law enforcement, justice, and peacekeeping. Addressing an event on "Reflective Session on Gender Based Violence Reduction" held by Asia Foundation he said, "The United States and Pakistan's shared interest in promoting gender security as a matter of justice and of prosperity. We will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan in our shared goal of justice for all." He called for collective action and attention to tackle alarming rates of gender-based violence. The ambassador said that women and girls continued to face discrimination, harassment, and violence solely based on their gender. "This is a violation of their basic human rights and an affront to the principles of equality and justice that both our countries and the United Nations uphold" he added. In late 2021, he said, the US government adopted its first ever national strategy on gender equality. The strategy is the first US roadmap for addressing gender inequality both in our domestic and foreign policies. Similarly, the ambassador said, Pakistan's National Security Policy stated that "providing women and transgender persons a safe environment at home, in public spaces, and at the workplace are priorities for the country." He said, the Asia Foundation, its partners, and allies gathered here are championing this cause and baseline survey captures the extent of gender-based violence, identifies service gaps, and provides a blueprint for how to address them. "Let us continue to work together to support a Pakistan that is safe, inclusive, and just for all its citizens" he added. He appreciated the International Islamic Research Institute, whose collective experience and extensive scholarship on the nexus between gender equity and Sharia principles is helping root out misinformation and educate the public on the resources available to survivors of gender-based violence. The ambassador said, "Today's conversations are an important opportunity to highlight best practices for supporting survivors and increase public awareness about the impact these crimes have on individuals and on society." The event was also attended by Dr. Zia ul Haq, Director General of the Islamic Research Institute Rana Abdul Majeed, Prosecutor General of Punjab; Haris Qayum, Representative of the Asia Foundation; Dr. Samza Fatima; colleagues and friends. - DNA

**MURREE SPARKLETTS**  
Bottled Drinking Water

**WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!**

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

330ml 750ml

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Rizi Abbas	Kaiser Waheed	Riaz Muhammad
03325599169	03325808422	0335 5111043