

Holding of the General Elections President not authorized to fix election date: ECP

President seeks Law Ministry's view after Election Commission's letter



Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: As it was expected, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday responded to President ArifAlvi's letter inviting Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and stated that the president is no longer empowered to fix an "appropriate" election date. The development comes in a meeting chaired by CEC Raja to ponder over the matter. DrArifAlvi, in the letter to the chief election commissioner, said since the National Assembly was dissolved on August 9, 2023, therefore under Article 48 (5) of the Constitution, he (as the president) was obliged to appoint a date not later than 90 days from the date of dissolution for the holding of general election of National Assembly. "Forgoing in view, the Chief Election Commissioner is invited for a meeting with the President today or tomorrow to fix an appropriate date," the letter noted. The Presidential office is of the view that since the President has not singed the election law and had sent back to the Parliament with his observations therefore the law is not valid. Legal experts are

US wants free and fair polls in Pakistan US Ambassador Blome's

Meeting with Chief **Election Commissioner Raja**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: US Ambassador Donald Blome met Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja Thursday to reaffirm the US support for "free and fair elections", saying it would work to strengthen the US-Pakistan relationship with "whomever the Pakistani people choose". "The United States remains committed to working to broaden and deepen the US-Pakistan relationship with whomever the Pakistani people choose", a statement from the US embassy's spokesperson read. Ambassador Blome's remarks come against a backdrop of uncertainty surrounding the general elections in Pakistan. The then Shehbaz Sharif-led

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar embarrassing survivors of the Battagram chairlift incident, during a ceremony in Islamabad. - DNA

Pakistan, India to replace heads of missions Saeed Warriach to head Pakistan

mission while Geeta Sriwastawar named Indian envoy to Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India have decided to appointed new Charge d Affaires. Foreign Office sources

say Pakistan has nominated

Saeed Ahmed Warriach to

head the Pakistani mission

in New Delhi while India has

announced appointment of

GeetaSriwastawa to replace

the incumbent Charge d Af-

It may be mentioned here

that these are the routines

postings and transfers,

which have been announced

after the respective officials

have completed their term.

PTI wants

elections

in 90 days

JUI for polls after

delimitations; ECP

to continue talks

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: The Jamia-

tUlema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F)

has backed the Election

Commission of Pakistan

(ECP) to hold general

elections after the delim-

itation while the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has

urged the electoral watch-

dog to drop the process and

conduct polls with 90 days.

Continued on Page 06

faires Dr. Suresh Kumar.

PM Kakar rejects allegations of 'exceeding mandate' PM briefed on foreign policy of Pakistan

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Interim Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar on Thursday rejected the impression that he is "exceeding his mandate", reiterating that his government's one and only mandate is to assist the forthcoming general elections.

The caretaker premier expressed these remarks during a ceremony in Islamabad to appreciate the SSG commandos and ocals who participated in a daring opera tion to rescue eight schoolchildren and a teacher stranded midair on a 600 feet high chairlift in Allai area of Battagram. The

CAA team in Brussels for EU flight resumption

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: A dedicated team of Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) on Thursday reached

talk with the authorities related to re-

store Pakistani airlines' operations in

Continued on Page 06



News Desk



on Thursday decided not to return to the country in September. This was decided in a meeting held between former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and Nawaz Sharif in London. It was decided that Nawaz would delay his return until a later date. Additionally, it has been suggested that Nawaz Sharif might consider returning to Pakistan in either October or November, particularly in light of the upcoming general elections scheduled for February next year.

British HC calls on Tareen

DNA



Commissioner Jane Marriott on Thursday expressed their commitment to strengthen the ties between the two countries. According to details, Ms Marriott called on Mr Tareen. On the occasion, Mr Tareen and Ms Marriott exchanged views on the bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.Both leaders expressed their resolve to promote bilateral ties and matters of mutual interest between the two countries.Underscoring the significance of the ties between the two countries, Mr Tareen said.

Toshakhana case SC adjourns Imran's plea till IHC verdict IHC will take up the petition today at 11:30pm **PBC** stresses

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Thursday adjourned the hearing on Paki-stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's plea challenging the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) decision in the Toshakhana Court's (IHC) decision in the Toshakhana case till the latter issues a verdict on the plea seeking the suspension of the sentence in the case. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar ISLAMABAD: The representatives Ata Bandial heard the case as the IHC was of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) hearing the former prime minister's plea stressed the need for an apolitical role against the Toshakhana verdict. At the start of the courts. While talking to the meof the hearing, CJP Bandial lauded IHC Chief dia, they said: "The courts should be Justice Aamer Farooq for his efforts and it respected. We do not want the courts would be better if the high court issues its to be called with specific names." verdict. The top judge then inquired if any- They added: "The courts should be one from the attorney general's office was apolitical. The Supreme Court (SC) present in the courtroom as they wanted should be aware of its position. Fato know the situation about the condition in vouring someone directly is against which the PTI chief, who was removed from its integrity." They stated: "Yesterday,

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

DNA

United States approves new arms sale to Taiwan

Announcement came just hours after Taiwan's President renewed a pledge to strengthen self-defense

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration has approved a \$500 million arms sale to Taiwan as it ramps up military assistance to the island despite fervent objections from China. The State Department said Wednesday it had signed off on the sale of infrared search tracking systems along with related equipment for advanced F-16 fighter jets. The sale includes the infrared systems as well as test support and equipment, computer software and spare parts, it said.

Although the deal is modest in comparison to previous weapons sales, the move is likely to draw fierce criticism from Beijing, which regards self-governing Taiwan as a renegade province and refuses to rule out the use of force to reunify it with the mainland.

"This proposed sale serves U.S. na-

China vows 'powerful' measures

News Desk

WASHINGTON: China on Thursday vowed "powerful" measures against the US over a recent sale of defence systems to Taiwan. Urging Washington to cancel to the sale to the island nation, which Beijing sees as its own territory, China said it would "safeguard" its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin called on the US to "stop the dangerous trend of arming the island," Beijing-based Global Times reported. ago, commemorated those who died. dailv

Continued on Page 06

tional, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability," the State Department said in a statement. "The proposed sale will improve the

recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by contributing to the recipient's abilities to defend its airspace, provide regional security, and increase interoperability with the United States through its F-16 program," it said. The announcement came just hours after Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen renewed a pledge to strengthen Taiwan's self-defense as she visited a war memorial from the last time Taiwan and China battled. Tsai, visited the outlying islands of Kinmen where the conflict was fought 65 years

Continued on Page 06

Related picture on Page 3

PM also distributed certificates of appreciation among the participants during the ceremony. Speaking during the occasion, Kakar said the caretaker government has very limited time before the electoral process commences. "We have limited time, and our duty lies in assisting the electoral process. Some believe I am exceeding this mandate, but I remind them that, besides being prime minister, I am also a citizen

Continued on Page 06

European countries. The CAA team's mission is to inform European authorities about the preparations for upcoming technical sessions and address various issues with the European Commission. As per reliable sources, the discussions are expected to play pivotal in the process of revitalizing Pakistani airlines, including Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), in European airspace. The team representing Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) includes top officials, such as the

Continued on Page 06



NATIONAL

KP ombudsman drives successful campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT

02

PESHAWAR. Syed Jamaluddin Din Shah Provincial Ombudsman stressed upon The people to approach the ombudsman secretariat without any hesitation and stress for redressal of their grievances for quick resolution, this he said while presiding over monthly review meeting here on Thursday. He said that most encouraging aspect of the year is that we have so far received highest number of complaints as compared with previous years. The increase is due to an effective awareness campaign being launch by our media and IT teams jointly in the province. The most encouraging point is that government departments also cooperating and received positive response in terms of implementation of cases, he

lamented. The meeting was informed that inter provincial exchange program to be started where by the officers of provincial Ombudsman will pay visit to other Ombudsman offices I E Federal Ombudsman, Tax Ombudsman and women Ombudsman secretariat to get updated information on their working patron while other offices officers also to be invited to visit Provincial Ombudsman secretariat to apprise them on Ombudsman way of investigation and redressal to complainant's.

The head of Provincial Ombudsman directed all his staff and particularly Investigation Officers (IO) to work hard and cases to be decided on merit. The complainants be treated politely and cases to be decided with in specific period as per Ombudsman act. He also showed happiness

offices where majority of people are approaching for filing their cases at regional level. The meeting was informed that training of investigation officers as well as other staff has already been started and committee comprising registrar of Ombudsman secretariat along with Tariq khan, Shaid Hussain (Advisors) and Waqar Maroof (consultant) will by rotation deliver lectures. Mr Akhunzada Kamran Ali Assistant Director gave detailed presentation on performance of officers during month of july while DG Mohazam Bacha also spoke on the occasion. The chair appreciated the efforts and performance of all dealing officers and directed to carry on their endeour for promotion and better results for the satisfaction of common people.

and appreciated the role of regional



ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan's Ambassador, H.E. Aybek Arif Usmanov meets Dr. Gohar Ejaz, Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries to discuss mutual trade interest. -DNA

Dozens of chairlifts closed after **Bataghram** incident

DNA

PESHAWAR : The district administrations have closed dozens of local chair lifts in several districts of Khyber Pakhram chairlift accident.

from the administration.

Overpopulation exerts pressure on water resources

ing clean drinking water from Pabbi, Nowshera and

Peshawar due to poor quali-

Malik Riaz Khan, a senior

children specialist at Govt

Hospital Pabbi Nowshera

said the use of contami-

nated water may cause di-

arrhea, cholera and others

waterborne diseases that

may prove fatal for weaker

children. Besides stom-

ach disorder and digestive

problems, he said that the

use of polluted water often

caused stunted growth and

ty of the ground water.

PESHAWAR: Besides food ily after the ground water and socioeconomic resourcof my village Mohib Banda es, the country's overpopbadly affected by the last year floods was not fit for ulation, which crossed the psychological barrier of human consumption," said 240 million in May this Riazul Haq, said former year, have started exerting PST teacher of Nowshera pressure on water sector district while talking to in the country. Highly vul-APP on Thursday. He said that the water of nerable to climate change, the people of Khyber Pakhthe nearby areas was very tunkhwa's low lying areas heavy and its drinking may of Nowshera, Peshawar and cause vomiting and other Charsadda were exposed to waterborne diseases. Like, Riaz, most people are bring-

drink poor quality of water after the last year devastated floods that adversely affected the quality of groundwater in these districts. Despite of the fact that

Pakistan had witnessed 22 high to very high floods during the last 55 years, no attention was paid to the construction of small, medium and large dams since long, which may result water scarcity, droughts and more flooding in future.

"I regularly go to Pabbi tehsil by covering 10 kilometers distance to bring clean drinking water for my fam-

lactating mothers. Professor Dr Muhamnad Naeem of Economics Department, University of Swabi said that Pakistan was ranked 14 out of 17 extremely high water risk countries in the world due overpopulation, lack to of water reservoirs and climate change induced weather patterns.

Islamabad **POST**

Friday, August 25 , 2023

Citing the reports, he said that our country's population was expected to exceed 380 million by 2050 and the demand for water was likely to reach 274 million acre feet (MAF) as compared to 191 MAF supply of water by 2025. Dr Naeem said that water availability had plummeted from 5,229 cubic meters per inhabitant in 1962 to just 1,187 in 2017 in Pakistan. He claimed, the country treats about one percent of wastewater, which was one of the lowest rates in globe and around 40 percent of water was lost due to spillage, seepage, side leakage.-APP

DCs directed to launch crackdown on polluters

DNA

LAHORE : The caretaker Punjab government has issued instructions to all deputy commissioners to start a crackdown on

through video link. The chief secretary ordered that stern action should be taken against stubble burning, the industries and vehicles causing air nollution and specia an-

chief secretary also asked the deputy commissioners to ensure construction of new washrooms for passengers at petrol pumps situated at highways. The meeting plementation of the "Ab Gaon Chamkeinge" programme and the campaign against encroachments. The officials briefed the participants that special check-posts would be established in Lahore for checking smoke-emitting vehicles and surveillance would be done through drone cameras with thermal sensors at night. They said that only brick kilns with zigzag technology would be allowed to work.

Pak-Uzbekistan optimize to achieve trade potential

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Uzbekistan on Thursday expressed optimism regarding the potential for increasing the bilateral trade partnerships and cooperation in various sectors. Ambassador Uzbekistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov held productive meeting with Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz paving way to enhance bilateral economic and trade ties, said a press release issued here. The minister discussed matters of bilateral trade interest in different sector of economy. He assured the Ambassador every possible facilitation in enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The meeting marked a significant step towards fostering closer relations and harnessing shared opportunities for growth. The ambassador extended his warm congratulations to Dr. Gohar Ejaz for assuming the role of

OICCI dialogue to promote localization for sustainable energy

NAZIR SAYAL

KARACHI: Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OIC-CI) organized an Industry Dialogue titled 'Promoting Localization and Harnessing Indigenous Resources for Sustainable Energy' in Karachi. The event aimed to fuel discussions on sustainable economic expansion and energy self-sufficiency by embracing native resources for power generation, propelling Pakistan towards fortified economic resilience. Khalid Mansoor, Former SAPM on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and a distinguished expert on the energy sector, as part of his keynote address, underscored, the critical importance of achieving national energy security while minimizing the impact on the balance

of payment". Khalid Man-

soor further highlighted,

on long-term environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and conservation. The timely approval of Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) and wheeling regulations is also deemed crucial, along with the commitment to uphold competitive tariffs to fuel the growth of the power industry." Mr. Mansoor's discourse highlighted the intricate interplay of an imbalanced fuel mix, escalated power generation costs, sluggish growth in local power sources, unabated energy wastage, and insufficient recoveries - a collective array of factors culminating in a disconcerting power shortfall, unaffordable electricity, and an escalating circular debt. "Through this dialogue OICCI endeavors to unite energy experts, corporate leaders, consultants, and academia members in a col-

planning and coordination is to facilitate the exchange of insights, knowledge, and among various government bodies, with a strong focus real-world experiences, forging a progressive journey towards sustainable energy practices and bolstered economic resilience", stated Mr. Najeeb Ahmad, OICCI Managing Committee Member and Country MD, Hitachi Energy Pakistan (Pvt) Limited while opening the discussion. The event was focused towards creating a dialogue around multifaceted strategies that will propel Pakistan towards energy self-sufficiency, diminish its environmental footprint, and bolster national resilience. Facilitating robust partnerships among participants within the energy value chain, the event encompasses panel discussions, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities. The distinguished speakers brought together perspectives on diverse fostering localized supply chains, incentivizing investment, and implementing sus-

tunkhwa after the Batagh-The local chairlifts were being run in Swat, Shangla, Buner, Dir Lower, Dir Upper, Chitral, Haripur, Abbottabad and Mansehra districts. Hundreds of buckets are operated with cable wires or ropes to access other areas in Bataghram, Kohistan Upper, Lower, and Koli Palis. The Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to inspect local chairlifts/dollies in all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. There were also reports from all the districts wherein peo-

ple were using chairlifts, caused problem due to closures with many areas also complaining that they are facing food shortages. Local dollies are used

to access other villages, schools, markets in mountainous areas and mostly children are unable to go to school due to lift closure. The people of the areas have demanded for immediate rehabilitation

malnutrition in children and



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha, presents the Annual Report of NHCR for year 2021-22 to President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.–DNA

IPS holds roundtable on 10 Years of CPEC

FAISAL SHIEKH

ISLAMABAD : Investment in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not limited to Pakistan and China, rather it is open to other countries, especially from the Gulf region, as well to invest in the opportunities being created with the development of the mega project, which holds vast possibilities to expand avenues for further cooperation. It is critical for both China and Pakistan to resist and counter false narratives peddled by rivals as well as their attempts to sabotage the success of CPEC.

This was observed during a roundtable discussion on 'CPEC: 10 Years and On' at Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) with a Chinese delegation of researchers from the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), Sichuan University, China, led by Dr. Zeng Xiangyu, senior research fellow, ISAS and director of its Indian Ocean Study Centre.

The keynote speech was delivered by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, while Dr. Zeng Xiangyu, Gao Liang, senior researchers, ISAS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman (academics), IPS, Prof. Dr. Fakhr-ul-Islam, director research and academic outreach. IPS. and Dr. Syed Tahir Hijazi, former member Planning Commission, addressed the roundtable, which was moderated by Naufil Shahrukh, IPS' GM Operations.

In his speech, Khalid Rahman stressed the importance of considering the bigger picture while evaluating the performance of CPEC in the present dynamics of conflict. The Afghanistan issue, law and order situation, adversarial lobbying, risks associated with P2P interactions, political instability, and governance concerns are just a few of the internal and external obstacles CPEC has encountered. Despite these hindrances, the CPEC initiative was promoted as a win-win partnership at its launch.

A decade down the line, it can be said that things are improving; the domestic scene is becoming more predictable, the bilateral confi-

dence is being restored, and the shifting external environment is also opening up new arenas for collaboration. In the present situation, it is fitting to continue this collaboration with a positive agenda and in the same spirit. Both countries must prevent the partnership's goals from being derailed by false narratives spread by adversaries, he said. The past decade of CPEC has been fruitful, yet it was 'far from perfect' as there is still more to do, said Dr Xiangyu. He said that, besides the '1+4' layout, there are more possibilities to expand avenues for cooperation, e.g., in industry transfer and development, agriculture, water resource

management, climate change management, and human resource and workforce management, having grassroots-level implications. Along with exploring new cooperations, both countries also need to manage their CPEC-related expectations and develop a proper understanding of its nuances. Only then can both countries develop better policies and a workable environment for this connectivity project in the coming years.

Liang mentioned that there have been obvious changes in the geopolitical landscape surrounding CPEC - like US and Japanese economic and strategic investments in the Indo-Pacific region, Indian strate-



Gates in interior Lahore to be restored

LAHORE : Local Government Secretary Dr Irshad Ahmad has said that Rs 75 million are being allocated for restoration of gates of the interior Lahore. According to official sources here on Thursday that gates would be restored in their real shape. He said that Walled City has been given deadline of June 2024 for restoration of the gates. PC-1 of the project has been approved and Lahori gate, Sheranwala gate, Kash-miri gate and Roshnai gate are included in PC-1. Dr Irshad Ahmad further said that restoration work of the gates is being started as per the direc-

tion of Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister.

polluters for controlling smog. The instructions were issued by Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman while presiding over a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat, here on Thursday. The Senior Member Board of Revenue and secretaries of departments concerned attended the meeting while all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated

ti-smog squads be formed in Lahore, Sheikhupura, Gujranwala and Sialkot. He said that preventive measures are indispensable to overcome the smog, adding that the responsibilities would be reassigned to the departments. The CS mentioned that all the departments should make collective efforts to control smog. The task of controlling environmental pollution is a service to humanity, he added. The





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(+92-42) 35711425



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 /Svria

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





ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and others offering dua after planting a tree at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.-DNA

ICCI calls for rationalization of taxes on construction industry Ahsan Bakhtawari said that many businesses in the construction and real estate sector have

already closed due to the increase in taxes and if these taxes are not rationalized, more businesses of this sector could be closed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the construction industry plays a key role in the development of the economy as the growth of business activities of over 70 allied industries is dependent on this industry. However, the levy of new taxes on the construction industry has plunged it into great

overall economy. Fayyaz the construction and real Awan, Project Director, estate sector have already J7 Group, said that if the high taxes imposed on the construction sector are not withdrawn, many investors in this sector would face default. He said that after the announcement of the construction

on the property business.



the cost of construction projects has increased manifold and investors are suffering. He said that the withholding tax has also been increased on sale & purchase of property to which business activities in this sector are slowing down. Due to this situation, the country's tax rev-

enue will decrease instead of improving. He strongly demanded that in order to save the construction industry from further difficulties, taxes should be reduced appropriately in consultation with the investors of this sector so that the construction Industry can play its ac-

tive role in driving the econ-

omy. Former President

ICCI and Secretary General

UBG Zafar Bakhtawari said

Tourist spots substandard food causing stomach diseases

ISLAMABAD: Substandard and poor-quality food is being sold in eateries and tourist spots in twin cities causing many diseases such as food poisoning, pain in the stomach, vomiting, and others. Talking to APP, Sajid Ali, a resident of G-9 visited Lake View Park along with family and said they had purchased and found eating unhygienic and highrisk burgers and channa chat. "Tourists are continuously thronging to various places in twin cities and observing them as health hazards," he added.

Amna Ali, a resident of G-11, said that during a visit to the Pakistan Monument. she observed that the eateries were selling unclean, polluted, and adulterated food without any check from relevant authorities. She said, "The vendors are selling food in these eateries at higher rates and their attitude was very pathetic." Amna Ali said that she also observed during a visit to Lake View Park that poor-quality food was being sold at exorbitant rates as compared to the market. She appealed to the relevant authorities including the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) to take prompt and strict actions against such vendors in order to provide healthy and quality food to the domestic and foreign tourists to enjoy their visit at recreational spots. Dr Ruby Rafique urged the visitors to avoid eating food at these eateries.-APP

3/1/25 Shi منزل شل راد لوند کارم - 45 م س لے کوک آک تور تقریبا 15800 اور ال 2023-24 سے ل عدروز الرافيات Brug Screening Kits اور على فا كتبتال ك في الدار فعل الن يعلى مرجل آلات کی از بداری کے لیے ٹی میش المیش کینے شیڈر زا بھی شہرت کے حال فرموں ، میڈ میں کینے اور ہول تک ذکر ز وكر كلر كم على والم يكس من رجارة بول ، فيذموراد 20.09.2023 مطلوب من ادويات امريكل آلات ك فريدارى ك لي فيتادد بعكان ورك المسع حال فرس مد الاند ز في دريار جرادديات كم فيتدد بعكان كو 2 مم كى الك الك أفريش كرنالازى يوكى جس شرائي (Technical proposal) اوردورى (Financial proposal) دوالك الك الافن عن وال كراتك عل جواناند عن وال كردينا بدن كي ادروفون الافن يركل حدف عمالاز مرافع العام المراجع Financial proposal المعالات مركار فيذرد ون 11:00 بج عك مورل کے جا کی لئے تزریک Technical proposal اس در نیڈرد بندگان کی مرد کی مرد محق ک الف من 12:00 بي كول بار كى اور تلام يون مال Technical proposal كا اور تلام يون proposal بفيركو في فيدرو بتدكان كودابس كروى جائ كى يكامياب بوف والى Technical proposal كى Financial proposal محى اى دن 01:00 بي نيتدرد بندكان كرما يح كمونى محاسا محكول جاع كل. ويكر he later a

the construction industry

Raja Muhammad Imtiaz,

Khalid Chaudhry, Malik

Mohsin Khalid, Babar

Chaudhry, Nisar Mirza,

Nasir Chaudhry and oth-

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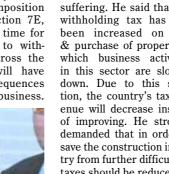
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achieves better growth.

closed due to the increase in taxes and if these taxes are not rationalized, more businesses of this sector could be closed. He said that instead of increasing taxes, the government should consider providing attractive incentives

package, investors have

uncertain. He said that the Lahore High Court has issued a stay order against the imposition of tax under Section 7E, so it is the right time for the government to withdraw this tax across the country as it will have disastrous consequences



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 Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info114
PIA Cargo9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA9281092



Hospitals

СМН	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital92	270907-11
DHQ5	556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family9	9290322-7
PIMS92	261170-79
Polyclinic92	218300-09
Shifa Internationa	14603666



Departments

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

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480 government should rationalize high taxes on this industry to save it from further troubles. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to the under construction J7 Group's Icon five-star hotel Royal Swiss along with a delegation, Favyaz Awan, Project

ed

with his team warmly welcomed the ICCI delegation. Ahsan Bakhtawari said that many businesses in

Director of J7 Group along

DNA

companies are to import

more meat from Pakistan,

said Umair Ahmad Khan,

representative of Hardoi

Livestock and Meat Com-

pany. "These days, the

volume of meat export is

about to go up after China

allowed Pakistani meat to

be imported. The Chinese

government has given some

specifications and standard

operating procedures for

boiled and heat-treated

meat," he said at Pakistan's

first International Food

and Agriculture Exhibition

held recently. The event at-

tracted more than 400 del-

egations from 55 countries,

Chinese

ISLAMABAD:

to the construction ininvested billions of rupees dustry, which will attract in the construction sector, more investment to the but the imposition of high taxes has made the future country, increase business of construction projects activities and revive the

of buffaloes and sixth-larg-

est cattle population in

the world. We can produce

high-quality buffalo meat."

Umair Ahmad Khan, who

used to target Gulf States,

Middle Eastern states and

Central Asian countries as

the main market, is now trv-

ing to export heat-treated

meat, frozen beef and bone-

less meat to China. Chinese

government has recently

concluded an agreement

that heat-treated meat from

Pakistan can be imported

to China. We have a big po-

tential market in China if

our producers can produce

meat." "About 80 percent

of the visitors to the expo

were Chinese. Since they

also knew that Pakistan

had been allowed to export

standard-compliant

Chinese companies to import

more meat from Pakistan

while China has the largest

delegation participating in

the Expo. "Many Chinese

enterprises want to import

meat, chili and other prod-

ucts from Pakistan and are

ready to set up industrial

units there," said Ghulam

Qadir, Commercial Counse-

lor of Pakistan Embassy in

Beijing, who led a delega-

tion of around 110 Chinese

representatives from Bei-

jing and neighboring prov-inces to the expo. "China

had agreed to import meat

from Pakistan, Gwadar Pro

reported on Thursday. He

added. At the expo, meat

booths attracted a lot of

Chinese visitors. "Paki-

stan is one of the world's

leading cattle and buffalo

producers. We have the

second-largest population

region's

to the selection of ma-

The

dedica-

He said that hike in taxes has pushed up the prices of other construction materials, including concrete and cement, due to which

meat to China, a lot of them

took interest in our prod-

ucts," said Mirza Wagas

Baig, another meat exhib-

itor from Organic Meat

Company. "China is prob-

ably the largest meat con-

sumer in the world. There

was no approval in Pakistan

to export to China before,

now there is approval. We

would like to cater to this

market and increase our ex-

that Pakistan needs to build more five-star hotels in major cities including Islamabad to promote tourism in the country. However, with the existing taxes, it is very difficult to promote investment in this sector, so it is better that taxes should be revised in consultation with the stakeholders so that the government's revenue is not affected and

56 FIRs, RAWALPINDI: District

Health Authority(DHA) had lodged 56 FIRs and sealed 18 premises on violations of anti-dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood said that the health department, in collaboration with allied departments, had issued tickets to 12 and imposed a fine of Rs 3,000 on violations of dengue SOPs during the last 24 hours. Presently, the health officer informed that 28 patients having positive symptoms were admitted to different health facilities in the district while the district total tally had reached 124 cases. The health officer informed that eight more patients were reported during the last 24 hours.

Among the new cases, three patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area.two of each from Chaklala Cantonment and Municipal Corporation area and one from Potohar rural area. Dr Sajjad further informed that most of the cases were reported from the Rawalpindi Cantonment and Potohar town areas where required response activity was being carried out to eliminate larvae. However, he urged the residents to remove stagnant water, especially after rain in outdoor and household settings to stop mosquitoes from breeding.-APP

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463512 1. 21م اشاء م نینز دیج اردال(2(a)38 ک تحت ایک وک شماداندان جن شمالیک برنینیل برد باز اد دادر - بافال بدون الدرة مدادول كيما كر كامل المراح المور - COR كل تيدا م 202% L'L C. W. J. M. L V 3000001 COR L Caludat Sat Land C. Degun 130000/ ب Drug Screeing Kits ا م الم الم 30000/ ب اور ترك أل كانك -CDR ك CDR ك 100000/-2. قام حکودامان مربحها فاغ فیڈرنجس عمامه دفتہ 20.09.2023 بقت دان 11:00 بچ تک ڈالی جا کی ى - يريخ على قام منظر دو بعكان الجار لا تعدكان كال وجدوك شوا الدون و 12:00 بي عظي مدونو لكولس كى -3- رئىم ئىندرىكى مغرل يمل داد لىندى كدفتر عى دوزاشامت ، كدو ياجا حاكا-4 نوقام افافون بدائع طور بر ملى جراف عن ما من الكما الا الان في في الحمد ب عن محول قام يكر - 4040000 5- تمام المياركافيل رقارم بعوض-1000 روب في قارم زيرة تلى كرفتر ، روزا شامت ، وفتر كادة ت م مورد 12.09.2023 مقردوق فتم ور في بط مع مع في ما تحد إلى المرادوات وارك مكرتك ك الد مترق اشاء کے لینڈر قارم علمہ وریا ہوگا۔ ہوئیڈر کے ماتھ ٹیڈر رمیدان کر ناہوگی۔ 6. فيتر بح مراد متذكره اشيادك درشولت تخيد المر كالا20 مداب بعورت كال فديازت جرك ق ك شدادل بك كالخام مام برشدف سترل بل راد ليد كاد يا فرد كاب 7- تى الكورى الى الجريز ل يمل خاد جات باب الدر بدى - المرور الحكى كول ماس اوك وه PPRA رول 35 کے معد ورکوتھ ل کرنے سے بلے ک مح وات تمام ورا پرو بول مسر دار سک ب 8 فيكو محود بوت عرف مرفع متعلة كومعود في العد 20 م ك اعدا عد معاجد الرابعة. 9- كايخ كاف تمان والفيذ ومردد ع. 10- تام المارك بذك ذاكرت شررى التريمات (Specifications) - مطابق كرناماني-11- تامة مرجع عوادراها مؤيل كالماعى فد كما فرالفيدار ولى-12 - فليكو متكور او ف كل صورت على فعيكد اركو PPRA راز 58 2 قت كل فليك باليت 2 %02 مرادى Performance Guarantee 13 يمام شار كالم القر بما حادث كور ألى كور كما بت دفتر فا حداثة كادادة ت عداد فالما مت كدن - ard كا باكن من مريد مطومات ك في فر 18-1133115-13010 تك الإركى cjrawalpindi@gmail.com كاريدان UTOFUCHE WWW.PPRA.PUNJAB.GOV.PK 14- اكرمور 20.09.2023 كواكرك وجر مركار كالطيل مولى فيتدروش اس سال محدد تك ول 2016200 15 - تىكور بالاحقدادا كي اعداد ، كى مطابق كى مطابق كى تى بسابق دى ادرار موتى ب (اسرجاديدوران)

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IPL NO 6794

PHED Sukkur region is prominent in Pakistan due to excellent performance the unwavering commit-

such

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

has set an unparalleled ISLAMABAD : PHED Sukkur region is prominent in Pakistan due to excellent performance. In a remarkable display held an unwavering comof dedication to excelmitment to the highest lence, the Public Health standards of quality in **Engineering Department** every facet of their pro-(PHED) in Sindh's Sukjects. Notably, the conkur region has emerged struction of water supply as a shining beacon of and drainage schemes superior development stands as a testament to their diligence.

projects. Spearheaded by the visionary leadership of Chief Engineer Barkat Ali Khawaja, along with

terials and equipment ment of SE Nazir Ahmad used in their projects. Sheikh and SE Abdul The installation of top-Rauf Kalwar, the region of-the-line KSB pumps, Siemens motors, and standard in development government-approved endeavors. Under their pipes underscores their leadership, the PHED unyielding focus on ex-Sukkur region has upcellence.

By prioritizing such premium components, PHED Sukkur has raised the bar for development projects across the nation.Thanks to their unswerving commitment to excellence, the PHED Sukkur region has rightfully earned its place tion to quality extends among Pakistan's most exceptional performing

regions.

the future.

The remarkable impact of their development projects has not only transformed local infrastructure but has also earned them a distinguished reputation on a national scale.As the Sukkur region continues to set new benchmarks for development, their story serves as an inspiring testament to what can be achieved through leadership. visionary uncompromising standards, and an unwavering dedication to the betterment of communities and the nation at large.

ports there. "He added The event witnessed \$410 million worth of deals and the signing of 10 MoUs. Data shows that Pakistan's exports to China are improving gradually. Export of meat is expected to play a key role in achieving Pa-

kistan's export target of USD10 billion to China in

registered for violating dengue SOPs in 24 hours

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Friday, August 25 , 2023

Briefs

ANF recovers 445 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 445 kg of drugs and arrested seven accused including an Afghan national, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 10.8 kg opium and 36 kg hashish were recovered from an ambulance intercepted near Ring Road Peshawar. During the operation, three accused including an Afghan national, resident of Hangu were also arrested. Over 2.7 kg Ice drug was recovered from the possession of a Qatar-bound passenger netted at Bacha Khan International Airport. The accused, resident of Peshawar was going on flight number QR-601. In another operation, during an operation in Khyber, 5 kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of a local resident.

180 kg of hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted in Chin Ka Qila of Gujranwala area. During the operation, the accused resident of Gujranwala was arrested. On the pointation of the accused, 36 kg of opium was recovered from another vehicle parked in a house. 600 grams of heroin was recovered from a local motorcyclist arrested in Faisalabad. In the seventh operation, 67 kg of opium and 103 kg of morphine concealed for smuggling were recovered near Kuchlak bypass Quetta. Separate cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation has been started.

Naheed Igrar's poetry book published

ISLAMABAD: The poetry book titled "Mera Unvaan Tum Ho" written by the famous writer Naheed Igrar, published on Friday will serve as a treat for literature

PNCA hosts fantastic show of textile, fiber artists

Ms. Gabrielle Guimond, Cultural Attaché of U.S. Embassy Islamabad graciously inaugurated the exhibition

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts hosted a fantastic new exhibition "Tiraz", by 30 textile and fibre artists from all over Pakistan . Ms. Gabrielle Guimond, Cultural Attaché of U.S. Embassy Islamabad graciously inaugurated the exhibition along with M. Ayoub Jamali, Director General PNCA and the participating artists. The curators of the exhibition Mr. Hassan Babar, Maham Imran, Rabia Shaukat and Mariam Ahmed gave Ms. Guimond a guided tour of the exhibition where she appreciated the artists and was deeply inspired by Pakistani Art Scene.

The exhibition highlights the versatility and depth of textile art, encompassing a wide range of techniques, styles, and themes. From traditional textile practices to contemporary fiber art, this collection brings together a variety of artworks that explore the intersection of texture, color, form, and concept. The exhibition encompasses a multitude of textile techniques, such as weaving, knitting, embroidery, mixed media,



and textile sculptures. Each technique offers its own unique visual language and tactile experience, creating an immersive and engaging encounter with the artworks. The artists featured in this exhibition draw inspiration from diverse sources, including nature, culture, identity, and social issues. Through their art, they

explore the potential of textiles and fibers to convey narratives, emotions, and ideas. Each artwork invites you to contemplate the power of textiles as a medium of expression. Through the intricate weaving, embroidery, felting, and other fibre manipulation techniques, artists have transformed textiles into captivating works of

art. Each artwork tells a story, reflecting the artist's personal experiences, cultural heritage, or social commentary. From traditional motifs and patterns to contemporary designs, the exhibition offers a visual feast that explores the depth and diversity of textile fibre art. The show was heavily visited by a large number of audience including artists, students, VIPs, Government officials, press & media etc. A large number of students visited the show and interviewed the artists about their techniques and art practices.

PNCA is dedicated to promote Pakistani Art on Local and National scale. Our elevate and unique programs that present the traditional and contemporary art practices we reflect upon the excellence and cultural diversity of Pakistan as well as supports professional development of the artist. PNCA is committed to promoting significant aspects of the country and encourages community participation in gallery activities, fostering curatorial practice to artist's own understanding of their work and encourages a healthy and sustainable local arts industry. PNCA has maintained a range of regionally focused visual arts exhibitions featuring both nationally and internationally recognized artists. The exhibition will continue till 7th September, 2023. Gallery is closed on Saturday. Workshop of Block printing will also organized at PNCA by Visual Arts Division to compliment this exhibition.

Nano loans lead to income generation ISLAMABAD: Coordinator

to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday said "Nano" loans lead to income generation at the grassroots level, contributing to economic growth besides generating ample job opportunities across the country. Speaking at a round table conference on the "Impact of Nano loans on economic growth" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said Nano loans, also known as microloans or small-scale loans, have several positive impacts on the economy world over, said a news release issued here.

He said Nano loans have been shown to disproportionately benefit women entrepreneurs, who often face barriers in accessing traditional financing. He said empowering women economically leads to broader benefits and improved gender equality. Effective regulation and protection measures are crucial to ensure the long-term sustainability and positive impact of nano loans on the economy. Nano loans encourage micro-entrepreneurs to start or expand their businesses, he remarked. Meher Kashif Younis said access to credit through nano loans boosts people's spending, leading to increased demand for goods and services, which in turn stimulates economic growth. He said these loans provide access to credit for individuals who are typically excluded from traditional banking systems. This inclusion helps stimulate economic activity and empowers entrepreneurs and small businesses. -APP

Over 1.9 mln accommodated under PBM's initiative

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Shelter Homes and Roti Sab Key Live program provided lodging for approximately 1.9 million people between May 2022 to March 2023, an official document revealed on Thursday. Giving a breakup of 1.9 million, the document indicated that Shelter Homes and the Roti Sab Key Liye program facilitated lodging for approximately 0.309 million individuals and provided meal services for around 1.592 million people during the period. "PBM manages 28 Shelter Homes across the country and also has 28 operational Roti Sab Key Liye food vehicles to distribute meals." "Likewise, the Roti Sab Kiye food vehicles have supplied meals to 1.44 people along diverse routes within prominent cities.—APP

Health expert stresses to control 'Glaucoma increasing cases'

ISLAMABAD: Health expert Thursday stressed public awareness for timely medication and surgical treatment to control 'increasing cases of Glaucoma' (A silent thief of sight) among children which issue has become a growing cause of concern worldwide including in Pakistan where millions are suffering from it. A senior Ophthalmologist Dr Shahzad Saeed talking to the PTV news channel shed light on the need to raise awareness about eye care in various age groups and said 'Prevention is better than cure'. Glaucoma is an eye disease that affects a person's visual field because it dam-

fluid builds up in the front part of the eye, which increases eye pressure, he mentioned. There are two types of glaucoma open-angle and close-angle (or narrow-angle) glaucoma, he said, adding, that the first one is more common and it happens gradually. The second type is more dangerous because it's sudden and more painful, he added. Glaucoma can affect a patient's reading ability in different ways, depending on its severity, he said, adding, the best way to

read with glaucoma is with text to speech technology. Eye specialist further advised the parents to ensure timely eye checkups of their kids, adding, if a child

watery eyes, there is a high likelihood that he suffers from poor eyesight. He said treatment of glaucoma in children needs specialized medical and surgical care, adding, parents of children suffering from childhood Glaucoma have to face psychological and financial stress. Replying a question, he said that "Glaucoma" is usually symptom-free, until it causes irreparable damage to a person's vision or even blindness. "The risk becomes higher with age. If cases have been ignored for 10 to 15 years", he added. To another question, he explained that Glaucoma is an increase in pressure inside the eve and is a po-

has many potential causes. In children, the most common cause of Glaucoma is congenital malformation of these passages during the formation of the eye in the mother's womb, he added. He advised that parents should not delay consultations with a pediatric eve specialist, adding, the effects of diabetes on the eves and advised patients to have their eye checkups by vitreo-retina specialists. People with glaucoma should not be concerned

about the vast majority of activities, and should generally continue to do the things they love. They should make habit to eat vegetables and fruits in

Hi-Tech hybrid seeds combat climate challenges

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association(PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik on Thursday said the use of Hi-Tech hybrid seeds plays a vital role in mitigating the challenges posed by unpredictable weather patterns and changing climate conditions. Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Dr Muhammad Arshad Javed he said in recent years, the agriculture industry has undergone a transformative shift with the adoption of Hi-Tech hybrid seeds. He said the impact of these seeds on the economy cannot be overstated. He said it increased productivity which directly contributes to food security and stability in prices, ensuring a steady supply of agri-The utilization of such seeds leads cultural produce. to the development of a diverse range of high-value crops that not only broaden the agricultural product portfolio but also offer farmers the opportunity to tap into lucrative markets for specialized produce, ultimately boosting their income and contributing to rural economic growth, he remarked. Shahzad Ali said the importance of these seeds in the agriculture sector goes beyond just enhancing crop yield; it has a profound impact on the economy at large. By promoting higher productivity, improved resilience, and diversified crops, these seeds contribute to food security, economic growth, and employment opportunities, he added. He said it is crucial that we continue to invest in research, education, and infrastructure to maximize the benefits that Hi-Tech hybrid seeds offer to both the agriculture sector and the overall economy. Shahzad Ali Malik Sitara-I-Imtiaz said the adoption of Hi-Tech hybrid seeds also translates into increased employment opportunities within the agricultural sector. As farmers transition to these advanced seeds, there is a growing demand for skilled labour, ranging from crop management and pest control to agricultural technology experts, he added. He said this influx of jobs can help alleviate unemployment pressures, particularly in rural areas where agriculture forms the backbone of the economy. Leader of the delegation Dr Muhammad Arshad Javed said these seeds are the result of meticulous cross-breeding.-APP

lovers across the country. The book poetry of Naheed Iqrar has been published by Mavra Publishers Lahore and is ready to capture space in the book shops, according to a news release. Hailing a famous literary family in Pakistan Naheed Igrar has been writing poetry for the last 40 years and had been editor of her college magazine in the early 80s. She is a popular voice of Radio Pakistan and has been awarded Outstanding Voice status from Radio Pakistan Lahore station. By profession a Radio broadcaster, Naheed did her master's degrees in Urdu literature and Philosophy from Government College Lahore (now known as GCU). According to famous poet Shoaib Bin Aziz, Naheed explains life experiences not as a woman but rather as a human who has to go through phases, and changes and has to face the brunt of life if wants to stay on the honest and right side of the history. Her book is available at Marva Publishers Lahore. The writer's husband, Agha Iqrar Haroon is also the author of a book titled 'How Does Superclass Rules the Nations.-APP

ages the eve's optic nerve. This condition occurs when

tentially blinding condition complains of headaches and in childhood. Glaucoma

IICR and CSC launch book on CPEC

DNA

anniversary of this monumental initiative, "Journey of Connectivity" embarks ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resoon a literary expedition that lution (IICR), in collaboration with the China Study delves into the untold sto-Center at COMSATS Uniries, triumphant achieveversity, proudly unveiled ments, and poignant per-IICR's latest literary en-deavor, "Journey of Consonal narratives that have unfolded as a consequence of this monumental partnectivity: 10th Anniversary on CPEC and Its Moving nership between China Stories." This momentous and Pakistan. At its core, book launch event was atthe book aspires to offer tended by a diverse gathreaders an encompassing account of the remarkable ering of professionals, diplomats, and experts who milestones achieved by share a keen interest in the China-Pakistan Ecothe profound impact of the nomic Corridor. Through China-Pakistan Economic a collection of diverse per-Corridor (CPEC) on the spectives, ranging from inlandscape of Pakistan. The dividuals to communities book, meticulously crafted and businesses intricately through a collaborative efwoven into the fabric of fort, embarks on a remarkthis transformative proable journey to chronicle ject, the Islamabad Instithe transformative story of tute of Conflict Resolution aims to furnish its readers

As Pakistan and its global with a profound and nupartners celebrate the 10th anced comprehension of the multifaceted impacts of CPEC on an array of sectors. These sectors encompass not only the tangible dimensions like infrastructure development, energy, agriculture, and education but also extend to the intangible realms of cultural exchanges, tourism, and socio-economic growth. The book launch event served as a gathering ground for luminaries from various walks of life, who were drawn by the shared intrigue in the interwoven tales of CPEC's Professionals, impact. diplomats, and experts converged to engage in stimulating discussions and thoughtful exchanges, enriching the discourse surrounding CPEC and its enduring implications for Pakistan and its allies.

their diet plans, he added.-APP

Won't allow conspirators to damage country

DNA ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Thursday stated that the interim government would not allow any conspirators to damage the country and if anyone tried to take the law into their own hands would be dealt with iron hands. "The law will take its course as it is the responsibility of the state to maintain law and order", he said while talking to a private news channel. He said that for a better future for Pakistan, the federation, provinces, and all political parties should unite against terrorism, adding, that we

would not rest until terrorism

is eradicated and will try to con-

trol terrorism despite the many



CPEC over the past decade. challenges facing the country. High level US delegation meets Chairman Senate

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: - A delegation from the United States including; Darin LaHood (Republican), US Ambassador in Pakistan H.E Donald Blome accompanied by Adam Howard, John Laufer, Rocco DiCicco held a meeting with Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here in Islamabad followed by a dinner hosted in honour of the US delegates. Touching upon the various

topics of mutual interest, the meeting focused on strengthening bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United States. The discussions revolved around a wide range of topics, including regional security, economic cooperation, trade partnerships, and people-to-people exchanges.

During the meeting, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani underscored

ued dialogue between the two nations to address common challenges and promote peace and stability in the region. He emphasized the need for enhanced trade relations and cooperation in the fields of education, healthcare, and technology. Chairman Senate accentuated that the Government and people of Pakistan consider the US as a friend and important partner in our socio-economic progress as well as regional peace and security. The US delegation commended Pakistan's efforts in maintaining regional stability and reiterated the United States' commitment to supporting Pakistan's development goals. Both sides expressed their determination to further deepen the existing ties between the two nations and work collaboratively on issues of mutual interest. The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan desires

the importance of contin



peace in Afghanistan. We have suffered because of terrorism and we condemn terrorism in all forms and manifestations. He underscored the need to work together for peace and development. Both US and Pakistan have suffered losses due to terrorism, he stated. The chairman Senate also highlighted the Kashmir is-

sue saying that it needs to ther said that Pakistan and be resolved in accordance specially Balochistan provwith UN resolution. Innoinces is blessed with natucent Kashmiris are being ral resources and minerals. subjected to violence and He urged the US investors torture by the Indian forces to come forward and invest in mining sector. He also occupying the valley illegally. USA being the biggest extended invitation to his US counterparts to visit Paproponent of Human Rights kistan and emphasized the needs raise voice for the innocent Kashmiris of significance of high level IIOK. Chairman Senate furexchanges.

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BRICS an important building bloc

CTING on the group's spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, the members of BRICS are taking the opportunity of ፼ their first offline summit in more than three years to build consensuses on important development issues and discuss a potential expansion of the group that will further boost its global influence. Seventeen years on from its inception, BRICS is being increasingly looked upon to be a voice of the developing world, a locomotive for the development of the Global South and a promoter of a fairer international order. With a combined population of over 3.2 billion people, the bloc accounts for some 40 percent of the world's population, one-fourth of the global GDP and 17 percent of world trade. As President Xi Jinping rightly pointed out, it is an essential driving force for global growth and democratic international relations. Today, more than 40 countries, including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Bangladesh, are knocking on the door of BRICS, highlighting the mechanism's vitality and appeal. The formation of a "BRICS Plus" would create a more inclusive and representative platform for cooperation and collaboration among countries of the Global South, enhancing their collective bargaining power, increasing global economic integration and more effectively promoting a multipolar world order.

While achieving meaningful cooperation and consensuses among a larger group may be challenging, those skeptical that an enlarged BRICS is feasible underestimate the willingness and ability of the member countries, as well as prospective newcomers, to navigate their differences and find common ground on important issues. By ensuring that the benefits of membership are felt by all members and playing an effective role in shaping fairer global governance, BRICS can prove its worth as an inclusive and representative platform for cooperation and collaboration. China stands ready to work with its fellow BRICS partners to welcome future new members so that an enlarged group can play a greater role in global governance and contribute to building a truly democratic, fair and just world.

Given the undoubted attractiveness of BRICS, its potential enlargement is perceived by the West as being an intended counterforce. But the formation of "BRICS Plus" is not intended as a challenge to the West. It is the group's adherence to openness and inclusiveness that makes it an attractive alternative to the Western-dominated groupings that are either exclusively self-serving or have been hijacked by Cold War thinking. As Xi said, rather than asking countries to take sides or creating bloc confrontation, the BRICS countries, and those hoping to join them, are seeking to make the group an architect for peace and development. BRICS is not a challenge to the Western-led order, it is part of the evolution toward a holistic global order.

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Sincerity key to improve China-US relations

HE visit to China by US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, starting Sunday, is being welcomed as another step toward improving relations between the two countries which have been strained in recent years due to the confrontational approach of the previous and current US administrations. The four-day trip, which comes after previous visits by senior US officials to the country over the past two months, is being viewed as an opportunity to discuss, and ideally resolve, some of the trade differences that have been causing friction between the two sides. "Secretary Raimondo looks forward to constructive discussions on issues relating to the US-China commercial relationship, challenges faced by US businesses, and areas for potential cooperation," the US Department of Commerce said in a statement. The US is also hoping the visit will provide an opportunity for dialogue and engagement that yields progress on what it considers to be critical areas of concern, such as intellectual property rights protection, technology transfer, and market competition. In what appears to be a goodwill gesture aimed at creating a favorable atmosphere for the visit, the US Commerce Department removed 27 Chinese companies from its "Unverified List" on Monday, exempting them from export control restrictions. Companies are put on the list if the US cannot complete on-site visits to determine whether they can be trusted to receive sensitive US technology exports.

Adding to the positive momentum generated by the recent spate of visits, the authorities of the two sides agreed this month to approve twice the number of passenger flights between the two countries. Yet despite this, optimism about an improvement in Sino-US relations needs to be tempered in light of the Joe Biden administration having never stopped tightening the noose around China, especially in the high-tech and geopolitical sectors. Just this month, US President Joe Biden signed an executive order to restrict US high-tech investment in China targeting advanced computer chips, quantum technologies and artificial intelligence. And the recent Camp David summit between the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea was widely believed to be aimed at consolidating trilateral relations into a bloc with which to better confront China. The sinking boat of Sino-US relations will definitely go nowhere if Washington, while seemingly trying to scoop water out of it, keeps drilling holes in it at the same time. To effectively stabilize bilateral relations, the Biden administration must stop trying to suppress China's development, and refrain from constantly challenging its redlines. China sees Raimondo's visit as a further opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Biden administration, which it hopes will be positive. If Washington is sincere about working with Beijing to manage Sino-US relations, it should seize the opportunity to explore ways to resolve some of the long-festering trade differences, strengthen economic ties and explore new opportunities for trade and investment between the two countries. Doing so will help build bridges and trust between the two sides, fostering a more stable and cooperative relationship between the two economies.

India conquered the Moon...

Qamar Bashir



One of ISRO's major successes was the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) in 2013, making India the first Asian country to reach Martian orbit and the fourth space agency in the world to do so. Another milestone was the Chandravaan-1 mission in 2008, which made India discover water molecules on the Moon's surface.Chandrayaan-2 was launched by ISRO with the goal of exploring the Moon's south pole region aimed to study the lunar surface, search for water ice, and understand the Moon's geology. Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22, 2019...

R. Vikram Sarabhai is widely regarded as the father of India's space program. His visionary leadership set India on a path of space exploration and technological advancement. He recognized the potential of space technology for India's development and was instrumental in creating the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) dedicated to space research and applications. He emphasized the importance of using space technology for practical applications in agriculture, communication, meteorology, and education and aligned the space research with India's socio-economic needs. He also recognized the need to cultivate a skilled workforce for space research at established institutions like the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) to provide quality education and training in space science and engineering. Knowing that India cannot do it alone he fostered collaborations with other countries and space agencies, helping India benefit from global advancements in space technology and finally launched India's first Satellite marked a significant achievement in space technology self-reliance which transformed into Indian National Satellite System (INSAT), which revolutionized telecommunications,

broadcasting, and meteorology in India. Under Dr. Sarabhai's guidance, ISRO launched its first satellite, Aryabhata, in 1975 marking India's entry into space technology and laid the groundwork for subsequent satellite missions. The man who translated Dr. Sarabhai's vision into reality was none other than Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, often referred to as the "Missile Man of India." He played a pivotal role in the development of ballistic missile and space launch vehicle technologies. Due to my deep interest in space technology, I read the book "Agni; the Wing of Fire" authored by Dr. Abdul Kalam. The book is now available free on the internet. I would recommend that everyone who has a little interest in developing space technology, wants to know the leadership qualities needed and the ability to raise successful institutions should read this book. In his book, AK explains his childhood, how he was helped mostly by his Hindu teachers to develop and refine his mathematics and engineering skills and how he was awarded with scholarships to pursue his advanced studies. He explained in detail how Dr. Sarabhai discovered him and put him in charge of India's satellite and missile program which finally made history when the Agni missile was fired successfully and made India one of the few countries who possessed the ability to launch ballistic missiles. This technology was later used to develop the India Space program. I was amazed by the trust reposed by the Indian govern-

ment on a tan Muslim of Gujarat by making him incharge of India's first satellite vehicle, SLV-3 program, which successfully launched the Rohini Satellite RS-1 into orbit in 1980, marking India's entry into the space age.

He was also made the chief architect of India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) which aimed to develop a range of indigenous missile systems. The program led to the development of missiles like Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, and Akash.

For a poor country like India during those times, it was not a smooth ride but it faced multiple challenges which included limited financial resources, technological constraints, and the need to build expertise in various areas. Despite these challenges, ISRO achieved significant successes. In 1975, India launched its first satellite, Aryabhata, marking its entry into space technology. Over the years, ISRO developed its satellite launch vehicles like the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), making it a reliable option for commercial satellite launches.

One of ISRO's major successes was the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan) in 2013, making India the first Asian country to reach Martian orbit and the fourth space agency in the world to do so. Another milestone was the Chandravaan-1 mission in 2008, which made India discover water molecules on the Moon's surface. Chandrayaan-2 was launched by ISRO with the goal of exploring the Moon's south pole region aimed to study the lunar surface, search for water ice, and understand the Moon's geology. Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22, 2019 using the GSLV Mk III-M1 launch vehicle, also known as "Bahubali," which is ISRO's heaviest and most powerful launch vehicle. After launch, the GSLV Mk III-M1 inserted Chandravaan-2 into a temporary Earth orbit, known as an "Earth parking orbit. Chandrayaan-2's onboard propulsion system was used to perform a Trans-Lunar Injection maneuver involving firing the spacecraft's engines to give it the necessary velocity to break free from Earth's gravitational influence and head towards the Moon. After a journey of several days, Chandrayaan-2 entered the Moon's gravitational sphere. The spacecraft performed a series of maneuvers to gradually reduce its velocity and be captured by the Moon's gravity, thus entering lunar orbit. The Vikram lander was intended to make a soft landing on the Moon's surface. It separated from the orbiter and began its descent towards the lunar surface but it did not go well and lost communication with ISRO during its final stages of descent. Despite the challenges faced during the landing phase, the mission's achievements have contributed significantly to the understanding of Earth's celestial neighbor. Undeterred

by the failure, India immediately set the launch of Chandrayaan-3 (C-3) mission in motion. Learning from the previous experience, C-3 used a new navigation system that helped the lander to land precisely on the Moon's surface. A new braking system was deployed that helped to slow down the lander and prevent it from crashing. It also used a new communication system that allowed the lander to stay in contact with the ground control station during the landing. Launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on 14th July, 2023, C-3 followed the same trajectory as of Chandrayaan-2 and successfully landed on the Moon's south pole on August 23, 2023. The lander, called Vikram, successfully touched down on the Moon's surface at 1:45 am IST (10:15 pm UTC). The rover, called Pragyan, will be deployed from the lander and will explore the surrounding area for one lunar day (around 14 Earth days).

The C-3 will help scientists to learn more about the presence of water ice on the Moon, a valuable resource that could be used for drinking, growing crops, and producing fuel. The Moon's southern pole receives nearly continuous sunlight due to its location near the lunar south pole, making it an ideal spot for solar power generation. The craters in the polar regions are believed to be "cold traps" where material from asteroids and comets might have accumulated over billions of years which could provide insights into the history of the solar system and the Moon's geology. It is also believed that the southern pole hosts besides water, such as carbon dioxide and methane which could reveal more about the Moon's evolution and its interaction with the space environment. The presence of water ice and the favorable lighting conditions make the southern pole a potential site for future lunar bases which could serve as research outposts, launching points for deeper space missions, or even stepping stones for human missions to Mars. The other programs in line of India's space program are; the Gaganyaan mission aims to send Indian astronauts (Gagannauts) into space, fostering human spaceflight capabilities, the Aditya-L1 mission will study the Sun, and the proposed Venus mission aims to explore our neighboring planet. Moreover, ISRO remains a prominent player in the global commercial satellite launch market. India's space program has come a long way since its inception, overcoming challenges and achieving remarkable successes. The pursuit of exploration, technological advancement, and international collaboration defines ISRO's aspirations as it continues to shape the country's space endeavors.

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

Saudi Arabia and Iran are eager to reduce bilateral and regional tension

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The latest round of talks has given rise to renewed hope, but there is still a long way to go. Yemen has been a major bone of contention between the two sides. Both countries are supporting opposing

sides in the conflict. The protracted war has badly affected the lives of ordinary Yemenis. Yemen's dire humanitarian crisis, plagued by widespread...

AUDI Arabia and Iran are two regional powers and a major member of the Muslim world but have strained relations. The geopolitical conflict between them dates back at least to the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Both states follow different interpretations of Islam and are engaged in a struggle for regional dominance. Both have different views on various regional and international issues as well. The two countries have different geopolitical interests, with Saudi Arabia aligned more closely with Western powers, while Iran has sought to challenge the existing order and project its power in the region. This has led to a struggle for influence and control, with both sides pursuing policies that often clash. Sectarianism plays a significant role in the Saudi-Iranian rivalry, with Saudi Arabia being predominantly Sunni Muslim and Iran being Shia Muslim. This has led to a proxy war between the two countries in several regional conflicts, such as in Yemen and Syria, where they support opposing sides.

The rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran has been exacerbated by the involvement of other regional and international powers, who have sought to exploit the situation for their own interests. This has contributed to a complex web of alliances and tensions that have made the situation even more difficult to resolve. Despite these challenges, there have been recent efforts by both Saudi Arabia and Iran to reduce bilateral and regional tensions, through diplomatic channels and dialogue. These efforts have the potential to create more stability and security in the region, but they will require sustained commitment and goodwill from all parties involved. Diplomatic relations between the two were severed in 2016 when Iranian protesters stormed the Saudi embassy in Tehran in response to the execution of prominent Saudi Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr by Saudi authorities. In Yemen, the Iranian-backed Houthi militia launched attacks on the land of Saudi Arabia, which further escalated the tension.

However, since President Biden took office, Saudi regional policy has changed and the United States has shifted its focus from the Middle East. Relations between Saudi Arabia and America are not as pleasant as before. Citing a shift in US policy, Saudi Arabia is keen to engage regional rivals, particularly Iran. Iranian officials have also emphasized on regional peace and reconciliation on various occasions. In this regard, there were three rounds of negotiations with Saudi Arabia under the leadership of former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. After taking office, the new president Ibrahim Raisi also expressed his willingness to reconcile. During his first press conference, he said: "I say that there is no obstacle in the negotiations with Saudi Arabia and relations with all countries. We are ready to reopen the embassies.

There have been five rounds of Iraqi-sponsored and mediated talks so far, with Oman also reportedly playing a constructive role in holding the latest round. This fifth round of direct negotiations was held in Baghdad in April this year. The Iranian delegation was led by Deputy Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, Saeed Irani, while the Saudi delegation was led by the head of Saudi intelligence, Khalid Bin Ali Hamidan. Both sides expressed hope that the talks could lead to a reduction in bilateral and regional tensions, but also lowered expectations of any progress. The only outcome of the talks so far has been the reopening of Iran's representative office in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah.

The latest round of talks has given rise to renewed hope, but there is still a long way to go. Yemen has been a major bone of contention between the two sides. Both countries are supporting opposing sides in the conflict. The protracted war has badly affected the lives of ordinary Yemenis. Yemen's dire humanitarian crisis, plagued by widespread hunger, disease and insecurity, is expected to worsen in the coming months if urgent action is not taken. The United Nations (UN) brokered a two-month ceasefire between the Iranian-backed Houthis and the Saudi-backed Yemeni government in Yemen, which took effect on April 2 and ended on June 2, and was extended for another two months. done The ceasefire reflects the willingness of both countries to enter into a broader de-escalation agreement.

The situation in Syria tells a similar story: Iran supports the current government of Bashar al-Assad, while Saudi Arabia supports various local rebel groups against the Assad regime. Similarly, the race for supremacy between the two regional powers continues in Lebanon and Bahrain, which are relatively peaceful, but the warring parties (Saudi vs. Iranian) continue to struggle for power. Bahrain's Saudi-backed government was able to crush the rebellion, which was allegedly backed by Iran. Lebanon is facing a similar situation where the political landscape is dominated by Iran-backed Hezbollah, but Saudi Arabia also has considerable influence. The two regional powers have been at loggerheads for decades, but talks could usher in a new era of peace and cooperation between them. Discussions should focus on resolving outstanding issues and promoting recognition, representation and cooperation as the security and well-being of the entire Middle East region depends on the standoff between these two countries. If Saudi Arabia and Iran focus on their common interests, regional countries can do the same.

The recent developments indicate that both Saudi Arabia and Iran are showing signs of eagerness to reduce bilateral and regional tension. Through diplomatic channels, both countries have expressed a willingness to engage in talks and find common ground to resolve their differences. The theory of balance of power reminds us that any perceived threat by a regional power will result in other powers rushing to balance it out. It is therefore in the interest of all parties involved to work towards a peaceful resolution of their differences. Ultimately, the reduction of tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran will not only benefit these two countries but also the entire region and the international community at large. It is hoped that both nations will continue to make progress in their efforts towards reducing tensions and achieving a more stable and peaceful middle east.

WORLD / SPORTS

Islamabad **POST** Friday, August 25, 2023

Briefs

President not Authorizedto fix election...

FROM PAGE 01

the Parliament then it has to be again passed by in the joint sitting of the parliament and sent back to the President. In that case if the President does not act within 10 days then the bill becomes law. But in this case since there is no parliament in place therefore the election bill has not become the law. Experts say the matter shall ultimately land in the Supreme Court because after CEC unwillingness to meet the President, the President is likely to announce a date for the elections, as he did in the case of elections in the Punjab and KP. If the President does so, the Election Commission certainly shall not follow the Presidential decree therefore the matter shall reach the apex court.

US wants free and fair polls in Pak

FROM PAGE 01 on August 9, while Sindh and Balochistan assemblies were also prematurely dissolved to allow the electoral authority to hold elections in the country within 90 days instead of 60 days if the legislature completed

its constitutional tenure. However, the ECP may not be able to hold the polls within the stipulated time as the Council of Common Interest (CCI), days before the dissolution of the assemblies, approved the 7th Population and Housing Census 2023. The move led to concerns from several quarters, including the Pakistan Peoples Party, which was part of the coalition government that ratified the census. During the meeting today, the US ambassador reiterated that choosing Pakistan's future leaders is for the Pakistani people to decide, the statement added. Blome also reaffirmed that America would back transparent elections "conducted in accordance with Pakistan's laws and constitution".



ISLAMABAD: Chief of The Naval Army Staff Admiral Muhmmad Amjad Khan Niazi Performs The Ground Breaking of Bahria Foundation College at Chakwal. - DNA

Lionel Messi into another final to beat Cincinnati

Messi's compatriot Luciano Acosta put Cincinnati ahead in the 18th minute and American striker Brandon Vazquez doubled the home side's lead with a fine strike from the edge of the box in the 53rd minute

SPORTS DESK

MIAMI: Lionel Messi inspired Inter Miami to come back from two goals down to beat Cincinnati 5-4 on penalties after their thrilling US Open Cup semifinal ended 3-3 after extra time. Miami, who won the Leagues Cup on penalties against Nashville on Saturday, are now one win away from their second trophy since Messi joined the club last month. The US Open Cup is American soccer's oldest and most important knockout competition, dating back more than a century to 1914 and is similar to England's FA Cup or Spain's Copa del Rev. Miami will face the winners of Wednesday's other semifinal between Houston Dynamo and Real Salt Lake in the final on Sept. 27. A month ago Cincinnati, who are top of Major

League Soccer's standings while Miami are bottom, would have been clear favorites in this game but the Florida team are now a very different side to the one which was winless in their 11 league games before the arrival of the Argentine.

But in the intense heat, with temperatures over 100 degrees celsius at kickoff, Miami's unbeaten run since the signing of Messi and Spanish pair Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, looked to be coming to an end in Ohio against an impressive Cincinnati side. Inter trailed 2-0 with 22 minutes remaining before the Argentine delivered two perfect assists to striker Leonardo Campana to take the game into extra time. Messi's compatriot Luciano Acosta put Cincinnati ahead in the 18th minute and American striker Bran-

Laporte leaves Manchester

City to join Al Nassr

Coach Pep Guardiola opted to use defenders

Manuel Akanji and Nathan Ake more often, and City spent £77m to bring in Croatia defender Josko Gvardiol earlier this month.

RIYADH: Spain defender Aymeric Laporte has left Manchester City to join Saudi Pro

League side Al Nassr in a deal worth 27.5m euros (£23.6m). The 29-year-old joined City

from Athletic Bilbao in January 2018 for a then club record £57m. He helped City win 12

major honours but made just 24 appearances as the Blues won the Treble last season. In a

goodbye message on social media, Laporte thanked fans and team-mates for an "unforget-

table" time at the club. "It has lasted five-and-a-half unforgettable years. Plenty of memories

that I will keep forever close to my heart," said Laporte. "From trophies to setbacks, vic-

tories to injuries, it's all been part of my journey, and I'm grateful for absolutely every mo-

ment that shaped me into who I am today. "It was an honour and a pleasure to wear these

colours and I hope you will remember me in a good way. Thank you for everything, I wish

you the best of luck for the future and I will always keep an eye on you guys." Laporte made

180 appearances for City in total, scoring 12 goals, but he found opportunities limited last

season. Coach Pep Guardiola opted to use defenders Manuel Akanji and Nathan Ake more

often, and City spent £77m to bring in Croatia defender Josko Gvardiol earlier this month.

In 2021 Laporte switched his international allegiance from France to Spain and already has

22 caps, helping them win the Uefa Nations League final in June. Laporte is the latest high

profile player to move to Al Nassr, joining Cristiano Ronaldo, Sadio Mane, Marcelo Bro-

zovic, Alex Telles and Seko Fofana at the club. They are one of four Saudi Pro League clubs

to be taken over by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) in June, the others being

Al-Ittihad, Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli. Last month, former City team-mate Riyad Mahrez joined

Al-Ahli in a deal worth up to £30m, while Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante, Ruben Neves

and Neymar are among other footballers to move to Saudi Arabia this summer. -Agencies



Messi whipped in a free kick from the left which was headed home by Campana to breathe some life into what had been a tired display from Gerardo Martino's side. Cincinnati thought that they had made 3-1 but Yuga Kubo's effort was ruled out for handball and then the Japanese forward was denied by a fine save from Miami keeper Drake Callender who also denied Santiago Arias.

Then in the seventh minute of stoppage time Messi. from deep on the left, swung in a ball to Campana at the back post again and the Ecuadoran forward angled

back in the second period with Japanese winger Kubo firing a right-foot shot into the far corner past the diving Drake Callender. The teams were at 4-4 in the

shootout when Callender saved Nick Hagglund's penalty for Cincinnati and Cremaschi converted to book Miami's place in the final. The 18-year-old Miami-born Cremaschi, whose parents are Argentine, was congratulated by Messi after his match-winning spot kick. "I'm living a huge dream." he told CBS Sports, "Sometimes I sit down and really think about the position that

United States approves...

FROM PAGE 01 Wednesday's State Department announcement also follows an angry Chinese reaction to the transit through the United States of Taiwanese Vice President William Lai on his way to and from an official visit in Paraguay last week. In recent years, China has stepped up its military activity in the waters and skies around Taiwan, sending fighter jets and navy vessels near the island or to encircle it.

China vows 'powerful'...

FROM PAGE 01

The US State Department approved the potential sale of F-16 Infrared Search and Track (IRST) systems and related equipment to Taiwan at an estimated cost of \$500 million, the Pentagon said on Wednesday.

Beijing "will take resolute, powerful measures to safeguard its national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Wang said. The US Congress was notified earlier in the day of the possible sale, Pentagon said in a statement. "The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region," said the statement.

PM Kakar rejects...

FROM PAGE 01 with the right to express my opinion," he said. Reflecting on a recent tragedy in which six Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred during a skirmish in South Waziristan, Caretaker Prime Minister AnwaarulHaqKakar warned

elements attempting to impose their ideologies through force and intimidation, reminding them that the country was in the safe hands of "very capable people". Highlighting the urgency of the situation, warned the elements attempting to stop the state from fulfilling its prime responsibilities. "Our way of life, our manner of speech, and our culture will remain steadfast against such forces. Our home is here, and we are not going anywhere. The governance

PTI wants elections in 90 days

FROM PAGE 01

Both parties made their position clear when ECP officials met them as part of its consultations with major political parties on the election roadmap.

The electoral watchdog in a statement said that the PTI representatives emphasised that the elections should be held within 90 days and contested that there was "no need for delimitation at this time".

The Imran Khan-led party also called for the immediate release of its arrested leaders and workers and urged the ECP to give permission to hold political rallies and an equal political environment to all parties. On the other hand, the JUI-F representatives clarified that holding elections is a constitutional requirement and informed the electoral authority that as the census results have come the delimitation should be done first. The election commission told both parties that it would hold the upcoming polls as soon as possible and all parties would get a level playing field.

The statement also added that the process of consultation with major political parties will continue in the coming days. Earlier this week it was reported that ECP has decided to consult all major political parties, including the PTI, regarding the date of general elections that are expected early next year, sources had told Geo News.

CAA team in Brussels...

FROM PAGE 01 Deputy Director-General and Director of Airworthiness. Their visit aims to foster cooperation and understanding between Pakistani authorities and European counterparts. One of the central themes of the discussions will revolve around measures for flight safety and the examination of pilot licenses, addressing the concerns raised by European aviation authorities.

home side's lead with a fine strike from the edge of the box in the 53rd minute. Miami looked tired and disjointed and the change of don Vazquez doubled the



personnel and formation adopted by coach Gerardo 'Tata' Martino left the team lacking their usual fluency. But in the 68th minute,

Mickey

Arthur links

up Pakistan

squad in SL

excitement to have Mickey

Arthur with the team in Sri

Lanka. "Mickey Arthur

and I have been very good

coaching associates and

friends for a very long

time. - Agencies

home his header to force extra time. Miami went ahead in the first period with Benjamin Cremaschi sliding an excellent pass into the path of Josef Martinez and the Venezuelan made no mistake with a clinical finish. But Cincinnati bounced

Warholm saves

Norway's honor,

I'm in and it's incredible. I never believed I was going to be in the spot I am in now," he said. There was a more sober view from Martino whose team must now begin their 12-game attempt to climb from last in the Eastern Conference to the playoff positions.

is in the hands of empowered and competent people," he assured.

PBC stresses...

FROM PAGE 01

it seemed that a direction took place in the case. Earlier, the courts were called Sharif courts. The PTI chairman's appeal was not fixed yesterday, not even today." PBC Executive Committee Chairman Hassan Raza Pasha said that the main appeal against Imran Khan's conviction was not fixed before the SC. "But yesterday's remarks by the SC which we saw and heard, it seemed as if the whole appeal was decided, and we saw criminal jurisprudence changing," he said. "It seems as if there is no trust left in the honourable high court judges. They are also equally honourable and respectable judges, and are passing verdicts according to their conscience ... it amounts to interference in the smooth functioning of the high court, appellate court," Pasha said. "What decision will the high court make?" he asked. He noted that the lawyers of a certain political party, an apparent reference to the PTI, were saying that the SC's observations had

SC adjournsimran's...

FROM PAGE 01

the prime minister's office via a vote of no-confidence in April last year, was kept in jail. He also directed the authorities to submit a report on the facilities provided to the PTI chief in jail. On this point, Khan's lawyer Sardar Latif Khosa told the court that they just presented their arguments before the IHC.

CJP Bandial responded that your objection was that you were not being heard now all your arguments have been heard. "Hope from the high court that it gives a decision based on your points," remarked CJP Bandial.

Moving on, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail inquired about what was the result of the IHC hearing. To which Khosa responded that he was not a politician so he could not say much.

Pak Shaheens squad for Asian Games announced

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board on Thursday, announced Pakistan Shaheens' squad for the 19th Asian Games, set to take place in Hangzhou, China, from 28 September to 7 October. Young all-rounder Qasim Akram will lead Pakistan Shaheens in the tournament, to be played in T20 format. 20-year-old Qasim, has till date featured in 20 first-class matches and 40 T20 matches and also captained Pakistan U19 in the ICC U19 World Cup in 2022. In the 15-member squad, there are eight players who have already represented the Pakistan men's team at the international level.

The players who have represented Pakistan at the international level are Aamir Jamal (2 T20Is), Arshad Iqbal (1 T20I), Asif Ali (21 ODIs, 55 T20Is), Haider Ali (2 ODIs, 33 T20Is), Khushdil Shah (10 ODIs, 24 T20Is), Mohammad Hasnain (9 ODIs, 27 T20Is), Shahnawaz Dahani (2 ODIs, 11 T20Is) and Usman Qadir (1 ODI, 23 T20Is). Also, eight players in the 15-member squad, Aamir Jamal, Arafat Minhas, Arshad Iqbal, Omair Bin Yousuf, Qasim Akram, Ro-

hail Nazir, Shahnawaz Dahani and Sufiyan Muqeem have been associated with the Shaheens side recently. Since May 2023, Pakistan Shaheens have toured Zimbabwe. Sri Lanka and Australia. In Zimbabwe, Shaheens whitewashed Zimbabwe A in the

two four-dayers, but lost 4-2 in the 50-over matches to Zimbabwe Select. Shaheens later won the ACC Men's Emerging Asia Cup in Sri Lanka in July, beating India A by 108 runs in the final. However, they finished as runners-up in the six-team Top End T20 Se-



Ingebrigtsen denied HAMBANTOTA: Mickey in 1500m again Arthur, Director of Pakistan's men's cricket team, BUDAPEST: Norway's Karsten Warholm produced a has joined the Pakistan fighting performance to regain his 400m hurdles title but squad in Sri Lanka. He will stay with the team teammate Jakob Ingebrigtsen once again fell short in the for the remaining games of the ongoing ODI series 1500m on a pulsating night at the world championships on Wednesday. Warholm declared "that is what we do best, us Vikings" after holding off the field to win his third world

against Afghanistan, until the much-anticipated Asia title. The two women's finals were polar opposites of each Cup match against arch-riother. Marileidy Paulino of the Dominican Republic finally vals India in Kandy on Sepsecured her first global title in the 400m after settling for tember 2. The former head silver at the Tokyo Olympics and last year's world champicoach will also be a part of onships, timing a national record of 48.76sec. the coaching setup for the The pole vault, though, was a back and forth duel be-ICC Men's Cricket World tween Olympic champion Katie Moon of the US and Aus-Cup 2023 in India next tralian Nina Kennedy. In the end they shared a hug and month. Pakistan's head the gold medal on a mark of 4.90m instead of holding coach Grant Bradburn, bea jump-off, echoing the men's high jump at the Tokyo fore departing for Sri Lan-Olympics when Qatar's Mutaz Essa Barshim and Gika last week, showed his anmarco Tamberi of Italy agreed to share the honors.

In the 400m hurdles, Warholm pulled away down the finishing straight after being pressured by perennial rival Rai Benjamin on the final bend, to time 46.89sec. Having won in London in 2017 and in Doha in 2019 he could only finish seventh in Eugene last year after returning from injury prematurely. "I feel like the gold medal is back where

ries in Darwin, Australia earlier this month.

As per the tournament's rule, Shaheens will

feature in the event from the quarter-finals

stage scheduled to take place on 3 and 4

October. The semi-finals will be played on 6

October, while the final will take place on 7

October. The match for Bronze medal will

also take place on Saturday, 7 October. Paki-

stan men's team won a bronze medal in their

maiden and only appearance in the Asian

Games held in Guangzhou, China, in 2010.

Qasim Akram (captain), Omair Bin

Yousuf (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Ara-

fat Minhas, Arshad Iqbal, Asif Ali, Haid-

er Ali, Khushdil Shah, Mirza Tahir Baig,

Mohammad Hasnain, Muhammad Akhlaq

(wk), Rohail Nazir, Shahnawaz Dahani,

Non-travelling reserves - Abdul Wahid

Bangalzai, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad

Imran Jnr, Muhammad Irfan Khan Niazi

Player Support Personnel - Shahid Aslam

(head coach-cum-manager), Umar Rash-

eed (bowling coach), Hanif Malik (batting

and fielding coach) and Hafiz Naeem ul

Sufiyan Muqeem and Usman Qadir

and Mubasir Khan

Rasool (physiotherapist).

Pakistan Shaheens squad:

it belongs," said Warholm. - Agencies

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Turkey surprises with huge interest rate hike

ISTANBUL : The hike of 7.5 percentage points follows a raise to 17.5 percent from

15 percent last month. Most economists had expected the bank to increase its policy rate Thursday to 20 percent. "Recent indicators point to a continued increase in the underlying trend of inflation," the central bank said. "Monetary tightening will be further strengthened as much as needed in a timely and gradual manner until a significant improvement in the inflation outlook is achieved,' it said. The lira gained 1.5 percent against the dollar in wake of the bank's strong signal that is was stepping up its fight against inflation and attempts to support the troubled currency. Capital Economics analyst Liam Peach said the "much larger-than-expected" rate increase "will go a long way towards reassuring investors that the shift back to policy orthodoxy is on track". Er dogan infused his government with market-friendly faces after winning a difficult May election that came in the heat of one of Turkey's most dire economic crises in decades. They immediately set off on a new battle against inflation that peaked at an annual rate of 85 percent last October and is on the rise once again. The team allowed the lira to start depreciating against the dollar in a bid to ease pressure on depleted state coffers. They also imposed a series of more technical steps aimed at balancing the economy and restoring the trust of both consumers and Turkey's foreign investors. The central bank increased its key rate to 15 percent from 8.5 percent at the first meeting chaired by former Wall Street executive Hafize Gaye Erkan in June. Erdogan had pushed the nominally independent institution to slash borrowing costs out of a life-long belief that high interest rates cause - rather than cure - inflation. But Erkan and Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek had advocated a past two months that tried to restore market confidence without causing too much short-term pain.-APP

Pakistan Expo Vancouver 2023 Strengthening bilateral trade ties with triumph The main event spanned two productive days at North Vancouver's Pipe Shop Venue, attracting over

'Aging population to transform Australian economy

Islamabad POST

Friday, August 25 , 2023

CANBERRA : An aging population and climate change will mold the Australian economy over the next 40 years, a landmark government report has found.

Australian Treasurer Jim

Chalmers on Thursday re-

leased the latest Intergen-

erational Report (IGR), the

first since 2021 and sixth

since 2002, laying out Aus-

tralia's economic challeng-

es and opportunities for

report forecast that Aus-

tralia's long-term average

economic growth will fall

from 3.1 percent per annum

the next 40 years.

The

DNA

VANCOUVER: The Pakistan Western Canada Trade Association (PWCTA), in collaboration with the Consulate General of Pakistan in Vancouver, orchestrated the Pakistan Expo Vancouver 2023, a momentous event aimed at enhancing bilateral trade ties between

Canada and Pakistan. This pioneering initiative witnessed a resounding success, affirming its significance. The Expo commenced with an exquisite Opening Gala at Vancouver's prestigious Fairmont Waterfront Hotel. Esteemed guests from both public and private sectors graced the occasion, setting a distinguished tone. A pivotal panel discussion on "Bilateral Trade in Mineral Exploration, Textile Industry, and Lumber: Potential and Challenges" captivated attendees with valuable insights into these sectors. The evening concluded with instrumental entertainment and networking.The main event spanned two productive days at North Vancouver's Pipe Shop Venue, attracting over 2000 attendees - buyers, media, keynote speakers, and communi-



ty members. Diverse exhibitors, including Mailk Sports, Papa Sports, Agasi Martial Arts, Sonico Pvt Ltd., Ijaz Garments & Ifran Garments, Pakistan Cutlery Association, Kaalar Rice & Pink Salt Rozana Tech, Matrix Tribe, Bashir Impex, Agnail industries,

Darsa Impex, Rasco Impex, Kalaar foods, H&B Fasteners, Grannis Kitchen, 4B Athletics, Reflection Apparel, Oriental Rugs, and more showcased their contributions to a diversified exposition. The charity partners were IDRF and Islamic Relief Canada. Distinguished

sponsors like Panoro Minerals Ltd., Brian Jessel BMW - Diplomatic Division, Telus - Trusted Provider - Smart Haven, The Grand, Sikh Heritage, Sonora Immigrations and several others played a pivotal role in elevating the Expo's stature. The Gala and

2000 attendees - buyers, media, keynote speakers, and community members Expo were graced by the High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada, Mr. Zaheer Janjua, and Trade Minister of British Columbia, Canada, Mr. Jagrup Brar, underlining the initiative's diplomatic and economic significance. Also in attendance were Mr. Bruce Ralston (MLA - Surrey -Whalley; BC Minister of Forests & Minister Responsible for the Consular Corps) and Ms. Jinny Sims (MLA, Surrey-Panorama). The visionary outlook of the Expo was articulated by Ms. Bushra Rehman, President of PWCTA, and Mr. Janbaz Khan, Consul General of Pakistan in Vancouver. Mr. Malik Sohail Hussain, Secretary General of PWCTA also played a pivotal role in the execution of the Expo. The event's private-public partnership was fortified by women leader-ship, exemplified by contributors such as Ms. Bushra Rehman, Ms. Rabia Dastgir, and Ms. Muhayimina Mehmood.

> triumph is a testament to unwavering commitment towards collaborative trade relations. It not only highlighted bilateral trade's potential but also addressed challenges in key industries, resonating as a shared pursuit of progress between both nations.

over the last 40 years to 2.2 percent over the next 40 years while average annual population growth will fall from 1.4 percent to 1.1 percent. The report projected that by 2063 the Australian population will surpass 40 million people but participation in the workforce will fall from 66.6 percent to 63.8 percent, with the number of people aged 85 and over set to more than triple. In order to meet rising demand, the report said Pakistan Expo Vancouver 2023's

the care and support workforce would have to double in size by 2050. Launching the report in a speech to the National Press Club (NPC), Chalmers said that longer life expectancies would transform Australia's economy.-APP SA launches

Nusuk initiative in Bang

DHAKA: Saudi Arabia launched its flagship Nusuk initiative in Dhaka on Thursday to streamline the Umrah journey for Bangladeshis. The South Asian nation is the fourth-largest Muslim-majority country, and more than 150 million people profess Islam. Every vear, tens of thousands of them visit Saudi Arabia for Umrah and Hajj pilgrimages. Nusuk, an e-visa, planning and booking platform that allows travelers to create pilgrimage itineraries for Makkah, Madinah and beyond, is aimed to help them organize their visit.

The platform was launched

by the Saudi Tourism Au-

Wagner chief Prigozhin presumed dead in plane crash

KUZHENKINO :The head of the Wagner mercenary group, which in June attempted to topple Russia's military leadership, was on board a plane that crashed on Wednesday, with all passengers killed, Russian officials said. The Kremlin and the defence ministry were yet to react. Yevgeny Prigozhin's short-lived rebellion was seen as the biggest challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin's authority since he came to power. Since then, uncertainty has surrounded the fate of Wagner and its controversial

Petersburg. According to preliminary information, all 10 people on board died, including three crew members, the ministry said. Russia's aviation agency later said the Wagner chief was on board the plane. "According to the airline, the following passengers were on board the Embraer-135 (EBM-135BJ) aircraft:... Prigozhin, Yevgeny," said Rosaviatsia, which also listed Dmitry Utkin, a shadowy figure who managed Wagner's operations and allegedly served in Russian military intelligence. Telegram channels linked to

guard at the crash site near the village of Kuzhenkino in the Tver region early on Thursday, AFP images showed. In Saint Petersburg, people laid flowers and patches bearing the Wagner skull logo at a makeshift memorial outside the private mercenary group's headquarters, AFP journalists said. "Guys, we just have no words right now," said a masked man and alleged members of Wagner at the site. "Let's support Yevgeny Viktorovich (Prigozhin) and all our commanders. We need your support now." Rosaviatsia said

crimes, said it opened an investigation into the crash. The bodies of eight people have been found so far at the site of the crash, RIA Novosti said citing the emergency services. Putin was meanwhile giving a speech for the 80th anniversary of the Kursk battle in World War II. He did not mention the crash and hailed "all our soldiers who are fighting bravely and resolutely" in the special military operation in Ukraine. But Kviv and Washington reacted swiftly to initial reports of the crash. "I don't know for a fact what happened, but

Voting enters second day in Zimbabwe polls amid fraud fears

HARARE : Zimbabweans queued at polling stations on Thursday as general elections stretched into an unprecedented second day, sparked by delays that sparked opposition accusations of vote-rigging. In dozens of voting stations, voters braved long waits for ballot papers to be delivered, with some lining up all night. The delays forced President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who is seeking a second term, to issue a late-night directive extending Wednesday's vote by another day. Electoral commission spokesman Justin Manyau said voting was still underway in parts of the capital Harare and the eastern province of Manicaland. "It's happening in selected wards," he said. The commission's deputy chairman Rodney Kiwa said election authorities were still collecting information on when all wards would be finished. "We are being very meticulous about this," he told AFP. The poll is being watched across southern Africa as a test of support for the ZANU-PF party, whose 43-year rule has been battered by a moribund economy and charges of authoritarianism. Less than a quarter of polling stations in Harare - an opposition stronghold - opened on time on Wednesday, according to electoral authorities, who blamed the problem on delays in printing ballot papers. But Nelson Chamisa, head of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), was unconvinced.-APP

Two killings in 3 days in Nimes

PARIS : An 18-year-old has been shot dead in the southern French city of Nîmes, days after a boy aged 10 was killed by gunfire in an attack linked to the drugs trade. Both shootings took place in the Pissevin area of the city which has become plagued by drug violence. The first victim, called Fayed, was fatally shot on Monday night while he was in a car with his uncle.

In the latest attack. the teenage victim was ambushed a few streets away. Local prosecutor Cécile Gensac said it was the 10-year-old's misfortune to be "in the wrong place at the wrong time" shortly before midnight on Monday. Fayed was shot just 100m from his home in Pissevin. His family had no connection with drug gangs and had never had any brush with authority, the prosecutor said. Police believe the uncle's Renault Clio car had been wrongly linked by the killers to another shooting and Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin spoke of a "tit-for-tat attack between drug dealers". Nîmes Mayor Jean-Paul Fournier said he was saddened and revolted by the boy's death and police sent an elite CRS8 team to beef up security. The CR8 have already been deployed 100km (60 miles) to the south in Marseille, where drug turf wars have claimed a dozen lives in little more than a month. Two rival gangs, Yoda and DZ Mafia, are said to be behind most of the shootings in northern areas of the Mediterranean port city, particularly in the high-rise district of La Paternelle. Smaller regional cities such as Nîmes are now becoming caught up in the drugs war. Despite the deployment of about 20 elite police, the second shooting there this week took place in the early hours of Thursday. Authorities said it unfolded during a drug deal and the 18-yearold victim was known to police.-APP

chief. Russia's ministry for emergency situations on Wednesday announced the crash of a private plane travelling between Moscow and Saint

S. Korea to keep

fishery products

nated wastewater into the ocean earlier in the day.

nated wastewater discharge that will continue for the

seafood will never be realized.

ar accident in March 2011.

Wagner posted footage – that AFP could not independently confirm - showing the wreckage of the plane burning in a field. Russian law enforcement officials were standing

it set up a special commission to investigate the crash of the aircraft belonging to MNT-Aero.

Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes serious

I'm not surprised," United States President Joe Biden said. "There's not much that happens in Russia that (President) Putin's not behind .- Agencies



ISLAMABAD :Ambassador of the united Arab Emirates, Hammad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi called on Federal Caretaker Minister For Health Dr Nadeem Jan in Islamabad. - DNA

thority and Hajj and Umrah Minister Tawfiq Al-Rabiah, on his first official visit to Dhaka. "It is our holy responsibility and we are committed to do everything possible to make the spiritual journey of the pilgrims safe, accessible, hassle-free and comfortable. We are constantly working on enriching your pilgrimage experience," the minister said during the launching ceremony of the service at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center, which was attended by Bangladeshi officials, tour operators and travel organizations. "We welcome you to Makkah, we welcome you to Madinah, we welcome you to Saudi Arabia. You can come anytime. You are always welcome.' Alhasan Al-Dabbagh, pres-

ident of the Asia-Pacific markets at STA, told reporters that the introduction of Nusuk aimed to "increase the ease and accessibility for Bangladeshi travelers, especially with the growing numbers of Umrah pilgrims."- Agencies

Israel approves an increase in natural gas exports

ISTANBUL : Israel an-

Jane Marriott CMG OBE and Markian Chuchuk

next 30 years.-APP

Han said.



Tkraine is celebrating its 32nd Independence Day anniversary today i.e. on 24 August. The Day this year in not being celebrated in the same mood and manner as previous years, nevertheless it is a day to celebrate the strength, resilience and identity of the Ukrainian people. Ukrainian unity has never been stronger than it is today, almost 18 months since Russia's full-scale illegal invasion in February 2022.

The history of the Ukrainian state dates back at least one and a half thousand years, to 482 AD, when the city of Kyiv was founded. Declaring independence in 1991, Ukrainians finally began to walk the long-awaited path towards democratic development, reforms and European integration. But this centuries-long struggle has been brutally curtailed due to the

aggressive behaviour of Ukraine's larger Russian neighbour to its east. Ukraine's Independence Day is

celebrated just ten days after Pakistan's, but the Ukraine-Pakistan relations started long before official diplomatic ties were established in 1992. Back in the 1960s and 70s, Ukrainian specialists contributed to Pakistan's economic growth through its support to key Pakistani industries, for example the construction of Pakistan Steel Mills in Karachi and hydroelectric plants in Tarbela and Kalabagh. For decades, Ukraine has played a vital role in supporting Pakistani military strength and its ability to defend its people. And Ukraine has been a nation that has extended its hand to Pakistan in times of need, aiding it during times of poor harvest. At the peak of the "grain crisis" in 2020, Ukrainian traders covered two-thirds of the grain deficit in Pakistan, exporting more than 1.2 million tons of wheat to feed Pakistanis.

A day to celebrate Ukraine's resilience

This could not contrast more starkly with Russia's despicable behaviour based on vested interest - something that has not only caused untold suffering in Ukraine, but has directly impacted the lives of ordinary citizens around the world. From the bustling streets of Karachi to the serene mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan, the consequences of Putin's actions reach us here. Pakistani people feel the pinch as prices soar, pushing the most vulnerable citizens even closer to the brink. The cost of fuel has skyrocketed and the price of wheat has risen dramatically. Russia's unilateral decision to withdraw from a vital international grain deal means every roti and naan will now cost more. Economists say Putin's invasion has cost Pakistan up to 1% of its GDP, pushing more

and more Pakistanis into poverty.

In its just struggle, Ukraine relies on its military forces along with the assistance from its international friends and partners. What is at stake is not just Ukraine's future but the UN Charter and international law, which support the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of all countries. We must never let countries attempt to rewrite borders by force. The UK, a long-standing friend of Ukraine, is inspired by the ongoing resistance and bravery of the Ukrainian people in the face of Russian aggression and atrocities. Eighteen months ago, Putin thought he would overwhelm Ukraine in three days. He underestimated the resolve of the

Ukrainian people, the skill and determination of their Armed Forces, and the world's commitment to Ukraine's independence. Putin's military strategy clearly has not worked: he is isolated on the world stage. Over 40 nations, ranging from China

to Turkey, the UAE and South Africa, attended the Peace Conference in Saudi Arabia. Over 20 countries have now committed to helping Ukraine win the war through military support. The UK and our partners will continue to provide Ukraine with humanitarian, economic and military aid until Russian forces leave, which would be the quickest path to securing a just and

sustainable peace. Ukraine will win this war and we must all stand with them for as long as it takes. The Ukrainian spirit shines brightly. In Ukraine's hour of need, we call for the people of Pakistan to continue to support their brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Russia's invasion will fail. Moscow cannot hope to outlast Ukraine's resolve and international support.

-COURTESY EXPRESS TRIBUNE Jane Marriott CMG OBE is the British High Commissioner to Pakistan and Mark-

lion cubic meters out of the 6 billion produced being exian Chuchuk is the Ukrainiported to Egypt.-APP an Ambassador to Pakistan

nounced Wednesday that it will increase its natural gas exports to Egypt from its Tamar field in the Mediterranean. Energy Minister Israel Katz said that after securing gas supply for the domestic market, approval was given to enhance exports to Egypt. "This step will increase the state's revenue and strengthen diplomatic ties between Israel and Egypt," Katz said in a post on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter. According to a report on the Israeli business news website Globes, Katz has decided to increase production at Tamar to 6 billion cubic meters annually starting from 2026. The report emphasized that this would lead to a 60% increase in gas production from the field, with 3.5 bil-







Briefs SBP-heid FX reserves fall below \$8bn

DNA

KARACHI: Foreign ex-

change reserves held by

the State Bank of Pakistan

(SBP) decreased by \$125

million on a weekly basis,

clocking in at \$7.93 billion

as of August 18, data re-

leased on Thursday showed.

Total liquid foreign reserves

held by the country stood at

\$13.25 billion. Net foreign

reserves held by commer-

cial banks stood at \$5.32 bil-

lion. The central bank cited

debt repayments as the rea-

son for the decrease in the

foreign currency reserves.

"During the week ended

August 18, 2023, SBP's re-

serves decreased by \$125

million to \$7,930.3 million

on account of debt repay-

ments," it said. Last week,

foreign exchange reserves

held by the SBP increased

The central bank reserves

saw a decline after gaining

a little in the week earlier.

Before, it had declined for

three straight weeks, main-

ly due to debt repayments.

In July, reserves held by the

SBP got a boost as Pakistan

received the first tranche

of about \$1.2 billion from

the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) after its lender

approved a new \$3-billion

However, the central bank

reserves are now under

pressure on the back of debt

repayments, rise in import

payments after ease in restrictions, and lack of fresh

inflows. After reporting a

surplus for four successive

months. Pakistan's current

account posted a deficit of

\$809 million in July, the

highest since October 2022.

N. Korea's

spy satellite

launch fails

PYONGYANG: North Ko-

rea's second attempt to put

a spy satellite into space

Stand-By Arrangement.

by \$12 million.

BRICS to admit six new members next year

All the countries invited had already expressed an interest in joining. The group currently includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

News Desk

JOHANNESBURG: Oil powers Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been invited to become members of the BRICS group of developing nations in its first expansion in over a decade. Also joining next year will be Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and Argentina, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said Thursday as he wrapped up the annual summit of the group in Johannesburg.

All the countries invited had already expressed an interest in joining. The group currently includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. "The membership will take effect from the first of January, 2024," Ramaphosa said. In a video message, Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated the new BRICS members, adding that the bloc's global influence would continue to grow. "I would like to congratulate the new members who will work in a full-scale format next year," Putin said. "And I would like to assure all our colleagues that we will continue the work that we started today on expanding the influence of BRICS in the world," the Russian president added. China's President Xi Jinping called the bloc's expansion "historic," reflecting its determination to "unite and cooperate with developing countries." "[It will] inject new impetus into the BRICS cooperation mechanism and further strengthen the power of world peace and development," Jinping said. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said that "the special, strategic relations with the BRICS nations promotes common principles, most importantly the firm belief in the principle of respect for sovereignty, independence and non-interference in internal affairs.' Bottom of Form: The kingdom will continue to be a "secure and reliable energy provider," he told a BRICS conference Thursday. Total bilateral trade between Saudi Arabia and BRICS nations exceeded \$160 billion in 2022, the Sau-



BRICS agreed to make Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates full members from January 1. - DNA

di foreign minister said. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also welcomed the expansion, saying his country had always believed that adding new members would strengthen the bloc. The announcement puts Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude oil exporter, in the same economic bloc as the world's biggest oil importer, China.

It also means Russia and Saudi Arabia - both members of OPEC+, a group of major oil producers - will join each other in a new economic bloc. The two countries often coordinate their oil output, which has in the past put Saudi

Arabia at odds with its ally, the United States. The bloc's expansion raises the question of potential de-dollarization, a process by which members would gradually switch to using currencies other than the US dollar to conduct trade. The BRICS countries have also been talking about a common currency, an idea analysts have described as unworkable and "unlikely" in the near future.

Putin said the issue of a common currency was a "difficult question" but added "we will move towards solving these problems." The expansion takes place at a time when some BRICS members, namely Russia and China, are locked into rising tensions with the West. Experts have said that choosing to include countries that are openly antagonistic toward the West, such as Iran, could swing the group further toward becoming an anti-Western bloc.

Built off a term originally coined by former Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill to describe key emerging markets, the group has persisted despite deep differences in political and economic systems among its members. "Economically, not many of the countries that are applying to join are particularly large," O'Neill told Bloomberg earlier this week. Existing BRICS members have "had enough difficulty trying to agree just between the five of them," he added. "So beyond the admittedly hugely powerful symbolism, I'm not quite sure what having a lot more countries in there is going to achieve." BRICS held its first summit in 2009 with four members and then added South Africa the following year. It launched its New Development Bank in 2015. The United Arab Emirates President Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan said on X, formerly Twitter: "We appreciate the inclusion of the UAE as a member to this important group." Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said that his country looks forward to joining BRICS to strengthen economic cooperation among its members, as well as "raise the voice of the Global



Minister Rishi Sunak was chided by Parliament's standards guardian on Thursday for failing to declare his wife's financial interest in a childcare firm that stood to benefit from government policy. Standards Commissioner Daniel Greenberg said Sunak broke the code of conduct for government ministers, but said the mistake was "inadvertent" and that the prime minister should not be sanctioned for the error. Greenberg opened an investigation in April over Sunak's failure to declare when questioned by a committee of lawmakers that his wife. Akshata Murthy, held shares in the company Koru Kids, which had been selected to receive government support for childcare firms.

Greenberg said Murthy's shareholding "was a relevant interest that should have been declared." But he said the failure stemmed from confusion about the rules rather than an intent to deceive. "I confirm that the matter is now closed,' he said. Sunak apologized for the mistake.

The finding follows a string of ethics breaches by members of Britain's Conservative government. Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson was driven from office in mid-2022 when his own Cabinet turned on him after a string of scandals over his judgment and finances. -Agencies

Ambdesignate to Iran calls on Jilani

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate to Iran Muhammad Mudassir-Tipu Thursday called on Caretaker Foreign Minister Ialil Abbas Iilani and discussed matters of mutual interests. During the meeting.

China retaliates as Japan releases **Fukushima water**

TOKYO: Japan has begun its controversial discharge of treated waste water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean, sparking protests in the region and retaliation from Beijing. China is the biggest buyer of seafood from Japan, and on Thursday it said it would block all such imports. Japan says the water is safe, and many scientists agree. The UN's nuclear watchdog has also approved the plan. But critics say more studies need to be done and the release should be halted. More than a million tonnes of water stored at the nuclear plant will be discharged over the next 30 years. China, which has been the most vocal of opponents since the plan was announced two years ago, called the water discharge an "extremely selfish and irresponsible act" and said Japan was "passing an open wound onto the future generations of humanity". Shortly afterwards, China's customs office announced that an existing ban on seafood imports from Fukushima and some prefectures would be immediately extended to cover the whole of Japan to "protect the health of Chinese consumers". - Agencies



has failed, three months af ter its first launch crashed into the sea. The attempt on Thursday morning failed during the third stage of its flight, state media said.

For North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, a spy satellite is a coveted prize, as it would let him monitor incoming attacks and plot his own more accurately Pyongyang's space agency has said it will try again in October. South Korea said it detected the launch of the rocket at around 03:50 local time (18:50 GMT), and that it had flown through international airspace over the Yellow Sea between mainland China and the Korean peninsula. The launch prompted an emergency warning in Japan's southernmost Okinawa prefecture minutes later, urging residents to take cover indoors. The alert was lifted after about 20 minutes. Condemning the launch, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said: "Behaviour like this goes against the UN resolutions and we're already firmly protesting." The US urged North Korea to refrain from "further threatening activity" and called on Pyongyang to engage in serious diplomacy. But although Thursday's failure will have been disappointing for Pyongyang, it appears they've made progress. - Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ambassador-designate to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu called on Caretaker FM

foreign minister underlined the importance accorded by Pakistan to its relations with Iran. He hoped that the ambassador would play an active role in further strengthening bilateral ties between the brotherly countries. - APP

Jalil Abbas Jilani. FM underlined the importance accorded by Pakistan to its relations with Iran. - DNA

Imaan, Wazir sent to jail on 14-day judicial remand



ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad anti-terrorism court (ATC) sent human rights lawyer ImaanZainabMazari-Hazir and Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leader Ali Wazir to Adiala Jail on 14-day judicial remand on Thursday in a sedition case related to the controversial speech against the state institutions. On August 19, two first information reports (FIR) were registered against Imaan and Wazir at the Tarnol police station and Counter-Terrorism Department police station, following a rally of the PTM in the federal capital. Both were booked on the charges of sedition, preventing government officials from carrying out their duties and damaging public property. During today's proceedings, Imaan and Wazir were produced before ATC Judge AbulHasnatZulqarnain after a three-day

physical remand. "Voice matching and photogrammetry of ImaanMazari and Ali Wazir have been completed," said Prosecutor Raja Naveed and sought an extension in their physical remand. The investigating officer prayed to the court that Imaan was given a piece of paper from which she made the speech. "She needs to be interrogated who gave her that piece of paper." ATC Judge Zulgarnain said that the decision would be made based on justice only. Every possible due relief would be given, he added. Imaan's counsel SafaiZainabJanjua prayed to the court to hear her client's bail plea today. To this, the ATC judge remarked that the bail plea could not be heard today; however, he issued a notice of a hearing for the day after tomorrow. ATC judge allowed Imaan to meet her mother, former human rights minister Shireen-Mazari, in the courtroom and summoned parties on August 26 on Imaan's bail application. A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Tuesday granted bail and sent Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leader Ali Wazir to jail on a 14-day judicial in a different case related to "interference in state affairs" and damaging the public property registered after PTM held its rally in Islamabad. - DNA

Taliban stops 100 girls from travelling to Dubai for studies

KABUL: In another act of suppression, the Talibans stopped the young girls who were eager to embark on their education journey to Dubai. Khalaf Al Habtoor, a prominent Emirati businessman, has voiced his deep disappointment and concern about the incident. In a video message, he criticized the actions of the Taliban, expressing his dismay at the hindrance they have caused to the education and aspirations of these young women. Al-Habtoor facilitated the education of these 100 Afghan girls by providing scholarships to UAE universities, covering crucial aspects like travel expenses, accommodation, health insurance, and other necessary funds, as per Khaama Press. However, his noble initiative - providing 100 scholarships for Afghan girls' higher education in UAE - has been overshadowed by the Taliban's repressive intentions. In a voice message, the girls said that despite having valid reasons, the Taliban forces prevented them from travelling. Last year, this UAE businessman pledged 100 scholarships for girls in Dubai, coinciding with their denied university access. -Agencies

AUGUST 2023

Pakistan's Premier News & **Diplomatic Affairs Magazine**

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US provide \$215 mlnin flood relief assistance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Since the beginning of the floods, the United States has provided more than \$215 million in flood relief, disaster resilience, and food security assistance for Pakistan, including:

More than \$80 million in U.S. humanitarian assistance through US-AID to provide urgently needed supplies for those most affected, including support for food, nutrition, health, security, safe drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene, and shelter.

• An additional \$100 million of recovery and reconstruction funding announced at the January 9 International Conference on Climate-Resilient Pakistan in Geneva, Switzerland.

• \$10 million in food security assistance, which provides urgent supplies to help farmers recover - like seeds and fertilizer - as well as assistance repairing damaged critical irrigation infrastructure.

• \$2 million in humanitarian assistance for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) flood response in Pakistan to provide lifesaving resources to Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan.

• More than \$1.9 million in U.S. Department of Defense funding to help airlift USAID supplies.

• \$3 million for new early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience funding to support Pak ability to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters such as floods.

• An additional \$16.4 million in nutrition and food security support, early recovery, resilience, and risk reduction assistance announced in June 2023 to provide life-saving food and nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance to more than 4 million people in flood-affected communities. Private American citizens and U.S. companies have donated food, medicine, and other relief supplies, and at least \$37 million dollars to help the people of Pakistan in this time of need.

Ukraine claims Crimea landing on Independence Day

"In this fight, everyone counts. Because the fight is for something that is important to everyone," Mr Zelensky said

KIEV: Ukraine has claimed that its troops landed in occupied Crimea, as it marked its second Independence Day fighting Russian invaders. The mission's objectives were achieved with no casualties among its troops, defence ministry spokesman AndriyYusov wrote on Telegram. Russia illegally annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, eight years before it launched a full-scale invasion. MrYusov said an encounter ensued in Olenivka, west of the peninsula.

He claimed Russia suffered personnel losses. However, there was no immediate comment from Moscow. "Troops have landed at the peninsula as part of a special operation," MrYusov told public broadcaster Suspilne, referring to Crimea. MrYusov refused to give further details of the operation, but he claimed that the Ukrainian state flag was briefly raised in Crimea. Suspilne reported that the skirmish in Tarkhankut involved aircraft and navy ships. A Russian Telegram channel had also reported of fighting in that area. Ukrainian President VolodymyrZelensky released an Independence Day message on X, formerly known as Twitter, rallying his countrymen to help maintain the country's independence. "In this fight, everyone counts. Because the fight is for something that is important to everyone," Mr Zelensky said. Independence Day has gained increased significance among Ukrainians since Russia's invasion started in February 2022, according to a poll by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology. It is now the country's third most important holiday, behind only Easter and Christmas. Ukraine launched its counter-offensive last May, attempting to expel the Russians from land they had captured in the east and south of the country. An analysis by BBC Verify showed the gains in terms of reclaimed land size have been small. However, analysts at the US-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW) say the advances near Robotyne and Urozhaine are "likely tactically significant because of the structure of Russian defensive lines". They also note that Russian forces have dedicated significant effort to hold the settlements. Russia has also accused Ukraine of drone attacks, the most recent of which on 23 August hit a skyscraper under construction in Moscow. Ukraine's claim of landing its troops in Crimea came a day after Yevgeny Prigozhin, the leader of the mercenary group that fought with Russia in the war, was on the passenger list of a private jet that crashed after taking off from Moscow. MrPrigozhin had led a failed mutiny against Russian President Vladimir Putin in June. - Agencies

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