



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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Detailed News On Page-07

**Pakistan to send team to India for WC**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Hazara Express tragedy

# Train crash kills 30, injures over 100 passengers

The train went off track on its way to Havelian from Karachi in district Sanghar; reason behind derailment remains unknown

NAZIR SIYAL /DNA

NAWABSHAH: At least 30 were killed and over 100 injured after as many as 10 bogies of Havelian-bound Hazara Express derailed Sunday near Sahara Railway Station in Sindh's Nawabshah district, 275 kilometres away from Karachi, officials said. Commissioner Benazirabad division Abbas Baloch said in a statement that at least 30 died in the incident while passengers are still stranded in a bogie. He said a relief train is also about to arrive and emergency has been imposed in hospitals of the district. Accidents on Pakistan's decaying rail system are common and successive governments have for years been trying to secure funds to upgrade the rail network as part of China's Belt and Road Initiative for infrastructure projects. Benazirabad Deputy Inspector General of Police Younis Chandio said that nine out of 10 wrecked bogies had been cleared, with injured and deceased being pulled out. The reason behind the train derailment remains unknown. People on the site and local authorities have shifted the wounded passengers to the People's Medical Hospital

## PM expresses grief over train accident

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the accident of Hazara Express near Nawab Shah. In a statement, he prayed for forgiveness for those who lost their lives. The Prime Minister directed authorities concerned to provide best medical facilities to injured people. He also directed railway authorities to submit a report on accident. Shehbaz Sharif appreciated efforts of Pakistan Railways, Rescue and Pakistan Army personnel to provide timely assistance to passengers. At least 30 were killed and over 80 injured after as many as 10 bogies of Havelian-bound Hazara Express derailed Sunday near Sahara Railway Station in Sindh's Nawabshah district, 275 kilometres away from Karachi, officials said. Commissioner Benazirabad division Abbas Baloch said in a statement that at least 30 died in the incident while passengers are still stranded in a bogie. He said a relief train is also about to arrive and emergency has been imposed in hospitals of the district. - DNA

in Nawabshah, which reportedly cater to around 1,000 people. The train operations to and from the interior districts of Sindh were suspended after the train crash, affecting the routine of thousands, with railway authorities saying that it may take up to 18 hours to restore operations. Authorities fear heavy material and life losses as the ill-fated train is

said to be carrying a large number of people, even more than its capacity. The train, comprising 17 bogies with a capacity of 950 passengers in its economy class and 72 in its air-conditioned standard coach, went off track on its way to Havelian from Karachi in district Sanghar, the senior superintendent of police said.

Continued on Page 06



NAWABSHAH: Pictures from deadly train accident in Nawabshah; Army and Rangers personnel are assisting civil administration in relief efforts. - DNA

## Pak, China vow to take ties to new heights



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have reiterated their commitment to take their brotherly relationship and friendship to greater heights. The resolve was expressed during a telephonic conversation in between Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in which they also discussed bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that there was a productive discussion with the Chinese counterpart on bilateral issues. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that no matter how the international situation changes, China will, firmly support Pakistan in defending its national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. He said China firmly supports Pakistan in development, and its more active role in international and regional affairs. Last week, Pakistan and China agreed to revive the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng held wide-ranging talks with the Pakistani leaders. Vice Premier He, a close aide of President Xi Jinping, held formal talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, attended a special event to mark the 10-year of CPEC. He also called on President Arif Alvi and the Army Chief General Asim Munir. He is on a three-day visit to Pakistan to mark 10 years of CPEC.

## Elections doubtful

# PPP says will have to take a stand if polls are delayed

"I don't see elections happening on November 12 or 13," Khursheed says

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Shah has said that the PPP will have to "take a stand" if general elections were delayed. The government has announced that assemblies will be dissolved on August 9, following which elections should be held within 90 days of the end of the assemblies' tenure. However, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said during an interview earlier this week that elections would be held on the basis of the latest census, while the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has already expressed its inability to hold polls on the basis of the new population count within the stipulated time as it will have to conduct a fresh delimitation of constituencies in this case.

Delay in election will be 'dangerous': Raza Rabbani

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: In view of the emerging situation following the Council of Common Interests (CCI) approval of the results of the 2023 digital census, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) outspoken Senator Raza Rabbani on Sunday warned that the delay in elections would prove to be "dangerous" for the federation. The general elections are likely to be delayed by a couple of

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### Imran may lose party head post

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan can no longer retain the post of PTI chief after conviction in the Toshakhana case, said Zulfikar Ahmad Bhutta, an eminent lawyer of Supreme Court (SC), media reported. The PTI chief was convicted and arrested in the Toshakhana case after a district and sessions court in Islamabad found him guilty of selling state gifts in violation of laws. Khan is accused of misusing his position as PM to sell state gifts worth more than Rs140 million (\$490,000) that he received from foreign dignitaries during visits abroad.

### CM Naqvi for boosting Pak-Uzbek ties

DNA

TASHKENT: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi Sunday decided to set up a joint committee for promoting cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbek Textile Industry during a meeting with Uzbek Minister for Textile Industries in Tashkent. Mohsin Naqvi met with the Uzbek minister for Textile and Garment industries Ilkhom Khaydarov in Tashkent and discussed cooperating with each other for the improvement of the textile industries in both countries. During the meeting, it was jointly decided that a committee will be established for promoting the bilateral ties and cooperation between both textile industries.

## Not allowed to meet Khan PTI calls for instant judicial intervention

The core committee protested against Khan's transfer from Adiala to Attock jail

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday called on the judiciary to intervene and take action against the government's "unlawful behaviour", saying that party chief Imran Khan is being denied to meet his lawyers. The former ruling party issued a statement after its core committee meeting - which was carried out a day after the former prime minister, removed from power last year, was arrested after a court in Islamabad found him guilty of graft in the Toshakhana case. The huddle, which was attended by PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi and other leaders, discussed the ousted premier's arrest and consulted on the points related to the legal action for his immediate release. In the communique, the core committee chairman also protested against Khan's transfer from Adiala jail to Attock jail. "The arrest reflects a biased trial and revenge against

Continued on Page 06

## US calls Khan's arrest 'internal matter'

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States has declared that the cases against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and other politicians are Pakistan's internal matters. "The cases against Imran Khan and other politicians in Pakistan are an internal matter," the State Department said via email in response to a question sent to it. "We call for the respect of democratic principles and the rule of law in Pakistan, as we do around the world," the department said, which has

Continued on Page 06

# PM confident of PML-N forming next government

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates three development projects in Kasur

DNA

KASUR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said PML-N top leader Nawaz Sharif will be the next prime minister of Pakistan. Addressing a public meeting at Khadian in district Kasur on Sunday, he said Nawaz Sharif was the person who rescued the country from the darkness of the load-shedding. The PML-N provided laptop to youth, PM Shehbaz said, adding Pakistan's atomic journey started in Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's era and concluded by Nawaz Sharif. PM Shehbaz inaugurated three development projects worth Rs263 billion including Lahore-Sahiwal-Bhawalnagar Motorway, Ray Mansab Ali Khan Interchange on La-

hore-Abdul Hakim Motorway and Taregarh Interchange. On the occasion, PM Shehbaz was briefed about the development projects and also laid the foundation stone of Nankana-Bucheki Interchange. Earlier, the P M laid foundation stone of Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute University in Lahore on Sunday.

PICTURE ON BACK PAGE

The PM also opened a campaign to create awareness among the people about Hepatitis disease. Pakistan Institute of Kidney and Liver was made operational in 2018. Addressing the ceremony, the Prime Minister said that institute was a gigantic project of the PML N government for the people

of the country. He said 80 per cent patients in PKLI were provided with free or partially free treatment and doctors and staff in the institute were rendering the best services. The PM said PKLI treated patients without any discrimination. Shehbaz Sharif said Rs15 billion had been collected by the Trust Fund of PKLI and the management requested the philanthropists to donate more funds in order to facilitate deserving patients. The PM appreciated the efforts for creating awareness about causes of Hepatitis in Pakistan and suggestions delivered to address issues. The foreign experts participating in conference on Hepatitis for sharing their experience and research results to control the disease were appreciated by the PM.

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## PRCS distributes relief among displaced families

MUZAFFARABAD: In response to the devastating land sliding incident that struck the union council Patreend (Damishi, Abhiyal), the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) AJK chapter has taken immediate action to support the affected communities by distributing essential relief items. The incident, which caused immense loss of property, has left many families displaced and in dire need of immediate assistance. The PRCS AJK, with its unwavering commitment to humanitarian aid and disaster response, has been on the ground since the tragedy occurred. Working tirelessly in coordination with local authorities and government departments, the society conducted a needs assessment to identify the most urgent requirements of the affected population. In a display of solidarity and empathy, the PRCS successfully organized the distribution of critical relief items that were aimed to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the catastrophic land sliding and to provide aid and support. In this context, a graceful ceremony was held at union council Patreend Damishi where the affected community was provided with essential relief items, that include tents, shelter tool kits, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, water coolers, buckets, blankets and mosquito nets. It should be remembered that on August 01, nineteen houses were damaged as a result of devastating land sliding that struck the Damishi Abhiyal area of union council Patreend Muzaaffarabad. The opposition leader in Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Khawaja Farooq Ahmed and Minister Chaudhary Rasheed graced the ceremony with their presence. Besides, Secretary Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK Chapter Ms Gulzar Fatima, Assistant Commissioner Muzaaffarabad (Ruler) Muneer Qureshi and other government officials were also present on this occasion. —APP

## LDA demolishes illegal constructions

LAHORE: On the directions of Commissioner Lahore and Director General (DG) Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa, various teams conducted operations against illegal constructions and commercialisation in different commercial and residential areas of the provincial metropolis. The operations were carried out in Jahanzeb Block, Neelam Block, of Allama Iqbal Town including Multan Road, Bund Road and Sabzar area here, LDA sources told APP. The operation was supervised by Director Town Planning-II Asad Zaman Dogar. Illegal constructions on plot No 27 in Jahanzeb Block were demolished. Moreover, properties built in violation of laws were partially demolished at Plot No. 387 in Jahanzeb Block, Allama Iqbal Town. Plot No. 689 Neelam Block, Allama Iqbal Town was partially demolished. Earlier, on Thursday the Lahore Development Authority had carried out operation against illegal constructions and commercialisation in different parts of Lahore. The LDA team demolished one building and partially demolished another one in Jahanzeb Block over violation of building regulations. —APP

# Our aim to educate child labours

DNA  
PESHAWAR: Lead Welfare Trust Pakistan is a charitable trust which operates with the help of mutual coordination of social flat forms and with the help of social media for the deprived people of Pakistan specifically for Ex-Fata parachinar, where they get opportunities to help the community in education sector and different developmental programs. Here we focus on various areas of community issues and then we get access to various projects like child Labours, Improper education system, pover-

# 4-Day Punjab Delegation fuels CPEC romanticism

Since the launch of CPEC project in 2013, it is first of its kind "Program" organized to showcase how CPEC projects in Punjab has been improving the quality of life of local people, their living standards, poverty alleviation, employability, transfer of technology, modern development and export-led growth for resilient economy of Pakistan

DNA

LAHORE Debut of 4-day CPEC Punjab Media Delegation, an initiative taken by Chinese Consulate Lahore and Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR), has completed in befitting manner. Since the launch of CPEC project in 2013, it is first of its kind "Program" organized to showcase how CPEC projects in Punjab has been improving the quality of life of local people, their living standards, poverty alleviation, employability, transfer of technology, modern development and export-led growth for resilient economy of Pakistan. The activity, led by IIRMR chairman Muhammad Mehdi along with Chinese Commercial Attache Yan Yang and secretary to CG Chen Bo, is part of ongoing series of celebrations of successful completion of 10 years of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an ace undertaking of global iconic project "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)" envisioned by Chinese President Xi Jinping. On the first day, high-octane delegation visited Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) considered as "a gift from President Xi Jinping to the people of Pakistan" and also as "the flower of friendship between China and Pakistan." This flower of friendship has finally taken root and blossomed under the rain of "shared

destiny and win-win cooperation" between the two countries. Mr. Lichen, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NORINCO-GMG-DAE-WOO JV, the O&M service provider for the Orange Line Metro Rail, along with other senior management personnel shed light about performance of OLMT, South Asia's first electric train under CPEC, that crossed milestone of 100 million rides so far since its launch in 2022. During the visit, the delegation was given a live demonstration of the state-of-the-art Operation Control Room, highlighting the advanced technology and monitoring systems utilized to ensure seamless operations and passenger safety. The Orange Line team emphasized the significance of regular maintenance and cleanliness in maintaining a world-class metro service. The delegation was impressed with the level of expertise and meticulous attention to detail that goes into maintaining the rolling stock. The highlight of the visit was a delightful train ride to Anarkali Station (Station No. 13), where the Orange Line management presented souvenirs to all members of the delegation as tokens of appreciation for their visit. Second day, delegation visited Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC), a priority SEZ and being developed on approximately 3217 acres under CPEC framework. It is operated and run under visionary leadership CEO Muhammad Tan-

veer Jabbar, Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC). It has an advantage for being adjacent to M3-Industrial city which comprises a large number of projects including textile, pharmaceuticals, information technology, chemicals automotive, service complex. Delegates interacted CEOs of Chinese enterprises especially Time Ceramic and Green Crocker. Time Ceramic CEO Zhang Qi informed that company has made up 23 percent of market share in Pakistan and introduced new technology to help grow export of Pakistan. 95 percent local people are employed in the company since its inception, he told. Green Crocker CEO Zhang Qi apprised of its first export valuing Rs. 10 million to the UK last month, a milestone achieved as export-oriented enterprise that promote CPEC mission. Total woman employability in the company stands at 20 percent which is on rise gradually, he added. Now instead of importing from China that inflate Pakistan import bill, Pakistan traders will get produced their desired items in the such Chinese companies and others at CPEC Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC). It means those Chinese companies providing multiple items to Pakistan traders are being functional at AIIC, delegation was briefed.

Third day, delegation visited CPEC's first energy project 1320

MW Sahiwal Coal-Fired Power Plant. On the occasion of Sahiwal coal-fired power plant vice president Chen Wei briefed media delegation about its eminence, impacts and performance that supplied over 43 billion kilowatts hours of the energy in national grid. Being a joint venture of Huaneng Shandong Power Generation Company and Shandong Ruyi Group, with an investment of about \$1.8 billion, he said that project is largest, fastest and the first environmentally friendly coal-fired power plant completed under CPEC, with the most optimal technological and environmental indicators. Ensuring higher standards in maintaining best ecosystem, values of hazardous gases and mercury are remaining lower than the values set by World Bank, Japan, EU as well as Pakistan, he added. Filling a quarter of the country's power shortage and meeting the electricity demand of more than 4 million houses, project has won the highest honor in the power industry of China and China National Quality Engineering Gold Award, the highest award in the construction field of China, and many awards of federal and provincial level in Pakistan. Chinese engineers have also trained many Pakistani Chinese engineers as a part of transfer of technology under CPEC framework.

Fourth day, delegation paid visit Lahore Conversion site of 886-km

HVDC Matiari-Lahore power transmission line run by Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (PMLTC) Pvt Ltd. Lahore-Matiari is the first transmission line project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to transmit electricity from power stations in Sindh to load centres in Punjab. It will also transmit electricity from the indigenous coal-based power plants under construction in Thar district of Sindh under CPEC. On the occasion PMLTC deputy CEO Ma Desheng broke the news that PMTC is going to make Lahore loadshedding free next year. He said that 2023 is marking completion of 10 years of CPEC that has transformed lives of Pakistanis. "We are privileged to have played a critical role in CPEC. "Matiari-Lahore transmission line is bridging energy gap in Pakistan and facilitating its economic growth," he added. It did successful energization for 1000 days at Lahore Converter Station, he said. About future projects, he said two more lines are under progress to strengthen energy needs of the regions. CPEC Punjab media delegation also visited Challenge factory, owned and run by Chinese company. In response to the call of the country's One Belt One Road strategy, Shanghai Yuanyi Industrial Co., Ltd. invested in Pakistan in 2014 to establish the first overseas export-oriented garment manufacturing enterprise.

## LAJA, EU and UNDP hold consultative workshop

ISLAMABAD: Under the European Union-funded 'Deliver Justice Project', the Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) here on Sunday jointly organized a two-day consultative workshop to improve access to legal aid in Pakistan. The workshop brought together representatives from the government, rule of law institutions, national and international partners and civil society organizations to discuss LAJA's mandate and provide recommendations to LAJA/government regarding how to ensure access to justice through legal aid in a sustainable manner. LAJA was established under the LAJA Act 2020 to provide legal, financial and technical assistance for access to justice for poor and vulnerable groups in society on criminal cases. The key functions of LAJA are to provide legal aid/assistance to poor and vulnerable groups, particularly women and children; enhance public awareness of legal aid and laws in Pakistan; research legal aid and pro bono legal services in Pakistan; and advise the government on the right to a fair trial and due process of the law. Under the European Union-funded 'Deliver Justice Project', the UNDP Pakistan's Rule of Law Programme and LAJA organized the two-day consultative workshop aiming to identify challenges faced by LAJA and develop recommendations to feed into a new strategic plan for LAJA to effectively implement its key functions.—DNA

## RCCI to organize 2 days health expo, summit on August 16

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is going to organize the Health Expo and Summit on August 16 aiming to provide a platform to explore export potential and address the key challenges faced by the health and pharmaceutical sectors in Pakistan. RCCI President Saqib Rafiq while providing details said that Pakistan has significant export potential in the pharmaceutical sector, given its capabilities in drug manufacturing, a skilled workforce, and a growing global demand for affordable medicines. Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry is known for producing high-quality generic medicines at competitive prices. This cost-effectiveness makes Pakistani pharmaceutical products attractive to countries seeking affordable healthcare solutions, he added. He said that the pharmaceutical export potential of Pakistan is underutilized due to various factors, including regulatory challenges, limited R&D, and global market competition. He further remarked that the health and pharmaceutical sectors in Pakistan faced a range of challenges that have implications for healthcare delivery, medical services, and pharmaceutical industry growth. A summit is being organized on the sidelines of the RCCI MedHealth Expo 2023 to address these challenges impacting both the quality of healthcare services provided to the population and the overall development of the pharmaceutical sector, he further added. Saqib Rafiq said that the pharmaceutical regulatory system faces challenges related to ensuring the safety, quality, and efficacy of drugs, as well as addressing issues of counterfeit and substandard medicines.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: A man is wearing silver color dress and performing his skills alongside a road.—Oline

## PIA resumes passenger flights for Beijing

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has resumed its weekly passenger flight for China with arrival of PK-854 at the Beijing Capital airport on Sunday afternoon. The national flag carrier

will operate one weekly flight on the Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad route every Sunday with departure from Beijing at 21:15, PIA Country Manager, Bilal Afzal said here on Sunday. He informed that now pas-

sengers traveling by PIA could fly from Pakistan to 16 captivating cities of China via Beijing in partnership with Air China.

These Chinese cities include Guangzhou, Shanghai, Wuhan, Chengdu,

Chongqing, Changchun, Hangzhou, Harbin etc., he told APP. Bilal Afzal said that over 200 passengers are traveling on the return flight which left Beijing for Islamabad at 21:22. About discount, he said that PIA offers a 20 percent discount for students with free baggage of 80 Kg for economy class and 100 Kg for executive economy respectively on flights between Pakistan and China.—APP

## Climate change-induced weather patterns adding to miseries

UPPER CHITRAL :With fall of sun rays on his tent early morning, the poor wood seller Ali Zafar (48), started his painstaking journey towards nearby mountains to collect stones for reconstruction of his three marla house, swept away by the recent flash floods and torrential rains in Upper Chitral. Commonly known as 'Shino Lala' in his native village due to his blue eyes, Ali Zafar after having breakfast, fasten big saddlebags to his two mules and moved towards the mountains to collect as much stone slabs as possible for construction of his house in village Meragram. The stone-made house of the poor wood seller was completely destroyed by the July 12 floods here. "I was offering Fajar prayer on the fateful morning of July 12 when the gushing water from Tirich Mir mountain ranges came in a jiffy and swept away my three marla house constructed by my father besides taking away all household luggage including furniture, two goats and stored wheat," he recalled. Ali said, "I could only save my two mules being sole earning for my family." Worried about fast approaching winter season, Ali Zafar works from dawn to dusk along with his son and other family members to complete the structure before start of winter. Zafar said due to exorbitant cost of construction materials including bricks and cement he could not afford a brick house and therefore was forced to construct a stone and mud-made house. Zafar's son helps his father in cutting and shaping the stones in such a manner that could easily be fixed in walls. Similarly, Umar Mian, another poor labourer of the same village was also busy in repairing of his house on self basis after it was severely damaged by the climate change-induced weather of the last month. He said half of his house was buried under flood debris while the remaining half was also in deplorable condition, therefore he was trying to remove the debris and fix the structure so that he could shift his family here before the winter starts. They also complained about non-availability of drinking water as the only water supply line in the area was also swept away by the floods.—DNA

## CM Sindh visits train accident site

DNA

NAWABSHAH: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah arrived at Nawabshah on a short visit Soon after his arrival, the Chief Minister visited the emergency ward of Peoples Medical University Hospital and checked bed to bed of the victims of Hazara Express tragedy. The Divisional Commissioner Nawabshah Muhammad Abbas Baloch briefed the Chief Minister over the tragic train incident. Later talking to the media, the Chief Minister said that as per information gathered 30 casualties out of three are women and one is admitted at Sakrand while 29 dead bodies were brought to PMC. He said that total injured passengers were 110, which might increase as passengers were still stranded in bogies. CM said the ill-fated Hazara Express met with an accident near Sarhari which is a very tragic incident. He said that the cause of the accident could be ascertained after complete investigation of the mishap. He directed hospital administration to provide better treatment facilities to injured people and also, appealed to people of Nawabshah, particularly media persons to vacate the hospital and give time to doctors for treatment of victims.



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
PLANNING WING  
(Housing Societies Directorate)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### ILLEGAL / UN-AUTHORIZED MARKETING / ADVERTISEMENT OF HOUSING SCHEME BY USING THE NAME OF CAPITAL & ISLAMABAD.

It has been observed with great concern that housing schemes are using the name of Islamabad & Capital in their advertising campaigns giving the impression that they are situated in Islamabad Capital Territory and approved by CDA, even though they are located outside the territorial limits of Islamabad.

2. The sponsors of these schemes are trying to deceive / mislead the public at large by using the name of Islamabad. These schemes fall outside Islamabad Territory. **General Public**, accordingly, through this public notice, is **Cautioned and Warned** in their own interest to be careful while making any sale / purchase of plots in these housing schemes. **In case of any fraud / loss, CDA will not be responsible.**

3. The Boundary of Islamabad has been shown in the Mater Plan available on CDA Website. The Boundary of Islamabad as determined by the Capital of the Republic Determination of Area Ordinance 1963 has also been physically demarcated on site with the help of Survey of Pakistan. The sponsors of above schemes as well as all other schemes and projects falling outside the limits of Islamabad are directed to refrain to use the name of Islamabad while advertising, booking, selling their project.

PID I- 804 / 23

Director Housing Societies CDA  
Ph:

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### August

Aug 01/China  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzerland  
National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Syria  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Burkina Faso  
National Day

Aug 09/Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea  
Independence Day

Aug 15/India  
Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17/Indonesia  
Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine  
Independence Day

Aug 25/Uruguay  
Independence Day

Aug 30/Turkey  
Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/Kyrgyz Republic  
Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia  
National Day

### Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115  
PIA Flight Info.....114  
PIA Cargo.....9280979  
Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489  
CAA.....9281092



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Need stressed for increasing UK-Pak trade to £ 10 billion

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid tribute to Raja Muhammad Adil for achieving numerous achievements in the field of business

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted a reception in the honor of London-based prominent Pakistani businessman Raja Muhammad Adil, in which he shared his life long struggle in the UK and achievements in the field of business. He said that there are great opportunities to develop business relations between the UK and Pakistan which need to be exploited. He said that he went to London in 1963 and started his professional life there as a bus driver. However, later he started business life from a small shop and achieved remarkable success in the field of business. Today, his business has expanded a lot, which is now being run by his sons. He said that all these achievements were the result of continuous hard work and struggle. In London, he has always helped Pakistanis and some of them have made a



mark in politics and business. In his message to the youth, Raja Muhammad Adil said that today's youth is looking for shortcuts for success, but success in any field requires constant hard work and struggle with integrity. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Is-

lamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid tribute to Raja Muhammad Adil for achieving numerous achievements in the field of business. He said that Raja Muhammad Adil is an ambassador of Pakistan in London and has also been playing an active role in the UK Pakistan Chamber of Commerce. He said

that Pakistani investors based in Britain should focus on business and investment in Pakistan, which will increase FDI in our country and give confidence to other foreign investors. Talking about trade between Pakistan and UK, he said that the bilateral trade between the two countries is less than 5 billion

pounds which is not in line with the actual potential of both, so there is a need to accelerate efforts to increase the bilateral trade volume to at least 10 billion pounds per year between the two countries.

Former President ICCI and Secretary General of UBG Zafar Bakhtawari in his address said that personalities like Raja Muhammad Adil are a role model for today's youth and youth should benefit from their experiences to achieve success in life. He said that Raja Muhammad Adil is one of the most successful Pakistani businessmen in London and his success is based on the principles of hard work, dedication and honesty, so today's youth should also follow the same principles to excel in life.

Former CDA Director General Major Hassan, Iftikhar Anwar Sethi, Khalid Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry, Abbas Hashmi, Babar Chaudhry, Nagina Khaleeq and others also spoke on the occasion.

# US Pak exchange alumni call for climate change solutions

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Through the support of the United States Government, the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network (PUAN), in partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) and the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) organized a two-day national conference on "The Climate Change Emergency: Pakistan in the 21st Century and the Road to COP-28" in Islamabad from August 5 to 6, 2023. With more than two hundred attendees representing alumni from various U.S. government exchange programs, climate experts, government leaders, and activists, participants examined solutions and offered individual pledges to tackle global climate issues ahead of COP28.

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome, noted, "PUAN represents diversity of thought and experience. You represent scientists, government, academia, journalists, activists, artists, educators, and much more. You have redefined how we think about climate change, informed policy, and taken your work and ideas to the United States and back." The U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework is a transformative initiative between the United States and Pakistan to address today's most pressing environmental challenges, especially around water management, climate-smart agriculture, and renewable energy.

Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General WWF-Pakistan added, "WWF-Pakistan is proud to collaborate with PUAN and the U.S. Mission in Pakistan to host

this much needed national conference which serves as a unique platform for action-oriented discussions and engagement among key stakeholders to address the devastating impacts of climate change on Pakistan. Hopefully, the bright ideas discussed here will make their way into policies and legislation very soon which will create a positive impact on our environment and communities."

Conference panelists stressed the urgency and need for innovation and financing in the climate change space. The event included interactive working group sessions with participants and experts, formulating national and regional climate solutions. With the support of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board, participants also engaged in an outdoor activity at Trail 5 of the Mar-

galla Hills National Park, which focused on conservation and environmental rehabilitation. The event also provided a platform for local organizations and start-ups to exhibit their work in tackling climate change issues in Pakistan. The conference was fully funded by the U.S. Mission in Pakistan as a signature PUAN event and part of the U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance" framework. The U.S. government invests more than \$40 million annually on exchange programs for Pakistani citizens to visit and study in the United States. Over 1,000 Pakistanis participate each year in high school, undergraduate, graduate, and professional U.S.-sponsored exchanges. Since the alumni network began in 2008, Americans have provided more than 18,000 college scholarships for Pakistani students.

# Aggressive economic measures negatively affecting trade

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has observed that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been negatively affecting the trade and industry, many of which have closed their operations. PIAF Chairman Faheem Rehman Saigol in a joint statement along with senior vice chairman Nasrullah Mughal and vice chairman Tahir Manzoor Ch, observed that the ever-increasing cost of production in the country is the real threat to both large-scale manufacturing and small-scale businesses, as frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar are posing further challenges. They said that the government does not have any pragmatic plan to address this liability, apart from asking for more loans to repay existing debt. Likewise, the target for current financial year's exports is too low to meet the country's revenue. According to the data, the pace of growth in LSM industries is suffering because of restrictions imposed on imports that have caused a shortage of imported raw material. The steep currency devaluation has also made raw material expensive and business models unviable. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) assessed that the pace of negative growth in big industries could have been slower had the government not imposed restrictions on imports. The central bank has issued the guidelines to commercial banks about the allocation of foreign currency for import purposes. Faheem Saigol said that the LSM trend indicates that this year that the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate may remain around 1% due to the shutdown of industries and adverse impact of the devastating floods on the agriculture sector.

# Cardiologist stresses awareness drives to control 'obesity'

ISLAMABAD: A cardiologist on Sunday urged media for the largest awareness campaign to deal with a high rate of obesity among youngsters which is putting them at risk of developing early heart disease and diabetes at a younger age which will further rise in the coming years if current lifestyle trends continue.

"A number of young people aged 19 to 25 years are developing early age heart diseases, diabetes, apart from hypertension, metabolic syndrome, and many harmonic issues because of obesity", Renowned Cardiologist General Dr Azhar Mahmood Kayani said while talking to PTV news channel.

"We have to bind our schools and colleges to increase sports time and make it mandatory for children to take part in sports activities if we want to save them from being obese in the future", he added.

Parents must ensure that screen time should be cut down to less than 60 minutes per day, he said, adding, kids have become addicted to it because of the social media use in our lives.

# RDA accelerates operations against illegal constructions

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), on the directives of Director General (DG) Saif Anwar Jappa, has accelerated its ongoing operations against illegal constructions. According to RDA spokesman, the authorities concerned were regularly conducting operations and taking action against the rules violators. He informed that the a thory during an operation sealed the site of University Town Housing Scheme, KRL Hospital, an illegal under-construction building at plot number 220-A in Saidpur Housing Scheme and demolished different structures. The authority on the directives of the DG carried out operations and took action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. -DNA

## Regional connectivity vital

# Pakistan-Iran bilatera l trade reaches \$2.3billion

SAARC Chamber VP Anjum Nisar says IP gas pipeline completion to ease power crisis

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Vice President Mian Anjum Nisar has said the bilateral trade between Iran and Pakistan has reached over \$2.3 billion, expressing the resolve to increase bilateral trade to \$5 billion under a five-year trade cooperation plan and stressing the need for enhancing more cooperation in areas of economy and trade and investment between Pakistan, Iran, China and Turkey, as the regional connectivity is the only way to uplift the country. Mian Anjum Nisar, who is also BMP Chairman and FPCCI former president, was of the view that the current volumes of bilateral trade is far behind then and actual potential, asking the authorities to take serious measures to remove hurdles in this regard. He said that both Pakistan and Iran can help each other in different sectors. He said both the countries are committed to increase bilateral trade to new high levels. He called for promoting cooperation in the economy, traded and tourism under regional mechanism. He said setting up a special economic free trade region along the common

border would help to increase trade between the two countries, as there is potential to increase bilateral trade to \$10 billion in next few years. SAARC Chamber vice president believed that the completion of the IP gas pipeline project will definitely serve the national interest of the two countries, as the businessmen wanted to see this gas pipeline be completed, finalized, and operationalized as soon as possible to end up our power crisis.

It is to be noted that the Five-Year Trade Cooperation Plan between Pakistan and Iran (2023-28), which inter alia, sets a bilateral trade target of \$ 5 billion; prioritizes removing impediments on bilateral trade, finalization of the FTA, and establishment of institutional linkages between our respective private sectors; Protocol on Bilateral Economic Consultations, encompassing the rich and in-depth sectoral discussions held between the two sides; and protocol on the 3rd meeting of the Joint Investment Committee (JIC) between Pakistan and Iran, on issue of bilateral investments. He said the two sides should also find solutions to the existing banking and financial problems between the two coun-

tries within the framework of international rules and regulations. Mian Anjum Nisar called for promoting cooperation in economy, trade, and tourism under regional mechanisms, adding that the two sides should fully committed to increasing the bilateral trade to \$5 billion. It is good that the two sides have agreed to set up a special economic free trade region along the common border points. He was of the view that there is a need to activate more formats of cooperation in areas of economy, trade, and creation of jobs for the people of the two countries.

One of these regional mechanisms is the one between Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, he said, adding that another one is between China, Pakistan, and Iran when it comes to joint investment and other areas of mutual interest. He also emphasized the role of the two parliaments in advancing and enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries. We are also of the firm belief that Iran and Pakistan are like one unified country. We are two people living in two different geographies. He said that the only solution to the problems in Afghanistan lies within the framework of regional initiatives. He said that it is

the religious and humanitarian responsibility of the two countries to support the Afghan people, adding that sustainable peace and stability in Afghanistan will benefit the whole region. I am confident that the steps we are taking will chart the course for a long-term and durable economic partnership between our two countries in the months and years ahead, he expressed confidence. He added that Pakistan and Iran enjoy a complete convergence of views on all issues of mutual interest. We believe that our prosperity and development is firmly intertwined with peace and stability of our neighbourhood and the region, he said. He further stated that Pakistan espouses a vision for greater regional integration based on enhanced trade and connectivity. To this end, he added that the two sides have agreed to prioritise operationalisation of the five remaining border markets, by the end of this year. We also discussed ways and means to leverage our unique strategic location, as a conduit between South, Central and West Asia, he said, adding that they also agreed that the ECO is uniquely placed to play this role and the two countries will work with other ECO states towards achieving this goal.

# Punjab govt to provide all facilities to freelancers

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta said that Punjab government was making all-out efforts to provide more facilities to freelancers. He informed that the provincial government was setting up an Information Technology (IT) Hub in Rawalpindi to facilitate the freelancers and provide IT opportunities to the youth of the twin-cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. In a statement issued here Sunday, the DC said that 800 youth would be benefited daily in two shifts in the IT Hub. The freelancers who were doing IT related work at home would have all the facilities available at the IT Hub, he said adding, 61 percent women were involved in PITB's e-employment programs. He informed that the Board was working on several projects related to the IT industry. Punjab government is working day and night on IT and agriculture industry, he said adding that Punjab government was working on many advanced projects, particularly in agriculture sector. He informed that Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi (MCR) had signed an agreement to set up first Information Technology Hub in Rawalpindi. On the special directives of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, the administration under the supervision of Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman had accelerated efforts to set up an online freelancer IT hub in Rawalpindi. The Commissioner said that the administration was working on IT Hub project for last three months. The building for the IT hub was ready and the workplaces had also been created, he said. When the youth would get the workstation and workplace, more employment opportunities would be created, the Commissioner said. IT hub would generate foreign exchange as well as employment opportunities, the Commissioner added. -DNA

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## Briefs

## Certificates distributed among successful women bike riders

DNA

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani distributed certificates on the completion of the first training batch of Women on Wheels (WOW) in ceremony held here on Sunday. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimoor Khan was also present on the occasion. The women obtained training in motorcycle driving from the City Traffic Police's driving school. In the first batch, six women have successfully completed the motorcycle driving course.

It is good to see two lady constables among the women who got training of motorcycle driving, the CPO.

He informed that Traffic Police constable late Gulam Asghar's school was providing guidance to the aspiring women motorcyclists, ensuring they learn the basics of bike riding and traffic laws.

The objective of Women on Wheels (WOW) is to empower the women and build their confidence, he added.

He believed that women were playing crucial role in societal development, and the motorcycle driving training was another step in promoting their participation in all fields. Beside learning motorcycle driving, women can seek guidance from the Traffic Police's driving school or helpline. He remarked that women are excelling in every domain and motorcycle driving training was a great initiative to further empower them.

## PM praises LDA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday appreciated the landscaping work of Lahore Development Authority (LDA), under the supervision of Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, at Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI). On his Twitter handle, the prime minister shared his thoughts along with a combo of pictures of the entrance of PKLI. "A breathtaking view of the landscape adorning the entrance to the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI). Public places, especially hospitals, should wear a friendly look," he posted in a tweet.

The prime minister also commended DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa and the Punjab CM.

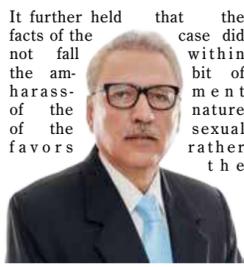
## Harassment of females

## Alvi directs withholding of promotion of 6 PTV employees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the penalty of withholding the promotion for two years upon six PTV employees who were involved in creating a hostile and offensive work environment for a female cameraman (the complainant). He also held that the complainant's termination from service was being rendered as void ab initio as disciplinary proceedings were initiated against her without following the due process, in a slipshod and clumsy manner, and rude and degrading actions were taken against her. The President gave this decision while rejecting the representations filed by PTV, Abdul Rashid, Zia-ur-Rehman, Maqbool Shah, Muhammad Munawar, and Kanwal Masood, in which the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAP) had imposed the minor penalty of withholding of promotion for two years and fine of Rs 100,000 upon Zia-ur-Rehman, Abdul Rashid, Maqbool Shah, Kanwal Masood, Saeed Ather, and Muhammad Munawar (the respondents) for issuing charge sheets, suspension orders, transfer orders and orders to ban the entry of the complainant into the premises of PTV in a slipshod manner. He, however,

set aside the penalty of fine imposed by FOSPAP, on 16.10.2017, upon the employees involved in the matter. The complainant had filed a complaint before FOSPAP alleging that she had been assaulted by two employees at PTV premises and the respondents had supported them. The charges of sexual harassment, however, could not be established against the accused, however, FOSPAP had decided to impose minor penalty upon the respondents for initiating acts which amounted to workplace harassment. Earlier, the President of Pakistan on 05.01.2018 had reversed the decision of FOSPAP as the charges of sexual harassment were not proved in the case. Later, the Supreme Court of Pakistan accepted Civil Review Petitions filed by the complainant (female cameraman) and Attorney General for Pakistan, set aside the earlier judgments of the Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court passed in the matter and remanded the representation to the President for decision afresh. The Supreme Court in its judgment, dated 06.06.2023, had interpreted the word 'harassment' by elaborating that harassment had two components, first pertained to sexual favors and the second was about creating a hostile or offensive working environment.



It further held that the facts of the case did not fall within the ambit of harassment of the nature sexual rather than the available record and the proceedings initiated against the complainant in a slipshod manner fell within the ambit of hostile or offensive working environment. Subsequently, the President held personal hearings of the case in June and July 2023, and decided the matter afresh in the light of the Supreme Court's decision. In his decision, he noted that workplace harassment was a global phenomenon, prevalent both in developed as well as developing countries, and it cut across religion, culture, race, caste, class and geographical boundaries. He added that with improved access to education and employment, millions of Pakistani women were entering in employment and many faced workplace harassment on daily basis. He emphasized that it was crucial that

in a country like Pakistan, we should strive to eliminate workplace harassment since it was an affront to the fundamental rights contained in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He said that Article 25 forbade any discrimination on the basis of sex and guaranteed equal protection of law and equality in all matters. He stated that Article 34 mandated the State to ensure full participation of women in all affairs of national life and under Article 37(c), women had been given a special status in the matters of employment and conditions of work. The President underlined that the aim and objective of promulgation of the Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2010 was to create a safe working environment for women which was free of harassment, abuse and intimidation with a view towards fulfillment of their right to work with dignity. "An environment which is free of harassment enables higher productivity and a better performance and quality of living. Harassment is one of the biggest hurdles faced by working women who want to work and contribute to get themselves and their families out of poverty", he remarked. The President maintained that the term "harassment" as defined in the Protection against Harass-

ment of Women at Workplace Act 2010 could not be examined in isolation but the other aspects of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment also needed to be examined. "Gender discrimination is a pervasive evil that potentially confronts women who enter in any job either in public or private sector. The element which poisons the workplace by creating hostile or offensive work environment even unrelated to sexual overtures is not tolerable", he said. He concluded that if an employer was engaged in a pattern of harassment which created a hostile work environment for the complainant, the cause fell under the definition of 'Harassment' as interpreted by the Supreme Court in its judgment, dated 06.06.2023, because the term used as causing interference with work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment had to be read separately and not in conjunction with sexual favors. The President, therefore, upheld the decision of FOSPAP and rejected the representation filed by the respondents. He also directed PTV to improve its harassment protocols and ensure that such situations do not arise in future. "Report on review and implementation of anti-harassment protocols be submitted. This order should be implemented by PTV within thirty days and the learned Ombudsman be informed accordingly along with report on protocols", he said.

## Pakistan, China to set up joint lab for crop pest management

DNA

ISLAMABAD: University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (IPCAAS) signed here a Letter of Intent for establishing Pakistan-China joint laboratory for crop pest management.

The two sides will kick start the operation of the joint laboratory and carry out tests, demonstrations and joint research on integrated disease control technologies for crop pests and diseases of common concern, as well as technical personnel training and personnel exchange and training, according to IP-PCAAS, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Saturday. "Pakistan suffers a lot from the pest problem. For example, the white fly is affecting cotton, citrus, guava, etc. When our fruits and vegetables are being exported to different Middle East countries, sometimes they are rejected due to the presence of these fruit flies and residues of pesticide. Out of the 1,300 molecules of the pesticides registered in Pakistan. Not a single molecule is able to control the white fly.", Prof. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Chairman, Department of Entomology of UAF told CEN. He said that Pakistan is also facing the issue of economic threshold level and economic injury level. "When we decide to manage or control any pests, we must go by pest scouting, pest monitoring, and assessment of pest population. When they exceed a certain number, we decide the pesticide application, which we help our different equipment, tools. In the last 75 years, we have an old threshold and injury level, which should be revised in days to come", he added. According to Prof. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Director, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization of UAF, this collaboration is part of Pakistan's efforts towards climate-smart agriculture. "It would be good to secure the food for the future generations. So genetic change, use of biotechnology... these are the tools which can make the food secure in both countries", he said. The collaboration with University of Faisalabad holds national significance for Pakistan. "Faisalabad is the city of textile. The presence of a special economic zone calls for augmented research to underpin its industrial development. We also have Confucius Institute that has cultivated 6,000 students who have passed different levels of Chinese language and can act as a bridge between the two sides of the cooperation.

## APBF flays frequent jump in petroleum and power prices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has rejected the frequent increase in prices of electricity, gas and petroleum products, saying the massive jump in electricity base rates and petroleum products prices would make local products uncompetitive in the international market. APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood remarked that at a time of unsatisfactory export volumes and low industrial growth, the hike in electricity base tariffs for the industry, especially for the SMEs, was really surprising. If the decision is not withdrawn, it will prove dangerous for the country's SME sector, he stressed. He said that the ever-increasing cost of production in the country is the real threat to both

large-scale manufacturing (LSM) and small-scale businesses (SMEs), as frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar are posing further challenges for the economy. APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi while describing the government's decision to increase electricity tariffs by Rs7.50 per unit as an incorrect move, urged the government to reverse the proposed increase. The government's decision to increase the electricity tariff is anti-industry, and the APBF strongly condemns the government's decision and calls on it to withdraw this move. He said that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been negatively affecting running businesses, many of which have

closed their operations. He said that with a view to deal with fiscal challenges the government will have to work on the three-way strategy by implementing short-term goals that will help to keep generating resources for smooth fiscal operations, medium-term goals where the government should focus on financial inclusion, documenting the economy by designing a system where all businesses can be registered and properly document their income including collection of sales tax, initiating the process of privatization as well as improving governance by introducing reforms in each sector. Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the increase in base rate of electricity is also part of pact signed between government and IMF, which says that the government has to notify NEPRA's de-

terminations without any delay and amendment. He stated that on July 14, 2023, the NEPRA had already approved average rebasing in tariff of Rs. 4.96 per unit across the board. The APBF President observed that the abrupt disruption of concessions committed under various industry policies has resulted in decline in industry's exports, which declined from \$18.5 billion during FY2021-22 to around \$16.6 billion during the outgoing FY2022-23. He claimed that export performance was severely set back by the drastic turn in macroeconomic conditions during 2022-23, of which the historic rise in bank lending rates; raw material and, retraction of concessional gas and electricity tariffs during the second half of the last fiscal year damaged prospects of export growth irreparably.

## Since 2019, IoK witnessed new heights of assimilation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: While highlighting the dangerous dimensions of Kashmir's forced annexation and its devastating impacts on socio-economic & political rights of Kashmiri people, speakers at a webinar hosted by Kashmir Institute of International Relations have said that since the abrogation of article 370 the region has witnessed new heights of assimilation and the erasure of its socio-political, religious and cultural identity. The webinar titled "Four years of annexation: Impacts on socio-economic and political rights of Kashmiri people" was attended and addressed by former diplomats, legal experts, rights activists and political activists hailing from both sides of the line of control including Amb. Aizaz Chaudhry the former Foreign secretary of Pakistan, Marry Scully, American philanthropist and human rights defender, Dr. Khuram Iqbal Associate Professor of Australian University, Dr. Waqas Ali Kausar, Associate prof NUML, Syed Muhammad Ali Nuclear and defence Analyst, Enes Alkan Researcher of Turkish, Prof. Arjun A Sethi, Human Rights lawyer Washington Cecilia Jessica, Robert Fantina Canadian Writer and journalist, and Amb. Abbas Ramadan. Ambassador of African human rights observatory.

The speakers discussed discriminatory policies that the government of India has been implemented in Kashmir. Furthermore the speakers emphasized on the economic marginalization of the Kashmiri people by artificially manufacturing an identity against Kashmiris in order to exploit their rights. The neo settler colonialism, political, cultural and social marginalisation of people of Kashmir etc. Referring to the fast eroding Muslim identity of Kashmir, the speakers said that in the aftermath of August 2019, Kashmiris have witnessed a gradual erosion of their political, cultural and religious identity. They said that every single step New Delhi has taken following the abrogation of article 370 has pushed Kashmir deeper into a quagmire of uncertainty, chaos, lawlessness and endless violence.

## Sab say pehlay Pakistan flag rally held at PAC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi on Sunday organized the 'Sab Say Pehlay Pakistan' flag rally in connection with the Pa-

kistan Independence Day celebrations. The rally led by Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed started from Murree Road and ended at Arts Council. The rally was accompanied by a musical band playing national an-

thems. Anjum Khabibi, Yar Muhammad Khan, Dozens of artists including Raja Abdul Sattar, Arshad Minhas, Sapna Shah, Saeed Anwar Afzal Latifi, Arshad Khan, Anjam Abbasi participated. On this occasion, artists,

ordinary citizens and students of the Arts Council also sang songs. The participants of the rally held the Pakistan flag in their hands and chanted Pakistan Zindabad. Addressing the rally, Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed congratulated the nation on the commencement of Independence Day celebrations and said that living nations celebrate their Independence Day with full enthusiasm. Waqar Ahmed further said that there is no substitute for freedom in the world and the world develops only in freedom.

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## Ex-Naval Chief meets NS founder to explore partnership

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Niaz Support, a social enterprise that provides support to persons with disabilities, and Moawin Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides quality education to children in far-flung areas, met today at the residence of former Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral M. Asif Sandila (R) to discuss ways to partner and support less privileged communities in Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Niaz Support founder Hussain Odhwani and Moawin Foundation chairman Admiral Sandila. Both organizations briefed each other on their work and its impact on transforming lives. They also discussed how they could work together to provide support to persons with disabilities in the armed forces. Admiral Sandila appreciated the efforts of Niaz Support and introducing the concept of social enterprise in Pakistan.



He said: "I am very impressed with the work that Niaz Support is doing to support persons with disabilities in Pakistan. Their work is an inspiration to us all, and I am confident that they will continue to make a difference in the lives of many people. I would be pleased to explore ways in which Moawin Foundation can partner with Niaz Support to provide even more support to persons with disabilities in Pakistan." Hussain Odhwani admired the efforts of Moawin Foundation on providing quality education to children in far-flung areas and training them to provide skills to be able to get employed. He said: "Moawin Foundation's work is a shining example of what can be achieved when people come together to make a difference." At the end of the meeting, both organizations presented tokens of remembrance to each other and assured each other of a long-term partnership for the cause.

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## Can Pakistan return to its former glory?

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

Pakistan has been facing its share of challenges on the path to progress. These have been coming in the form of regional conflicts and international diplomacy and foreign affair concerns. As the country stands at a critical juncture, the question arises: Can Pakistan reclaim its former glory? Pakistan's most valuable asset is its people. To regain its former glory, the nation must prioritize investing in education, healthcare, and skill development. By nurturing human capital, Pakistan can foster a knowledge-based economy, attracting foreign investments and expanding employment opportunities. Building an educated and skilled workforce will enhance productivity and competitiveness on the global stage. To reinvigorate the economy, Pakistan needs to implement comprehensive reforms. Streamlining the taxation system, promoting ease of doing business, and reducing bureaucratic hurdles can stimulate entrepreneurship and attract foreign investors. Infrastructural development and enhanced connectivity will create new corridors for trade, elevating Pakistan's position in the regional and global markets. Investing in research and development will drive innovation and technological advancement. Supporting startups and encouraging entrepreneurship can unleash the potential of young minds and pave the way for revolutionary ideas. Embracing renewable energy sources and modernizing industries will contribute to sustainable development, positioning Pakistan as a responsible global player. Sustainable progress requires political stability and continuity in policies. Reducing political polarization and ensuring transparent governance will instill confidence in investors and citizens alike. An efficient and accountable administration can tackle corruption, promoting trust in public institutions and fostering a conducive environment for growth. With the challenges surrounding Pakistan, the government and the people need to pursue a vision and mission in life to keep working towards the betterment of Pakistan. By empowering its people, fostering innovation, implementing economic reforms, and ensuring political stability, the nation can indeed return to its former glory and shine brighter than ever before.



## Niger putsch: regional pressure holds the key

The military putsch in Niger on 26 July, which ousted the democratically elected president Mohamed Bazoum, is a pivotal event with local, regional and global consequences. Immediately, of course, it matters most in Niger itself and to its estimated 27 million inhabitants, whose average income per capita is among the lowest in Africa. Nevertheless, in an unstable multipolar world in which geopolitics and natural resources are umbilically linked, and in which climate damage and migration are intertwined too, Niger is inescapably also a pawn on larger boards. Mr Bazoum, who was elected in 2021, had achievements to his name. The economy is growing by 6% this year. Girls' education has been promoted. Fatalities from Islamist violence have fallen. His Niger was also a key western ally in the Sahel region, providing a base for campaigns against Islamist fighters and receiving around \$2bn annually in development aid. Both France, the colonial power until 1960, and the US had more than 1,000 troops in Niger; Germany and Italy had smaller numbers. The US had a drone base near the Libyan border in the north. Even so, the trigger for the putsch seems to have been an old-fashioned palace power battle between the president and senior military leaders. Mr Bazoum had recently dismissed the army chief of staff and had forced other military chiefs into retirement. The head of his presidential guard, Gen Abdourahmane Tchiani, was reportedly next. Little surprise, perhaps, that since 26 July, Gen Tchiani has emerged at the head of the junta that overthrew his former boss. Nevertheless, the regional response may matter most. The Niger putsch was part of a dangerous and destabilising trend. In the past four years, new regimes have also been established at gunpoint in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea – more than once in some cases. Other governments in the region see their stability threatened too, as does the 15-strong Economic Community of West African States. Ecowas faces a major test. The organisation has a long record of trying to uphold democratic norms in the region. Its role is helped by the fact that it is currently chaired by Nigeria, the regional superpower. Nigeria's new president, Bola Tinubu, who was himself forced into exile by a military coup in his youth, has led the response to the putsch, saying a line must be drawn in the sand. Under Mr Tinubu, Ecowas has made itself the focus of attempts to oust the putschists. It has set this weekend as the deadline for a return to civilian rule. "Ecowas is very determined to make an example of Niger," a senior official told a Chatham House thinktank podcast this week. This tough regional response is significant. It is also the best and most effective way for the putschists to be defeated and for democracy to be restored quickly. These are urgent and desirable aims. A battle of principles is taking place in the Sahel. The putsch must be overturned. Wisely, neither the western nor the regional powers want to see a western-led intervention. But that does not mean nothing can be done. Ecowas's efforts to turn the screw on Gen Tchiani and his gang seem to be working; power cuts in Niamey show how effective they can be. Western backing for a strong Ecowas response is the wisest course on all counts.

## Imran is victim of his own standards

Waheed Hussain



Imran Khan and his lawyers have been expressing dissatisfaction over the judge, Hamayun Delawar, declaring him being totally biased against chairman PTI. Earlier former PM and his legal team had approached Islamabad High Court and Supreme Court of Pakistan against the said judge, requesting to shift the case to another court; however, the superior judiciary didn't stop the court proceeding in the Toshakhana case, directing the applicant to

Former Prime Minister and Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Imran Khan, has finally been convicted under section 174 of the Election Act. The court ordered that Khan was guilty of "corrupt practices," therefore, sentenced him to three years in prison, five years of disqualification for holding any public office and Rs 100,000.00 fine. If Khan failed to pay the amount, he would spend another six months in prison. His legal team would file an appeal against this order. Imran Khan and his lawyers have been expressing dissatisfaction over the judge, Hamayun Delawar, declaring him being totally biased against chairman PTI. Earlier former PM and his legal team had approached Islamabad High Court and Supreme Court of Pakistan against the said judge, requesting to shift the case to another court; however, the superior judiciary didn't stop the court proceeding in the Toshakhana case, directing the applicant to approach the relevant forum. Let us leave the merits and demerits of the case to the legal fraternity and superior courts to debate and issue final judgement on Khan's conviction in the Toshakhana. In the past many former prime ministers were convicted in various politically motivated cases, which later were either reversed by the appellate courts or failed to stand to the test of 'justice system.' This time again Khan, his legal team, and the PTI supporters were promoting this narrative in the media, that Toshakhana was a politically motivated case to sideline the PTI chief from any future electoral process. One thing was obvious that Khan has left many loopholes (legal technical grounds) to his financial matters related either to the party fundings or Shoukat Khanum hospital's donations, which might haunt him in the coming days providing an opportunity to his opponents to get him convicted from different courts. Apart from the legal complications that Khan has to face, the most important aspect of the issue was, the strict moral standards that PTI chief set for others before coming into power in 2018. Since 1996, throughout his political career, he always lectured the public that public office holders especially those on the top positions, should observe fairness, transparency and honesty in their day-to-day policies and decision making. They should not use or misuse official position to get any administrative or financial benefit. Here in Toshakhana, Khan, actually used his position, benefited like the previous presidents and PMs. So, people do ask the question that what was difference between him and former presidents and prime ministers who benefited from the

Toshakhana. The fundamentals of Imran Khan's so-called "Naya Pakistan" and "Tabdelee" slogans were based on his comparison with Sharif family and Asif Ali Zardari. Imran accused the two political families as the most corrupt. He called himself as Mr. clean, who always remained transparent in the financial matters. But the Khan's claim had many flaws particularly, after spending almost four years in office as prime minister. His 2014 Dharna (sit in) in front of the Parliament at D-Chook was actually against the 2013 election result, where he blamed the ruling PML (N) for massive rigging in 2013 elections. For consecutive four months PTI chairman vocally spoke about fair use of government authority, resources and public money. He presented himself the only savior of the nation. But his life was not free from the black spots as human being. The first and the foremost compromise that Khan made was, when he welcomed those politicians to his party, to whom he used to call dacoit (those who looted the tax payers' money being in governments), corrupt and incompetent. Pervez Elahi was the one to whom he blamed for massive corruption as the chief minister of Punjab during late General Pervez Musharraf regime. He accused Sheikh Rasheed as a corrupt and stated in one of his TV talk-shows that he would not appoint him even as his personal staff officer. But the same Sheikh Rasheed remained part of his cabinet for almost four years. There was huge list of the people from late Musharraf League, PML (N) and PPP that he included in his party as winning horses, to achieve the magic number of 172 in National Assembly to be elected as the prime minister. His whole idea of fairness, transparency, honesty and fair use of tax payer money were buried under his wish to become the prime minister. The lust for power in fact deviated him from his original principle of honesty and fairness. The whole Pakistan knew what was his opinion about the MQMP, but PM post changed his mind about the party as he needed them. He compromised on his own set standard. Imran Khan without holding any public office in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, illegally used the Chief Minister's helicopter between 2013-2018. The BRT Bus Project in the KPK had financial mismanagement and irregularities. When Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) initiated an investigation, Imran Khan's government went to Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) requesting to stop the inquiry. When the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa NAB started investigating the corruption cases

of the provincial government the institutions the department was shut down. Why? Was Usman Buzdar as CM Punjab nominated or elected on merit? Who asked Chairman PTI to appoint the most incompetent person as chief executive of the biggest province of Pakistan? Who was controlling CM Punjab from Bani Gala? What Imran Khan did to the petroleum crises inquiry by the FIA against Nadeem Babar who served as the PM advisor on Petroleum? Why was he allowed to travel US without the completion of the FIA inquiry? Why Imran Khan did not share the details of National Crime Agency UK settlement with Malik Riaz with the cabinet members? Why, IK accepted the Shahzad Akhber's deal with the NCA and Malik Riaz? Imran Khan was accused of misusing his authority as PM in the NCA 190 million pounds for his personal gain through the Al-Qadir Trust. The case was pending in the court. In the PTI funding case, ECP pointed out many loopholes in the financial books of the party. The party failed to justify the sources of funding and the way money was spent over the years. So, where was transparency in all those cases during Khan's government. What the Khan government did with the economy? His government added Rs. 22000 billion to country's debts. Where the money was spent? There were zero reforms, zero privatization, zero economic uplift projects in his government. Before 2018 elections, Chairman PTI claimed of having a team of 100 experts in various fields, who would turn Pakistan into a paradise. Unfortunately, except some social network programs under Ehas portfolio, the country was once again pushed to the IMF inviting massive inflation and price hike. PTI failed to run the economy and financial matters through its own team hiring the services of Dr. Hafiz Sheikh and Shaukat Tareen. In short Khan had serious governance and planning issues which ultimately effected the masses. After his removal from the power, he developed enmity against certain individuals in the army. When he was in office, he used to praise former COAS General Bajwa in every public gathering and media interaction, even gave him three years extension, while, today he accuses him of the all the failures that Khan has suffered in last 15 months. Chairman PTI did not restrict himself to the former army chief but bitterly attacked the present leadership of the institution. Imran must understand that whatever happened to him or would happen, he was solely responsible for it. As far as his cases were concerned he must be given an opportunity for fair trial to defend himself.

## PTI is finally All out...

Qamar Bashir



The government, on the back of all the State Power, planned and staged the entire arrest episode in a meticulous, clean and professional manner without leaving anything to chance. They first removed all the possible hurdles and impediments which could cause any protest and street reaction. The government used the deplorable and abhorrent act of May 9 in the most intelligent manner. The print and election media advertising campaigns were launched, which were full of patriotism

Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, is arrested today (5th August, 2023) by the Islamabad Police allegedly even before Session Court announced its order and declared him guilty of proven charges of misappropriation and unauthorized possession of official gifts received by him from the foreign dignitaries and selling them in the black market on fake and counterfeit receipts, making huge capital gains and not declaring them or their proceeds in his mandatory asset declarations before the Election Commission, National Assembly, and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). Of course, this is not the only charge that has earned him 3 years in prison and disqualified him from contesting the elections for another 5 years, with a fine of Rs. 100,000, he has over 200 more cases registered against him on a host of charges one can think of. These cases are being adjudicated in different courts of law in many parts of the country. This can give nightmares to any one even with the strong nerves to appear in each and every case personally, file defense, produce witnesses and arrange a lawyer in so many cases. Court cases are not the only ones which he had to face, but he had to appear before National Accountability Bureau, Election Commission of Pakistan and before the different JIT's. The decision in the Toshakhana case has just arrived, which most likely will open the flood gates of decisions in other high level cases, and most likely there would be so many convictions against him that he might not see the open sky and sunshine for the rest of his life. The government, on the back of all the State Power, planned and staged the entire arrest episode in a meticulous, clean and professional manner without leaving anything to chance. They first removed all the possible hurdles and impediments which could cause any protest and street reaction. The government used the deplorable and abhorrent act of May 9 in the most intelligent manner. The print and election media advertising campaigns were launched, which were full of patriotism, love for the armed forces and respect and dignity of the Shaheeds. The burned down building of Jinnah House and various gruesome images of the it being torched by the charged protesters with a commentary charged with emotions forceful denouncing all those who masterminded, abetted, aided, participated or sympathized with the Chairman or PTI were aired through all TV channels and Radio and FM stations, with an hidden and concealed threats, that if they resort to the same protests on the second arrest of the Chairman, they will receive much bigger punishment, which they had been subjected to after the May 9, mayhem. These continuous and persistent messages worked like an elixir to wean off the support for PTI chairman in the general masses. The second critical component of the government's approach was media manipulation through a carrot and stick policy. Despite the absence of any written order from PEMRA, freedom of speech and press guaranteed under Section 19 of the Constitution, and repeated statements by the information Minis-

ter that no such orders had been issued by the government, the media was unofficially ordered not to even use the name of PTI chairman in their programmes. But, off the record, the media was skillfully handled by opening up the flow of costly advertising campaigns combined with informal intimidation that none of the TV networks, even vloggers and you tubers located in Pakistan, dared to pronounce the PTI chairman's name. They willingly observed a total prohibition on the PTI chairman's utterances, boycotted his press conferences, blacked out his public appearances, and converted a media favourite into a media pariah. As a result, all TV networks became monotonous and began harping on the government's tune with no dissenting voices. The outcome was as expected. People saw that they weren't seeing the chairman as often on TV as they used to and realised that his time in politics may be coming to an end. The government's next critical target was the Supreme Court, which, according to statements and tirades of politicians and some ardent followers, was friendly and supportive of the PTI Chairman. The administration attacked the courts in four ways. First, allegations of corruption were levelled against past and present judges, putting them on the defensive. Second, a schism developed among the Supreme Court's justices. The division became so acrimonious that judges publicly accused one another of breaking the law, disregarding the constitution, and being biased, giving the government and parliament the opportunity to attack the judiciary and accuse them of deciding cases based on personal whim and liking rather than merit. A fourth assault was conducted when Maryam Nawaz led the PDM's large gathering in front of the Supreme Court, when the chief justice was warned to quit and return home. These assaults were tremendously effective in taming the combative judiciary and making it submissive to the government, as seen by their future acts, inactions, and judgements. The government was successful in dismantling the PTI from within. The PTI, which the chairman said was the sole national-level party, has been reduced to ashes. First, IPP was formed from the PTI, which was a minor party at the time of its inception but grew to become larger than the PTI itself. The PTI's heartland, PK province, was secured. Mr. Pervez Khattak and Mehmood Khan, two of his closest cronies, formed another party by absorbing practically the whole PTI MNA and PMAs, leaving the PTI high and dry in PK province, and effectively halted any impending public response to the PTI chairman's second detention. The government meticulously planned and seamlessly excited its next strategy which was to take care of those leaders of PTI who did not join the IPP or PTP-P. Government in one pretext or the other arrested almost the entire non compliant PTI leadership and put them behind bars before the second time arrest of the chairman. Those who could not be arrested went into hiding and were neutralized for all practical purposes. The next part of the strategy was to teach a good lesson to the PTI supporters who took part

in 9th May Mayhem. Thousands of workers were arrested after being identified through their pictures and videos. They were put behind bars and allegedly tortured. They and their families were forced to denounce the May 9 incident and condemn the act and its perpetrators which they did in so many words. Their recordings were widely circulated in the media which successfully created negative sentiments among the public against the PTI Chairman. The public also learned albeit bitterly, a good lesson which was, if they, or their children, family members or relatives will repeat the same mistake after the second time arrest of the PTI chairman, they would know what consequence they are going to face. Taking the lead and learning from the prior experience, the authorities totally surrounded Zaman Park. Picket lines were set up everywhere, and all visitors were barred. This stopped PTI supporters and workers from reaching the Chairman's house and averting any potential reaction to a second arrest. After putting everything in place, manipulating the media and the courts, dismantling PTI, eroding popular support, sending the leadership into hiding, and fully disarming the Chairman, it was now time for his arrest. The court's judgment was well timed and coordinated with the police. The Chairman was reportedly detained by police before the court's ruling was announced. He was taken to the airport to be transported to Islamabad by special plane, but due to bad weather conditions, they used a motorway to take him there, but Islamabad was not his final destination because there were still pockets of supporters who could have staged a protest. Furthermore, Chairman's closeness to two major centers, Islamabad and Pindi, was possibly unwise. As a result, he was hauled away to Attack Fort, Pakistan's most renowned yet safe and guarded jail. We visited Attack fort during one of our professional trainings and were surprised by its architecture, the curvy and narrow entrance with sky touching strong and thick walls, the smelly prison cells with small and narrow ventilators, so small that not even sun rays could dare to enter the cells. There, we learnt that the Mughal ruler Akbar built this fort in the 16th century. It proudly housed Mirza Ghalib, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar, and Bhagat Singh as prisoners before partition. During the war on terror, it housed Taliban and al-Qaeda militants, as well as Swat Valley captives. It has housed high-profile convicts such as Mumtaz Qadri, Salman Taseer's murderer, Ajmal Kasab, the perpetrator of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, and Masood Azhar, the head of Jaish-e-Mohammed. Above all, it has the distinction of hosting two former Prime Ministers, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, and now it has added another feather to its crown by hosting Pakistan's third former Prime Minister. I believe Pakistan's fourth Prime Minister may visit this fort while still in power and prepare a good cell for himself in case....

## Briefs

## Train crash kills 30...

FROM PAGE 01  
He said that 10 station house officers (SHO), four district superintendents of police (DSPs), and more than 100 police personnel are participating in rescue work. Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique, during a press conference, said someone could have "deliberately" caused the accident and it could also be a mechanical fault.

"First, we will provide relief and then investigate. Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah is reaching the site. Emergency has been imposed in hospitals in Sukkur," the federal minister said. Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon told reporters that at least 19 people had been confirmed dead and more than 50 injured. He said the entire machinery of the Sindh government has been dispatched to the site of the incident for relief operation and added that those who are in critical injured will be shifted to Karachi for medical treatment. All district hospitals including Sanghar and Nawabshah have been put on alert, the provincial minister added.

There were chaotic scenes at the Nawabshah Trauma Centre as ambulances and private cars ferried the injured for treatment. One man leapt from the back of an ambulance clutching a child, his clothes soaked in blood, while a woman moaned in pain as she was carried on a stretcher, according to a news agency. "We don't know what happened, we were just sitting inside," said one dazed woman.

At the accident site outside Nawabshah, dozens of cars, tractors, rickshaws and motorcycles could be seen parked on a road that runs alongside the track. Volunteers were wading through a canal that separates the road from the railway line to help, and lifting the injured to get them assistance. Some passenger compartments were upright but off the tracks, while others lay on their side, mangled steel from the undercarriage twisted and buckled.

## PPP says will have...

FROM PAGE 01  
In an interview, Shah — when asked about when he saw elections taking place — said that he initially believed that elections would take place on time in accordance with the Constitution. However, he said that he had concerns after recent statements regarding polls being held according to the 2023 census. The interview was recorded prior to the CCI's approval of results of the 2023 census. The minister noted that the Constitution clearly stated that the delimitation had to take place, a process which took four months. "So I don't see elections happening on November 12 or 13," he said. He added that the PPP would "take a stand" if there was a delay in polls.

When asked about the progress in the appointment of the caretaker premier, Shah said that it was important to follow the Constitution.

## Man City sign defender Gvardiol

LONDON: Croatia defender Josko Gvardiol has joined Premier League champions Manchester City from Bundesliga club RB Leipzig on a five-year deal, the treble winners announced on Saturday. British media said Gvardiol was signed for 90 million euros (\$99 million), making the 21-year-old the second most expensive defender in history behind Harry Maguire, who was signed for 80 million pounds (\$101.98 million) by Manchester United in 2019. Gvardiol is Pep Guardiola's second signing in this transfer window after Croatia midfielder Mateo Kovacic joined from Chelsea. City won their first Champions League title in June and also took the FA Cup to complete a rare treble. "I have always dreamed of one day playing in England and to be doing so now with Manchester City — after the season they have just had — is a real honour for me," Gvardiol said in a statement. "Anyone who saw Manchester City play last season knows they are the best team in the world." — Agencies

Asian Champions Trophy  
Pakistan-Japan settle for a thrilling 3-3 draw

It looked all over for Pakistan but Sufyan Khan equalized for Pakistan with just five minutes left to play making it 3-3.

## SPORTS DESK

CHENNAI: Pakistan continued their winless streak in the ongoing Asian Champions Trophy and drew 3-3 against Japan in an epic six-goal stunner in Chennai, India, on Sunday. The thrilling encounter was about to end in the favour of Japan but Pakistan — showing their never giving up spirit — equalized in the last minutes. Abdul Rana gave Pakistan a bright start by scoring in the 9th minute but their lead did not last long as the Japanese equalized when Seren Tanaka sent the ball into the goal. Pakistan once again got the lead in the second quarter with Mohammad Sufyan Khan sending the ball to the back of the net through the Japanese keeper's legs.

The first half ended with Pakistan leading 2-1. However, in the third quarter, Japan once again equalized with a brilliant counter-attack as Takuma Niwa ran through the ground and passed it to Kato who had the simple job of just putting the ball into the net. Japan scored



one more just before the conclusion of the third quarter with Masaki Ohashi scoring from the rebound.

It looked all over for Pakistan but Sufyan Khan equalized for Pakistan with just five minutes left to play making it 3-3. Earlier, Pakistan drew 1-1 against Korea and lost 3-1 to Malaysia. Pakistan and India have won the Asian Champions Trophy three each, which makes them the most successful teams in the event. Korea won the title in 2021 after beating Japan on penalties in the final in Dhaka, Bangladesh. All six teams will each play five matches in the round-robin stage with the top four set to qualify for the semi-finals. The last four matches will be held on August 11, with the final on the next day.

**Pakistan squad:** Muhammad Umar Bhatta (c), Akmal Hussain, Abdullah Ishtiaq Khan, Muhammad Abdullah, Muhammad Sufyan Khan, Ehtsham Aslam, Osama Bashir, Aqeel Ahmed, Arshad Liaquat, Muhammad Imad, Abdul Hanan Shahid, Zakaria Hayat, Rana Abdul Waheed Ashraf (Vice Captain), Roman, Muhammad Murtaza Yaqoob, Muhammad Shahzaib Khan, Afraz, Abdul Rahman, while the standby includes Ali Raza, Muhammad Baqir, Muhammad Nadeem Khan, Abdul Wahab, Waqar Ali, Muhammad Arsalan and Abdul Qayyum.

*Pakistan's remaining matches schedule*  
August 7 - vs China  
August 9 - vs India

## Pakistan allowed to participate in ICC World Cup 2023

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's participation in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 has now been confirmed after getting a green signal from the Government of Pakistan. "Pakistan has consistently maintained that sports should not be mixed with politics. It has, therefore, decided to send its Cricket Team to India to participate in the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup 2023," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated in a press release.

"Pakistan believes that the state of bilateral relations with India should not stand in the way of fulfilling its international sports-related obligations. "Pakistan's decision shows its constructive and responsible approach vis-vis India's intransigent attitude, as the latter had refused to send its Cricket Team to Pakistan for the Asia Cup. "Pakistan, however, has deep concerns about the security of its Cricket Team. We are

## Here is Pakistan's schedule for the ICC World Cup 2023:

October 6 - vs Netherlands in Hyderabad  
October 12 - vs Sri Lanka in Hyderabad  
October 15 - vs India in Ahmedabad  
October 20 - vs Australia in Bengaluru  
October 23 - vs Afghanistan in Chennai  
October 27 - vs South Africa in Chennai  
October 31 - vs Bangladesh in Kolkata  
November 4 - vs New Zealand Bengaluru (Day match)

conveying these concerns to the International Cricket Council and the Indian authorities. We expect that full safety and security of Pakistan Cricket Team will be ensured during its visit to India," the press release concluded.

Pakistan will kick off their World Cup campaign on October 6 against the Netherlands at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad.

November 12 - vs England in Kolkata  
The day matches will start at 10:00am Pakistan Standard Time (PST) while all other matches will be day-night fixtures and will begin at 01:30pm (PST).

If Pakistan qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Kolkata. If India qualify for the semi-finals, they will play in Mumbai unless playing against Pakistan, in which case they will play in Kolkata. The Cricket World Cup will be played in the round-robin format with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches. The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals, which will be held in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16. The semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.

## Afghanistan announce squad for Pakistan ODIs

KABUL: Afghanistan named a strong 18-member squad for the three-match ODI series against Pakistan that will be played in Sri Lanka. Noor Ahmad made a return to Afghanistan's ODI squad as they fine-tune the final combination ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in India later this year. Noor's return means that there was no room for left-arm spinner Zia Ur Rahman Akbar, who recently made his ODI debut against Bangladesh. Uncapped leg-spinner Izharulhaq Naveed, who was part of the Test squad, has been left out. Fast bowlers Mohammad Saleem Safi and Wafadar Momand, who were part of the recent ODI tour to Bangladesh, have successfully retained their spots. "Our whole concentration is to prepare the team for the upcoming two big events of Asia Cup and the World Cup 2023," ACB Chief Selector Asadullah Khan said. "This three-match ODI series against Pakistan provides us with a wonderful opportunity to prepare the team for the forthcoming two events." "The preparations for the Pakistan series are progressing well. The players have recently performed well in the Kabul Camp, which has been supervised by ACB's HPC staff. The team will also undergo a week-long conditioning camp prior to the Pakistan series." — Agencies

## Celtic mark Rodgers' return with win

GLASGOW: Champions Celtic marked Brendan Rodgers' return as manager with a 4-2 victory over Ross County, while Rangers crashed to a shock 1-0 defeat at Kilmarnock in the opening weekend of the Scottish Premiership season on Saturday. Rodgers is back in charge of the Glasgow club after Ange Postecoglou's departure for Tottenham in the close season. After leaving Leicester by mutual consent prior to their relegation from the Premier League last term, Rodgers has opted to return to Scotland's dominant force rather than stay south of the border in England.

The former Liverpool boss, confirmed as Celtic manager in June, won two Scottish titles, two Scottish Cups and three Scottish League Cups in his first spell at Parkhead between 2016 and 2019. With Postecoglou having led Celtic to the domestic treble last season, Rodgers will be expected to maintain the Hoops' dominance, while also looking to progress in the Champions League.

On the evidence of their comfortable start to the new season against Ross County, Rodgers' side should be capable of emulating last season's success under his predecessor. Rodgers preferred David Turnbull to Reo Hatate in his first competitive match since returning and the midfielder vindicated his faith with two first-half goals. The 24-year-old had not started a league game since November 12 last year. Kyogo Furuhashi was also on the scoresheet for Celtic, with Matt O'Riley completing the hosts' goal spree. "I spoke to him in pre-season and told him it would be a shame if you don't achieve what you can do at a club like this," Rodgers said of man of the match Turnbull. — Agencies

## Sweden knock holders USA out of World Cup



MELBOURNE: Reigning champions the USA are out of the Women's World Cup after being stunned by Sweden on penalties, including their footballing icon Megan Rapinoe on her last appearance on the world stage, before Sweden won in remarkable circumstances. USA keeper Alyssa Naeher appeared to have saved Lina

Hurtig's effort at the second attempt, having pushed the initial effort up before clawing it out. But after checking with the video assistant referee (VAR), referee Stephanie Frappart awarded the goal and sparked wild Sweden celebrations. USA manager Vlatko Andonovski was not convinced

the ball had crossed the line, despite technology confirming the goal.

"It's a tough moment," he said. "It's a moment where it's hard to go through, where you hope it didn't cross the line. I see pictures and I still can't see it now, but proves how cruel this game can be."

Sweden go through to face Japan in the quarter-finals. They were indebted to Musovic, who made 11 saves in a game where the USA looked more like the team which won the World Cup in 2015 and 2019 than the one which snuck through the group stage. But they could not score and in the shootout Rapinoe, Sophia Smith and Kelley O'Hara all missed, Rapinoe with what is her final action at a World Cup as she has announced she will retire at the end of the year. It condemns the USA to their worst performance at the tournament. They had never previously failed to make it to the semi-finals. The dreams of the USA being the first nation to win three successive World Cups is over. Their reign as undisputed queens of the global women's game is also finished.

## Delay in election will be...

FROM PAGE 01  
months as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would need additional time to conduct the delimitation exercise afresh. Under the law, if a new census is notified, the electoral authority is bound to hold polls on the basis of new data. Addressing the Senate session held with Chairman Sadiq Sanjani in the chair, Rabbani — while referring to reports about the delay in elections, urged the electoral watchdog to clear the air surrounding the date of the next general elections in the country.

He asked the ECP to clarify how much time will it take for new delimitations. Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on Saturday revealed that it would take more than five months to hold elections on the basis of the 2023 digital census.

## PTI calls for instant judicial intervention

FROM PAGE 01  
The PTI chairman under the guise of a wrong decision," the statement said. The core committee also said that they were not provided with any information regarding the PTI chief, adding that his lawyers are constantly trying to reach him. "It is important for the lawyers to access Imran Khan for legal action against the biased decision. Denying access to lawyers is tantamount to depriving the party of the right to legal action," the statement said, adding that the "fascist government should give the legal team access to Imran Khan". The committee also expressed its concerns regarding the PTI chief's health and safety, saying that there is a possibility of physical and mental violence against Khan. It further also said that the committee showed concerns about the quality and cleanliness of the food provided to the former PM. It urged to end the crackdown against the PTI leaders too.

## US calls Khan's arrest...

FROM PAGE 01  
time and again also termed Khan's claims of the US ousting his government as "baseless". The former prime minister was sent to jail for three years Saturday after a court in the capital found him guilty of graft in the Toshakhana case, a move likely to bar him from standing in elections due later this year.

Anyone convicted of a criminal offence is disqualified from contesting elections in Pakistan, and parliament is likely to be dissolved in the next two weeks before it completes its term, with a national vote to be held by later this year or early next year. "His dishonesty has been established beyond doubt," judge Humayun Dilawar wrote in the ruling seen for a case centred on gifts he received and did not properly declare while he was premier.

"He has been found guilty of corrupt practices by hiding the benefits he accrued from national exchequer willfully and intentionally." After he was taken away by police Saturday, a video statement Khan made before his arrest was posted to his X account with him calling for his supporters to protest. "My fellow Pakistanis, they will have arrested me and I'll be in jail by the time this message reaches you. I have just one request and appeal, that you are not to sit silently at home," he said.

"This is a war for justice, for your rights, for your freedom... chains don't just fall off, they have to be broken. You must continue peaceful protest until you get your rights." Khan, 70, has faced a slew of court cases on charges he says are politically motivated since being ousted in a vote of no confidence last year, and was not present when he was sentenced Saturday. The judge also fined him 100,000 rupees (around \$350). Soon after the ruling, police entered his home in Lahore and took him away. "A thief has been arrested today," government Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb told reporters.

## Youm e Istehsal Kashmir observed in Canada

## DNA

OTTAWA: Like Pakistan and elsewhere in the world, Youm e Istehsal Kashmir was observed in Canada to condemn India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to pay homage to the sacrifices of Kashmiris for their just struggle to self-determination. Speaking to participants of a photographic exhibition arranged at the Pakistan High Commission in Ottawa, High Commissioner Zaheer A. Janjua condemned the illegal, immoral and unconstitutional Indian actions of stripping the occupied Jammu & Kashmir territory of its special status four years ago in blatant violation of the international law, UN Security Council resolutions and the 4th Geneva Convention.

He said that it was an open secret that the Indian government majorities taken those unilateral actions to carry out demographic engineering in IIOJK and reduce its majority Muslim population to a minority. These nefarious de-

signs were achieved over the subsequent four years through grant of domiciles to non-Kashmiris, revision of limits of constituencies to increase Hindu vote in the State Assembly, demolition and destruction of Kashmiri properties and a general assault on their identity and culture.

The High Commissioner noted that the Indian security personnel, numbering about a million, had used the draconian Public

Safety Act and the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act to terrorise the Kashmiri population. The entire Kashmiri leadership, including Yasin Malik, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Syed Shabbir Ahmad Shah, is in jail. Torture, custodial killings, rape, pillage and destruction of properties have become order of the day. Thousands of Kashmiri women have been abducted and raped by the Indian security forces.

He also referred to Indian Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra's admission in the Upper House of Parliament on July 26, 2023, that 9,765 women and girls had gone missing in Jammu and Kashmir between 2019 and 2021. "This statement shows the nature of brutality Kashmiris continue to suffer with no end in sight," he said. Zaheer Janjua urged the international community and the

torchbearers of human rights, including countries such as Canada, to support and stand by the Kashmiris in their just struggle for realization of right to self-determination. He also called upon the Pakistani diaspora in Canada to play its role in sensitizing the Canadian public about the gravity of worsening human rights in Occupied Kashmir and the need to resolve the issue in accordance with the UN resolutions. The High Commissioner re-affirmed Pakistan's continued moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiris until they won their freedom and achieved their cherished goal of self-determination.

Earlier, a large number of Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora attended and viewed the photographic exhibition arranged at the Chancery. Documentaries showing the human rights violations and depicting the plight of the Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir were also shown on the occasion. Similar exhibitions and documentary screening were also arranged in Consulate Generals of Pakistan in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal.



## Briefs

## Senate: JUI-F's Kamran Murtaza stages symbolic walkout

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F member Kamran Murtaza on Sunday staged a symbolic walkout from Senate, in a protest of the government's handling of the census and its methodology for population counting, while also drawing attention to anomalies and the reduction of population in Balochistan. Speaking on a point of order in Senate, Murtaza claimed that the latest digital census had reduced the population of Balochistan by 6.4 million. He staged a walkout in protest, citing anomalies in the census process. In response to Kamran Murtaza, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar stated that the country's population has experienced a growth of 3.2 percent. The census results have been declared after undergoing thorough verifications. Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar asserted that the census decision was made during the tenure of the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. He emphasized that Rs 34 billion were allocated for conducting the census, urging the importance of fact-checking before making statements about it. Mian Raza Rabbani called upon the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to openly communicate and clarify the timeframe for the delimitation process.—APP

## Massive rains kill another 6 in northeastern China

BEIJING: An incessant rain spell brought by former super typhoon Doksuri claimed another six lives in northeastern China, bringing the death toll to at least 36 in less than two weeks, state media reported on Sunday. The latest casualties were reported on Saturday night, with four remain missing after heavy rains battered the city of Shulan in the Jilin province, Beijing-based Xinhua News reported. As of Saturday noon, nine reservoirs exceeding flood limits in the city maintained proper discharge. The current round of rainfall has now basically ended. Over 18,000 people have been evacuated, with 21 temporary relocation facilities established. Shulan had been experiencing continuous rainy weather since Tuesday night. Doksuri, a former super typhoon that hit mainland China late last month, has brought the most severe rains to the region since records began 140 years ago. It is the fifth typhoon to have hit China this year and tens of thousands of people have been relocated to safer places. Beijing and its surrounding regions, including Tianjin and Hebei province, were mostly affected by the typhoon.—APP

## Libya urges neighbors to cooperate for Niger's stability

TRIPOLI: Libyan Presidential Council President Mohamed al-Menfi highlighted the importance Saturday of cooperation between neighboring countries and an African bloc for regional stability, particularly in Niger. Menfi met Nigeria's Special Envoy Babagana Kingibe, who is the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in Tripoli, according to a statement from his office. Kingibe delivered a letter from Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Menfi expressed satisfaction with consultations between Libya and Nigeria to maintain stability in Niger. He cited the military takeover of the elected government in Niger is not acceptable and stressed the importance of cooperation between Libya, Algeria, Chad and ECOWAS to preserve stability in Niger and the region. The Libyan government issued a statement Aug. 2 that expressed concern about troubling developments in Niger and warned that external intervention.—DNA

## Ahsan lauds PIDE's efforts in expanding its research network

This was stated by the Honorable Minister of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal at groundbreaking ceremony of PIDE's own new building in H-8/1 Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chancellor acknowledged economic research's pivotal role in shaping nations' future worldwide. He emphasized that economic research at PIDE serves as a navigator for policy-makers, guiding them toward informed choices that align with the long-term interests of Pakistan. By fostering international cooperation and addressing global challenges, PIDE's research plays a significant role in contributing to a stable and harmonious global economy. Underlining the government's commitment to equipping Pakistan with an intellectual arsenal, the Chancellor outlined the "5 Es Strategy" focusing on increasing exports, building a knowledge economy, addressing environmental and climate change challenges, securing sustainable energy and infrastructure, and promoting equity and empowerment. PIDE's role in evidence-based research and carving better policies and strategies was highlighted as pivotal in addressing the challenges faced by the nation. The Chancellor applauded PIDE's efforts in expanding its research dissemination network through various social media platforms, webinars, and the RASTA Competitive Grants Program for Policy-Oriented Research, which has successfully created a network of over 2000 researchers and acad-



emicians. This was stated by the Honorable Minister of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal at groundbreaking ceremony of PIDE's own new building in H-8/1 Islamabad During the Ground Breaking Ceremony, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, in his address as a chief guest, emphasized the significance of PIDE as the nation's premier think tank, emphasizing that it goes beyond being just a building; it is an intellectual powerhouse and a crucible of ideas where brilliant minds converge to address the complexities

of Pakistan's economic challenges. He further underlined the institute's commitment to harnessing the power of intellect for an equitable and thriving future for the people of Pakistan. Research and innovation, the Chancellor asserted, hold the key to national progress and development. In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, research serves as a guiding compass, illuminating the path toward prosperity, sustainability, and societal advancement. By unlocking new frontiers of knowledge and catalyzing trans-

formative change, research empowers the nation to harness human ingenuity and creativity. The new PIDE building, the Chancellor declared, will provide a state-of-the-art home for the think tank's ongoing pursuit of knowledge and understanding. This smart, vertical, and environmentally friendly campus will further strengthen PIDE's tradition of excellence and its commitment to walking the talk. He concluded by expressing his best wishes for the successful completion of the construction and the future en-

deavors of PIDE. He emphasized his belief that PIDE's new home will solidify its position as the nation's leading think tank and contribute significantly to Pakistan's journey towards becoming a knowledge economy. Earlier, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, the Vice Chancellor of PIDE, extended heartfelt gratitude to the Honorable Chief Guest, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, for gracing the occasion and honoring PIDE with his esteemed presence. He remarked, "We are deeply honored to have Prof. Ahsan Iqbal as our Chief Guest today. His support and encouragement further strengthen our resolve to strive for excellence in research and academic pursuits."

During the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the new PIDE building, Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Durre Nayab, unveiled the institute's forward-looking vision for a vertical approach toward development. Dr. Nayab emphasized the institute's commitment to practicing what it preaches, opting for a vertical structure rather than sprawling horizontally across acres of land. "We believe in efficiency in all aspects of our work, and that includes the way we utilize land and energy," stated Dr. Nayab. The new PIDE building is designed to maximize land use while minimizing its environmental footprint. The vertical design aligns with the institute's dedication to environmental sustainability and responsible resource utilization. By going vertical, PIDE,

## Agri services selected to export red chillies to China

He said "Hybrid chilli seed will be provided by Peppara Seeds China along with technical support for commercial cultivation and buyback of dried chilli for export to China will be through Litong Food."

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese company Litong Food has selected Guard Agricultural Research and Services under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework for the import of red chilli cultivated in Pakistan with Chinese collaboration on buyback policy. The selection was made in the wake of a recent memorandum of understanding on the protocol of phytosanitary signed in Islamabad during a 3-day visit of Chinese Vice Pre-

mier, said CEO of Guard Agricultural Research and Services Shahzad Ali Malik. In a press statement received here Sunday, he said that the company was selected after thorough scrutiny for import of red chilli cultivated in Pakistan with Chinese collaboration on buyback policy. He said, "After successfully promoting the sowing of hybrid rice in Pakistan which brought prosperity to the farmers and enhanced the crop size, we will join hands with another Chinese food giant Litong Food to encourage the cultivation

of high-yielding hybrid chillies in Pakistan in the areas of south Punjab and interior Sindh." He said, "Both companies will sign a deal to have technical collaboration on hybrid chilli and subsequent export of chilli to China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the coming international food and agriculture expo being held in Karachi from August 10-12 where Guard is exhibiting along with Longping and Litong Food." He said "Hybrid chilli seed will be provided by Peppara Seeds China along

with technical support for commercial cultivation and buyback of dried chilli for export to China will be through Litong Food." He said, "Pakistan-China collaboration in the agricultural sector, particularly in the development of new varieties of hybrid seeds in the private sector has significant benefits for both countries." Shahzad Ali Malik said, "Hybrid chilli gives three picking per sowing and a production of 600 maunds per acre in contrast to traditional varieties which give only 200 maunds per acre.—APP"

## France demands Niger's junta end 'adventurism'

PARIS: France demanded that the military junta in Niger step back from its "adventurism," because the region's stability is at stake. Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna met Niger's Prime Minister Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou, who was in Italy for a UN meeting when the junta seized power late last month. A statement said France expressed support for efforts by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to change the course of the coup in the meeting at Niger's Embassy in Paris. The future of Niger and the stability of the region are at stake, it said. Colonna said, after the meeting, that the junta should take the ECOWAS plan for military intervention very seriously, and encouraged it to retreat to put an end to the coup. The ECOWAS bloc issued a one-week deadline last Sunday to the junta to return the country to normal and release President Mohamed Bazoum, who was democratically elected in 2021. She said it has one day to end its adventurism Colonna said France does not recognize the junta's decision to cancel military cooperation agreements with France, saying they were made with legitimate authorities. The junta in Niger late Thursday overturned several military cooperation agreements with France, putting the fate of its former colonial master's military base in the West African country up in the air. Amadou Abdramane, a spokesperson for the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country.—DNA

## Maduro blames US for plotting his assassination bid

CARACAS: Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro has again reiterated that the United States was directly involved in the 2018 drone assassination plot against him, further blaming the US-backed Colombian president at the time for being a co-conspirator. Speaking on Friday at a ceremony to mark the 86th anniversary of the establishment of the Venezuelan National Guard, which fell on the same day as the failed assassination attempt in 2018, Maduro said both the United States and Colombia were involved in the attack. Maduro pointed out that his former US counterpart, Donald Trump, spearheaded the plot to assassinate him as the order came directly from the White House. He said subsequent investigations revealed Colombia's then-president, Juan Manuel Santos, was Trump's accomplice. Santos was "the direct operator from Bogota" who had financed and planned the assassination just days before he was set to leave office, Maduro said, adding that the failed assassination attempt had been carried out by a "terrorist group" organized in Colombia.—Agencies

## Iran ready to share scientific expertise with friendly nations

TEHRAN: President Ebrahim Raisi says Iran is ready to share its scientific expertise with friendly countries, including Sri Lanka. The Iranian president made the remarks at a meeting with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry in Tehran on Sunday. Raisi said the relations of cooperation between Iran and Sri Lanka have been developing throughout the years since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The Iranian president underscored the remarkable progress the country has made in various fields, not least science and technology, despite the Western sanctions regime. Raisi also encouraged more activity on the part of the joint commission of economic cooperation between Iran and Sri Lanka. "Certain countries, including Sri Lanka, have great capacities for progress if they eliminate foreign interference by colonial powers," President Raisi said.—Agencies

## Japan marks 78th anniversary of US bombing of Hiroshima

TOKYO: Japan on Sunday marked the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by the US, which killed almost 140,000 people. The highlight of the event was the traditional Peace Declaration delivered at the ceremony in the Peace Memorial Park by Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, Tokyo-based Kyodo News reported. Hailing the Group of Seven leaders' landmark visit in May to the Japanese park and its atomic bomb museum, Matsui urged policymakers to abandon the idea that nuclear weapons deter war. The gruesome nuclear legacy took center stage at the last G-7 summit of major economies in May in Japan. "Leaders around the world must confront the reality that nuclear threats now being voiced by certain policymakers reveal the folly of nuclear deterrence theory," Matsui said, adding: "They must immediately take concrete steps to lead us from the dangerous present toward our ideal world." A moment of silence was observed at 8.15 a.m., the exact time when the uranium bomb was dropped by the US bomber Enola Gay and detonated over the city on Aug. 6, 1945, killing an estimated 140,000 people by the end of the year. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who attended the event, said: "The path to nuclear disarmament has become more perilous due to deepening international divisions and nuclear threats by Russia. "It is crucial to reinvigorate international momentum toward a world.—APP

## Israelis continue to protest judiciary regulation

TEL AVIV: Israeli protesters took to the streets again Saturday to protest the coalition government's judiciary regulation. Demonstrators, who have organized mass protests every Saturday against the far-right coalition government's judiciary regulation and conservative policies led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, were on the streets for the 31st straight week of protests. Tens of thousands attended demonstrations in Tel Aviv, West Jerusalem, Haifa, Beersheba, Herzliya and Rehovot. As usual, the most significant demonstration took place in Tel Aviv, where protesters gathered in front of the Government Complex

on Kaplan Street and made speeches criticizing the regulation. Protest leaders accused Netanyahu of attempting to undermine the rule of law and potentially causing a constitutional crisis. Demonstrators holding Israeli flags chanted slogans in support of democracy and used drums, whistles and air horns to create rhythm. Every week on Kaplan Street, a large banner with a main slogan is displayed. This week's banner featured Netanyahu's silhouette with the "100% lies" on it. Demonstrations continued despite an armed attack that occurred in Tel Aviv. Not far from the protest area on Montefiore Street, an attack resulted

in the deaths of a security officer and a Palestinian attacker. Police and protest leaders announced that despite the armed attack, protests would continue safely. In addition to Tel Aviv, protesters also gathered in front of Netanyahu's residence on Aza Street in West Jerusalem where demonstrators held a banner that read: "Because of him, everything is burning," referring to Netanyahu. Opposition leaders also participated in various parts of the country. Justice Minister Yariv Levin announced Jan. 5, that the judicial reform, which included changes such as limiting the Supreme Court's powers and giving the gov-

ernment a say in judicial appointments. Netanyahu announced March 27 he was postponing the reform, which had led to increasing mass protests and nationwide strikes, but he also said his government would put it back on the agenda after the approval of the 2023-2024 budget in late May. Following a stalemate in negotiations with the opposition, the government recently restarted the reform process. As part of the judicial reform, the government announced that a bill to abolish the Supreme Court's oversight of the government would be brought to the Knesset, or parliament.—Agencies

## Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir in Russia

DNA

MOSCOW: The ceremony to commemorate Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir was held at the Pakistan Embassy Moscow on 05 August 2023 to pay tribute to the righteous struggle of the Kashmiri people for freedom and denounce the illegal and unilateral acts of India. The event began with recitation from Holy Quran followed by National and Kashmir Anthems. A special documentary on Indian 5th August 2019 illegal action in IIOJK and repercussions was also displayed on the occasion. Special messages on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal of the President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shehbaz Sharif were read by Third Secretary Mr. Muhammad Tayyab and Third Secre-

tary Mr. Jetha Nand. The gathering was attended by the members of Pakistani

community. The participants were unanimous in reaffirming Pakistan's un-

wavering moral, political and diplomatic support to the indigenous freedom

struggle of the Kashmiri people. A photo exhibition depicting Indian atrocities

in IIOJK was also arranged which was witnessed by the participant.



## Briefs

### British-Paki mother-daughter convicted of murder

DNA

LONDON: A British-Pakistani mother and her daughter were found guilty of killing the former's lover and his friend in a car crash. Mahek Bukhari, who was famous on TikTok, was convicted by a jury along with mother Anureen Bukhari, 47, after 28 hours of deliberations on Friday. The crash unfolded last year near Leicester, killing Saqib Hussain and Hashim Ijazuddin, both 21. The trial at Leicester Crown Court shed light on the events leading up to the crash. According to police, inquiries showed Mr Hussain had been in relationship with Ms Anureen for three years. After Anureen Bukhari tried to end the affair, Mr Hussain made threats to expose the relationship to her husband and share her videos. Ms Anureen offered to pay back money which Mr Hussain had spent during the relationship and it was arranged for Mr Hussain to meet with Ms Anureen and her daughter. "...Anureen and Mahek Bukhari arrived at the arranged meet-up in the Tesco car park in Hamilton, Leicester, along with...six other defendants. The eight defendants were in two vehicles - an Audi TT and a Seat Leon. Mr Hussain then arrived at the car park in a Skoda Fabia, being driven by his friend Mr Ijazuddin," police said. They said the impact of the collision caused the Skoda to split into two and its engine to detach from the body. "Both victims died immediately from multiple injuries, prior to the fire taking hold."

### Textile industry bears brunt of economic woes

DNA

LAHORE: Lubna Babar, a worker in a textile factory, was made redundant at the beginning of the year as Pakistan's textile industry loses ground to more nimble Asian competitors. She is one of the many victims of the crisis facing the country's textile and clothing sector. Talking to a news agency, the 43-year-old from Lahore said: "When you lose your job, your life comes to a close. We've been working in factories for years... the day you get sacked, the story ends there." Pakistan's industrial manufacturing sector - like elsewhere in the world - has suffered from the slowdown in global consumption and the rise in energy costs following the outbreak of war in Ukraine. But the difficulties of the textile sector, which accounts for 60% of Pakistan's exports, are compounded by the critical state of the economy and months of political chaos.

# Cases cannot be avoided by dodging law, says Marriyum

She categorically said that the arrest of Imran Khan was not political, he could not answer any question in the trial court, and his theft and dishonesty was proved beyond any doubt, so he was arrested

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that cases cannot be avoided by dodging the law, evading the courts and attacking national institutions. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's arrest has nothing to do with politics, nor it was an act of political vendetta, she said during an exclusive interview with BBC World. "Peaceful protest is a democratic right of any political party or worker, but no protesters came out on the arrest of chairman PTI as people cannot be fooled every time, courts are there". The minister said that the legal procedures were completed in the To-sha Khana case against Chairman PTI, and on the completion of his trial, the court announced a verdict on which he was arrested. She said that Chairman PTI failed to present evidence in his defense, he was accused of abuse of power, but he could not answer questions when asked about state gifts. She said apart from this, four more cases of theft of 190 million British pounds, cipher, May 9 tragedy and foreign funding case are also in the trial courts against Imran. In response to a question, the minister said that no one can be given impunity for misuse of powers. She said that the arrest of Imran Khan has nothing to do with the elections, he was arrested on the order of the court. He said that when three-time elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was arrested, the elections of 2018 were very close, he was arrested along with his daughter and sent to jail. Marriyum said that when in



power Imran Khan jailed all political rivals during his tenure. He misused his powers, used NAB and FIA for the witch-hunt of his political opponents but the present government did not indulge in such tactics. She said that the law took its course though Imran Khan kept running away from the law, he did not answer the questions of the court and was found guilty by the trial court. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that whenever the court summoned him, the situation worsened in Zaman Park, the judicial complex was attacked, then there was also the May 9 tragedy. She said that when the court saw that dishonesty was proved beyond any doubt, it issued its verdict. The Federal Minister of Information said that one has to be

accountable for one's actions in the law, it has nothing to do with politics, Imran Khan masterminded the May 9 mayhem, instigated party workers to attack sensitive installations, attack national institutions, hospitals, schools and ambulances. She said that there were also attacks on Capitol Hill in the United States and all those who were involved in them have been punished irrespective of their status. She said that a person who has been proven guilty in court has to be arrested. In response to a question, the minister said that during the investigation process in the trial court, Imran Khan was given ample opportunities through 40 hearings but he appeared only three times and could not provide any proof in his defense.

### Trump social media post flagged by prosecutors in filing

They justified the move citing a post by Mr Trump shared on Friday, saying it targeted people involved in case

WEB DESK

FLORIDA: Prosecutors in Donald Trump's upcoming trial have asked for limits on what the ex-president can publicly say about the case, after he shared a threatening message online. In a filing late on Friday night, the prosecutors said they feared Mr Trump might disclose confidential evidence. They justified the move citing a post by Mr Trump shared on Friday, saying it targeted people involved in the case. But Mr Trump's team insisted the post was directed at political opponents. On the Truth social network Mr Trump wrote "IF YOU GO AFTER ME, I'M COMING AFTER YOU!" on Friday afternoon, just a day after he pleaded not guilty to four charges in the alleged election fraud case. The charges - which include conspiracy to defraud the US, tampering with a witness and conspiracy against the rights of citizens - stem from the former president's actions in the wake of the 2020 election, including around the 6 January Capitol riot.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif launches National Hepatitis C elimination campaign. - DNA

### Taliban warns fighters against attack outside Afghanistan

KABUL: The Afghan Taliban supreme leader has warned fighters against launching attacks outside the war-torn country, the defence minister of the Kabul government said. Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid said in a speech to members of Afghanistan's security forces, broadcast by state television on Saturday, that fighting outside Afghanistan is not religiously sanctioned "jihad" but rather war, which had been barred by Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, according to AFP. "If anyone goes outside of Afghanistan for the goal of jihad, it won't be called jihad," Akhundzada said, according to Mujahid. "If the emir prevents the mujahideen (fighters) from going to battle and they still do it, this is war, not jihad." In Islam, the Arabic term "jihad" is used to describe a wide range of religious struggles, from the private spiritual realm to taking part in combat. The statement comes days after Pakistan urged the Afghan interim government to take action against terrorists operating on its soil to stop "transnational terrorism" following a deadly suicide attack in a tribal district claiming more than 60 lives. The deadly blast took place last Sunday evening in Bajaur district's Khar, a former tribal area bordering Afghanistan, at the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) gathering, killing at least 64 people and injuring over 100. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed concerns over the "liberty of action available" to terrorists in Afghanistan, urging the Taliban-led interim govt to take action to stop "transnational terrorism". - Agencies

### Rupee to remain stable despite 'political instability'

KARACHI: As the country remains engulfed in political turmoil following the conviction of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case, analysts anticipate the rupee to remain stable against the US dollar next week, The News reported. There is, however, uncertainty among experts regarding whether the rupee will weaken against the dollar when an interim administration assumes office ahead of the polls, expected to take place this year. Throughout this week's trading, the rupee exhibited range-bound behaviour. The currency faced pressure and declined to 289.38 against the dollar on Wednesday due to increased demand from importers following the easing of import restrictions. - Agencies

### At least two killed in shipwrecks off Italy's coast

MILAN: At least two people have been killed and dozens of others were missing after two shipwrecks off the Italian island of Lampedusa. The Italian coastguard said on Sunday it had recovered two bodies and rescued 57 people following the sinkings. Around 28 people were reported lost at sea by survivors on one boat, while three were reported missing from the second after both went down in stormy weather on Saturday, said the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Both were rickety iron boats believed to have set off from Sfax in Tunisia on Thursday. One was carrying 48 people, the second 42, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. Cultural mediators with the IOM believed there were "at least 30 people missing" after speaking to the survivors, press officer Flavio Di Giacomo told the news agency. An investigation into the shipwrecks has been opened in Agrigento, on the nearby Italian island of Sicily. More than 2,000 people have arrived in Lampedusa in the last few days after being rescued at sea by Italian patrol boats and NGO groups, as strong winds further complicate the situation around the island. Agrigento's chief of police Emanuele Ricifari said the human traffickers putting migrants and refugees out to sea would have known rough seas were forecast. "Whoever allowed them, or forced them, to leave with this sea is an unscrupulous criminal lunatic," he told Italian media. - Agencies

### Firdous rejects allegations of mistreating staff

LAHORE: Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party (IPP) spokesperson Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan rejected on Sunday allegations of mistreating her domestic staff as "baseless". Awan's rebuttal comes a day after a video was widely shared on social media in which she was seen engaged in a heated argument. In the video, a man, who is not seen, is heard saying "You slapped in our presence". In response, Awan says, "I slapped because they lied." The IPP leader was also seen verbally abusing in Punjabi, threatening to call police and demanding a payment of Rs70,000. Subsequently, the media reported that she had allegedly mistreated her domestic staff. Denying the reports, Awan alleged in a social media post today that the people she was seen arguing with in the video were a "criminal group of three, who work as domestic servants and escaped after committing thefts". She claimed the the group was caught red-handed by her, and she had filed a complaint against them with police in Islamabad. "It has surfaced ... that an FIR (first information report) was registered against them on charges of theft previously as well," Awan claimed, adding that the media should take the version of the party in question before "speculating". - Agencies

### Three killed as Russia, Ukraine intensify attacks

NEWS DESK

KYIV: At least three people have been killed during a night of intense air raids and shelling as Russian and Ukrainian forces escalated their attacks following a strike by Kyiv on a Russian tanker in the Black Sea. The attacks late on Saturday came as senior officials from 40 countries - including China, India and the United States - held talks in Saudi Arabia on how to end the war in Ukraine. A final declaration is not expected from the two-day meeting. Ukrainian officials blamed Russia for the attack on a blood centre in the eastern town of Kupiansk late on Saturday, while Moscow-installed officials accused Kyiv of a deadly shelling attack on the Russian-controlled Donetsk region. Two people were killed and four more were wounded in the attack on Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region, said the head of the local regional military administration, Oleh Synyehubov. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russian forces used a "guided aerial bomb" and described the attack as a "war crime". A woman in her eighties was also killed by Ukrainian shelling in Russian-held Donetsk in eastern Ukraine, the city's Moscow-appointed mayor Alexei Kulezmin said. The attack also set a university building in the area ablaze, according to the Mos-

cow-installed governor of Donetsk. Russia's emergency situations ministry said that the blaze caused the building's roof to collapse, but that there were no casualties. The attacks were the latest in a day that had seen Moscow's forces hit a Ukrainian aeronautics facility and Kyiv's forces damage a Russian tanker in the Black Sea. The aeronautics facility belonged to Motor Sich, a maker of plane and helicopter engines as well as other components. The site is located near the city of Khmelnytskyi in western Ukraine, about 300km (186 miles) southwest of Kyiv. Russia said its forces had struck military airbases in the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne regions and that "all targets were hit". The damaged Russian tanker was a "civilian" vessel, according to officials in Moscow, who denounced Kyiv's "terrorist attack" and pledged retaliation. Ukrainian officials, however, told the AFP news agency that the SIG tanker was transporting fuel to Russian forces fighting in their country. The attack briefly halted traffic on the Kerch Bridge which connects the Crimean Peninsula to Russia, as well as ferry transport. It was the second such raid in 24 hours. Ukraine had struck the Russian port of Novorossiysk earlier on Friday. In Saudi Arabia's Jeddah, a two-day summit on finding a peaceful settlement to the war kicked off without Russia's participation, though the Kremlin has said it will keep an eye on the discussions.

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