



Islamabad POST

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CPEC an important milestone in China-Pakistan relations

Detailed News On Page-08

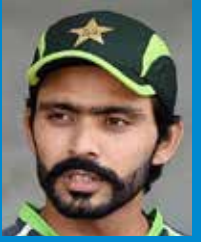
Greece hopeful to boost ties with Turkiye

Detailed News On Page-07



Fawad Alam bids farewell to Pak cricket

Detailed News On Page-06



'National duty to respect martyrs'

PM pays tribute to Army martyrs

PM Shehbaz Sharif pays farewell visit to GHQ; distributes cheques among families of martyrs

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday appreciated the role of armed forces in protecting the integrity of Pakistan and robustly fighting the menace of terrorism across the country. In a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the premier visit the General Headquarters (GHQ) on his farewell visit – a day before the dissolution of the National Assembly. PM Shehbaz was received by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir. During his visit, the premier met the principal staff officers (PSOs) and was also presented with the Guard of Honour and laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada.

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PM to write to president for NA dissolution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that he will send the summary for the dissolution of the National Assembly today (Wednesday) to President Arif Alvi. "After completing our [coalition govt's] tenure, I will write to the president of Pakistan to dissolve the assembly," the premier said while addressing a ceremony in Islamabad on Tuesday. He said the caretaker setup will take the reins of the government. The current National Assembly's

tenure will end on August 12 and if it completes its stipulated time then elections are supposed to take place within 60 days. However, the Constitution states that the polls must be held within 90 days if the assembly is dissolved before the completion of its tenure. But, after the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in its meeting last week approved the census 2023, the general elections scheduled for November are likely to be delayed till next year as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief along with the senior civil and military leadership, pay tribute to Martyrs. – DNA

ASEAN DAY CELEBRATED



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan along with Heads of Missions of the ASEAN countries cutting cake to celebrate the 56th Anniversary of the ASEAN Day Celebration. Malaysia is currently holding the Chairmanship of ASEAN Committee in Islamabad. – DNA

ASEAN values ties with Pak: HC Mazlan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan Mohammad Azhar Mazlan has said ASEAN values its relations with Pakistan adding he was confident that this partnership would spur deeper engagements and interactions between ASEAN AND Pakistan in meaningful cooperation across three pillars of ASEAN namely ASEAN political security community, the ASEAN economic community and the ASEAN socio cultural community. The High Commissioner made these remarks on the occasion of the ASEAN Day celebrations jointly hosted by the ASEAN member states. Malaysia is the Chairman of the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI).

Continued on Page 06

Ties with ASEAN excellent: FS Majeed

Pakistan's ties with ASEAN countries on right trajectory

Bilawal says ASEAN is today a central pillar of regional architecture

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has congratulated ASEAN countries on ASEAN day. In his message, he said, "On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, I congratulate ASEAN members on the 56th ASEAN Day. ASEAN was born on 8 August 1967 as a unique platform for regional cooperation in Southeast Asia. Premised on the core principles of cooperation, amity and non-interference, ASEAN has matured over the last 56 years as a leading organization for peace and development in the region. The "ASEAN way" of diplomatic engagement provides a blueprint for regional peace and cooperation. ASEAN is today a

central pillar of regional architecture. Pakistan shares ASEAN's vision of amity and cooperation with countries in Asia-Pacific. We believe that an integrated Asia promises a prosperous future for all. Pakistan has, therefore, endeavoured to develop partnerships all across Asia particularly with ASEAN countries. Pakistan's relations with ASEAN countries have continued to grow both bilaterally and in the multilateral context, with great potential for enhanced cooperation in the areas of trade, tourism, agriculture, information technology, and maritime cooperation. Pakistan desires a strong and successful Southeast Asia, which is critical for the stability and

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

'Khan arrest does not warrant response'

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States said Monday it responds to "obviously unfounded" cases and PTI Chairman Imran Khan's arrest in the Toshakhana case was not one of them. The comment came during US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller's press briefing in Washington, where he was asked a slew of questions regarding the PTI chief's arrest. "We believe that is an internal matter for Pakistan, and we continue to call for the respect of democratic principles, human rights, and rule of law in Pakistan, as we do around the world," he said in response to a question.

Leader of Ummah kept in death cell

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: PTI senior leader and legal wizard Babar Awan made a shocking revelation that a leader of Muslim Ummah and PTI Chairman Imran Khan was being kept in an untidy death cell measuring 8x8 in a terrible condition. PTI senior leader said that a little while ago, the legal team met the former prime minister Imran in Attock Jail who narrated that what was being portrayed was disinformation and courteous lie because the ground situation spoke otherwise.

Conviction in Toshakhana case ECP disqualifies Imran Khan for five years

Also de-notified Khan as "returned candidate" from NA-45 Kurram-I

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Following his conviction in the Toshakhana case, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday disqualified former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan for five years. In a notification, the electoral watchdog stated that the PTI chief was disqualified after being found guilty of corrupt practices under Section 167 of the Elections Act, 2017 and his sentencing for three years. "As a consequence, Mr Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi

Continued on Page 06

PTI makes Imran Khan lifetime party Chairman

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Core Committee unanimously passed a resolution making founder of the party Imran Khan as a lifetime Chairman of the PTI. The crucial meeting of the PTI Core Committee was held wherein the participants were given detail briefing on the

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Pakistan stocks drop steeply

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday witnessed a steep decline after the benchmark KSE-100 fell by nearly 1,000 points as it went through a correction since jumping past the 49,000 mark. The market closed the day on a negative note as it shed 956.43 points or 1.98% to settle at 47,429.82 points. According to a report by Arif Habib Limited, the 48,000 mark proved to be pivotal and trade below saw downside momentum accelerate.

'Occupied Palestinian Territories' Palestine welcomes Australian decision

DNA

RAMALLAH : The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State of Palestine welcomes the Australian position announced on Tuesday, by Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong affirming that the Australian government will adopt the term 'Occupied Palestinian Territories', clarifying that "the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza were occupied by Israel following the 1967 and that the occupation continues", in addition to strengthening the Australian government's opposition to Israeli settlements "by affirming that they are illegal under

Continued on Page 06

The national elections and the way forward

COMMENT

ANSAR M BHATTI

THE current administration is poised to step down today, following the Prime Minister's declaration of the National Assembly's dissolution on August 9. This action sets the stage for scheduled elections slated for November later this year. However, an unexpected twist occurred as the Prime Minister personally advocated for the elections to align with the forthcoming census results. This stance implies a potential postponement of the elections by up to four months or so. In this case, the national elections should take somewhere in February next year. Interestingly, it is still not clear whether the elections would take place as per the wishes of the politicians. The only factor that may contribute towards holding of elections on time appears to be the Senate elections in March next year. It is evident that political parties will earnestly endeavor to orchestrate elections well in advance of this pivotal date. Their motivation lies in the strategic

advantage gained by positioning themselves for a potential ascendancy in the Upper House of the Parliament. The outgoing Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in his address in the National Assembly on August 7, 2023 expressed doubts about timely holding of the elections. In other words, he did not see a bright future for the allies ruling the country at the moment, in terms of their relations with the powers-that-be. Similar doubts have also been expressed by the other coalition partners. Most of them are of the view the sole purpose of bringing them to power was to get rid of Imran Khan and cut the PTI to size. Since the objective has successfully been achieved therefore they may not anymore relevant for those who brought them into power. Pakistan's politics is the name of surprises and upheavals. Today's enemies can be tomorrow's friends. Pakistan's political narrative is characterized by its propensity for surprises and transformative alliances. The PML-N and PPP's reconciliation and the re-emergence of PTI are both vital elements in this narrative. By recognizing the intricacies of these developments, the way should be paved for a more inclusive and dynamic political landscape, where all stakeholders can contribute to the nation's progress.

By and large the caretakers are picked up well before the end of the term of the sitting government however it is taking long simply because this time the caretakers are likely to be given and extended mandate, which to some, may span over two years if the hurdle of the Senate elections is tackled amicably. Why the caretakers for a longer period? There is a perception even among the powerful circles that the immediate elections would bring the same set of politicians' back, which means further instability and economic downturn. The PML-N appears to be the front-runner when it comes to formation of the next government albeit the party may not be allowed to get simple majority. The PML N supreme Nawaz Sharif was to return to Pakistan last month when he traveled all the way from UK to Saudi Arabia however the deal he was offered was not acceptable to him so he preferred to return to the UK. Sources close to that development say the PML-N was offered government but with limited seats. The party instead wanted to have majority so that it could form the government without forging alliances with other parties. This demand was not acceded to, the sources claim. The future of PTI depends upon the future relations between the PML -N and

the Establishment. If things do not go well then PTI may be an option, sans Imran Khan. Even if things go well, PTI may be retained as the potential opposition party with a view to keep the sitting government in its toes. PTI ostensibly enjoys huge public support therefore it needs to be given equal opportunity of contesting the elections in a free manner. When reflecting upon the eighteen months of this coalition government, it becomes abundantly clear that it operated without a cohesive sense of governance, authority, or direction. The underlying issue was readily apparent: an excess of leaders vying for control within the same administration, inevitably resulting in a lack of clear purpose and consistency. During this period, the government seemed to function without a unified vision, causing its actions and decisions to appear disjointed and haphazard. The absence of a singular direction created an environment where various agendas clashed, leading to confusion and indecision. The imagery of too many captains aboard a single ship vividly encapsulates the root cause of this turmoil. With multiple individuals attempting to steer the vessel, each with their own ideas and priorities, the resulting lack of coordination naturally led to a sense of wandering off course. Given these circumstances,

it is increasingly unlikely that either of the major political parties, namely PML-N or PPP, will pursue a coalition government in the foreseeable future. This likelihood is particularly diminished for the PML-N, as its leadership holds the belief that the period of PPP's governance characterized by poor decision-making and ineffective administration has cast a shadow over their own 'accomplishments'. Pakistan faces a pressing challenge where individual agendas consistently overshadow the broader national interests, resulting in a landscape burdened by multifaceted crises. What's urgently required is a transformative figure who possesses the ability to rise above personal motivations and wholeheartedly prioritize the well-being of the nation. The pertinent query that emerges is whether such an individual can be found within the ranks of the existing political parties. Regrettably, the answer appears to be in the negative. However, it also remains a fact that change takes time and requires a collective effort. While finding a single individual who perfectly embodies these qualities may be challenging, building a culture that promotes national interests over personal interests can lead to a more prosperous and harmonious Pakistan.

SECP, FIA to collaborate for a secure digital financial system

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Akif Saeed, and the Additional Director General, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Ahmed Ishaque Jehangir, held a meeting at SECP's head office to foster effective collaboration and identify areas of shared interest between the two entities.

Senior officials from both organizations were present, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. The SECP and the FIA have agreed to formalize their collaboration to protect Pakistan's digital financial system from cybercrime and fraud threats through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The meeting witnessed constructive discussions and deliberations on several key areas of mutual interest. For illegal deposit-taking and illegal lending Apps, it was agreed to appoint focal persons and establish a quick communication channel, as well as regular sharing of information on matters under investigation at respective institutions.—DNA

British High Commission security delegation visits PSCA

LAHORE: A senior security delegation of British High Commission led by Regional Security Manager Mr. Michael Kitchens visited Punjab Safe Cities Authority headquarters, here on Tuesday. Managing Director Safe Cities Authority Muhammad Kamran Khan gave a detailed briefing to the 8-member British delegation about the security arrangements in the provincial capital and the working of the organization. The British delegation was also given a visit to various sections of Safe City project from where they reviewed the monitoring process in the city and live calls on 15 emergency center. The delegation was informed about the advance traffic management system, electronic ticketing and public awareness campaign from the media center.

NHA contradicts baseless allegations on social media

ISLAMABAD: National Highway Authority (NHA) on Wednesday contradicted a baseless and unjustified allegation on various social media handles, stating that the authority had incurred expenditure amounting to Rs. 650 million on the temporary diversion of Pinjra Bridge on National Highway N-65, Balochistan. In a statement, the NHA said that this absolutely baseless allegation was tarnishing the image of the department. During monsoon 2022, Balochistan received unprecedented 450 per cent rainfall higher than the national 30-year average, resulting into hill torrents, flash floods and inundations in several districts in North-East Balochistan.—APP

Ethiopia, Pak discuss coop in health sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and Islamic Republic of Pakistan have explored different avenues to strengthen cooperation in the health care sector especially

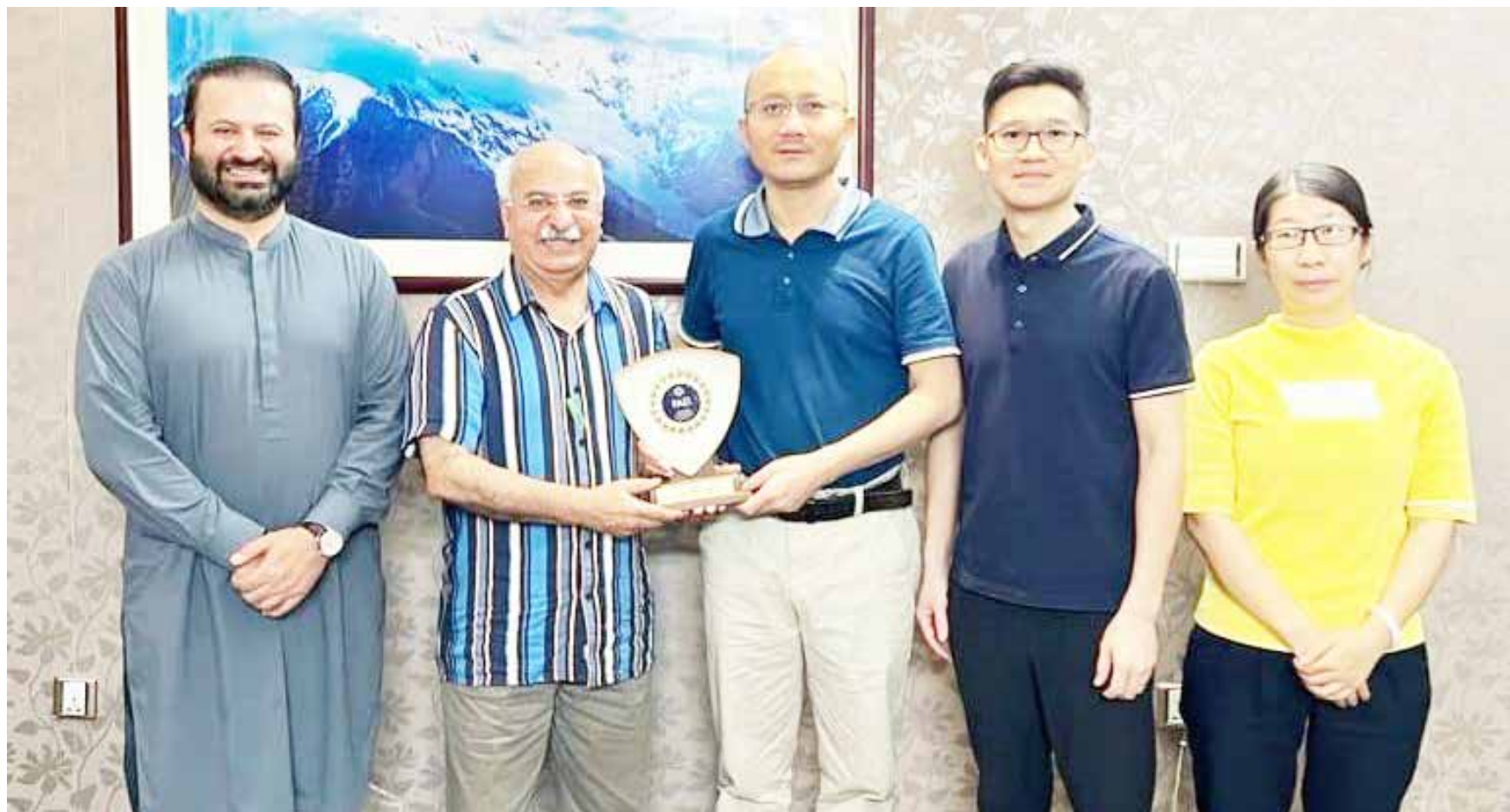
through academic and research collaboration. To this end, a 6-member delegation from the FDRE along with H.E. Jamal Beker Abdula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of FDRE to Islamic Republic of Pakistan, was called on senior officers of the Ministry

of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, its attached departments and public sector universities.

The delegation, led by H.E. Dr. Abdulahi Hussein, Vice President of Jigjiga University of FDRE, paid a visit to the Ministry of National Health Services and met with Di-

rector General Health Dr. Baseer Achakzai to discuss cooperation.

On the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Jamal Beker stressed on establishing institutional linkages in health care sector between the two countries. The ambassador along with the delegation briefed the Director General about health care and medical training systems in the FDRE. Both sides agreed to work out memorandums of understanding to strengthen the cooperation of the two countries in the health sector. The delegation also visited the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences and had comprehensive discussion on cooperation in the medical sector. The delegation was called on the Executive Director of PIMS where they received a detailed briefing on the functioning of the institute. The health experts from the FDRE also paid visit to College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, and Al-Marouf Hospital Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Li Ping Director Overseas Representative Office of Yunnan, China, Commerce in Pakistan giving shield to Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Mohammad Khurshid Barlas.—DNA

Chairman PAEI meets Li Ping

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Mohammad Khurshid Barlas met with Mr. Li Ping Director Overseas Representative Office of Yunnan, China, Commerce in Pakistan at his office. Both exchanges their views regarding Investment Opportunities in Pakistan. Mr. Barlas has extended the invitation to Chinese companies for participating at upcoming 3rd Edition of "Pakistan International Housing & Construction Exhibition" in November 2023 at Pak China Friendship Centre, Islamabad. Chairman PAEI Mr. Khurshid Barlas has offered an allocated pavilion for the Chinese Companies to Mr. Li Ping. Mr. Barlas emphasised that this step of International Pavilion at Expo shall boost Direct Investment & Bi-Lateral trade opportunities for Pakistan. Mr. Li Ping has confirmed he shall participate in 3rd Edition of "Pakistan International Housing & Construction Exhibition" in Islamabad.

Construction work of Shadman drain underway

KARACHI: Mayor Karachi barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said that the construction work of Shadman drain at the cost of Rs 85 million is going and after the completion problems during rains in Shadman area will be solved. He said this while inspecting the construction works of Shadman Nala in Central District. On this occasion, Secretary General of People's Party Dil Muhammad, Project Director Mega Projects and other officers were also present. He said that rain drains and adjacent roads are being made safe for the citizens under the Karachi Mega Project.—APP

President stresses youth to benefit from technology advancement

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed the youth to benefit from the technology advancement and offer their services globally to increase technology exports of the country. "We have a youth bulge in our country and that youth bulge must be linked intellectually with the rest of the world. If it is not done, we will miss a great opportunity available to our country," President Alvi said in his video message to a virtual inauguration of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA) Digital Academy. ICMA launched the Digital

Academy in partnership with the London-based The FinTech Group (TFG). According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, ICMA Digital Academy is incorporated in the UK with a mission to develop the job-ready workforce of the future in Pakistan with globally in-demand digital skills. President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi highlighted the importance of the ICMA Digital Academy's plans to help the youth bulge in the country offer their services globally. He reminded the audience that young adults are very keen on learning new technologies and on

interacting with global customers in a professional manner. President Alvi described the strategic shift taking place around us in terms of the new jobs of the future and the way many of these services will be rendered in future. Pointing to the increased acceptability of remote work in many of the jobs of the future, the President indicated that this provides a tremendous opportunity to the talented young adults of Pakistan to interact virtually with the users of their services without any geographical limitations. This takes

away the need for any visas or immigration to new countries as a pre-condition for offering services globally. The President reminded the country about the speed of change taking place around the world and the need for Pakistan to get on the train faster. In this context, he congratulated ICMA for its timely launch of the ICMA Digital Academy. President Alvi said that ICMA has been active in developing professionals in management accounting to serve the needs of the country for a very long

time. But in tomorrow's world it will be possible for accountants to expand their reach well beyond Pakistan and start serving the needs of users globally, thereby increasing the country's digital exports and enhancing economic prosperity. The President expressed his good wishes to the learners who would take courses from ICMA Digital Academy to get them ready for the jobs of the future and to prepare them to offer their services globally without geographical limitations. This will result in an environment where our people will find employment

and our country will find increased digital exports to reduce the untenable reliance on industrial & agricultural exports. The panelists in this live webinar included representatives from some of the country's leading institutions with interest in developing and deploying digital & emerging technologies skills. Among others, these institutions included P@SHA, Pakistan IT Industry Association, Pakistan Stock Exchange, National Institute of Banking & Finance, Pakistan Freelancers Association, Pakistan Software Export Board, and Big 4 accounting firms.

Baloch highlights science ministry's performance, says remarkable growth achieved

The ministry has also finalized the minimum energy performance standards for electric appliances used for domestic purposes which would be forwarded to the manufacturers for achieving the purpose of energy efficiency.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch Tuesday said that the coalition government has achieved remarkable milestones in the science and technology sector during the last 15 months. Addressing a presser along with the senior officials of departments working under the Ministry of Science and Technology, the federal minister highlighted that the institutions of the country were on the verge of destruction and the country was heading towards default due to the ineffective policies of the previous government. However, the way Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has lifted this country out of the economic crisis despite the financial hardships and put it on the path of progress and prosperity reflects his dynamic vision. Unlike the previous government, the present coalition government has focused on development in Balochistan province at par with other provinces which is worth appreciating, the minister said. "Establishment of National University of Science and Technology Khuzdar Campus, COMSATS Quetta and Gwadar campuses, Expansion of Pakistan Halal Authority offices to Quetta and Gwadar, Establishment of Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority offices in Taftan, Chaman and Gwadar for boosting trade activities to generate revenues and appointment of Science Counsellor in Beijing to represent Pakistan and engage in scientific cooperation were few of the landmarks achieved during the period", the minister stated. Highlighting other achievements, Agha Hassan Baloch said that his ministry has appointed a Science Counsellor in Beijing to represent Pakistan in Beijing and explore avenues of scientific cooperation. Through the Pakistan Engineering Council, a program of 2000 scholarships had been launched for engineers while the ministry is also taking steps for the merger of the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIIR) and Pakistan Council of Renewable Emerging Technologies (PCRET). The federal minister stated that the coalition government, with the support of all major political parties, has strived for the larger interest of the country, ending the anarchy He appreciated the way Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took a keen interest in resolving the issues of the people of Balochistan and hoped that the new government will also focus on the uplift of this province which was neglected in the past. The minister also highlighted that the service rules of various departments have been formulated while the children of the employees have also been accommodated in jobs on merit. Managing Director, of NEECA, Dr Sardar Moazzam highlighted that the first ever National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy (NEEC), NEEC Action Plan and Energy Conservation Codes have been introduced under the leadership of the federal minister and Prime Minister.—DNA

Save Trees, Save Environment Save Trees, Save Environment Save Trees, Save Environment

Government of Pakistan

Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF FIRMS

Ministry of Climate Change, LG & RD Building, 4th Floor, Sector G-5-2, Islamabad invites sealed technical bids from the companies/firms which have established their state-of-the-art workshops in Islamabad/Rawalpindi with dexterous manpower, for purchase/repair/maintenance in the following sectors during the financial year 2023-24.

S. No.	Object Code	Object Classification
1	A-03901	Stationery
2	A-03970	Others
3	A-03955	Computer Stationery
4	A-03919	Payment to other for Service Rendered
5	A-09601	Purchase of Machinery/equipments
6	A-03990	Light Refreshment
7	A-13001	Repair of Transport
8	A-13201	Repair Furniture/fixture
9	A-13101	Repair of Machinery/equipments
10	A-13702	Repair of Software
11	A-09701	Purchase of Furniture/fixture
12	A-03905	Newspaper/Books
13	A-09203	Purchase of I.T Equipment
14	A-13701	Repair of Hardware
15	A-13703	Repair of I.T Equipments
16	A-03902	Printing Charges
17	A-03903	Conference/Seminars
18	A-03907	Publicity/advertisement

- The interested firms/companies/workshops should submit their profile for pre-qualification latest by **28th August, 2023 till 11:30 AM.**
- The interested firms may obtain terms and conditions from the undersigned's office.
- All the sealed profile/technical bids for pre-qualification will be opened in this Ministry in the presence of representatives of the participating firms on **28th August, 2023 at 12:00 PM.**
- Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination has the right to accept or reject any or all bids prior to acceptance as per PPRAs Rules 2004.

(NAVEED AHMED ABBASI) PID (I) No. 869/23
Section Officer (General)
Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination
4th Floor, Room. No. 423,
LG&RD Complex Building, G/5/2, Islamabad
Ph.No. 9245805

Save Trees, Save Environment Save Trees, Save Environment Save Trees, Save Environment



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
Emergency Ambulance.1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations
Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway 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

PM launches health program for media persons, artists

PM Shehbaz said for the first time in the history of the country, the government had launched such a facility for the journalists and media workers who work in difficult situations



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing health insurance cards among the working journalists, media workers, artists & technical resource workers. The Principle Informaition Officer (PIO) Mobashar Hasan is also present on the occasion.—DNA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday launched the Prime Minister's Health Program for Journalists, Media workers, Artists & Technical resources; and Pakistan Code, a digital repository of federal laws mobile app and website. Under the health insurance card program, journalists, media workers,

artists and technical resources will be able to get world-class health facilities free of charge in 1200 hospitals across the country with annual corporate health insurance worth Rs 1.5 million. Likewise, with the Pakistan Code website and mobile app, judges, lawyers, legal experts, law students, government officials, and the general public will be easily able to access all types of federal laws. Addressing the ceremony, PM

Shehbaz said for the first time in the history of the country, the government had launched such a facility for the journalists and media workers who work in difficult situations. He congratulated Minister for Information Marriyam Aurangzeb and her team for their work to finalize this program. He also felicitated Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarrar for his efforts in launching the mobile app and website. Shehbaz

also announced to establish a special fund for journalists and media workers under which a Rs 4 million compensation amount would be paid to the families of the journalists and media workers who died in line with their duties. He said this amount would be increased gradually. The prime minister said ever since he took over the charge in April 2022, he faced immense criticism from journalists. However,

he did not complain of any such criticism as he believed in the freedom of media. He said the criticism should be constructive and based on facts. Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as an opposition leader of providing maximum facilities to the journalists and media workers had been implemented.

ICCI and CDA to join hands for tree plantation drive

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CDA Member Environment Capt. (Retd) Anwar ul Haq visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) along with Director General Environment Ms. Xenia Hamayun Sanik and Director Environment Akhtar Rasool and said that ICCI should join hands with CDA to promote the tree plantation drive in the Capital as the support of the business community is very important in making this drive successful. He said that the CDA is ready to give a piece of land to ICCI for tree plantation so that the business community can plant maximum saplings there and also take responsibility for their maintenance and upkeep. He said that CDA will identify the species of plants while the business community can also select the species in consultation with CDA. He said that

filtration plants and wash-rooms are ready in many sectors and CDA is ready to hand over these facilities to the concerned market associations if they take the responsibility of their maintenance and operation with own resources. He said that the CDA is also ready to allow ICCI to display its digital logo on the Zero Point Bridge and maintain it with its own resources. He said that allergy-causing trees like paper mulberry are being eliminated in Islamabad to save people from allergies. He also started a plantation drive by planting a sapling in the Chamber. Expressing his thoughts on this occasion, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari said that the chamber had earlier planted thousands of saplings in Islamabad under the Go Green campaign in collaboration with CDA and

the chamber This year, with the support of the business community, the plantation campaign in the markets will be carried out in an effective manner to promote a healthy environment by making Islamabad greener and greener. He said that along with planting new trees, a strategy should be made for proper maintenance of old trees so that they can be kept safe. He said that the CDA should organize entrance and exit gates in the markets with the help of the Chamber, which will increase the beauty of the city. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd) Abdul Qayyum Khan appreciated the efforts of CDA to carry forward the plantation drive. He said that the keen interest of the business community in making the plantation campaign successful in collaboration with CDA for the promotion of a healthy environment is commendable.

He also informed the participants about his efforts for the plantation drive in Chakwal. Ms. Xenia Hamayun Sanik, DG Environment CDA said that the civic body wants to promote tree plantation drive in collaboration with the business community as their support is crucial for its success. Engr. Azharul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that the old trees should be tagged to show their age and special measures should be taken for their preservation to prolong their life span. Zafar Bakhtavari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG, said that only 10 to 15% saplings grow into trees, so special attention should be paid to their proper care. He urged the Office Bearers of Market Associations to fully cooperate with the CDA in the plantation drive to make the city of Islamabad cleaner and greener.

'National Growth Center' to augment economic prosperity

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday launched the National Growth Center (NGC) aimed at putting the country on a steady path of economic development, innovation and prosperity. Addressing the launching ceremony here, he highlighted the importance of fostering an environment of sustainable development, creating jobs, empowering communities, and stimulating economic diversification. "Our goal is nothing short of positioning Pakistan as a hub of innovation and progress on the global stage. The main NGC center would be based at the Planning Ministry while such facilities would be operating in various universities of the country. He said the NGC was not merely a physical space but a symbol of commitment to the future, a testament to an unwavering belief in the potential of people and national resources. "We envision these growth centers as catalysts for holistic growth where industry, academia, and government collaborate seamlessly, groundbreaking research meets practical application, and local communities flourish alongside the national economic expansion." In the pursuit of this vision, the minister said, the government would lay the foundation for a thriving ecosystem by focusing on several critical areas including infrastructure development, education research, industry and entrepreneurship, sustainability and green initiatives besides local community empowerment. Elaborating, Ahsan Iqbal said modern infrastructure was the backbone of any thriving economy.

Sanaulah deposit gifts in Tosha Khana

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaulah has deposited the valuable gifts in Tosha Khana which were received during the visit to Iraq. The Minister and the delegation accompanying him deposited the valuable gifts received during the visit, said a statement issued here. The gifts included five valuable pistols and a mobile phone.—APP

Meeting held to review progress relating to outsourcing of airports

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to oversee and guide the progress of work related to outsourcing of airports' operations. Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation, Chief Executive Officer Public Partnership Authority, Director General Pakistan Civil Association Authority, International Finance Corporation team and other government officials attended the meeting, said a press release. The committee was briefed about the latest status of outsourcing of Islamabad Airport transaction for advertisement has been published in all leading local and international newspapers. Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar appreciated the efforts and contribution of all the members of the Committee which have made the plan of outsourcing possible in order to bring the best international aviation practices and services at Pakistani airports.—APP

ECP unveils schedule for reserved LG seat polls

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has released the election schedule for reserved seats in Union Council No. 31 of the Hub district, Balochistan, directing elected members of Union Council 31 to elect representatives for reserved seats, which include positions for women, peasants, workers, and non-Muslim individuals. According to the schedule, the polling will be held on September 19. The ECP has set dates for the various election-related activities connected to this process. As outlined in the timetable, a public notice inviting nomination papers will be released on August 15, 2023. Candidates can submit their nomination papers from August 16 to 18. The names of nominated candidates will be announced on August 19, and the scrutiny of candidate nomination papers will take place from August 21 to 23.—APP

Military awards conferred on Pakistan Navy personnel

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Investiture Ceremony 2023 was held at Islamabad. Chief of Staff (COS) Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the ceremony as Chief Guest and conferred various military awards to the naval personnel. The recipients of Sitara-i-Hmtiaz (Military) were: Cdre Syed Naved Ahsan SI(M) and Cdre Amir Hanif SI(M). The recipients of Tamgha-i-Hmtiaz (Military) were: Capt Dr Amjad Nawaz TI(M), Cdr Rizwan Ahmad TI(M), Lt Cdr Muhammad Imran TI(M), Lt Cdr Faisal Ayub TI(M) and Lt Cdr Syed Muhammad Hasan Rizvi TI(M). 02 Awards of TK(M)I and 09 awards of TK(M)II were also conferred upon CPOs and Sailors of Pakistan Navy whereas Letters of Commendation from Chief of the Naval Staff were awarded to 17 Officers, CPOs/Sailors and Navy Civilians. The ceremony was attended by officers of the Pakistan Navy.



Briefs

BISP to start Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has planned to launch the facility of Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers in various districts of Sindh and Balochistan to facilitate the registration process for intending beneficiaries in remote areas of the country. The first ever such facility has been inaugurated in Karachi recently by the Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri. According to an official source, the mobile registration vehicle centres are being started in 25 districts of Sindh and Balochistan including Gothki, Umarot, Tharparkar, Sanghar and Jamshoro districts of Sindh province while Chagai, Khuzdar, Kech, Awaran, Lasbela, Sibi, Loralai and Qila Saifullah initially which can be extended to the other areas. —APP

EECP therapy gains momentum

ISLAMABAD: Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP) therapy has emerged as a non-invasive remedy for various cardiac ailments such as hypertension, coronary artery disease, and high lipid levels. Talking to APP here on Tuesday, Cardiologist Dr. Raja Mehdi Hassan said that during the EECP therapy, blood is propelled from the lower body and limbs to the upper body that defy the natural flow with gentle pressure. He said that EECP therapy is often referred to as "natural bypass" due to its painless nature and a free from surgical procedures or interventions.

He said that throughout the hour-long session, the patient's heart rhythm, oxygen saturation, irregularities, and blood pressure are meticulously monitored.

Before starting the treatment, Dr. Mehdi said that a comprehensive diagnosis, encompassing electrocardiograms (ECG), echocardiography, CT angiography, or angiography guides physicians in assessing heart conditions including ejection fraction, heart failure categories, and cardiac damage. He said that course of 35 sessions is prescribed irrespective of the ailment for optimal outcomes of the therapy. "Those unable to travel can opt for two daily sessions following the initial five session" he added. Dr. Mehdi underlined that atherosclerosis can start as early as in age of 20 and people with a family history of heart diseases, hypertension, and obesity are susceptible to cardiac issues. Explaining the atherosclerosis, Dr. Mehdi said that when blood vessels face blockages, the phenomenon is termed as coronary artery disease or coronary heart disease. He stressed that every individual, regardless of medical history, should be aware of their blood pressure, sugar levels, lipid profiles, and Body Mass Index (BMI). —APP

ANF arrests five accused with 207 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting three operations across the country managed to recover over 207 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that in an operation, a raid was conducted on Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad and ANF recovered 14.4 kg opium, 21.6 kg charras from secret cavities of two cars and also rounded up five drug smugglers, residents of district khyber. In another operation on RCD Highway Lasbela near Al-Aziz Hotel, 162 kg charras was recovered from a bus. Charras was concealed in fuel tank of the bus. In third operation, 9.6 kg charras was recovered from secret cavities of a vehicle intercepted on University Road Peshawar. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif launching the website and APP "Pakistan Code" in Islamabad.—DNA

Middle East least economically integrated region: US Expert

Mr. Vatanka highlighted that Saudi Arabia had restructured its domestic social and economic policies. The young leader, Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman, was attached to the youth of the country and was too focused to achieve economic strength

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The recently concluded rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia was in line with their respective foreign policies' ambitions and could uplift the economic potential of the Middle East. These remarks were presented by Mr. Alex Vatanka, the Founding Director of Iran Program at the Middle East Institute, Washington DC. He was addressing an international event hosted by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad. The event

was conducted to analyze the post-rapprochement geopolitical proceedings of the Middle East and its impacts on the neighbourhood. Mr. Vatanka highlighted that Saudi Arabia had restructured its domestic social and economic policies. The young leader, Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman, was attached to the youth of the country and was too focused to achieve economic strength. Therefore, any conflict could undermine his vision of economic development, he said. While discussing the benefits for Iran in this rapprochement, Mr. Vatan-



ka pointed out that Iran had very few customers globally for its energy products. Hence, this development where further consolidated Iran's ties with China, it also provided Iran the leverage to evade US sanctions. The investments of Iran and Saudi Arabia in each other's countries was not only mutually beneficial but it had a wider array of prospects for the region as well which was otherwise least integrated economically, he added. President IRS, Ambassador Nadeem Riyaz, cautioned that while the rapprochement was a positive

development for the region and beyond, the regional states and international community must not allow spoilers to create suspicion and trust deficit between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Lastly, Mr. Fraz Naqvi, Program Lead Iran Program at IRS argued that rapprochement had actually strengthened Iran's position in the region. If some indigenous form of security mechanism was devised between Iran and Saudi Arabia, it could potentially invite the greater Chinese role in the Middle East and adversely impact the Abraham Accords, he added.

Government is serious about empowering women

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A women-led company has launched a programme to empower future leaders and women entrepreneurs. The programme aims to connect marketing brilliance and a positive social role to pave the path for a better future.

The programme was launched by The SquarePeg, a digital marketing company, it offered free training to mentees and digital marketing services to three businesses including, Ariana Stylz, Sweet & Savoury, and SAM Accessories. The program also in-

cluded a corporate cook off arranged by ZarZ kitchen. SquarePeg's CEO, Zunaira Omar, said on the occasion that we want to foster entrepreneurial culture and self-employment among the youth. "I believe that our mentorship programme wasn't just about guiding the next generation; it's about igniting the spark of brilliance within them, she added. Zunaira Omar said that we want to empower youth to shape their destiny and create a better tomorrow together, while emphasising the importance of social impact. She said that for sustainable development, gender

equality and women's economic empowerment are necessary. Higher female earnings greatly contribute to children's education and family health, impacting the overall economic growth of a nation, she added. Speaking at the occasion, Abdullah Khan, Project Head, Ignite National Technology Fund, a body working under the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, said that the government is giving high priority to women's empowerment. Sustainable economic growth is unthinkable without women's empow-

erment, and measures for gender inclusion are the driving factor of social progress and economic growth, he added. Abdullah Khan said that women's empowerment is very important for national development and that empowered women are playing a very important role in social and economic development. We must promote a sense of self-worth in women; they should be free to determine their own choices, which is key to achieving a more peaceful, prosperous world. He lauded the initiative by The SquarePeg and assured full support in this regard.

37 Corona cases reported in one week

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Tuesday said that 37 new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last one week across the country. As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.38 percent while five patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from the Coronavirus last week while 9,693 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19. The minister said there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country including airports. There will be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports, he added. He added 90 percent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine. "An efficient system with a proper management team is fully functional in the country to remain vigilant and is ready to make an emergency plan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19," the minister added. He said the Border and Health Services Pakistan was ensuring the implementation of international health regulations. He said that in case of any untoward situation, the health system was fully prepared to deal with any sub-variant of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 including BF.7 in the country.—APP

Preparations in full swing to celebrate Independence Day

RAWALPINDI: Like other parts of the country, preparations for the 76th Independence Day are in full swing in Rawalpindi division as the national flags, bunting and badges are selling like hot cake. A large number of stalls with buntings, flags, badges and other items were established with the start of August in several city markets including Tench Bhatta, Lalkurti, Saddar, Moti, Raja and Urdu Bazaars, Benazir Bhutto Road, Bunni Market, Satellite Town, Sadiqabad and other areas of the city. Nowadays, national songs are in the air which gives the message that whole the nation is united. The national flags are being hoisted at the important buildings to celebrate the day with befitting manner. Special prizes on this occasion are awarded to those who decorate and illuminate their buildings beautifully. Decorative items are in high demand these days including national flags, multi-colored garlands, badges, 'Minar-e-Pakistan' models and portraits of the Qaid-i-Azam and national heroes. The printers and makers of buntings, flags, banners and badges are fully engaged in their business as 'Jashan-e-Azadi' preparations are at its peak and the citizens are getting ready to celebrate the Independence Day with great enthusiasm and national zeal.—APP

CDNS set a target of Rs 75 billion in Islamic finance for FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Saving (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 75 billion in Islamic finance for FY 2023-24 to promote the Islamic financial sector in the country. The aim was to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector, a senior official of CDNS told APP here on Tuesday. The official informed that CDNS had reviewed and set a target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market. "Islamic finance has a very important role in the global financial sector at this time, and a large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," the senior official said, "Work on Islamic finance is still needed in Pakistan." He said that at present, work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced." He said, "At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users." —DNA

PM pays tribute to Major Tufail Shaheed

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid tribute to Major Tufail Muhammad Shaheed Nishan-e-Haider on his martyrdom day. He said Major Tufail Shaheed created an immortal story of protecting the motherland and fulfilling his duty with courage and bravery. He said Major Tufail Shaheed did not even care about his life for the safety of the country. The prime minister said the entire Pakistani nation pays homage to Major Tufail Shaheed for his sacrifice. The nation, he said, was proud of the martyrs and will never forget the sacrifices of its martyrs and families for the country.—DNA

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ECP imparts training of 27 officers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is currently providing training to its 27 newly appointed officers through skill-enhancing sessions at Lahore's Civil Services Academy to equip them to perform election duty effectively. According to the spokesman ECP, the training that commenced on August 1st is scheduled to conclude on August 11th. Throughout the training period, officers were receiving comprehensive instructions on diverse areas of election management, election laws, procedures for voter registration, and election technology. This training will contribute to achieving the core objectives of the Election Commission: ensuring elections that are free, fair, and transparent. It will also enhance officers' efficiency while fostering teamwork and leadership skills.

Polio immunization campaign continues to protect children

ISLAMABAD: The polio immunization campaign continued on Tuesday across the country to protect children from the crippling disease. According to official sources, trained and dedicated "Sehat Muhafiz" have been engaged in the vaccination drive to inoculate the targeted children at their doorstep. "I urge all parents and caregivers to ensure the vaccination of eligible children during the campaign to save them from the debilitating disease. Polio is incurable, and vaccines can protect our children," Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel said. "The frontline health workers have been playing a vital role in keeping our children safe from the debilitating effects of polio. Despite facing many challenges, they have been working tirelessly." "We recognize the important contributions of the health workers to achieve the goal of polio eradication," said the Minister. Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Dr Shahzad Baig said, "Let's work together and play our part to protect our children from vaccine-preventable diseases." He said, "I particularly urge all parents and caregivers to get their children vaccinated instead of hiding them or refusing to take the necessary drops during all vaccination drives. It is important to realize that the polio virus still exists in our surroundings, and no child is safe until all children are truly vaccinated." —DNA

US only putting up walls that enclose itself

According to a report published by Spiegel magazine on Friday citing internal company documents, Germany's national railway operator would have to spend up to 400 million euros (\$437.44 million) to replace all the components in its infrastructure supplied by Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies. The German government is currently conducting what it says is a general review of the country's telecoms tech suppliers, but given the pressure it is under from the US, it is perceived to be considering whether to ban certain components from Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE from networks in the country. Not content with having rigged the economic global governance deck in its favor, the US is also resorting to bullying and coercion to maintain its advantages. The US government has banned approvals of Huawei's new telecommunication products in November 2022, calling them "an unacceptable risk", and it forbids its companies from selling chips and other advanced products to Huawei. It has also been pressuring other countries to not use Chinese equipment. Anil Sooklal, South Africa's ambassador at large in charge of BRICS affairs, said the pressure his country was under not to use Huawei equipment was "tremendous" in a speech at the University of KwaZulu-Natal on Aug 3. But as he said, Huawei has provided South Africa with thousands of training and technology transfer development opportunities over the years, and he made it clear that South Africa would not stop using Huawei's equipment in its domestic networks as it will do what is best for itself. South Africa has made the right choice by insisting on using Huawei equipment despite the pressure it is under from the US. Germany and other countries should make the same decision as resisting the pressure from the US is also in their interest too. As Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin has pointed out, the US has mobilized the whole of government to attack Huawei on the grounds that it poses a security risk without providing any evidence at any time to support that claim. Although the US' lies and bullying harm Huawei, it is pursuing a Pyrrhic victory, as even a win will be so costly to its allies and itself that it will actually constitute a catastrophic defeat. South Africa will host the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg from Aug 22 to 24, with the expansion of the group reportedly on the agenda. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Argentina have expressed their desire to join the group, which in standing up to the US and advocating a fairer world is viewed as a standard bearer for the Global South. Most countries want the world to be open. If the US insists on building walls in this way, it will only find it is enclosing itself.

National compliance key to biological weapons ban

With the Ukraine crisis having led to talk about the possibility of using unconventional weapons, the second meeting of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention, which takes place from Monday to Aug 18 in Geneva, is an important gathering to discuss national implementations regarding the convention. As of February this year, 185 countries have become party to the treaty that entered into force in 1975. However, it is a fact that the convention's effectiveness has been limited due to insufficient institutional support and the absence of any formal verification regime to monitor compliance. China firmly supports the purposes and objectives of the convention, strictly fulfills its obligations under the convention, and actively participates in and supports multilateral processes to enhance the effectiveness of the convention. The country is deeply involved in global biosecurity governance, and actively contributes Chinese wisdom and offers Chinese solutions, which is aligned with the Global Security Initiative it has put forward, to promote the implementation of the convention. Beijing advocates strengthening the convention, and vigorously promotes the establishment of a verification mechanism through multilateral negotiations to ensure compliance with the convention. It stands for the prohibition and destruction of all weapons of mass destruction, including biological weapons, and firmly opposes the proliferation of biological weapons and their technologies. In April 2021, the Biosafety Law of China came into effect, providing stronger legal and institutional guarantees for China's implementation of the convention. The country has also actively advocated for the negotiation and formulation of an international convention on combating acts of biological and chemical terrorism to plug the loopholes in international law. China also actively supports strengthening the review of the development of biotechnology under the framework of the convention, promoting responsible biological research, and formulating necessary voluntary codes of conduct. It has played an indispensable role in facilitating the formation and release of Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines for Codes of Conduct for Scientists in 2021. Plus, in response to the call of developing countries for sharing the dividends of scientific and technological development in biology and other fields, China has also submitted its proposal for Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses under the Framework of the Biological Weapons Convention to the United Nations. That it has been adopted as a resolution of the UN General Assembly for two consecutive years shows the important role China plays in promoting dialogue and cooperation in the crucial field to prevent it from becoming a new area for major power contest at the cost of less-developed countries. As such, China will continue to play a key role in the ongoing meeting in Geneva, working with the international community to promote global biosecurity governance, and making greater contributions to universal security and common development.



Truman, Stalin and the Birth of the Atomic Age

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The aftermath of these devastating explosions resulted in the loss of over 100,000 lives. The primary aim of the United States was to expedite Japan's surrender, bring an end to World War II, and prevent further casualties among the Allied forces. Additionally, the U.S. sought to demonstrate the sheer destructive power of its newfound nuclear technology to the world, particularly to the Soviet Union. During the Potsdam Conference in July 1945, shortly after Truman, the President of the United States, received news of the successful detonation of the world's first nuclear

On August 6, 1945, the United States unleashed a pivotal event in human history by dropping an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, forever altering the course of warfare. Three days later, another atomic bomb was deployed over Nagasaki. The aftermath of these devastating explosions resulted in the loss of over 100,000 lives. The primary aim of the United States was to expedite Japan's surrender, bring an end to World War II, and prevent further casualties among the Allied forces. Additionally, the U.S. sought to demonstrate the sheer destructive power of its newfound nuclear technology to the world, particularly to the Soviet Union. During the Potsdam Conference in July 1945, shortly after Truman, the President of the United States, received news of the successful detonation of the world's first nuclear device during the Trinity Test in the remote region of New Mexico, he communicated with the Soviet Premier, Joseph Stalin. Truman, along with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (soon to be succeeded by Clement Attlee), formed the "Big Three" to decide the future of Germany post-World War II. At the conference, Truman casually informed Stalin about the existence of a new weapon possessing extraordinary destructive capabilities. However, Stalin appeared relatively disinterested, expressing his contentment with the news and hoping for its effective use against Japan. In his memoir, "A Year of Decisions," Truman recounted this encounter. For Truman, the successful Trinity Test presented a significant decision: whether to employ this world's first weapon of mass destruction. It also relieved the United States from the necessity of relying on an increasingly hostile Soviet Union to engage in the war against Japan. Notably, Truman refrained from using the words "atomic" or "nuclear" while communicating with Stalin, and it was assumed that the Soviet leader remained unaware of the precise nature of this new weapon. However, in reality, Soviet intelligence had already learned about the American nuclear development program as early as September 1941, following the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Despite not viewing the nuclear threat with the same gravity as some of his spies due to the pressing issues posed by

the German invasion and occupation, Stalin's reaction to Truman's words in Potsdam was pivotal. Upon hearing the news, he promptly instructed his subordinates to accelerate their efforts, with the physicist Igor Kurchatov leading the Soviet atomic bomb project, analogous to J. Robert Oppenheimer's role in the Manhattan Project.

On August 6, 1945, shortly after the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference, the American aircraft Enola Gay carried out a momentous mission, releasing the uranium bomb codenamed "Little Boy" over the city of Hiroshima, Japan. This action had profound and devastating consequences. Contrary to the United States' expectations, Japan did not immediately surrender unconditionally. Subsequently, on August 8, Soviet forces launched an invasion of Japanese-occupied Manchuria, which violated a previously agreed non-aggression pact with Japan. Harkin contends that the Soviet offensive would have had an impact on Japanese morale comparable to that of the initial atomic bomb. He explains, "The Japanese government's last hope, the peace faction, relied on the Soviet Union to mediate peace negotiations with the United States as a neutral intermediary. However, the invasion of Manchuria by the Soviet Union dashed this hope definitively."

On August 9, the United States deployed the "Fat Man" plutonium bomb on the city of Nagasaki. The combined destructive force of these two bombs caused the deaths of over 300,000 people, including both immediate casualties and those who succumbed later to radiation exposure and other lasting effects of the explosions. After that, Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's unconditional surrender through a radio address on August 15, effectively bringing an end to World War II. The peace discussions at Yalta, like those at Potsdam, highlighted the deepening ideological divide between the Soviet Union and its Western allies, particularly concerning the fate of Eastern Europe. Even to this day, historians continue to debate the motivation behind the Truman administration's decision to employ atomic weapons. Some argue that it may have been influenced by political considerations, such as attempting to intimidate the Soviet Union, rather than solely for military purposes. As Professor Campbell-Craig, an expert in International Relations at Cardiff University School of Law and Politics and co-au-

thor of *The Atomic Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War*, points out, the secretive nature of the bomb's development led to a lack of formal discussions and a multitude of interpretations on the subject. Regardless of the intentions behind the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Stalin perceived the American possession of atomic weapons as a direct threat to the Soviet Union and its position in the postwar global order. Consequently, he sought to achieve a balance of power. Concurrently, through nuclear espionage, Soviet scientists made significant progress towards developing their own atomic bomb.

The Truman administration, there were proponents of advocating cooperation with the Soviet Union, viewing it as the sole means to avert a nuclear arms race. However, as early as 1946, an opposing perspective articulated by George Cannon, an official in the State Department, in his renowned "Long Telegram," significantly influenced the formulation of the Truman Doctrine and the policy of "containment" toward Soviet and communist expansionism worldwide, deeming it a more effective approach. Subsequently, in 1946, during the inaugural gathering of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission (UNAEC), the United States introduced the Baruch Plan. This plan called upon the Soviet Union to divulge comprehensive details of its nuclear energy program and subject its facilities to international inspections before receiving any information or assistance from the United States. Predictably, the Soviet Union rejected these conditions. The Baruch Plan essentially compelled the Soviet Union to relinquish some of its sovereignty in exchange for a partial involvement in nuclear power," as noted by Herkin. "Stalin was absolutely averse to such concessions.

By 1949, any prospects of cooperation had evaporated. On August 29, the Soviet Union successfully conducted its own nuclear test, causing a 20-kiloton explosion, similar in magnitude to the Trinity test. The commencement of the nuclear arms race, which would define the remainder of the Cold War, had commenced, as both superpowers vied to amass the largest arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and develop effective deployment strategies. As Craig asserted, "The existence of the bomb made the United States and the Soviet Union more interdependent than they would have been if it hadn't existed"

Losers and winners of opportunities

Imtiaz Gul

Saudi Arabia and Canada, in particular, are the main attractions for young professionals. Saudi Arabia was the fastest growing economy last year and is developing at a staggering pace. Why shouldn't young professionals attempt to seize opportunities that Saudi Arabia currently offers; or for that matter countries like Canada, which has flung open its doors to foreign immigrants, particularly from South Asia! All foreigners bring with them both expertise as well as

A recent report published in The Express Tribune prompted me into writing this piece. An official document spoke of more than 1.2 million young people having left the country for employment opportunities since March 2022. More than 400,000 highly-educated and highly-trained youngsters – including doctors, engineers and IT professionals – went abroad until June this year. What a massive brain drain from a country that is already short on qualified, skilled professionals! Saudi Arabia and Canada, in particular, are the main attractions for young professionals. Saudi Arabia was the fastest growing economy last year and is developing at a staggering pace. Why shouldn't young professionals attempt to seize opportunities that Saudi Arabia currently offers; or for that matter countries like Canada, which has flung open its doors to foreign immigrants, particularly from South Asia! All foreigners bring with them both expertise as well as funds that feed straight into the economy. With an aging local population, Canada is taking in half a million foreigners – skilled manpower – every year through various programmes. It is also aggressively inviting and encouraging international students. In June, the then minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC) Sean Fraser told the media that the government was halting all pending removals of international students from India who might have entered the country on the basis of fraudulent acceptance letters. Instead of deportation, the dozens of these Indian received three-year resident/work permits – a reflection of how positively the Canadian system is disposed towards talent. "This will ensure that these well-intentioned students and graduates can remain in Canada, and ensure that they are not subject to the five-year ban from re-entering Canada that normally follows in cases of misrepresentation," said Fraser. What a liberally rational

approach! The authorities, instead of punishing the victims, are now looking for the culprits, unlike in many other countries where the victims end up suffering the consequences. Both Indian and Chinese communities (over 5% and 4.63% and over 5% respectively of the total Canadian population) seem to be in the race for a place in the society. The northern tip of downtown Toronto, for example, has turned into a Chinese district. One feels like being in a Shanghai street when moving on the North York street. Similarly, Mississauga as well as Oakville and Milton, a sub-district of greater Toronto region, are another example of expanding Indian and South Asian communities. Here they boast a huge South Asian population with Indians, Pakistanis and Sri Lankans constituting the majority. No doubt that housing shortages have turned the real estate into a booming business. And among the Pakistanis, this is one of the most favourite subjects. The other being conditions in Pakistan itself. "Sorry to bore you but wherever Pakistanis get together, they either discuss Pakistan or property," said one of my friends in Mississauga. Former Indian PM Dr Manmohan Singh had in fact cleared the way for Indian students in Canada. His personal interest had paved the way for a preferential treatment for Indian students in Canada, causing a 260% increase from 2013 to 2022, according to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada data. The relationship has grown stronger to the extent that Canada has now introduced a special work visa for Indian immigrants. No surprise that you run into Indians wherever you go – bank, government office, university, stores, shopping malls. No surprise as many as 17 Indian-Canadians are members of the current parliament. Both Chinese and Indians are the most visible foreigners in most of Canadian towns. Most of them have come in via formal immigration or education programmes. The majority of students

stay back, it seems. Neither is there any urge or drive to throw them out. On the contrary, the attempt is to retain talent and help them integrate into the economy of the country. Most foreigners bring with them substantial funds for sustenance as well as investment – becoming direct contributors to the economy. The basic idea is to invite and benefit from foreign funds and talent. The same happens in the United States. In contrast, Pakistan still lacks a refugee law as well as policies to woo Afghan investors. Secondly, countless Afghan importers and exporters are keen to invest here but are sadly unable to open a bank account. Afghan businessmen still face difficulties in opening even a small business. The country lost a big opportunity after the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, when tens of thousands of businessmen loaded with dollars moved to Pakistan, where they would have loved to invest. But the security-centric civil-military establishment failed to seize the opportunity. The majority of Afghans eventually moved to the Gulf and Turkey with millions of dollars. These countries quickly embraced them and reaped the dividend from the funds that Afghans brought with them. In fact, the regressive, security-centric approach holds back any proactive and progressive approach for ease of doing business. Officials tend to read more into possible security motives than visualising the benefits that can flow from foreign investments. For better annual returns, the Federal Bureau of Revenue officials refuse to offer long-term taxation concessions to investors beyond a year or two. Dozens of businesses have therefore divested and moved to places where they are welcomed with open arms without any fear of changes in taxation regime every year. Our officials are best in hounding investors away – be they Afghans or those from other countries.

Briefs

PM pays tribute to Army martyrs

FROM PAGE 01

The premier was also the chief guest at a ceremony organised to pay tribute to the martyred and ghazis at the Army Auditorium. He also paid rich tribute to them and their families for their countless sacrifices and contributions made for the defence of the motherland.

"Shuhadas and Ghazis are our pride and their respect and honour is binding on each Pakistani. We must never forget that the peace and freedom we enjoy today are due to the ultimate sacrifices rendered by these brave sons of the soil," the prime minister said.

"I salute their families for sacrificing their loved ones for Pakistan. It is now our earnest duty that we realise the supreme sacrifices of our Shuhadas and Ghazis for the prosperity and well-being of each Pakistani", PM remarked.

He further said that those who resorted to the desecration of the monuments of Shuhada, their faces will remain blackened in the history of this country and the proud people of Pakistan will never forget them.

PM Shehbaz distributed cheques of special financial assistance among 70 families of martyrs and 30 war-wounded persons. Laptops were also distributed amongst the wards of Shuhada undergoing their academic pursuits.

Rawalpindi, 8 August 2023: Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, visited GHQ on his farewell visit.

Upon arrival, PM was received by the COAS. PM met with the Principal Staff Officers (PSOs) and was presented with the Guard of Honour and laid floral wreath at the Yadgare-Shuhada. He was also the Chief Guest at a ceremony organised to pay tribute to the Shuhadas and Ghazis at Army Auditorium. PM paid rich tribute to the Shuhadas, Ghazis and their families for their countless sacrifices and contributions made for the defence of the motherland.

PM appreciated the role of Armed Forces in protecting the territorial integrity of the country and robustly fighting the menace of terrorism across Pakistan.

"Shuhadas and Ghazis are our pride and their respect and honour is binding on each Pakistani. We must never forget that the peace and freedom we enjoy today is due to the ultimate sacrifices rendered by these brave sons of soil. I salute their families for sacrificing their loved ones for Pakistan. It is now our earnest duty that we realise the supreme sacrifices of our Shuhadas and Ghazis into prosperity and well being of each Pakistani".

PM to write to president for NA...

FROM PAGE 01

is now required to carry out fresh delimitation of constituencies. An official statement issued following the CCI meeting said the new census results were approved by all members including four chief ministers with consensus. Earlier, Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Raja Riaz said that he would call on PM Shehbaz Wednesday to hold a consultation on the name of the caretaker prime minister.

Under the Constitution, if the prime minister and the leader of the opposition failed to agree on any name, the matter will be referred to a parliamentary committee. And in case the parliamentary committee does not reach any conclusion, the matter will be left for the Election Commission of Pakistan to decide. In the same address, the premier while highlighting economic challenges the country was facing said the next government, which will come into power after elections, should "work day and night to break the begging bowl and make Pakistan great". Recalling the previous tenure of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, PM Shehbaz said then-prime minister and incumbent party supremo Nawaz Sharif rid the country of power outages. "If Nawaz Sharif gets a chance [to rule the country again], we will bring an agricultural revolution, end poverty and get rid of debt," the PM added.

FIFA Women's World Cup

France end Morocco dream to cruise into quarters

Herve Renard's France stand 67 places above Morocco in Fifa's world rankings and their superior quality was evident in the first half, with Dianni nodding them in front after a neat cross from Sakina Karchaoui as she scored her fourth goal in competition

ADELAIDE: Eugenie Le Sommer scored twice as France cruised into the Women's World Cup quarter-finals, thrashing Morocco to end the African side's dream run. Goals from Kadidiatou Diani, Kenza Dali and Le Sommer put France 3-0 ahead at half-time in Adelaide, with Le Sommer adding her second after 70 minutes. France will now face Australia in the last eight in Brisbane on Saturday. Morocco had been hoping to become the first African side to win a knockout match at the Women's World Cup. Clinical France maximise attack in ruthless win

Herve Renard's France stand 67 places above Morocco in Fifa's world rankings and their superior quality was evident in the first half, with Dianni nodding them in front after a neat cross from Sakina Karchaoui as she scored her fourth goal in the competition. In the 20th minute Dianni turned provider, cutting the ball back to Aston Villa's Dali who struck a low shot into the corner. And with less than a quarter of the match gone the tie was wrapped up when Morocco's Nesrine El Chad slammed a clearance



against Dianni and the ball fell nicely to Le Sommer who added a third. In the closing stages, with Morocco's defence tiring, Le Sommer added a fourth, heading in Vicki Becho's deep cross. France's best result at a World Cup finals is fourth in 2011, and they have now reached the last eight in each of the last four editions. With top-10 ranked teams the United States, Germany, Brazil and Canada all eliminated, the French will now fancy their chances of going all the way in the tournament. Morocco's dream run ends Morocco - the first Arab nation to compete at the finals - claimed a shock second place in Group H ahead of two-time winners Germany, who had beaten them 6-0 in their opening game. A second upset against unbeaten France though was a step too far. The team fell apart defensively as the more experienced side scored their first three goals across eight first-half minutes. Morocco's best chance fell just after the restart when Ibtissam Jraidi motored through on goal, but she was quickly smothered by France stopper Pauline Peyraud-Magnin. - Agencies

Champions League tie postponed after fan killed

ATHENS: Tuesday's Champions League qualifier between AEK Athens and Dinamo Zagreb has been postponed after a fan was stabbed to death in the Greek capital. The Greek supporter, 29, died following a brawl between rival fans outside AEK's Agia Sophia Stadium in a northern suburb of Athens on Monday evening. Police said eight others were injured and 98 arrests were made. Uefa had banned visiting supporters from both legs of the third-round qualifying tie over security concerns. European football's governing body said that the trouble meant the match had to be postponed, with the decision made in consultation with the local authorities. "Uefa deplores in the

strongest possible terms the appalling incidents that took place in Athens last night and resulted in the loss of a life," Uefa said. "While expressing our deepest sympathy to the family of the victim, to AEK Athens FC and its fans, we would like to reiterate that violence has no place in our sport and we expect that those responsible for this terrible act be arrested and consigned to justice in the shortest delay."

The return leg in Croatia will go ahead as planned next Tuesday, 15 August with the game in Athens to be rearranged for either Friday, 18 August or Saturday, 19 August. Greek police said the trouble started 90 minutes after Croatian side Dinamo had completed

a pre-match training session at the stadium in Nea Philadelphia and left under police escort. Between 100-120 Dinamo fans showed up to the stadium and clashed with AEK fans who had gathered there. Fans from both sides "threw flares, improvised incendiary devices, objects, stones, and also used improvised bats". Police said a preliminary investigation had started and they were trying to identify the perpetrators. "GNK Dinamo strongly condemns the riots that took place last night in Athens," a Dinamo Zagreb statement said. "Such events are not in line with the values and ethics we promote as a club and community. We express

Maria highlights 'scary' football potential in Pakistan

LAHORE: Pakistan women's team captain Maria Khan has highlighted the potential of footballers in the country. The midfielder, who can also play as a centre-back, believes that the potential of footballers in Pakistan is scary. "I have played in three different countries but I have never seen anything like the potential that sits in Pakistan. These athletes are competing at the international level without any consistent domestic football which makes their potential so scary," Maria told The Asian Game on Monday. "When these athletes get access to full time football and a professional setup, coupled with their experience of being deprived of football and high-level competition for so long and a healthy competitive environment, you are going to create a very deadly athlete," she added. Earlier, the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) accepted the invitation to play in a women's football tournament in Saudi Arabia in September, sources revealed on Monday. The kingdom is going to organise a multi-national women's tournament in September where a minimum of four and a maximum of six teams will participate. The PFF was contacted by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation a few days ago. Further details about the tournament will be revealed by the organisers once the teams are finalised. Once the PFF gets the complete information about the tournament, they will set up a women's team camp by the end of this month. The PFF is hopeful that this tournament in the Middle East will be crucial for the development of players as they will get more international experience. - DNA

Joshua to fight Helenius as Finn replaces Whyte

LONDON: Anthony Joshua will fight Robert Helenius at London's O2 Arena on Saturday as the replacement for Dillian Whyte. Joshua's heavyweight rematch with Whyte was cancelled at the weekend after the latter failed a voluntary drug test. Finland's Helenius, who has 32 wins and four losses, steps in at less than a week's notice. "This wasn't in the script," Joshua said of his new opponent. "I am laser focused on the win." Helenius' last big fight was a first-round knockout defeat by Deontay Wilder in October. "I am a true Viking that is willing to face any challenge at a moment's notice," the 39-year-old said. "This is not an opportunity I was going to let slip away. I plan to make the most of it." Helenius, who has never challenged for a world title, only fought on Saturday, securing a third-round TKO win over Mika Mielonen in Finland. As well as Wilder, the 6ft 6in Helenius has losses to Gerald Washington, Whyte and Johann Duhaupas. A win would set Joshua up for his long-awaited fight with former WBC champion Deontay Wilder, which could happen early next year. Joshua is undefeated at the O2 Arena in London and won at the venue in April when he outpointed Jermaine Franklin. Joshua, 33, held talks with numerous heavyweights already on his undercard, including American heavyweight Washington, to replace Whyte, but promoter Eddie Hearn said many opponents priced themselves out of the running. - Agencies

Fresh PHF elections on the cards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has approved all recommendations of the high-profile committee formed for hockey affairs, directing fresh elections, directing fresh elections and replacing the current management. Though full details are not available as yet, Minister of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) officials have confirmed that PM has ordered replacing the current Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) setup with a fresh body through proper elections. PSB has been asked to conduct fresh scrutiny of clubs throughout the country by appointing a committee and then hold free and fair elections. "Yes, we have received approval from PM late in evening, calling for fresh elections and to change the current regime.

Fawad bids farewell to Pak cricket, eyes US career

LAHORE: Fawad Alam has opted to conclude his international career with Pakistan and shift his focus towards a new chapter in the United States, reported Cricbuzz. At 37 years of age, he is poised to embrace a fresh role as a 'local' player for the Chicago Kingsmen in the Minor League Cricket T20. This move aligns him with a growing trend of Pakistani players, including names like Sami Aslam, Hammad Azam, Saif Badar, and Mohammad Mohsin, who have transitioned to the United States to pursue their cricket careers. In the past year, Alam faced Australia in three Test matches, contributing 33 runs across four innings. He also participated in a solitary Test against Sri Lanka, scoring 25 runs. Following this, he was left out of the Test squad. Notably, even though he had started his Test journey in 2009 with a century against Sri Lanka, Alam was subsequently dropped from the Pakistani squad after just two more matches. After more than a decade of being on the sidelines, the left-handed batsman finally made a highly anticipated comeback to the national team during Pakistan's tour of England in 2020. Over the course of his Pakistan career, Alam featured in 19 Test matches, amassing a total of 1011 runs at an average of 38.88. Among his achievements are five centuries and two fifties. - DNA

Boulter wins to set up Coco Gauff tie

MONTREAL: British number one Katie Boulter sailed through her opening match to set up a second-round meeting with Coco Gauff at the WTA National Bank Open in Montreal. The 27-year-old ended the home hopes of Canadian wildcard Rebecca Marino with a 6-3 6-1 win in an hour and six minutes. World number 72 Boulter is yet to drop a set in Canada af-

ter previously easing through two qualification rounds. Sixth seed Gauff had a first-round bye, but fellow American Venus Williams lost 6-2 7-5 to compatriot Madison Keys. Williams, 43, saved seven match points to break serve at 5-4 down in 2nd set but Keys immediately broke back before finally converting a ninth match point overall to serve out for win. Boulter, meanwhile, never looked back after breaking world number 103 Marino's serve to love in fifth game of opening set and sealed it with another break on her first set point. - Agencies

Colombia advances to quarterfinals for the first time

The South Americans failed to qualify for the 2019 tournament, but have taken huge strides since, topping their group in Australia and stunning world number two Germany along way

SPORTS DESK

MELBOURNE: Catalina Usme scored the only goal as Colombia kept their Women's World Cup charge on track Tuesday by beating Jamaica 1-0 to secure a maiden quarter-final against European champions England. The South Americans failed to qualify for the 2019 tournament, but have taken huge strides since, topping their group in Australia and stunning world number two Germany along the way. The 25th-ranked Colombians carried the form into a sold-out Melbourne Rectangular Stadium, grinding down a resolute and physical Jamaica side who had not conceded a goal all tournament. Colombia's intense, attacking ethos under coach Nelson Abadia finally paid dividends in the 51st minute when the dangerous Usme got the breakthrough with a composed finish inside the box to unlock a previously impenetrable defence. It set a cagey game alight and sent the pumping pro-Colombian crowd into deafening delirium, with the Reggae Girlz unable to find a way back. Colombia will now play England in Sydney on Saturday for

a place in the semi-finals after the Lionesses came through a gripping penalty shootout against Nigeria. Four years after crashing out of the 2019 tournament with three heavy defeats, 43rd-ranked Jamaica, like Colombia, also came to Australia with low expectations. And despite the crushing defeat, they will

leave with their heads held high after clean sheets against France, Panama and Brazil. In front of riotous fans, who booed whenever Jamaica touched the ball, both sides pressed early in a stop-start opening that saw several players go down under heavy challenges. The chances were few and far

between in the opening 20 minutes with Colombia's Diana Ospina having the best - and only - shot on target, but it didn't have enough power to trouble the keeper. But the South Americans began to find some rhythm as their supporters urged them on and the opportunities started flowing, with Leicy Santos and Usme both going close. With Colombia assuming control, Jamaica resorted to some clumsy challenges and Chantelle Swaby and Drew Spence both picked up yellow cards in a tough-tackling half. The breakthrough came six minutes after the restart with teenage World Cup debutant Ana Guzman pinged a beautiful ball to Usme who took one touch before side-footing home. Fired up, Jamaica almost had an immediate reply with Jody Brown's shot cleared off the line in a frantic goalmouth scramble that then saw Colombia break on a counter-attack which nearly led to Real Madrid sensation Linda Caicedo doubling the score. Behind for the first time at the World Cup and facing the exit door, Jamaica abandoned their defensive posture and threw players forward frantically looking for the equaliser.



Pakistan's ties with ASEAN...

FROM PAGE 01

development of our entire continent. The more connected and united we are, the more able we would be in overcoming our collective challenges and prospering together as a region. Meanwhile, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Asad Majeed has termed relations between ASEAN and Pakistan excellent. He said this while speaking as the chief guest on the occasion of the ASEAN Day celebrations jointly hosted by the ASEAN member states spearheaded by Malaysia which is currently holding the ACI chairmanship. The Malaysian High Commissioner Mohammad Azhar Mazlan also spoke on the occasion.

ASEAN values ties with Pak...

FROM PAGE 01

Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed Khan was the chief guest. Mr. Azhar Mazlan further said ASEAN-Pakistan cooperation has extended in various sectors, among others in trade and investment, agriculture and tourism capacity building and technical cooperation. He said, ASEAN-Pakistan free trade agreement, which took effect in 2013 is a testament to the strengthened economic ties between ASEAN and Pakistan.

Palestine welcomes Australian...

FROM PAGE 01

recognize the State of Palestine without delay or hesitation. The Ministry hopes that the Australian government and Minister for Foreign Affairs will recognize the State of Palestine swiftly, in accordance with international law and international legitimacy. This step not only reflects the position of the Labor Party and its members, but also the broader sentiment of the friendly people of Australia, who support the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish their state within 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

ECP disqualifies Imran...

FROM PAGE 01

has become disqualified under Article 63(1)(h) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with Section 232 of the Elections Act, 2017," the notification added. It also stated that the ECP has de-notified Khan as the "returned candidate" from NA-45 Kurram-I. Khan was sentenced to three years in prison and a fine of Rs100,000 by Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Humayun Dilawar on August 5, 2023, after the judge found Khan guilty of graft in the Toshkhana case.

He has been convicted of misusing his position as prime minister to sell state gifts worth more than Rs140 million (\$490,000) that he received from foreign dignitaries during visits abroad. Following the conviction, the PTI chief was shifted to Attock Jail.

PTI makes Imran lifetime...

FROM PAGE 01

appeal against the Tasha Khana decision by the legal team and lawyers meeting with PTI Chairman and other related matters. It was decided that in the light of the special instructions by the former prime minister Imran Khan from jail, the party would celebrate Independence Day in an befitting manner. The PTI Core Committee decided that the PTI would organize special events on the occasion in Pakistan and around the world. Moreover, the PTI announced to challenge the decisions of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in the Supreme Court (SC) with the approval of Chairman PTI. The participants agreed that they would strongly resist legally and politically all polls delaying tactics.

Briefs

Economic growth in Central Asia gains momentum

ASTANA: Central Asian countries demonstrate economic growth despite ongoing global geopolitical turbulence, increasing the attention to the region and enhancing partnerships with other countries. This development is expected to bring significant benefits to the Central Asian countries as a whole, particularly Kazakhstan, reported Kazinform news agency.

For Central Asia, 2022 was packed with high-level summits, including with China, India, Russia and the European Union.

In 2023, heads of Central Asian states participated in a summit in China in May, outlined priorities for partnership with the EU in June, and forged cooperation with the Gulf countries in July. Kazakhstan has played a leading role in fostering these developments. With trade and logistics flows shifting, many countries have turned their focus to the region, primarily due to its advantageous geographical location, acting as a strategic transportation hub between Russia and China.

Key routes, including the Trans-Caspian and North-South corridors, offer significant time and cost advantages. Central Asia, strategically located between Europe and Asia, holds immense trade and economic development potential.

A study funded by the European Commission and conducted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) reveals the Central Trans-Caspian Network (CTCN) as essential for unlocking Central Asia's transport potential and enhancing regional connectivity. The EU plays a crucial role in shaping the region's transport future, offering technical assistance, capacity building, and funding opportunities to revamp infrastructure and foster sustainable transport solutions, promoting economic progress and regional cooperation. Experts attribute the heightened attention to Central Asia to its stable economic growth amid existing geopolitical turbulence. Central Asian countries show strong intra-regional trade growth with a significant leap forward over the last two decades, reaching an average annual GDP growth of 6.2% in real terms. —DNA

Army called in as rains wreak havoc in Bangladesh

DHAKA: The army was called in on Tuesday to assist the civil administration in Bangladesh, where heavy monsoon rains and landslides disrupted road communications in south-eastern districts as well as the coastal Cox's Bazar region, stranding thousands of people.

Army personnel have been deployed to rescue people marooned and deal with flood situations and landslides in the port city of Chattogram and Bandarban district, according to a statement issued by Bangladesh Army media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Heavy traffic disruption has been reported in areas where vehicles on major highways were moving at a snail's pace, while routine lives were disrupted due to heavy rain and landslides. Cropland is also submerged, and fish have been seen floating in the floods. "Road communication in the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar routes has been suspended after heavy rains submerged roads, in addition to roadblocks caused by landslides. Thousands of people have been stranded by water in various towns as heavy rains continue, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Chattogram district Rakib Hasan told Anadolu over the phone. "We are working to restore traffic. Over 4,000 people have taken shelter in the city area alone, with thousands more in surrounding villages. The district authority has prepared 500 shelters in the port city," he added. —Agencies



QUETTA: Noriko Yoshida, UNHCR Representative & Saqib Ahmed, of Serena inaugurated and later witnessed the display center & gallery to promote the crafts of refugee artisans.—DNA

Baku condemns Armenian 'hate policy' against Azerbaijanis

The quadcopter was detected and brought down by Azerbaijani units in the area using "special technical means," according to the ministry

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Senior Azerbaijani official on Monday denounced what she described as a "continuation of a hate policy against Azerbaijanis" by Armenia. In a written statement, Azerbaijan's Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) Sabina Aliyeva accused Armenian authorities of making "various baseless statements, forming strong negative opinions for Armenians through propaganda in Armenian press and social network platforms, and raising opinions detrimental to peace and coexistence." "This shows Armenia is not interested in achieving peace with Azerbaijan," Aliyeva said. She called what is currently upheld by Armenia a "policy of Azerbaijanophobia" and argued its results could be found "more prominent in the comments of Armenian

users on social media platforms." Stressing "the current postwar period" between the ex-Soviet republics, Aliyeva said, "Azerbaijan believes such cases inciting hatred between nations, spreading hate speech and humiliating people due to their ethnicity are unacceptable and necessary steps should be taken to prevent these trends." Baku has been blaming Yerevan for a gridlock in peace efforts since tensions escalated in December over a checkpoint in the Lachin corridor, the only road linking Armenia to Azerbaijan's Karabakh region, which divides the rival nations. The mountainous region has been at the center of a decadeslong territorial dispute between the two countries. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, ethnic Armenian separatists in Karabakh, internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, broke away from Azerbaijan resulting in the deaths of some 30,000 people.



The sides fought two wars to control Karabakh in the 1990s and again in 2020. Six weeks of fighting in autumn 2020 ended with a Russian-sponsored cease-fire that saw Armenia cede swathes of territories back to Azerbaijan it had illegally controlled for decades. In April this year, Azerbaijan set up the border checkpoint at the entrance to its Lachin corridor, which Armenia alleged was a "blockade" of Karabakh. Tensions soaring over the move left another half a dozen killed

from both sides since December. Baku denied the claims, saying the checkpoint was installed in response to security threats from Armenia and citing the smuggling of weapons and ammunition to Azerbaijan's Karabakh region by Armenia. Earlier this month, it temporarily halted operations at the checkpoint pending an investigation into the Armenian branch of the Red Cross for taking part in the alleged smuggling of contraband. The latest developments followed a monthlong protest by Azerbaijani environmental activists in response to illegal mining by Armenians, which Yerevan retorted to by making claims that it spurred a humanitarian crisis, as well as food and fuel shortages. Azerbaijan insisted at the time that civilian transport could go unimpeded through the Lachin corridor. In February, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) — the U.N.'s top judicial body — had ordered Azerbaijan to ensure free

movement on the road. In addition to verbal spats, there have been frequent clashes at the two countries' shared border despite ongoing peace talks between Baku and Yerevan with Moscow's mediation, as well as the European Union and the United States. Last week, an Azerbaijani official lamented the rejection by the self-proclaimed Armenian leaders in Karabakh of Baku's proposed path for shipments in the key corridor, arguing that it presented "a significant risk to achieving a peaceful resolution of disputes between Azerbaijan and Armenia and hampers the efforts of establishing lasting peace in the region." Similarly, Azerbaijan on Monday said it intercepted an Armenian four-rotor helicopter over its military positions in Karabakh. "On Aug. 7, around 1:30 p.m. (9:30 a.m. GMT), a DJI Mavic 3 quadcopter belonging to the Armenian armed forces tried to fly.

CM visits hospitals, tourist police stations in Bukhara

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi embarked on a visit to the mausoleum of Imam Bukhari in the city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan. During the visit, he paid his respects at the mausoleum and offered a special prayer, said a handout issued here on Tuesday. The CM also toured various hospitals and the tourist police station in Bukhara to inspect the facilities. Upon reaching the mausoleum of Imam Bukhari, the caretaker warmly welcomed Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his delegation. CM Mohsin Naqvi, along with his entourage, offered fatha and prayed for the country. The delegation further explored the Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex, taking note of its architectural brilliance and intricate details. Mohsin Naqvi highlighted the collaborative legacy of Imam Bukhari and other Sufis and scholars from Uzbekistan. The artistry exhibited in the Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex was met with admiration by the chief minister who praised the Uzbek architectural style and the intricate tile work. During his visit to hospitals in Bukhara, the CM assessed the healthcare facilities available for patients and emphasized his dedication to providing exemplary medical services in Punjab. The delegation also inspected the reception desk, referral system, and other departments in Uzbek hospitals, including child emergency, diagnostics, medical wards, and ICU. The CM engaged in discussions with doctors and medical professionals, acknowledging their dedication to serving humanity. A briefing was provided about the hospital complex, and CM expressed his appreciation for the high-quality healthcare services offered to patients in Uzbek hospitals. The chief minister also inspected the modern equipment in different departments, including the Cardiac & ICU, and observed the treatment procedures. He showed keen interest in advanced medical technology, training seminars for doctors, and the library system for medical practitioners. The CM and his delegation were briefed about the tourist police station in Bukhara. The delegation inspected different sections and reviewed the system established to facilitate tourists. The chief minister also inspected the digital monitoring system and commended its effectiveness. Furthermore, Mohsin Naqvi and his team inspected the arrangements for tourist assistance and the reception desk. They were provided with information about tourist attractions and the services available to visitors through a map. Senior officials of the Uzbek tourist police briefed Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the members of his delegation about the procedure of helping tourists and the Silk Route.—APP

July 2023 was hottest month on Earth, says EU climate body

ATHENS: The hottest month on Earth on record, the EU's climate body said Tuesday, setting another landmark in the year global warming became almost impossible to ignore. "2023 is currently the third-warmest year to date at 0.43C above the recent average, with the average global temperature in July at 1.5C above preindustrial levels," said Samantha Burgess, deputy director of the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service. "We just witnessed global air temperatures and global ocean surface temperatures set new all-time records in July. These records have dire consequences for both people and the planet exposed to ever more frequent and intense extreme events," she said.—DNA

Niger's junta appoints former minister as new "PM"

NIAMEY: Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, Niger's former economy minister, has been named as the new "prime minister" by the coup junta, Niger's news agency ANP reported on Monday. The junta's spokesperson made the announcement on television late Monday night. Born in 1965 in Zinder, Lamine Zeine was minister of finance for former President Mahamadou Tandja before joining the African Development Bank, of which he was the representative in Chad until his appointment, the report said. Niger's soldiers ousted President Mohamed Bazoum on July 26, hours after the Nigerien president was allegedly held hostage. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a regional bloc comprising 15 West African nations, and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) met on July 30 in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, and decided to impose economic and financial sanctions in response to the military coup in Niger. The junta has been given a one-week ultimatum to restore constitutional order, with the possibility of military intervention if non-compliance persists. Abdourahmane Tchiani, head of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) in Niger, rejected those sanctions on Aug. 2. U.S. Acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland paid an urgent visit to Niamey to meet Niger's coup leaders on Aug. 7, hoping to get a negotiated solution to the crisis but in vain.

Number of displaced people exceeds 4M in Sudan

GENEVA: Over four million people have been displaced by the Sudan crisis, the UN refugee agency said Tuesday, voicing concern over the conflict's effects on healthcare services.

As the number of displacements increases, the UNHCR "is deeply worried about deteriorating health conditions across the country, including in refugee camps," William Spindler of the agency said at a UN press briefing in Geneva.

"The situation inside Sudan, where UNHCR teams are present, is untenable as needs far outweigh what is humanly possible to deliver with available resources," Spindler said.

In the state of White Nile, health and nutrition services in all 10 refugee camps are severely affected due to the shortage of essential medicines, staff, and supplies, he said and noted that over 144,000 newly displaced refugees have arrived from Khartoum, joining thousands of South Sudanese refugees and local communities who use these clinics.

Spindler stated that the total number of displaced individuals includes 700,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who fled to neighboring countries, as well as 195,000 South Sudanese who were forced to return to their home country.

He added that within Sudan, over three million people have been internally displaced, which include 187,000 refugees who already resided in the country at the beginning of the crisis.

"As many families have been on the move for weeks with very little food or medicine, rising malnutrition rates, disease outbreaks, and related deaths continue to be observed," he said. He underscored that over 300 deaths, mainly among children under 5 years, were reported due to measles and malnutrition between May 15 and July 17. Lack of essential medicines, staff, and supplies is severely hampering health and nutrition services, he said.

In addition, severe cholera and malaria are expected in the coming months due to flooding, he warned.

Since the conflict started in April, the health and nutrition status of those coming into South Sudan and Chad from Sudan has rapidly declined and is still deteriorating, he said, adding the situation across borders is equally "grim."

Regarding the attacks against healthcare professionals and institutions, Christian Lindmeier from the World Health Organization, said that 53 attacks occurred against the healthcare sector between April 15 and July 31.—APP

'Dramatic increase' in Myanmar war crimes

GENEVA: UN investigators said Tuesday they had gathered strong evidence of surging war crimes in Myanmar, including mass executions and sexual violence, and were building case files to help bring perpetrators to justice. The Southeast Asian country has been ravaged by deadly violence since a coup deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi's government in February 2021, unleashing a bloody crackdown on dissent that has sparked fighting across swathes of the nation. The United Nations' Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) said it had evidence that Myanmar's military and affiliated militias were "committing increasingly frequent and brazen war crimes". It pointed among other things to indiscriminate aerial bombardments, the burning of villages and mass killings of civilians and detained combatants, as well as torture and horrific sexual violence. The investigation team warned in its annual report that "the number of incidents bearing the hallmarks of serious international crimes" had surged since the coup. "Every loss of life in Myanmar is tragic, but the devastation caused to whole communities through aerial bombardments and village burnings is particularly shocking," Mechanism chief Nicholas Koumjian said in the statement.—APP

Greece hopeful to boost ties with Türkiye

NEWS DESK

ATHENS: Athens is "relatively" eager to enhance relations and political dialogue with Türkiye, Greek Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis said. "We have had a process of getting together, at least of resetting, a more sincere and frank relationship with Türkiye," Gerapetritis told Egypt's Al Qahera TV in an interview on Aug. 3, which was released by the Greek Foreign Ministry on Monday. Remarkably that he and his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan have developed a channel of communication, he said: "What we want to do is to try to promote a positive agenda with issues of common interest, such as trade, economy, civil protection, tourism, the overall development of the two countries, and then work on our relationships." Gerapetritis argued that the delimitation of maritime

borders is a major difference between the two countries. "We are considering to refer this dispute to the International Court of Justice in the Hague," he said. Last month, the Greek foreign minister said Athens was prepared to start talks with Türkiye to resolve the long-standing issue over maritime borders. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met in July during a NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, on July 11-12 to initiate new "lines of communication" and to maintain "a period of calm." High-level talks between the two countries are expected to take place in the Greek city of Thessaloniki later this year. Türkiye and Greece remain at odds over maritime boundaries in the Eastern Mediterranean, a



dispute that affects irregular migration into the European Union, mineral rights and the projection of military power. The feud over exploratory drilling rights had culminated in a naval standoff three years ago. Türkiye, which has the longest continental coastline in the region, doesn't recognize that Greek islands off its borders have a continental shelf and rejects maritime boundary claims of Greece and Greek Cyprus, stressing that these exaggerated claims violate the sovereign rights of both Türkiye and Turkish Cypri-

ots, while Greece insists that position contravenes international law. In November 2019, Türkiye and Libya signed a maritime delimitation deal that provided a legal framework to prevent any fait accompli by regional states. Accordingly, attempts by the Greek government to appropriate huge parts of Libya's continental shelf, when a political crisis hit the North African country in 2011, were averted. The agreement also confirmed that Türkiye and Libya are maritime neighbors. In response, Egypt and Greece signed an agreement in August 2020, designating an EEZ in the Eastern Mediterranean between themselves. Maritime zones give rights to states over natural resources and the Eastern Mediterranean, which remains largely unexplored. Greece often accuses NATO ally Türkiye of

stepping up hostility in the Eastern Mediterranean over their outstanding conflicts, which also include overlapping claims over their air space, the ethnically split island of Cyprus, irregular migration and the status of the Aegean islands. Greece has been building a military presence on the Aegean islands since the 1960s in violation of both the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne and the Paris Treaty of 1947, which awarded the islands to Greece on condition that they are kept demilitarized. Ankara argues the move is a provocative action that frustrates its good faith efforts for peace. However, despite standing issues, the neighbors have promised to shelve disputes that have caused repeated rounds of tension and even the risk of war over decades in the wake of devastating earthquakes in southeastern Türkiye in February.

Briefs

Saudi delegation meets MoS Khar

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Eng. Waleed Abdulkarim El Khreji, Saudi Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ms Hina Rabbani Khar. The Vice Minister is leading a high-level and representative delegation with members from the Saudi Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Energy, Health, Environment and Agriculture, Industry and Mineral Resources, Investment etc. The Minister of State hosted the delegation over a working lunch.

Welcoming the delegation, the Minister of State expressed satisfaction with the positive trajectory of bilateral relations. The Minister of State appreciated the Kingdom's interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan and apprised the Saudi delegation of the constitution of a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to facilitate and fast-track potential investments from GCC member states especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, regional and global issues of mutual interest also came under discussion. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a long history of relations marked by mutual trust and understanding and close multifaceted cooperation.

FIA arrests Khan's lawyer Panjotha: sources

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's lawyer Naeem Haider Panjotha, sources told media on Tuesday. Officials, who spoke anonymously, claimed that the lawyer had gone to FIA headquarters as he was summoned for investigation in the social media posts of Judge Humayun Dilawar. PTI lawyer Sher Afzal Khan Marwat tweeted that Panjotha's clerk had confirmed the arrest but it was not clear whether it was a formal arrest or not as the first information report cannot be "registered directly and without permission of Islamabad High Court". "Naeem Haider Panjotha Adv has reportedly been arrested by FIA. He went to FIA headquarters to join inquiry in Humayun Dilawar's Facebook posts," the PTI leader tweeted. Marwat said that Panjotha's arrest "would unite the legal fraternity" and would not stop the PTI chairman's legal team from discharging their "professional obligations". On the direction of the IHC, the Cybercrime Circle of FIA had launched an inquiry against Panjotha and had directed him to appear before the inquiry team at the Cybercrime Reporting Centre in Islamabad. In the summons, the inquiry officer had asked the lawyer to clear his position in the interest of justice for a fair trial.

Ministers say delay in elections on cards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif have both stated that there is a possibility of a delay in holding the next general elections. Speaking on TV programme, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that 2023 was not the election year. When asked if 2023 was the year when elections would be held, the minister said, "It is an absolutely straightforward answer - no." When one of the hosts commented that the upcoming caretaker setup had "acquired an unconventional significance as the one to get the role might stay for more than three months", Sanaullah insisted that there was nothing extraordinary about it.

CPEC an important milestone in Pakistan-China relations

Chinese Charge d Affairs in Pakistan Madam Pang Chunxue was speaking at a BRI/CPEC 10th Anniversary special events organized by Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province at KP House Islamabad this afternoon



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sino Pakistan Friendship is ever lasting, and China always values Friendship with Pakistan. CPEC being a flagship project of President Xi Jinping visionary Belt & Road Initiative is very important for socio economic up left of global community of countries. China always believes that sharing fruits of its prosperity with neighbors and other continents will enhance global prosperity and speed up international economic development activities. Chinese Charge d Affairs in Pakistan Madam Pang Chunxue was speaking at a BRI/CPEC 10th Anniversary special events organized by Pakistan-China

Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province at KP House Islamabad this afternoon. She, while speaking on the occasion, commanded the role of Friends of China in various walks of life and appreciated PCFA-KP initiatives. She also mentioned that President Xi Jinping's special envoy Chinese Vice Premier visit to attend to the celebrations shows the importance of this project in the eyes of Chinese leadership. She also stressed more economic activities to enhance both countries' relationships and new heights for both nations and regions. Earlier KP Minister LGE& RDD Advocate Sawal Nazir while speaking on the occasion said that Pakistan Economic Corridor commonly known as CPEC being a flagship project of BRI a idea to share



the prosperity among Friends and around globe by visionary Chinese President Xi Jinping since 2013, we Pakistani as a iron brother will be benefited with the multi billion dollars projects over the period of time, this was stated by Advocate Sawal Nazir KP Minister for LG&EDD at a cake cutting ceremony organised by Pakistan-China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at KP House Islamabad this afternoon. The Minister stressed that we should learn from Chinese experiences in all fields of daily life for the betterment of our nation. PCFA-KP Secretary-General Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani while welcoming Chinese & invited dignitaries inform that Sino-Pakistan relations are now on new heights and their is a great need to further enhance

the Understanding China in Pakistan and expand the Peoples to Peoples interaction through all available mediums. In order to further get benefits for socio economic development, we at Pakistan follow the rules & regulations of China, which help them to bring socio-economic uplift across the nation. While informing about the start up of PCFA-KP in 1970 as Pak China Students Friendship Association and this Association play vital role in declaration of Peshawar Urumqi & Abbottabad Kashmir sister cities in 1985 and 2007 respectively. At the event PCFA-KP distribute shhrilds among various leading figures of society in appreciation of their services for Pakistan-China Friendship various initiatives.

PTI challenges 'illegal' verdict in IHC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday filed an appeal in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) challenging the trial court's verdict and sentence against party chief Imran Khan, requesting that the court declare the judgement "illegal". "It is most respectfully prayed that the Hon'ble Court may graciously be pleased to set aside the impugned judgement dated 05.08.2023, and declare the conviction, sentence imposed upon the Appellant to be illegal and without lawful authority and to acquit the Appellant of the charges framed against him," the petition read. A two-member IHC bench led by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri will conduct the hearing on the petition tomorrow. Khan was sentenced to three years in prison and a fine of Rs100,000 by Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSS) Humayun Dilawar on August 5, 2023, after the judge found Khan guilty of graft in the Toshakhana case - a move likely to bar him from standing in elections due later this year. - DNA

US senator tells Biden to do more against 'racist' Israeli 'land grab'

WEB DESK

LONDON: A senior Democrat has demanded that US President Joe Biden do more to stop "racists" in Israel's government committing "gross violations" of Palestinian rights and territorial integrity. Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen told The Guardian after a recent visit to the West Bank that US military support for Israel is being used to annex parts of the Occupied Territories, facilitate violence by Israeli settlers and, along with inaction from the White House, is emboldening the far-right wing of the government of Benjamin Netanyahu. Van Hollen added that Israel should be investigated over possibly violating the 1997 Leahy Law on foreign militaries receiving US assistance whilst abusing human rights.

"President Biden should get more personally engaged in addressing these issues. We should make it clear, for example, that US military assistance is not to be used to aid and abet settler violence, and not to be used for the purpose of expanding settlements or protecting those who are erecting illegal outposts," Van Hollen told The Guardian, adding that what is happening in the West Bank is a "land grab" of Palestinian territory. "When you see it first-hand it underscores how alarming the situation is now with this ultra-right wing Netanyahu government that includes known racists like (National Security Minister Itamar) Ben-Gvir and (Finance Minister Bezalel) Smotrich, and clearly shows that they're determined to totally take over the West Bank," he said. "I'm very concerned about set-

tlar violence and the fact that you've got the (Israel Defense Forces) either looking the other way or sometimes cooperating with settlers in attacks on Palestinian villages and towns." Van Hollen said it is "time to really take a close look at how US security assistance is being used," though he added that Israel still needs American support in the face of threats from Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah. He said far-right elements in Israel's government have little respect for the US or Biden. Earlier this year, Ben-Gvir tweeted: "President Biden needs to realize that we are no longer a star on the American flag." Van Hollen said: "Ben-Gvir openly thumbing his nose at the United States pretty much indicated they'll do what they want to do, regardless of the US position. "So, I do think that in the

PM Shehbaz increases advertisements rates on APNS demand

ISLAMABAD: The APNS has expressed its profound gratitude to Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan for accepting the long outstanding demand of APNS for increase in the government advertisement rates for newspapers and periodicals. Mr Sarmad Ali Secretary General of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society in a statement has stated that the Prime Minister in a meeting with the office bearers of APNS, PBA and CPNE has agreed to the demand of the newspaper industry and announced an increase of 35% in the government advertisement rates. He said that the last revision of rates was announced over 6 years ago in February 2017 and it was agreed by the then government that the rates will be revised on yearly basis but despite consistent demands the rates were not increased. This gesture of the Prime Minister would be highly appreciated by the newspaper industry as it would help the newspapers to brave the financial crunch faced by them due to unprecedented inflation in the country. The APNS appreciates the support extended by Ms Maryam Aurangzeb Minister for information in resolving the long pending issue and expresses its thanks for her efforts to bail out the newspaper industry from the liquidity crunch. - DNA

India court asks if Nuh demolitions were 'ethnic cleansing'

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: An Indian court has asked whether days of demolitions of homes and businesses of mainly Muslim residents in the northern state of Haryana were "an exercise of ethnic cleansing". Ordering a halt to four days of bulldozing of properties in the state's Nuh district, the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday said: "The issue also arises whether the buildings belonging

to a particular community are being brought down under the guise of law and order problem and an exercise of ethnic cleansing is being conducted by the state." The bench of Justice GS Sandhawalia and Justice Harpreet Kaur Jeewan also observed that the state authorities had conducted the demolition drive "without following the procedure established by law" or issuing any prior notices to the people owning the properties, legal news website LiveLaw reported. Media on Monday reported that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Haryana demolished hundreds of homes, shops and shanties in Nuh, the state's only Muslim-majority district. In recent years, several rights groups have condemned the BJP for making the bulldozing of properties owned by mainly Muslim suspects in cases of violence - and even political dissenters - a common practice in the states governed by the right-wing party. The observation by the Punjab and Haryana High Court is a rare example of India's judiciary asking a question that is already being asked by rights groups and experts around the world.

US diplomat visits Niger to meet coup leaders

NIAMEY: A senior United States diplomat has visited Niger to push coup authorities to restore democratic rule after their overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum last month.

Victoria Nuland, the US's acting deputy secretary of state, said on Monday that she held "frank and difficult" talks with military leader Moussa Salauou Barrou and three of his colonels in Niger's capital, Niamey. It was the first trip by a US official to the country since the coup on July 26.

Nuland's requests to meet with Bazoum and Abdourahmane Tchiani, the self-proclaimed head of the military government, were denied, she said. In a telephone briefing afterwards with reporters, she offered a grim assessment of her talks with the military leaders. "They are quite firm in their view of how they want to proceed, and it does not comport with the Constitution of Niger," she said. "It was difficult today, and I will be straight up about that."

Nuland, however, reaffirmed her country's commitment to a "negotiated solution" to the conflict. If the coup leaders are willing to return to Niger's "constitutional order", Nuland said that the US is "prepared to help with that". - Agencies

Stocks drop steeply as political uncertainty peaks

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday witnessed a steep decline after the benchmark KSE-100 fell by nearly 1,000 points as it went through a correction since jumping past the 49,000 mark. The market closed the day on a negative note as it shed 956.43 points or 1.98% to settle at 47,429.82 points.

According to a report by Arif Habib Limited, the 49,000 mark proved to be pivotal and trade below saw downside momentum accelerate. "The correction that we had been anticipating since the market hit 49,000 is here but will soon subside," it added. However, there are several factors that weighed on the market sentiments including political uncertainty and the ambiguity surrounding the upcoming elections and caretaker set-up.

Pakistan-Kuwait Investment Company's Head of Research Samiullah Tariq said that the stocks plunged as political jitters sparked a massive profit-taking spree with investors shedding risky assets in an over-bought market amid economic headwinds that are far from losing strength - much less changing course in the near to medium term.

Indian parliament debates no-trust motion in Modi govt

DNA

NEW DELHI: India's parliament debated a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government on Tuesday, a day after opposition leader Rahul Gandhi returned to the house. The opposition Congress party launched the debate in a bid to force comment from Modi on months of deadly ethnic conflict in northeastern Manipur state, with a vote potentially to be held on Thursday. Government minister Kiren Rijju said the motion had "been brought at an extremely bad time and Congress would regret it later".

Modi's Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 303 seats in the 543-member lower house in the 2019 election and is expected to comfortably defeat the no-confidence vote, which it has dismissed as a headline-grabbing gimmick. Gandhi, scion of India's premier political dynasty, was restored to parliament on Monday after the Supreme Court last week suspended his defamation conviction over comments criticising Modi.

PM lauds crucial Saudi support to Pakistan

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a longstanding history of brotherly bilateral ties marked by mutual trust and understanding, close cooperation, and an abiding tradition of mutual support

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Eng. Waleed Abdulkarim El Khreji, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on the Prime Minister. The Saudi Vice Minister is leading a high level delegation with members from the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Energy, Health, Environment and Agriculture, Industry and Mineral Resources, Investment etc. The Prime Minister welcomed the delegation and expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of bilateral relations with the Kingdom. He also conveyed his greetings for the Saudi leadership. He also thanked Saudi Arabia for its timely financial support to Pakistan, especially during the floods and appreciated Saudi Arabia's role in helping Pakistan in its efforts to achieve macroeconomic stability in the country.



The Prime Minister invited Saudi government and companies to avail the investment opportunities in agriculture, mining, IT, energy and other sectors. He said the establishment of a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) will facilitate and fast-track potential investments from GCC member states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In this regard, the Prime Minister appreciated the Kingdom's serious interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan. The visit of the Saudi delegation manifests the deep interest and willingness on both sides to transform the longstanding fraternal ties into concrete and mutually rewarding economic partnership. The visit will contribute to further enhancement of multi-faceted collaboration between the two countries. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a longstanding history of brotherly bilateral ties marked by mutual trust and understanding, close cooperation, and an abiding tradition of mutual support.