

# Islamabad POST

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**Djokovic clinches historic 24th Grand Slam title**

Detailed News On Page-06

**Biden says raised HRs with Modi**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Turkey leading efforts against food crisis**

Detailed News On Page-07



## Closure of Torkham border

# Pakistan rubbishes Afghan govt view

Pakistan cannot accept the construction of any structures by the Interim Afghan Government inside its territory since these violate its sovereignty: Mumtaz Zahra

## FC man martyred in Peshawar blast

FC vehicles were coming towards Warsak Road from Machni



SHAMIM SHAHID

**PESHAWAR:** At least one Frontier Corps (FC) personnel was martyred Monday after a blast targeted a security forces' vehicle on Peshawar's Warsak Road on Monday, police and rescue officials said. Warsak Superintendent of Police Arshad Khan confirmed that it was an improvised explosive device (IED) blast. The explosion, according to the spokesperson of Rescue 1122, has left seven FC personnel and three civilians injured. The spokesperson added that the injured security personnel were shifted to the Combined Military

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MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has termed Afghan government statement regarding closure of the Torkham border as baseless. The Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch made the following statement: "The statement of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs comes as a surprise as the Interim Afghan authorities know fully well the reasons for the temporary closure of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border at Torkham. Pakistan cannot accept the construction of any structures by the Interim Afghan Government inside its territory since these violate its sovereignty. On the 6th of September, instead of a peaceful resolution, Afghan troops resorted to indiscriminate firing, targeting Pakistan military posts, damaging the infrastructure at the Torkham Border Terminal, and putting the lives of both Pakistani and Afghan civilians at risk, when they were stopped from erecting such unlawful structures. Such unprovoked and indiscriminate firing on Pakistani border posts cannot be justified under any circumstances. The unprovoked firing by Afghan border security forces invariably emboldens the terrorist elements. These elements are enjoying sanctuaries inside Afghanistan as confirmed by the UN Security Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team in its latest report. We have always said that we wish the border with Afghanistan to be a border of peace and amity between the two countries. We have welcomed our Afghan brothers and sisters with open arms for decades. Pakistan has continued to exercise restraint and prioritize dialogue in the face of persistent unwarranted provocations by Afghan troops deployed along the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border. Temporary closures take place only in extreme cases such as the 6th September 2023 incident on the border or when Afghan soil is used to launch terror attacks inside Pakistan. The statement of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs also includes some irrelevant comments and unsolicited advice about Pakistan's economy and foreign trade. For the last several decades,

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## ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Dr. Gohar Ijaz, Ambassador of Ethiopia Jemal Beker, Dean of African Group, Ambassador of Morocco Mohammad Karmoune and other cutting cake to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year. - DNA

## Rupee gains massively against greenback

Anti-smuggling steps start yielding results

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee massively recovered against the US dollar in the open market during intraday trade owing to the crackdown initiated by the government against currency smugglers, hoarders and black marketers. The greenback was trading below the Rs300 mark in the open market on Monday as the local currency recovered over Rs4 in a single day. "The rupee has gained significantly in the open market in a week due to the government's action against the smuggling of the currency in big cities," said AHL Head of Research Tahir Abbas while speaking to a private news channel. "This was a very important measure as our currency was continuously depreciating. It was also IMF's [International Monetary Fund] demand to maintain a difference between the rupee-dollar exchange rate at 1.25%," he added. He said that further correction of up to Rs10-15 is expected in the coming days. Pakistan announced a crackdown against illegal currency smugglers and hoarders following COAS General Syed Asim Munir's meeting with leading business figures in Lahore and Karachi. Gen Munir assured the business community of fostering "transparency" in the dollar exchange and interbank rates. The rupee was poised to extend its recovery in the coming week, supported by administrative measures and robust dollar inflows from exports and remittances.

## PM Kakar says election commission to decide polls date

PM vows path of development for backward areas while talking to Country Director of World Bank

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar Monday said Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) would decide about the date for the upcoming elections. In an interview with private news channel, he said parliament had passed a law according to which Election Commission had the power to announce the date for new elections. Speculation regarding the elections should end as these would be held according to the prevalent law, he said adding, "We have no intention to prolong tenure of the caretaker government." He said as a student of history of Pakistan, he would express gratitude to Quaid-e-Azam for protecting rights of the Muslim minority and saving it from the domination of majority. After seeing the attitude of bigger states against the mi-

norities, he said he could see that it would have been difficult to protect the religious and cultural identity of Muslims if Quaid had not secured an independent state for Muslims. He said he admired Quaid-e-Azam for his constitutionalism, all-inclusiveness and for protection of rights of minorities. The prime minister assured that action against smuggling would continue and the writ of the state would be established. "We are taking these actions so that the new government with its mandate can easily continue our work for public interest." Meanwhile, Caretaker PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said that putting backward areas of the country on the path of development is the priority of the government. He was talking to Country Director of World Bank Najay Benhasaine who called on him in Islamabad today.

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## Briefs

### Imran Khan denies reports of 'deal'

DNA

ATTOCK: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan on Monday held another meeting with his legal team in Attock Jail, denying reports of any 'deal'. According to details, PTI legal team comprising Naeem Haider Panjotha, Umair Niazi and Shoab Shaheen met the deposed prime minister in Attock jail today (Monday). Talking to journalists after the meeting, Naeem Haider Panjotha said that PTI chief had denied reports of any deal, reiterating that the only solution to country's 'economic disaster' was 'immediate and transparent elections'.

### 'Key decisions in next 10 days'

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief and Ex-interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday that the next 10 days were important in the country's politics and key decisions were expected during these days. In a message on social networking site X (Twitter), Sheikh Rashid said the real problem was poverty and economy, and not politics. Those who assumed power to give relief to the poor masses had moved out of the country. They got their cases closed in 16 months, plundered national wealth and pushed the masses to the edge of disaster. He said those who had come to save the state destroyed it because people were the state.

## President House denies rumours President Alvi likely to announce polls date

Dr Arif Alvi, Caretaker Law Minister discuss holding of general elections

FAIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi is likely to give a date for next general elections in Pakistan anytime, sources said on Monday. It comes after the president held a meeting with caretaker Law Minister Ahmed Irfan Aslam to hold consultation regarding elections. "The continuation of the consultation process with good intentions will prove to be productive for the democracy in the country," the president remarked. Sources said the law minister told the president that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had the authority to announce a date for elections. Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has written a letter to President Alvi, urging him to immediately give a date for polls in the country. The National Assembly was dissolved last month days before the completion of its constitutional term to clear the way for holding elections within

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## PTI demands poll date from President

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Monday demanded an immediate announcement of the election date in a letter sent to President Arif Alvi. Secretary General PTI Omar Ayub Khan wrote to Dr Arif Alvi saying that under Article 48(5) of the constitution of Pakistan 1973, he has to appoint a date for holding the general elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly. He said that the announcement of the date is a

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## Court was embroiled in constitutional issues: CJP

Supreme Court has been marred with controversies this year against the backdrop of a political crisis



COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Speaking for the last time at a ceremony marking the commencement of the new judicial year on Monday, Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial said that the court was tested several times in February 2023 with matters pertaining to the Constitution of Pakistan. He added that he did not want to repeat all that has happened but it is reflected in part in the decision for the audio leaks case. Commenting on his differences with incoming

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## Arrest warrants issued for Islamabad IGP

ABBAS HASHMI

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) issued bailable arrest warrants for Inspector General Police (IGP) Islamabad after he did not appear before the court on Monday despite issuance of a notice against him in contempt proceedings over allegedly flouting court's order by arresting former Punjab chief minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi. In a report submitted before the court earlier today, Punjab Police declared Islamabad police's arrest of Elahi as "legal and lawful". A single-bench comprising Justice Mirza Viqas Rauf was hearing a plea filed by Elahi's wife Qaisara Elahi, seeking contempt proceedings against investigation and operations DIGs. The Lahore security SP submitted a report before terming Investigation

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## Asia Cup Cricket India thoroughly rough up Pakistan

Pakistan's top order fails to perform; weak bowling allows Indians to pile up runs

DNA

COLOMBO: India have set a target of 357 for Pakistan after they resumed batting at 147/2 against Pakistan on reserve day of the Super Four match of Asia Cup at Colombo. Pakistan in pursuit of the mammoth total lost four wickets - Inamul Haq Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and Mohammad Rizwan - with 78-4 from 19.5 overs.

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CENTRELINE

78th INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDONESIA



## GIT to furnish detail report regarding universities

PESHAWAR : Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali has directed the Chairman, Governor Inspection Team (GIT) for furnishing a detailed report regarding the academic programme, financial resources, staff, and number of students in the public sector universities and to present it to him. He issued these directives during a meeting with the Chairman GIT, Dr Saad Sikandar Khan here in the Governor's House on Monday. During the meeting, the Chairman GIT informed the Governor regarding the overall performance of the organization, financial & administrative irregularities in different universities, and inquiries conducted on the complaints filed by the students and general public. During the meeting, they also discussed matters relating to surplus staff and less number of students in the universities. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that offices are sacred trust of the county and nation, saying performing duties with honesty should be the mission of all of us. — DNA

## Three tourists die in Mansehra jeep plunge

MANSEHRA : Three tourists from Lahore died and seven injured when their jeep plunged into a gorge in Mansehra on Monday. The tourists were travelling from Paras to Sharan when their vehicle met the accident near Paras Jabra area of Balakot. Police have shifted the bodies and the injured to a nearby hospital. Two women and a child were killed after a speeding oil tanker hit a motorcycle near Basti Lashari in Jampur. One person was injured in the accident, rescue sources said. The rescue team shifted the injured and the bodies of the deceased to a hospital. The police seized the oil tanker and started investigations. As many as 44 passengers when a coach they were travelling in turned turtle in Lower Kohistan on Monday. The injured were rushed to Basham Hospital where condition of 10 of them was said to be critical.

## Culprits provided protection with misguiding FIR

KARACHI : The Sindh High Court (SHC) in its written judgment of Balda factory fire case expressed disappointment over faulty investigation and summoned report from the authorities. "Actual culprits were provided protection with a misguiding FIR. Fear forced witnesses to stay away, the police avoided to bring the issue of extortion in the light," the verdict read. "Certainly, the decision of setting the factory alight was not taken without approval of the top leadership of the MQM," the court observed. "The police neglected this key angle in the probe." "Meetings of MQM Karachi Tanzeemi Committee (KTC) were used to be held at the party's nine-zero office. Hammad Siddiqui has been a proclaimed offender and fled abroad but he was not brought back," court said.—APP

## Govt prioritizes economic diplomacy: Majyd Aziz

NAZIR SAYAL

KARACHI: Majyd Aziz, President Global Compact Network Pakistan (GPNP), stated that Pakistan is now giving high priority to economic diplomacy, and in recent times, this process has been amplified with the formation of the Special Investment Facilitation Council. He added that an excellent example of economic diplomacy is the personal initiative and effort of General Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff. His disclosure at a recent meeting that he has convinced friendly countries to invest over \$50 billion is a manifestation of pragmatic economic diplomacy. Majyd Aziz stated this as the keynote speaker on "Role of Diplomacy in Economic Development" organized by



ISLAMABAD: Students are taking lessons at open sir "Pehli Kiran School" at Golra area, which is back by NGO, to fulfill the Needs of Underprivileged Children in Pakistan For A Promising Future. — ONLINE

# Technology and innovation crucial for agriculture

MUHAMMAD ADIL

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that there is a need to bring technology and innovation for the development of agriculture in Pakistan and to increase the export of the agricultural sector. Despite being an agricultural country, the annual import of goods worth billions of dollars is regrettable. Cooperation with international agencies and donors should be done for the development of agriculture. He expressed these views while talking to the head of World Food and Agriculture Organization Pakistan, Florence Rolle, who met him yesterday along with a delegation. On this occasion, the possibilities of cooperation between the two institutions were discussed. ICCI president said that Pakistan being an agricultural country is very important for the world. About 18.5% of Pakistan's Gross National Income



(GDP) is comprised of agriculture 64% of the rural population is employed in agriculture while about 43% of the total national labor force is in agriculture. Pakistan is one of the 11 major countries in the world that have vast and fertile agricultural land. For the development of this sector, the government, private sector and other related institutions need to follow a coordinated policy together. By adopting technology and innovation we can make Pakistan a food basket. He praised the World

Food and Agriculture Organization for the promotion, improvement and problem solving of agriculture. He said that the World Food and Agriculture Organization can use the platform of Islamabad Chamber for its activities and seminars. Speaking during the meeting, World Food and Agriculture Organization Pakistan head Florence Rolle said that her organization is working on several projects to bring innovation in the agriculture sector in Pakistan. We also want to work with the business

community of Pakistan on other projects. In this regard, Islamabad Chamber should play its role in linking with other chambers including FPCCI. In the meeting, MoU regarding cooperation between Islamabad Chamber and World Food and Agriculture Organization was discussed which will be signed soon. Head of Operation of Food and Agriculture Organization, Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik, Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari and others participated in the meeting.



Islamabad: Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov called on Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, at Finance Division today. The meeting served as a platform for fostering bilateral relations and discussing mutual economic interests between the two nations. DNA

## Business leaders, civil society announced ACETalk Series

LAHORE : In a landmark event that brought together business leaders, economists, and experts, Pakistan's ongoing economic crisis and its far-reaching impact on businesses took center stage.

The discussions at this gathering delved deep into the root causes of Pakistan's economic challenges and explored strategies for lasting prosperity. The opening session set the tone by critically analyzing Pakistan's economic crisis. Anjum Asad Malik, CEO of AceBiz informed the participants that this is the first event of a 12-event series that will look into the solutions that the citizens and business leaders can create, and cultivate for a stronger and prosperous Pakistan. Attendees examined the multifaceted factors contributing to the crisis, and the pressing question of whether Pakistan could emerge from its current predicament within the next five years was addressed. Questions were raised and answered, shedding light on the complexities of the situation.

A panel of distinguished experts guided this session, Leading the discussion, Amir Jahangir, CEO of Mishal Pakistan, the Country Partner Institute of the World Economic Forum in Pakistan. Jahangir underscored Pakistan's youthful population as a strategic asset for the future. He discussed the nation's conscious efforts to partner with countries that can leverage its young and dynamic workforce, setting the stage for a bright future. Jahangir shared that Pakistan had a very young population at its creation and independence. —APP

## Commissioner Rawalpindi takes action to Combat Smog

RAWALPINDI : Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha directed to take action against all vehicles emitting smoke in order to prevent smog. Vehicles must obtain their fitness certificate from VICS before hitting the road. Along with this, the environment department should also monitor the kilns and ensure their transition to zigzag technology. Talking to the representatives of the Goods Transport Association, he said that the proposal to build a truck stand at Losar and Sangiani is under consideration for Rawalpindi city. In this regard.—DNA



## CCI Pakistan marks 35th PAANI plant

ABID RAZA

### CCI Pakistan, under its flagship CSR Project – PAANI has installed 35 water filtration plants across the country

LAHORE : In a ceremony held at Rescue Headquarters located in Lahore, Mr. Ahmet Kursad Ertin, Regional Director (SAME)- CCI Pakistan (Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Limited) and Dr. Rizwan Naseer Secretary Emergency Services Department, inaugurated a new water filtration Plant installed for the local community. The ceremony was joined by the senior management of the company along with World Wildlife Federation (WWF) and Rescue 1122 officials.

CCI Pakistan, under its flagship CSR Project – PAANI has installed 35 water filtration plants across the country. Each plant has a capacity to produce over 2000 liters of clean drinking water per hour, providing clean drinking water to over one million people per day. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ertin said "The choices we make today shape the world we inherit tomorrow. We deal with water issues in Pakistan on three fronts: efficiency, replenishment and providing access to clean water. For water efficiency, we are reducing our water usage through operational excellence programs. Additionally, we have committed towards water replenishment projects for the Ravi Basin and through these projects we aim towards water neutrality. With regards to access to clean drinking water, we are investing in community-based projects such as the PAANI project, to help secure water availability in water-stressed locations." On this occasion Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Secretary Emergency Services Department appreciated CCI Pakistan and WWF for installing Water Filtration Plants for underprivileged communities. He said "Rescue 1122 is providing basic right to emergency care to the citizens without discrimination. Over 13.2 million victims have been rescued and over 217 thousand fire emergencies responded to. He further added, "We are working with local communities on prevention of emergencies and hope such corporate partnerships continues for betterment of local communities." Dr. Rizwan also offered Rescue Stations as secure places for Panni water filtration plants, ensuring proper care and supervision of the water filtration plant under the guardianship of Rescue staff."

	<b>CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY</b> <b>PLANNING WING</b> (Directorate of Regional Planning)	
<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b>		
<b>UN-AUTHORIZED AND ILLEGAL HOUSING SCHEME NAMED "ISLAMABAD VILLAS" IN ZONE-4, ISLAMABAD</b>		
<p>It has come to the notice of this office that un-authorized and illegal booking/ marketing of plots and development/ construction is being carried out in "Islamabad Villas" in Zone-4, Islamabad; without the prior approval of the Authority and hence <b>illegal/ un-authorized</b></p>		
<p>2. As per provisions of ICT (Zoning) Regulations, 1992 [amended,2010] and Modalities &amp; Procedures framed for Planning and Development of Private Housing Schemes in ICT Islamabad, <b>No Housing/ Farm Housing Scheme can be floated/ launched in Islamabad by private sponsors without approval of CDA.</b></p>		
<p>3. <b>General Public</b> accordingly, through this public notice, is <b>Cautioned and Warned</b> in their own interest to refrain from indulging in any sale/ purchase of plots in the illegal housing schemes till the sponsors obtain NOC from CDA after fulfilling the requisite formalities. Before making investment of the precious money, public should ensure the legal status of the scheme from CDA Website <a href="http://www.cda.gov.pk">www.cda.gov.pk</a> may also be visited for updated status and approved Layout Plans of the schemes. <b>In case of any fraud/ loss, CDA will not be responsible.</b></p>		
<p>4. The Sponsors, Sellers, Builders, Developers, Advertisers, Promoters, Estate Agents, etc. of above Illegal/ Un-authorized Housing Schemes are also warned through this Public Notice to refrain from carrying out such illegal activities. The concerned Directorates of CDA are already engaged in taking action against Illegal Scheme. M/s IESCO, SNGPL, PTCL, etc. also requested not to provide their Service Connections to such Illegal/ Un-authorized Housing Schemes.</p>		
(EJAZ-UL-HASSAN) Director Regional Planning Phone:051-9252494		
PID (I) No. 1610/23		



## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### September

Sept01/Libya Revolution Day
Sept01/Tanzania
Defence day
Sept01/Uzbekistan
Independence Day
Sept07/Brazil
Independence Day
Sept09/DPR Korea National Day
Sept09/Tajikistan Independence Day
Sept16/Malaysia Armed Forces Day
Sept16/Mexico National Day
Sept16/Papua New Guinea
Independence Day
Sept18/Chile National Day
Sept21/Malta
Independence Day
Sept23/Saudi Arabia National Day

## Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

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

# Jamal inaugurates a solo show titled "Portraits of Quaid"

The minister said today, there was a need for the nation to emulate the Father of Pakistan's everlasting principles of faith, unity and discipline to face the current challenges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah on Monday inaugurated a solo exhibition of paintings titled "Portraits of Quaid" organized by Ali Azmat, a renowned artist in collaboration with ForArtSake curated by Amna I Pataudi and Dr. Rahat Naveed Masood here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah paid rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for his vision, untiring hard work and charismatic leadership to win a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent.

The minister said that the artist has thematically tried to capture what Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah envisioned for Pakistan. He said that the exhibition is a fantastic amalgamation of hyper realistic paintings and drawings of Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The minister said today, there was a need for the nation to emulate the Father of Pakistan's everlasting principles of faith, unity and discipline to face the current challenges. Praising curator Amna I Pataudi, artist Ali Azmat and ForArtSake, he said PNCA should acquire few photographs. He said that the arts can transform you like nothing else. Jamal Shah said that National Heritage and Culture Division and its attached



departments would organize more cultural activities including theatre, music, film festivals and China Pakistan Economic Corridor Cultural CPEC) Caravan. The curator of exhibition Amna I Pataudi thanked the Federal Minister Jamal Shah for inaugurating the exhibition. She said that for the first time any artist is federal Minister for Culture and who is himself one of the renowned artist. She said that nobody can better understand the issues of artist's community than Jamal

Shah. The show was organized to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Mr Jamal Shah quipped at the inauguration ceremony "Ali Azmat adds color, aesthetics, and takes up the responsibility to bring clarity and awareness in the larger political landscape of the country. Ali Azmat has accomplished this feat remarkably well in his works. As you walk from one painting to another, you can see how brilliantly Azmat Ali captures the changing expressions of

the Quaid's visage". The artist has painted a benign smile in one, changes into mild bewilderment in the next, looks melancholy sometimes, and disappointed in others. The repertoire of expressions is as rich as the colorful strokes of the artist. His works reflect his love for nature, history, and spirituality, as well as his social commentary on contemporary issues. He uses various mediums and techniques, such as oil, watercolor, acrylic, collage, and mixed media, to create his

unique style. The exhibition will remain open for public viewing till 18th September, 2023 at the National Art Gallery of PNCA. It is part of PNCA's efforts to promote art and culture in Pakistan and to commemorate 75th Anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam. The show was heavily visited by a large number of audience including artists, students, VIPs, Government officials, press & media etc. A large number of students visited the show and interviewed the artists about their techniques and art practices.

## PRCS Vows Humanitarian Support to Morocco: Leghari

PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Leghari said that Red Crescent has stood with the people of Morocco in this hour of grief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Sardar Shahid Ahmed Leghari, expressed deep sorrow and extended heartfelt condolences to the brotherly Moroccan people following the recent catastrophic earthquake.

This devastating event, marked by a 6.8-magnitude earthquake, is the most severe Morocco has witnessed in 120 years. The disaster has resulted in significant loss of life and widespread

damage, particularly in Marrakech and surrounding



provinces. Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Leghari affirmed PRCS's unwavering commitment to stand in solidarity with Morocco during

this time of grief and distress. He pledged that PRCS would provide all possible cooperation and support for the relief and recovery efforts aimed at assisting the earthquake victims. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have tragically lost their loved ones and with all those affected by this immense tragedy. PRCS is prepared to offer any necessary assistance and support to alleviate suffering and contribute to the recovery endeavors," stated Chairman Leghari.

Sardar Shahid Ahmed said that PRCS would highly appreciate the guidance from the leadership King of Morocco in facilitating humanitarian aid to the earthquake victims. PRCS remains dedicated to its mission of providing essential humanitarian assistance and support to those in need, and it stands ready to work closely with the Moroccan authorities and international partners to address the immediate and long-term needs arising from this devastating earthquake.

## Rotary Pakistan Collaborating with corporate and social sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rotary Pakistan, a leading non-profit organization dedicated to community service, is proud to announce its collaboration with corporate and social sector organizations for the Smart Village Project, aimed at bringing sustainable development to communities across Pakistan. The Rotary Foundation Seminar, was held at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries, graced by the presence of esteemed guests, including Former Rotary International President Barry Ressin, Chair of the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation for 2023-2024, Rotary International Director Faiz Kidwai,

and Aziz Memon, Trustee of the Rotary Foundation. The event also witnessed the participation of a significant number of Rotarians, civil society business community and LOIN members. The Smart Village Project, conceptualized by RID Faiz Kidwai, has been designed to address the pressing issues of climate hazards, reduce carbon emissions, and respond to recent devastating floods that have affected communities across Pakistan. This visionary initiative aims to establish twenty smart villages, comprising 2000 shelters, across the nation, with two villages already operational. To ensure the realization and sustainability of this groundbreaking project,

Rotary Pakistan has forged strategic partnerships with prominent corporate and social sector organizations. Vice President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries has officially committed to partnering with Rotary Pakistan on the Smart Village Project, demonstrating their dedication to community development. Lion District Fezan Majid Kapur has also extended his support, solidifying the collaboration between Rotary and Lion on this vital initiative. Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, CEO of Roots Millennium Education, has pledged his unwavering support to Rotary Pakistan in its mission to serve communities in need.

During the Rotary Foundation Seminar, an inspiring amount of over \$125,000 USD was pledged for Rotary Foundation for the projects in Pakistan, underlining the commitment of Rotarian to this transformative endeavor. Rotary Pakistan's CSR Partnerships team has actively engaged with various corporate sector organizations to foster partnerships and leverage CSR funds effectively. These collaborations aim to drive sustainable community service projects that will create a significant impact on disadvantaged populations and contribute to safeguarding the environment against climate hazards.

## Doctors-scarce Pakistan Has 35% Female Doctors Jobless

Majority of these doctors studied at public sector universities where the government spends billions of rupees to subsidize education

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A large number of female doctors are out of job in Pakistan despite the fact that the world's fifth most populous country badly needs qualified medical practitioners.

Ironically, this is happening in a country where the resource-constrained government is spending billions of rupees on subsidizing medical education in public sector universities. As many as 35% female medical doctors are unemployed in Pakistan, revealed a research jointly conducted by Gallup Pakistan and PRIDE across the country. Basing their research on Labour Force Survey 2020-21, Gallup Pakistan and PRIDE analyzed Pakistan Bureau of Statistics' data on labour market specially female medical graduates and disseminated the same for the country's wider policy circles. The crises-hit country while is facing a serious shortage of qualified doctors more than 36,000 female doctors are either jobless or opt to remain out of the labor force for various reasons. "Pakistan has a dearth of trained medical doctors," said Bilal Gilani, an executive director at Gallup Pakistan. "Among females, a major issue is qualified female doctors are not working," viewed Gilani. "We need to rethink about both the costs to taxpayers of these not working doctors but also the loss in terms of health outcomes which their absence is causing," observed Gilani. The survey shows that presently 104,974 female medical graduates are residing in Pakistan. Of the total, 68,209 or 65% are working at various private and state-owned medical facilities.

The country, however, has 15,619 or 14.9% female doctors without any job while 21,146, constituting 20.1% of the total number, are completely out of labour force, the survey shows. According to Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PMDC), since its inception in 1947 Pakistan has produced about 200,000 doctors, half of them being females. The data from Bureau of Emigration show that around 30,000 doctors have left Pakistan since 1970 and on average almost 1,000 are going to settle abroad every year. Majority of these doctors studied at public sector universities where the government spends billions of rupees to subsidize education.

## Bugti congratulates IBKP & Customs

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sarfaraz Ahmad Bugti has congratulated the Intelligence Bureau Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (IBKP) and Customs Intelligence for their exemplary joint operation which led to the seizure of smuggled goods worth Rs 519 million. The minister said that the operation was one of the most important cases in the history of the IBKP and is a shining example of the dedication of the agency to protect Pakistan's economy and borders. He also praised the cooperation between the IBKP and Customs Intelligence, saying that it is an example for other law enforcement agencies. The joint operation was conducted in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and involved a series of raids on warehouses and other locations. The smuggled goods included electronic appliances, vehicles, and textiles. The minister said that the seizure is a major blow to the smuggling mafia and will help to protect the legitimate businesses in the country. He also warned that the government will not tolerate any form of smuggling and will take tough action against those involved in the illegal activity. The minister's tweet is a welcome recognition of the work of the IBKP and Customs Intelligence. It is also a reminder of the government's commitment to protecting Pakistan's economy and borders.—APP

## Training Courses completed for New Gwadar Airport

DNA

GWADAR: As skilled manpower is a key prerequisite to operate New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), which is highly likely to be operational in September, China has completed "Training Courses" for government officials. It is the first of its kind human resource training courses aiming to train public office holders in a bid to help them hone their technical, administrative and managerial expertise. A Civil Aviation Authority official told Gwadar Pro, the Government of Pakistan did not bear any cost as all expense incurred in the process of conducting of training course has been executed under China's aid. He said that most of the officials from Civil Aviation Authority in the section of operation, management, security, engineering & mechanical work have completed the course. He further said that on July 27, former Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif officially inaugurated major component of NGIA, a high-priority project of CPEC, in a watershed moment of the tenth anniversary of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).—DNA

## Eighteen's developer wins award

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman & CEO of ORA developers, Mr. Naguib Sawiris, received the award for the Best Foreign Real Estate Investment in Pakistan. Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, which promotes economic development, strengthens international trade and honors business excellence organized the prestigious 35th RCCI International Achievement Awards 2023 hosted in Cairo, Egypt. Naguib Sawiris is a visionary real estate and hospitality entrepreneur that has enhanced development potential and morphed the foundation of the industry. EIGHTEEN housing project is first foreign investment in real estate sector of Pakistan. Eighteen located on the focal point for the twin cities with an extensive footprint, the mixed-residential development spans over a total of 2.7 million square yards, which is themed around an 18-hole championship golf course with ample green spaces and beautiful panoramic views.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice Mr Ahmed Irfan Aslam called on President Dr Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.—DNA



## Briefs

## Shah grieved over Ahmed Khan's sad demise

ISLAMABAD: Interim Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Jamal Shah, conveyed his profound sadness and condolences regarding the unfortunate passing of Prof. Ahmed Khan, a renowned artist, designer, teacher, and mentor. In expressing his sorrow over Ahmed Khan's demise, the minister extended his heartfelt condolences and offered prayers for the grieving family. He also beseeched Allah Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul. The minister remarked that his contributions to education and the world of art will be fondly remembered and valued by all those fortunate enough to have learned from him, both at the National College of Arts (NCA) and beyond. He emphasized that the void left by his passing is irreplaceable. Furthermore, the minister issued instructions to the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) to arrange a condolence reference in honor of Prof. Ahmed Khan, a legendary figure in the realms of art, education, and mentorship.—APP

## Famous Urdu writer Mumtaz Mufti remembered

ISLAMABAD: Famous Urdu writer Mumtaz Mufti was remembered on the occasion of his birth anniversary on Monday. Mumtaz Hussain Mufti was born on September 11, 1905 in Batala, east Punjab. He became a civil servant under British rule and started his career as a school teacher. At the time of partition, he migrated to Pakistan with his family. Mumtaz Mufti started writing Urdu short stories while working as a school teacher before 1947. At the beginning of his literary career, he was considered, by other literary critics, a non-conformist writer having liberal views, who appeared influenced by Freud. His transformation from liberalism to Sufism was due to his inspiration from a fellow writer Qudrat Ullah Shahab. All the same, he did manage to retain his individual point of view and wrote on subjects that were frowned upon by the conservative elements in the society. The two phases of his life are witnessed by his autobiographies, "Ali Pur Ka Aeli" and "Alakh Nagri". According to forewords mentioned in his later autobiography, "Ali Pur Ka Aeli" is an account of a lover who challenged the social taboos of his times, and "Alakh Nagri" is an account of a devotee who is greatly influenced by mysticism.—APP

## Promoting Health Research Critical says Dr. Nadeem Jan

ISLAMABAD: Presiding over the closing session of two day National Health Research Conference here today Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan said promoting and prioritizing health research was of critical importance in achieving goals in the health sector. We stand united in our pursuit of a healthier and more prosperous future of health research for our nation remarked the Minister while addressing top experts from the health sector and head of organizations hailing from across the country who participated in this conference. Dr. Nadeem Jan said the conference afforded deep confluence of knowledge, expertise, and dedication. He appreciated the keynote speakers, invited talks, and thought-provoking panel discussions, all of which have contributed to enriching the insights of health research in Pakistan. The conference has helped develop a better understanding of challenges and in comprehending framework of health research, the Minister remarked.—APP

## Crisis-Hit in Pakistan

## Understanding impact on businesses, path forward

Business Leaders, Civil Society, and Academics Announced ACETalk Series - A Platform for Thoughtful Discussions and Insights from a Solutions' Perspective

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark event that brought together business leaders, economists, and experts, Pakistan's ongoing economic crisis and its far-reaching impact on businesses took center stage. The discussions at this gathering delved deep into the root causes of Pakistan's economic challenges and explored strategies for lasting prosperity. The opening session set the tone by critically analyzing Pakistan's economic crises. Anum Asad Malik, CEO of AceBiz informed the participants that this is the first event of a 12-event series that will look into the solutions that the citizens and business leaders can create, and cultivate for a stronger and prosperous Pakistan. Attendees examined the multifaceted factors contributing to the crisis, and the pressing question of whether Pakistan could emerge from its current predicament within the next five years was ad-

ressed. Questions were raised and answered, shedding light on the complexities of the situation. A panel of distinguished experts guided this session. Leading the discussion, Amir Jahangir, CEO of Mishal Pakistan, the Country Partner Institute of the World Economic Forum in Pakistan. Jahangir underscored Pakistan's youthful population as a strategic asset for the future. He discussed the nation's conscious efforts to partner with countries that can leverage its young and dynamic workforce, setting the stage for a bright future. Jahangir shared that Pakistan had a very young population at its creation and independence. The country had almost 32 million people with an average median age of 15. Pakistan today has over 250 million people with a median age of 22 years. The next 50 years will be very productive for Pakistan, as Pakistan will be host to one of the youngest and most productive populations in the world. He further said, that Pakistan is making a conscious de-

cision to partner with nations that can benefit from its young and dynamic population, while the country can provide infrastructure and know-how on the technical side. This unique combination has set a very bright future for Pakistan and its new partners. He further said Pakistan needs to break the hegemony of the elites and industry cartels. Who has exploited the natural resources and opportunities of the nation for their personal and petty interests? He further said policies in Pakistan need to be transparent, and the leadership should be made accountable, so that competence and merit can prevail. Itukhar Taj, President and CEO of ICAP emphasized the critical importance of taxation as a significant challenge during his address. He highlighted that addressing taxation issues is vital for Pakistan's economic development and sustainability. Dr. Hassan Iqbal, Former Secretary to the Government of Pakistan, raised a key concern regarding policy inconsistency. He under-

scored the need for greater policy coherence and continuity to drive economic growth and development effectively. The second session shifted focus to potential solutions for Pakistan's economic challenges and explored the pivotal role of the business community in driving the country toward prosperity. A dynamic panel of experts shared their insights, best practices, and visions for the future of Pakistan's economy. The panelists included Anwar Kabir, Husnain Anjum, and Hassan Farooq. Each panelist brought a wealth of experience in economics and development, offering valuable perspectives and strategies to address Pakistan's economic challenges. A special session of the event was dedicated to addressing the critical issue of affordable housing in Pakistan, emphasizing the need for solutions that cater to both the rich and the poor. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team from AceBiz worked tirelessly to bring this event to life. Their efforts in logistics, con-

tent curation, and coordination were pivotal in making the event a reality. The event was organized in collaboration with the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The event was sponsored by the Alkhidmat Foundations Pakistan and the Al Karam City. The discussions during the event underscored the importance of collaborative efforts to address Pakistan's economic challenges. With a young and dynamic population, Pakistan's future holds immense potential. By harnessing this potential and implementing effective strategies, the nation can embark on a path toward lasting prosperity. AceBiz Talk Series is dedicated to fostering meaningful dialogues among business leaders, economists, and experts to explore solutions for pressing economic challenges. Through engaging panel discussions and expert insights, AceBiz led by Anum Asad Malik aims to contribute to the growth and development of Pakistan's economy.

## Iran, GCC cooperation imperative

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "The assistance of Iran is required for the development of Dorra/Arash Gas Field", said Dr. Shigetō Kondo, senior researcher at Institute of Energy and Economics Japan (IEEJ). He expressed these views at an event organized by the Iran Program at Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad.

Mr. Kondo argued that there was a need to establish the maritime border for the successful supply of energy. Any conflict over the energy resources should be handled mutually, he further added. On the recent issue of Dorra/Arash Gas Field, Mr. Kondo was of the opinion that the issue was insignificant as this particular gas field didn't produce any substantial volume of gas. While responding to a question, Mr. Kondo opined that resurfacing of this issue might hold negative consequences for the de-carbonization and diversification drive of the GCC states. The Dorra/Arash Gas Field would not impact the recent rapprochement between Iran and the GCC, particularly the KSA, however, the issue could be exploited as a bargaining chip, Mr. Kondo stated. Lastly, Mr. Kondo highlighted that both sides have downplayed this matter intentionally in order to continue towards the path of reconciliation.—APP

## Commerce Minister not to take salary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Communications and Chairman NHA Capt. (Retd.) Muhammad Khurram Agha paid a detailed visit to Balochistan in order to inspect and review the progress of various ongoing development projects and the restoration works on flood-affected road infrastructure. Acting on directions of the Hon'ble Caretaker Prime Minister Mr. Anwar ul Haq Kakar, Secretary Communications along with Member West Zone Mr. Shahid Ihsanullah and his team, made a comprehensive visit to various sites in Balochistan. Secretary Communications reviewed the developments on already issued instructions regarding expeditious progress on PSDP projects and maintenance schemes including Pinjra Bridge (N-65), Quetta Western Bypass (N-25), Khuzdar-Kuchlak Dualization (N-25), and Zhoib-Kuchlak Dualization projects (N-50).—APP

## Dr Kausar Malik sworn in as interim federal minister



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik, a noted agri-

cultural scientist and educationist on Monday took oath for the office of the caretaker federal minister. President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath of office

to Dr Kausar at a ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Earlier on September 9, the president appointed Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik as the federal minister in

the caretaker federal cabinet. He had made the appointment on the advice of the caretaker prime minister under Article 224 (1a) of the Constitution.

## US based film maker for highlighting Pakistan's image

ISLAMABAD: Izzy Chan – a US-based film maker stressed the need to highlight the positive image of Pakistan through a showcase of its rich cultural heritage and beauty as she recently visited Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Islamabad to train youth in documentary making. Izzy Chan is a storyteller and award-winning documentary maker who is deeply curious about cultural and social trends poised to change life. Her award-winning documentary feature on the rise of breadwinner moms and at-home dads, "The Big Flip—Stories from the Modern Home Front" (2016), premiered at the Austin Film Festival and Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival and was featured in the 2017-2019 American Film Showcase. As a film envoy, Izzy has traveled to Egypt, China, and Ukraine to conduct workshops on storytelling and strategy. Talking to APP in an interview, she said that during her recent visit to GB, she trained over 50 young aspiring filmmakers through her methods of production, idea conception, and theme development. "Pakistani youth has amazing talent and they can excel in the field of filmmaking if their ideas are explored and provided proper platforms. They can use the filmmaking field to bring positive change as well as project a soft image of the country through highlighting the positive aspects of their society which are not shown in international media," she maintained. Praising the beauty of nature and vibrancy of the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan, especially the North side, she said, "There is huge potential for tourism in Pakistan, and nature lovers and tourists from across the world must come to see these stunning glimpses of nature, local communities and hospitality of Pakistani people and show the world this true face of the country which is not shown unfortunately." "There is so much beauty and diversity in the GB region alongside women empowerment and a stable hospitality industry," she said. "As a cultural Envoy of American Film Showcase, which is a cultural and art exchange program, I met with young and energetic Pakistani students, the purpose of this art exchange program is to share our knowledge and documentary film-making skills with students and in return, I learned from their inspiring stories.—DNA

## 'India becomes the fifth largest power'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Brig. (ret) Aslam Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said on Monday that the operation against hoarders and smugglers of dollars, oil, sugar, and urea is commendable, but it needs to be accelerated. If the influential mafia is not eliminated this time, it will destroy the country, he said, adding that the people do not want elections but food and some relief. Aslam Khan said in a statement issued here today that India has become the fifth

largest power in the world while Pakistan has become the fifth largest borrower, and according to the IMF, Pakistan will soon become the fourth largest borrower. He said that after the crackdown against the criminal currency mafia, people are buying gold, so its trade should be regularised because 100% of the gold in Pakistan is smuggled, due to which no tax is collected from the jewellers. Almost every politician, every organisation, and people from every sphere of life have contributed to the destruction of the economy,

but now the situation has become very dangerous, and inaction or half-hearted action will result in regrets, he observed. Aslam Khan said that the ruling elite is behind every crisis in the country, but they are never held accountable. India and Bangladesh were already far ahead of Pakistan, but now the conditions in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan, and Afghanistan are much better. Aslam Khan said that the price of sugar and the value of the dollar have decreased significantly due to monitoring at the borders and action within

the country, but all the criminals must be brought to justice to improve the confidence of the masses and the business community. The action against stockpiling, smuggling, and corruption should not be temporary but should be a continuous process, while currency dealers and oil smugglers should be made an example so that the economic conditions improve and the people bring food to the table. If this does not happen, it will be the beginning of another disaster, which will be unfortunate, he warned.—

## ANF recovers 70 kg drugs; nets 11 accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 11 operations across the country managed to recover over 70 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that over 600 grams Ice drug concealed in two water coolers was recovered from a parcel reached at a private cargo office in Jhelum. The parcel was sent from Peshawar. 2.2 kg

hashish was recovered from a local resident netted from Haq Bahu Hotel in Bhakkar. The spokesman further informed that over 2.5 kg Ice drug was recovered from a passenger's trolley bag at Sialkot Airport. The accused, a resident of Jhelum, was leaving for Bahrain by flight number GF-769. Three suspects were rounded up from a passenger bus near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad and drugs were recovered from their pos-

session. 19 heroin-filled capsules were recovered from the possession of an accused, resident of Chiniot. In a joint operation with Punjab Rangers, five accused were netted in Kasur while 7.1 kg heroin was recovered from their possession. A motorcycle was also impounded during the operation. In an operation conducted in Peshawar, 18 ecstasy tablets were recovered from a parcel booked for Murree through a court-

er office. 200 grams hashish and 400 grams opium were recovered from the possession of an accused, resident of Mastung arrested near Raja Bazar, Gilgit. 10 kg hashish concealed for smuggling was recovered in Bajor area while 10 kg hashish concealed near Sepina Morga border of Khyber area was also recovered. In 10th operation, 24 kg hashish hidden near Mazani area in Gwadar was recovered. The spokesman said that in 11th operation, 15 kg opium hidden near Gardi forest in Chagani area was recovered. Separate cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act while further investigations are under process.—APP

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## Hanoi should be aware

**N**EITHER Washington nor Hanoi mentioned China during US President Joe Biden's visit to Vietnam. But all of the questions thrown at Biden in a news conference on Sunday were about China rather than the upgrading of US-Vietnam relations to the level of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, despite that being the Southeast Asian country's highest tier of partnership and Washington hailing it as a "diplomatic victory". Neither side may want to admit it in public, but it is China that has been the focus of the visit, as China has been the catalyst for the two countries' growing interactions. The Biden administration wants to leverage the territorial dispute between Vietnam and China to drive a wedge between the two Asian countries. The White House stated ahead of the visit that "we support Vietnam's independence and sovereignty, particularly in the maritime domain". Yet General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong has stressed the principles underscoring Vietnam-US relations should "include respect for the UN Charter, international law, and each other's political system, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity". Biden should be clear what that means. To make his point unequivocally clear, Nguyen pointed out: "Vietnam wishes to be a friend with all countries." That means despite the great lengths the Biden administration is going to entice Hanoi to jump onto its anti-China bandwagon, Hanoi is upholding Vietnam's strategic autonomy and refuses to downgrade itself from being a key regional player to a pawn in Washington's geopolitical game. The across-the-board US-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership supposedly covers all the key sectors, ranging from technology to trade and investment. However, Washington's ingrained distrust of a socialist country, if not its ruling communist party, is self-evident in the limited assistance the Biden administration has agreed to provide Vietnam. What the US wants from Vietnam is cheap labor, market, resources, or rare earth elements as Washington has highlighted this time, and a foothold in the South China Sea, with an agreement on visits by US naval vessels including aircraft carriers. What the US is giving in exchange is likely to be the usual pie-in-the-sky promises that developing countries know all too well. There was almost no fruit on the branches of the US' assistance program to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which Biden unveiled in a high-profile US-ASEAN Summit last year, except a few more military bases near the South China Sea. Hanoi should not expect too much of what Biden promised to be delivered unless it is in the US' interest. That the US has not yet finished the dioxin remediation project at the Bien Hoa Air Base Area shows how laggardly it is in remedying the "difficult past", as Biden called it. To that end, the US still needs to further carry out Unexploded Ordnance clearance and tracking, and to help Vietnam support persons with disabilities and to seek missing persons, which sadly constitute a major part of their upgraded partnership, about 50 years after the Vietnam War ended. That should serve as a vivid reminder to Hanoi that Washington talks a better game than it plays.



## Beware of attempts to derail China-UK ties

**D**ESPITE the differences that exist between China and the United Kingdom, the fact that the door of dialogue remains open at high levels shows the two countries' resolve to expand common interests while promoting the steady and long-term development of mutually beneficial Sino-UK relations. During a meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi on Sunday, Premier Li Qiang told UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak that China welcomes the UK to expand practical cooperation with China and is willing to deepen cooperation with the country in such fields as trade, investment, green development, people-to-people exchanges, and science and technology. Their meeting came shortly after UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly visited Beijing late last month in the highest-level trip by a UK politician to China in several years, underscoring the importance the leaders of the two countries attach to face-to-face talks that can help them to avoid any misunderstandings. Just a few years ago, the UK was expected to enjoy a "golden era" of bilateral relations with China, as evidenced by their unprecedentedly close economic ties. At the height of their friendly relationship, the UK was the first G7 member to sign up to the China-initiated Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, while Chinese companies were allowed to participate in the UK's new nuclear program, with a plan to build a Chinese-designed reactor in Essex. Yet due to the fast-changing international landscape, especially after London started to closely toe Washington's line in the wake of Brexit, Sino-UK relations have been on a downward spiral. Moreover, some UK politicians have been sparing no efforts to push the UK government to toughen its China policy, by describing the country as a "systemic threat" to the UK's national security. They have used recent reports about a UK parliamentary researcher who has been arrested on suspicion of spying for China as new ammunition with which to attack China, even after the Chinese embassy refuted the story as being "completely fabricated" and "malicious slander". Fortunately, such attempts at derailing the development of normal China-UK relations have been to no avail, since it serves both countries' interests if they engage with each other in a cooperative way. As Cleverly said: "No significant global problem - from climate change to pandemic prevention, from economic instability to nuclear proliferation - can be solved without China." So long as the two sides properly handle their differences, uphold the spirit of inclusiveness and mutual learning, and respect each other's core interests and major concerns, Sino-US relations can still enjoy a bright future.

# Sahiwal's commitment to sustainable development through literacy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer from the University of Okara expounded that literacy encompasses not merely the capacity to read and write, but it is also indispensable for personal development, social inclusion, and lifelong learning. Literacy serves as the foundational skill facilitating access to education. The celebration of this day reinforces the nexus between literacy and education to emphasize the pivotal role of literacy in enabling individuals to engage effectively in formal learning settings, attain academic success...

**I**NTERNATIONAL Literacy Day is an annual commemoration observed on the 8th of September, which serves to underscore the significance of literacy as an inherent human entitlement and a pivotal constituent of sustainable development. This occasion was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) back in 1966 and it has been globally celebrated ever since. The Literacy Department of Sahiwal District marked this event within the premises of the Sahiwal District Council Hall to champion the cause of literacy. The event was presided over by the District Education Officer (Literacy) for Sahiwal, Mrs. Shazia Iqbal and attended by a diverse array of participants, including notable figures such as Chaudhry Muhammad Ikram CEO (DEA) Sahiwal, Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer from the University of Okara, Kashif Riaz, President of the Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Haji Abdul Tahir, representatives from the Education Department, law experts, members of the media, educators, and students. The distinguished guest, Deputy Commissioner of Sahiwal, Mr. Ikram ul Haq, along with other honored guests, delivered their addresses to the assembly gathered for this ceremonial occasion. Deputy Commissioner Ikram ul Haq underscored the state's obligation to provide education and affirmed that access to education is the entitlement of every citizen. He lamented the disparity in literacy rates in our nation compared to other countries, expressing deep concern about this issue. He accentuated the necessity for altering our priorities, with a heightened focus on education, and the allocation of increased resources to the education sector. Additionally, he emphasized the profound importance Islam places on the acquisition of knowledge and stressed that despite facing multifari-

ous challenges; our nation must confront them resolutely and forge ahead. He called for collective efforts to ensure that no child is denied access to education and that this message permeates every household. In her address, Mrs. Shazia Iqbal, the District Education Officer (Literacy), articulated that education stands as the panacea for all societal issues. Consequently, in remote areas lacking basic educational facilities, non-formal education is being dispensed through informal schools. She pointed out that these establishments cater to children who, due to various constraints, are unable to enroll in conventional schools. These initiatives afford these children the opportunity to receive an education and subsequently become productive citizens contributing to the nation's progress. She underscored that these children, who are unable to attend formal institutions due to compelling circumstances, can attain an education through literacy and non-formal education centers, thus equipping them to become efficacious members of society and contributors to the nation's development. Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer from the University of Okara expounded that literacy encompasses not merely the capacity to read and write, but it is also indispensable for personal development, social inclusion, and lifelong learning. Literacy serves as the foundational skill facilitating access to education. The celebration of this day reinforces the nexus between literacy and education to emphasize the pivotal role of literacy in enabling individuals to engage effectively in formal learning settings, attain academic success, and progress in their careers. Furthermore, literacy is inextricably linked to economic advancement and the amelioration of poverty. Illiteracy can perpetuate poverty by limiting access to employment opportunities and economic participation. Promoting

literacy through initiatives and awareness campaigns can contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and enhancing overall quality of life. Illiteracy can engender social exclusion, as individuals lacking basic literacy skills may encounter challenges in fully participating in their communities, accessing crucial information, and advocating for their rights. International Literacy Day promotes the idea that literacy is a tool for empowering individuals and fostering social inclusion. In the context of sustainable development, literacy is acknowledged as one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations. Specifically, SDG 4 seeks to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." International Literacy Day aligns with this goal by championing literacy as an integral element of global sustainable development endeavors. Governments, organizations, and communities employ International Literacy Day as an opportunity to launch and showcase various literacy programs, initiatives, and projects. It furnishes a platform for deliberating strategies to address literacy challenges and for sharing success stories and best practices. By designating a dedicated day for celebrating literacy, the international community can draw attention to the worldwide literacy crisis and the millions of individuals still devoid of basic reading and writing skills. This heightened awareness catalyzes the mobilization of resources and support for literacy-related initiatives. To culminate the event, certificates of appreciation were distributed to both educators and students in recognition of their commendable efforts. Deputy Commissioner Ikram ul Haq and other participants were bestowed with a commemorative shields and certificates as a token of appreciation by District Education Officer (Literacy), Mrs. Shazia Iqbal.

# Iran's women light the path to a radiant future

Baria Alamuddin

Letters smuggled out of prisons tell a story of systematic rape, torture and daily humiliation of hundreds of women and girls. The confirmed uprising death toll of at least 537 included 68 children, and many protesters were executed. Photos and videos continue to circulate showing dozens of women deliberately shot in the eyes for daring to come out on the streets. The New York Times confirmed that 500 people with similar injuries sought treatment at just three hospitals in Tehran between September and November 2022...

**A**YEAR after the killing of Mahsa Amini triggered a nationwide mass uprising, Iran's leaders are so terrified by the prospect of catching a glimpse of a woman's hair that they have deployed mass surveillance to identify unveiled women in public spaces, and increased spying on social media activity. The "morality police," whose immoral, abusive behavior triggered the mass protests in the first place, have meanwhile been unleashed back on the streets. Former President Mohammad Khatami warned that the reemergence of these widely hated forces was self-destructive for the Islamic Republic and would trigger social implosion. However, as the ubiquitous "Woman. Life. Freedom" slogan emphasized, rejection of the hijab was always merely a symbol of a more profound desire among Iranian women for the freedom to live fulfilling, equal and productive lives. While the authorities obsess over women's hair, Iranians have plentiful additional reasons to feel frustration: inflation exceeds 50 percent, with an estimated 60 percent of people below the poverty line, a high proportion of whom subsist on less than \$2 a day; unemployment in the 15-24 age bracket is estimated at a crippling 77 percent; professionals are unsurprisingly fleeing abroad, with 6,000 doctors thought to have departed in 2023 alone. Legislation being discussed by Iran's parliament, imposing additional new punishments on uncovered women, has been described by UN experts as "gender apartheid." The UN added that the authorities were "governing through systemic discrimination, with the intention of suppressing women and girls into total submission." In recent days the authorities arrested numerous female activists and stepped up a campaign of intimidation, seeking to neutralize the momentum toward civil disobedience around the anniversary of Amini's killing. Businesses have been closed down and staff arrested merely for serving an uncovered female customer. Hospitals are banned from providing aid to unveiled women. Pro-regime online channels such as Bisimchi Media exist purely to spy on uncovered women and incite their arrest. Activist Leila Ziafar declared on social media: "We have given blood for shedding the hijab, our chains. We will never retreat from the path we have traversed," and posted a photo of herself

without a headscarf. Hours later Bisimchi Media hailed Leila's arrest, and even posted a video of her home being raided - a strong indication that it is directly connected with the security services. Letters smuggled out of prisons tell a story of systematic rape, torture and daily humiliation of hundreds of women and girls. The confirmed uprising death toll of at least 537 included 68 children, and many protesters were executed. Photos and videos continue to circulate showing dozens of women deliberately shot in the eyes for daring to come out on the streets. The New York Times confirmed that 500 people with similar injuries sought treatment at just three hospitals in Tehran between September and November 2022, illustrating the systematic nature of the crackdown. In recent days, pop singer Mehdi Yarrahi was arrested for releasing a song calling on women to remove their hijabs. He nevertheless urged people to go ahead with commemorating the anniversary of Amini's death, and pledged to be a "nightmare" for those prosecuting him. Yarrahi is one of dozens of musicians, sports personalities and public figures who have been persecuted for taking a principled stand, at the risk of their careers, and indeed their lives; celebrity chef Mehrshad Shahidi was beaten to death by Revolutionary Guard thugs the day before his 20th birthday. Despite all this, courageous women still determinedly walk the streets uncovered. One recounted how she often felt fearful on her daily unveiled commute to work, but fights her fear by "reciting the names of other brave women who have stood tall in the face of oppression: Sepideh Gholian, Nika Shakarami, Sarina Esmaeilzadeh..." Meanwhile US officials have naively been expressing optimism at moves to dial back tensions with Iran following behind-the-scenes talks. But these supposed achievements are rooted in deeply flawed thinking. They highlight the reduction in attacks by Iraq-based paramilitaries against US targets, while ignoring that these forces have massively increased in size and have become a much more chronic threat to regional security. Iran has slowed down but not stopped enriching uranium to 60 percent, only a step away from the 90 percent required for nuclear weapons. Tehran has released into house arrest a number of detained US cit-

izens in exchange for \$6 billion in frozen oil revenues. But such transactions are inevitably followed by an unseemly rush to abduct other poor souls, while unfrozen funds find their way to militants and terrorists. For schoolgirls too young to have any concept of broader geopolitical developments, the 2022 events created unforgettable formative memories, and ignited a resolute determination to one day play their part in transforming their nation's future. The 2022 uprising was also a revolution for patriarchal ways of seeing the world: after everything that occurred, men could no longer regard women as weaker or inferior, and women recall the prominent role male protesters played in protecting women under threat of arrest or attack. This was also an ethnic uprising that often raged most fiercely in Kurdish, Baloch, Azeri and Arab regions. Amini's family called her by her Kurdish name, Jina, which means "life." Kurdish names are illegal in Iran, hence the Persian name, Mahsa. The pressures and challenges facing women and all Iranians have only increased over the past year. When you speak to Iranians, even those previously sympathetic to the regime, everybody knows that change is coming, that the status quo is unsustainable. It is simply a question of when and how. Over the past year, Iran's women savored the tiniest taste of freedom, and acquired a glimpse of the immense power they are capable of wielding when they determinedly act together in support of change. Women and girls who sacrificed everything in the cause of freedom, such as Nika Shakarami and Sarina Esmaeilzadeh, are an inspiring illustration that the costs of the struggle for a brighter future are high, but are infinitely worth paying, so that daughters and granddaughters can relish the rights, freedoms and opportunities that were withheld from the post-1979 generations. The strong minded, highly educated, courageous and forward-looking women of Iran represent this country's glorious future. Today they are simply waiting for the rest of this proud nation to catch up with them. Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.

- Arab News



## Briefs

Pakistan  
rubbishes...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan has facilitated Afghan transit trade and will continue to do so. However, Pakistan cannot allow the misuse of the transit trade agreement. Pakistan stands ready to resolve all bilateral issues and concerns through constructive dialogue so that both countries can reap the dividends of economic connectivity and resultant prosperity. We expect the Afghan interim authorities to be mindful of Pakistan's concerns, respect the territorial integrity of Pakistan and ensure that the Afghan territory is not used as a launching pad for terrorist attacks against Pakistan."

FC man  
martyred...

FROM PAGE 01

Hospital (CMH). Meanwhile, some of the injured of the blast were brought to the Lady Reading Hospital, the hospital's administration confirmed. The two injured FC personnel are said to be in a critical condition, according to the hospital administration. Earlier, the Peshawar Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Syed Ashfaq Anwar said the explosion did not appear to be a suicide bombing at the initial stage. He said there is a possibility of explosives being planted along the roadside. The Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) and the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) teams were gathering forensic evidence from the attack site, the CCPO said. Warsak SP said five kilograms of explosive was used in the IED attack. "The FC vehicles were coming towards Warsak Road from Machni," he said, adding that five suspects have so far been arrested, as the investigation into the attack begins. CCPO Anwar conducted an inspection of the blast site and initiated investigations after reviewing the evidence.

Court was  
embroiled...

FROM PAGE 01

CJP Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Bandial maintained that the latter was an admirable man. The media is the eyes and ears of society, said the CJP, but, he added, incorrect reports were published about him. He referred to the use of his phrases "good to see you" and "short and sweet" and said they were taken out of context. He doesn't hold this against the media, he added. The outgoing CJP said that this might be his last address as the chief justice, and mentioned that the ongoing political situation has also affected judicial performance. Commenting on the performance of the apex court, CJP Bandial said that the SC disposed of 23,000 cases in the past year, breaking a previous record of disposing of 18,000 cases in one year.

PM Kakar  
says election

FORM PAGE 01

The Prime Minister recognized that the World Bank is playing a role for the development of the backward areas, especially the remote areas of Balochistan. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was appreciative of the role played by the World Bank in helping and rehabilitating last year's flood affected people. He said the government will provide all possible administrative support to soon complete the ongoing rehabilitation work in the affected areas. Najay Benhassaine briefed the Prime Minister in detail about development of backward areas in Balochistan, the ongoing efforts for rehabilitation of flood victims in Sindh and the progress for provision of aid money announced by the World Bank in Geneva for the flood affected people. Meanwhile, Caretaker Prime Minister has said perpetrators of the Jarawala incident will be brought to justice to prevent such acts in the future. He was talking to a delegation of the Christian community which called on him in Islamabad on Monday.

Djokovic clinches historic  
24th Slam title at US Open

Serb beats Russian opponent 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to win 24th grand slam title

## SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic defeated Daniil Medvedev in straight sets to win his fourth US Open and a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title, cementing his claim as the greatest tennis player in history. The 36-year-old Djokovic won 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to become the oldest men's champion in New York in the Open era and match Margaret Court's all-time mark for most Grand Slam victories.

"I don't know where to start. It obviously means the world to me," said Djokovic, wearing a white jacket with the number 24 on his chest during the trophy presentation. "It's hard to describe. I'm really living my childhood dream to compete at the highest level in this sport."

"I never imagined I would be standing talking about 24 Grand Slams but the last couple of years I've felt I have a chance and I have a

shot at history and why not grab it." The Serbian is the first man to win three Grand Slam events in the same season four times, crowning his impending return to world number one in the most fitting of ways inside Arthur Ashe Stadium. The victory added to his wins at the Australian and French Opens earlier this year, with the only blemish his five-set defeat to Carlos Alcaraz in the final of Wimbledon in July. "You know, some people who are born, he's a genius. He's one of kind. Not too many people in this world like him in sport-wise," said Djokovic's coach, Goran Ivanisevic. "This is one of the biggest achievements in the sport history."

Medvedev suffered his fourth loss in five Grand Slam finals, all of which were against Djokovic or Rafael Nadal. "First of all I want to ask Novak: What are you still doing here? Come on!" quipped Medvedev. "I don't know when you are planning to slow down a little bit."



"I mean, 24. I feel like I have not a bad career and I have 24 titles. You have 24 Grand Slams. Wow." Medvedev defeated Djokovic in straight sets in the 2021 final to prevent the Serbian from becoming the first man to win all four Grand Slams in the same year since Rod Laver in 1969. Djokovic admitted to feeling overwhelmed on that

occasion, but there was little evidence of nerves as he quickly took command of Sunday's championship match. The second seed - who missed last year's US Open because of his refusal to be vaccinated against Covid-19 - burst out of the gate with a confident hold sealed by successive aces and struck at the first opportunity, punishing Med-

vedev for a double-fault to break for a 2-0 lead.

A third ace consolidated his advantage before Medvedev got on the board in the fourth game. The pair traded holds largely untroubled until Djokovic again put pressure on Medvedev as the third seed served down 2-5. Medvedev dug in to twice save off set points, but Djokovic calmly made the set his following game. Medvedev dethroned last year's champion Alcaraz with a "12 out of 10" performance in the semi-finals, but he struggled to replicate his very best consistently against an imperious Djokovic. Attempting to be the first player to beat the top two seeds en route to the title since 1975, Medvedev once more repeatedly found himself under the pump early in the second set.

He was able to resist, hitting a sweeping volley to fight off break point as he secured a gutsy hold for 4-3 before finally asking questions of Djokovic, who was showing signs of fatigue. A leaping overhead gave

Medvedev his first break chance of the contest the very next game, but Djokovic responded with a brilliant scoop on the half-volley to save it.

Djokovic wobbled serving at 5-6, double-faulting twice as Medvedev brought up set point. But Djokovic was waiting as Medvedev went cross-court, and put away the volley to force a tie-break. Medvedev seemed to have the momentum on his side after winning an astonishing rally to nose 5-4 ahead only for Djokovic to bag the next three points, snatching a marathon 104-minute second set and closing in on a historic triumph. "Should have won it," Medvedev said of the second set. "Should have won it, but sometimes tennis is not that easy."

Djokovic sportingly offered to help Medvedev to his feet after the Russian took an awkward tumble early in the third set, but there was no such goodwill when two break points came about soon after.

New Zealand unveil squad  
for ICC ODI WC 2023

## DNA

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Monday announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 in India, which will be played in India from October 5 to November 19. The Black Caps will be led by Kane Williamson, as announced last week despite still recovering from a serious knee injury. However, he is in a race to be fit in time to participate in New Zealand's opening match. The star batter has been sidelined since April after surgery to repair torn ligaments in his right knee suffered while playing for Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League.

Wicketkeeper batter Tom Latham, who is currently leading New Zealand, will serve as Williamson's deputy. He holds the record for the joint most dismissals (21) by a wicketkeeper in a single edition of the World Cup. Pace bowlers Tim Southee and Kane Williamson will be playing their fourth ODI World Cup, having featured in

Scot defeat to SA in  
Rugby WC opener

PARIS: Scotland failed to "show a true reflection" of themselves after being dominated by South Africa in their Rugby World Cup opener, says fly-half Finn Russell. The Scots went in at half-time in Marseille just 6-3 down. However, they failed to add a single point after the break as the Springboks moved through the gears to comfortably win 18-3. "Very frustrated with the result but also the second half," Russell said. South Africa too strong for Scotland 'Russell and Scotland get lost in South African maze' Podcast: 'Maybe Scotland got carried away' "I don't think we showed a true reflection of the team that we are. "We had a 10-minute period that we let South Africa get two tries, so we'll probably chat among the players about how we can get better and come out firing straight away so that doesn't happen again. "As frustrated as we are, there is a lot to work on and still everything to play for." Despite the setback of a defeat in their tournament opener, Russell remains confident Scotland can recover to make it out of their pool, with matches against Tonga, Romania and Ireland to come. "This was potentially the situation we were going to be in after the first game," added Russell. "Ideally it wouldn't have been, but now we're in this situation we just need to pick ourselves back up, we need to get going. "We've got Tonga then Romania so we need to go into these games as best prepared as we can and looking to play as best we can. - Agencies

Pakistan ex-cricketer  
sentenced to 12 years

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan international cricketer Khalid Latif has been awarded 12-year jail sentence for inciting the murder of far-right politician Geert Wilders by a Dutch court on Monday. Latif, 37, had offered 21,000 euros (\$22,500) for the head of Wilders in an online video after the controversial lawmaker sought to organise a caricature competition depicting Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). The competition was later cancelled. "It was not a stretch to think that somebody around the world would have taken heed of the call to kill Mr Wilders," presiding judge G Verbeek told the court, reported AFP. "The accused knew this and his call fuelled the fire to have Wilders killed." Wilders, 59, is one of Europe's most prominent far-right leaders and has been a key figure in shaping the immigration debate in the Netherlands over the past decade, although he has never been in government. His Freedom Party (PVV) is the third-largest in Dutch parliament and is the main opposition party. Wilders has lived under constant police protection since 2004. It is extremely unlikely that Latif, who was convicted in absentia, will serve his sentence. Dutch authorities

have sought in vain to question Latif over the case and requested legal assistance from Pakistan, also to no avail. In the Netherlands, the plan to stage the contest was criticised widely with politicians, local media and ordinary citizens slamming the idea as needlessly antagonising Muslims.

Judge Verbeek said Latif's video was not just an attack on Wilders personally, but also on the concept of free speech in the Netherlands. Latif played five one-day internationals and 13 T20 internationals for Pakistan but was banned from cricket for five years in 2017 for spot-fixing in a Pakistan Super League match in Dubai. His last Pakistan appearance was against the West Indies in Abu Dhabi in September 2016. - Agencies

## Rubiales finally resigns due to enormous pressure

Rubiales has resigned as president of the Spanish Football Federation following criticism for kissing Spain forward Jenni Hermoso at Women's World Cup final

## OUR CORRESPONDENTS

MADRID: Luis Rubiales has resigned as president of the Spanish Football Federation following criticism for kissing Spain forward Jenni Hermoso at the Women's World Cup final presentation ceremony. Hermoso, 33, said the kiss after Spain beat England was not consensual and she filed a legal complaint last Tuesday. Rubiales said he had submitted his resignation to federation acting president Pedro Rocha in a statement. "I cannot continue my work," he told Piers Morgan on his television show. The 46-year-old has also resigned from his position as vice-president of Uefa's executive committee. The fallout from the kiss has engulfed Spanish football in recent weeks and overshadowed Spain's World Cup win, with Rubiales ignoring repeated calls to resign.

On Friday, a prosecutor filed a complaint with Spain's high court - following Hermoso's testimony on Tuesday - against Rubiales for sexual assault and coercion. Rubiales claimed the kiss was "mutual and consensual" but had been provisionally suspended by football's world governing body Fifa. "After the quick suspension carried out by Fifa, plus the rest of open proceedings against me, it is evident that I will not be able to return to my position," Rubiales' statement read.

"Insisting on waiting and holding on is not going to contribute to anything positive, neither to the federation nor to Spanish football." The kiss that shook Spanish and global football Rubiales said he hoped his departure would boost Spain's joint bid with Morocco and Portugal to host the 2030 World Cup. He added: "I have faith in the truth and I will do everything in my power to prevail.

"My daughters, my family and the people who love me have suffered the effects of excessive persecution, as well as many falsehoods, but it is also true that on the street, more and more every day, the truth is prevailing." Some 81 Spain players, including all 23 World Cup winners, said they would not play for the national team again while Rubiales was



in his position. World Cup-winning manager Jorge Vilda - considered a close ally of Rubiales - was sacked on 5 September amid the scandal, with Montse Tome named as his successor. Politicians, footballers and celebrities have spoken out against Rubiales, while protesters gathered at the federation's headquarters last month to demand his resignation. Spain's acting Labour minister, Yolanda Diaz, posted on X (formerly Twitter): "The feminist country is advancing faster and faster. The transformation and improvement of our lives is inevitable. We are with you, Jenni, and with all women." Irene Montero, Spain's equality minister, added: "It's over." Asked by Morgan whether something in particular finally led him to resign, Rubiales said he spoke to his family and listened to the advice of friends. "My father, my daughters, I spoke with them - they know

it's not a question about me - and some friends very close to me said to me 'Luis, you need to focus on your dignity and to continue your life because if not, you are going to damage people you love and the sport you love'." Rubiales said. "This was a question of not only me. An attitude towards me can affect third parties [that are] very important. It was the intelligent thing that I had to do." Jenni Hermoso stretches her arms out as she shows off her World Cup winner's medal during a Pachuca game Jenni Hermoso paraded her Women's World Cup medal on the pitch to the delight of her Pachuca team-mates and supporters on Sunday. Hermoso received a warm welcome from supporters and team-mates of her domestic club, Pachuca, before their 2-1 win against Pumas in the Liga MX women's league in Mexico.

India  
thoroughly  
rough up...

FROM PAGE 01

Colombo had been receiving drizzling intermittently and was overcast with strong winds. Intermittent rain is forecast throughout the day today, with more heavy rain expected during the afternoon hours. In the ongoing match in Colombo, Pakistan won the toss and invited India to bat first. On Sunday rain washed out play which is about to resume today (Monday) as India were 147/2 at the start of the 25th over against Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2023 Super Fours match in Colombo. As many as 75 overs were washed out on Sunday due to the heavy downpour. Cricket rivalry between the India-Pakistan is one of the most strong sports rivalries globally and cricket lovers forever wait for their clash eagerly. A storm made its way to the Premadasa Stadium with the covers moved immediately, according to ESPNcricinfo. India are 146/2 at the end of the 24th over. India lost two quick wickets at 123 at the end of the 18th over against Pakistan.

Arrest  
warrants...

FORM PAGE 01

DIG Imran Kishwar and Operation DIG Ali Nasir Rizvi innocent with regards to violation of the LHC's previous order, which had restrained the authorities from arresting Elahi, who is also the president of the beleaguered Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in any new or undisclosed case. During the hearing, both the DIGs in question submitted before the court that they were on their way to drop Elahi at his residence when some police officials intercepted them and arrested Elahi following due process of law. They maintained that they did not even think to violate court orders that had bound them to ensure Elahi's protection. Regarding the non-appearance of Islamabad IG against whom LHC's Justice Muhammad Amjad Rafiq has initiated contempt proceedings, Justice Rauf expressed annoyance and remarked that it would look odd if this court summons the official in a different way.

President  
Alvi likely...

FROM PAGE 01

90 days. The constitution states that election should be held within 60 days if assemblies are dissolved on completion of five-year term and in case of premature dissolution, the stipulated period is enhanced to 90 days. As per the Constitution, the general elections in Pakistan must be held till November 2023 as the National Assembly had been dissolved prematurely on August 9, 2023. However, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has hinted at delay in the polls as it has decided to go for fresh delimitation in line with the digital census. Last month, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sultan Sikandar Raja said a recent amendment to the Clause 57 of Election Act meant that giving election date was the sole prerogative of the ECP as he responded to the letter sent by President Arif Alvi.

PTI  
demands...

FROM PAGE 01

constitutional obligation and mandatory for the President of Pakistan. According to the constitution, the state should implement its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people and conduct the elections for the National Assembly as it is the basic foundation of democracy. Since the National Assembly was dissolved by President Alvi on August 9, 2023 on the advice of the Prime Minister, the election date has to be given by him according to the constitution and the law as well as the judgements of the Supreme Court, said PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan. He also said that under Section 57 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has been given the right to appoint and announce the poll date but it is subject to the constitution. However, the right of ECP to fix a date for elections is subject to Article 48(5), therefore, when the National Assembly is dissolved by the President, it is the President alone who can fix the date.



## Briefs

## Death toll from Morocco earthquake nears 2,500

RABAT : The death toll from a deadly earthquake in Morocco has risen to 2,497 people, according to the country's Interior Ministry on Monday. In a statement, the ministry said 2,476 other people were injured in the magnitude-7 earthquake that jolted the North African country late Friday. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) said the epicenter of the quake, which hit just after 11 p.m. local time, was 75 kilometers (46.6 miles) southeast of Marrakech, at a depth of 18.5 kilometers. Massive damage was reported in Marrakech, a UNESCO World Heritage site, from the deadly quake. Rescue teams on Monday continued to search for missing people trapped under the rubble for the fourth day following the devastating quake. A number of people were pulled out by rescuers from under the debris of collapsed buildings in various areas struck by the quake, according to an Anadolu reporter. Several foreign rescue teams have already arrived in the country to join rescue efforts for survivors. Morocco has so far accepted offers of assistance from Spain, the UK, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. On Sunday, the Moroccan government opened a special account with the treasury and the Bank of Morocco to receive donations for the quake victims.—APP

## Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano reactivated after 2 month

HONOLULU : The Kilauea Volcano in Hawaii, the island state in the western US, reactivated after over a two-month hiatus and has begun releasing lava, but at a safe distance from settlements, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Around 3.15 p.m. local time (0115 GMT Monday), an eruption occurred in Kilauea's summit crater in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. "The USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory is elevating Kilauea's volcano alert level from watch to warning and its aviation color code from orange to red as this eruption and associated hazards are evaluated," the USGS said in a statement. The initial phases of eruptions are dynamic, it added. Authorities confirmed that the volcanic activities were limited within the park. Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes, has been erupting from time to time since 1983. An eruption occurred on June 7 and its activity ceased on June 21 in the summit crater of Kilauea Volcano.—Agencies

## Libya declares disaster zones after Storm Daniel

TRIPOLI : The head of Libya's Tripoli-based unity government, Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, on Monday declared areas exposed to floods as "disaster zones". In a statement, Dbeibeh ordered local authorities "to take urgent and exceptional measures to confront the repercussions of the floods." "We have given clear instructions to all ministries, agencies, rescue teams, and hospitals to carefully follow up on the situation in the eastern region," he added. Meanwhile, Osama Hamad, head of the East Libya-based government, declared the city of Derna a "disaster zone" following floods caused by Mediterranean Storm Daniel. The United Nations Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said it is "closely following the emergency caused by severe weather conditions in the eastern region of the country." "We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives and our thoughts for all people affected," UNSMIL said. Storm Daniel swept several areas in eastern Libya on Sunday.—Agencies



NEW DELHI: Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi exchange documents during MBS visit to India. The scope for cooperation in grid connectivity, renewable energy, food security, semiconductors and supply chains is immense was discussed during the meeting. —DNA

## N.Korean leader Kim to visit Russia for a summit

Seoul 'believes' train carrying Kim Jong-un is moving to Vladivostok, where leaders could reportedly talk N.Korea supplying weapons to Kremlin for Ukraine ware

## NEWS DESK

MOSCOW : North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un has reportedly started his journey to Vladivostok for a summit with Russia's President Vladimir Putin. The armoured train that Mr Kim uses for foreign visits appears to have departed Pyongyang, South Korean media reported citing a government official. The meeting between the two leaders is expected to take place as early as Tuesday local time. The Kremlin has confirmed that Mr Kim will visit Russia "in the coming days". If the summit with Mr Putin goes ahead, it will be the North Korean leader's

first international trip in more than four years, and the first since the pandemic. The two leaders will likely discuss the possibility of North Korea providing Moscow with weapons to support its war in Ukraine, a US official earlier told CBS. Mr Kim's US partner. Mr Kim's last trip abroad was also to Vladivostok in 2019 for his first summit with Mr Putin after the collapse of North Korea's nuclear disarmament talks with then US President Donald Trump. Mr Kim also travelled to Vladivostok by train in 2019. How North Korea's Kim Jong Un travels by train How worrying is a Putin-Kim Jong Un alliance? It is rumoured to include at least

20 bulletproof cars, making it heavier than average trains and unable to go beyond 59 km/h (37mph). His journey to Vladivostok is expected to take an entire day. The possible meeting comes after the White House said it had new information that arms negotiations between the two countries were "actively advancing". National Security Council spokesman John Kirby earlier said Russia's Defence Minister, Sergei Shoigu, had tried to "convince Pyongyang to sell artillery ammunition" to Russia during a recent visit to North Korea. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu

The summit comes at a time when both Russia and North Korea have things that the other country wants, according to Ankit Panda from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "What'll matter now is if both sides can find suitable prices they're willing to pay for the other's assistance," he told the BBC. Russia will likely ask North Korea for conventional arms, including artillery shells and rocket artillery munitions in exchange for food and raw materials, and continuing support at international forums like the United Nations, he said. "This could open up the possibility of North Korea transfer-

ring more sophisticated weaponry to Russia to allow Moscow to maintain and backfill its own stocks of conventional weapons," he said. It is thought that Russia might need 122mm and 152mm shells because its stocks are running low, but it is not easy to determine North Korea's full artillery inventory, given its secretive nature. Weapons on display at the meeting between Mr Kim and Mr Shoigu in July included the Hwasong intercontinental ballistic missile, believed to be the country's first ICBM to use solid propellants. It was the first time Mr Kim had opened the country's doors to foreign guests since the Covid pandemic.

## Turkey leading global effort against food crisis

Turkish conglomerate Rönesans said in July its investment with Algeria's Sonatrach in a polypropylene facility in Ceyhan had been revised up to \$1.7 billion with around \$1 billion to be financed by loans

ANKARA : Nations, especially the people of Western countries, should know that Turkey is the only country striving to prevent a global food crisis, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday. Addressing reporters aboard the presidential plane during his return from the G-20 summit in India, Erdogan said Türkiye will continue working on re-starting the key agreement that allowed safe shipment of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea despite the invasion of Russia. The president stressed that he plans to talk again with Russian President Vladimir Putin about reviving the Black Sea corridor to help

least-developed African countries. Erdogan reiterated



ed his call on Western countries to realize their promises to Russia and do their part in order to unblock the grain initiative. The issue will be among the top

agenda points at the United Nations General Assembly later this month, he added. Among others, Erdogan said a Washington-based financial institution had secured \$550 million in financing for a petrochemical plant in Ceyhan on Türkiye's Mediterranean coast. He said he had previously discussed joint steps in the petrochemical sector with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune in Istanbul. Turkish conglomerate Rönesans said in July its investment with Algeria's Sonatrach in a polypropylene facility in Ceyhan had been revised up to \$1.7 billion with around \$1 billion to be financed by loans.—Agencies

## Germany slips into recession this year

BERLIN : The eurozone economy will grow slower than previously expected this year, the European Commission forecast on Monday, as consumer demand suffers from high inflation and the biggest economy, Germany, slips into recession this year. In its interim forecasts for gross domestic product and inflation of the eurozone's five biggest economies, the Commission said the single currency area's gross domestic product (GDP) would expand 0.8% in 2023 and 1.3% in 2024, against forecasts of 1.1% and 1.6% respectively made in May. "While we avoided a recession last winter, the multiple headwinds facing the EU economy this year have led to somewhat weaker growth momentum than we projected in the spring.—APP

## Johansson supports family of jailed EU official

BRUSSELS : EU Commissioner Ylva Johansson said on Monday she has been in weekly contact with the family of an EU diplomat who had been detained by Iran for over 500 days. Speaking at a news conference, EU Commissioner for Home Affairs confirmed that Johan Floderus used to work for her Cabinet and called him a "friend." Her remarks came after several media outlets reported last week that Floderus, a Swedish national employed by the EU's diplomatic service, had been detained in Iran over charges of spying since last year. According to the reports, Floderus was arrested in April 2022 at Tehran's airport while returning from a vacation in Iran. "I and my head of Cabinet, we have been in close connection with his family, on a weekly basis," Johansson said. Johansson, a Swedish member of the European Commission, explained that Floderus had been part of her Cabinet from the beginning of her term in 2019. She described him as a "very bright, very warm, and excellent person to work with." Floderus decided to move on with his career and join the EU's diplomatic representation in Afghanistan two years ago, and wasn't a member of her team when he "got caught in Iran," she explained.—DNA



## Sweden back to its tech-heavy schools

STOCKHOLM: As young children went back to school across Sweden last month, many of their teachers were putting a new emphasis on printed books, quiet reading time and handwriting practice and devoting less time to tablets, independent online research and keyboarding skills. The return to more traditional ways of learning is a response to politicians and experts questioning whether the country's hyper-digitalized approach to education, including the introduction of tablets in nursery schools, had led to a decline in basic skills. Swedish Minister for Schools Lotta Edholm, who took office 11 months ago as part of a new center-right coalition government, was one of the biggest critics of the all-out embrace of technology. "Sweden's students need more textbooks," Edholm said in March. "Physical books are important for student learning." The minister announced last month in a statement that the government wants to reverse the decision by the National Agency for Education to make digital devices mandatory in preschools. It plans to go further and to completely end digital learning for children under age 6, the ministry also told The Associated Press. Although the country's students score above the European average for reading ability, an international assessment of fourth-grade reading levels, the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, highlighted a decline among Sweden's children between 2016 and 2021. In 2021, Swedish fourth graders averaged 544 points, a drop from the 555 average in 2016. However, their performance still placed the country in a tie with Taiwan for the seventh-highest overall test score. In comparison, Singapore — which topped the rankings — improved its PIRLS reading scores from 576 to 587 during the same period, and England's average reading achievement score fell only slightly, from 559 in 2016 to 558 in 2021.

## 1,800-year-old statue found in Türkiye

## DNA

ARTVIN : 1,800-year-old water nymph statue has been unearthed during excavations in the ancient city of Amastris, situated in the Amasra district of northern Turkey's Bart province. This ancient water nymph statue, believed to have been crafted around 1,800 years ago, was buried 3 meters (around 9.5 feet) beneath the surface. The discovery was officially announced by the excavation team through their social media account, stating, "During the ongoing excavations in the ancient city of Amastris, we uncovered an exquisite water nymph statue believed to be 1,800 years old." The statement further elaborated that this statue stands at an impressive height of 1.53 meters and can be traced back to the A.D. second century. Following meticulous restoration work, this captivating relic will be proudly exhibited at the Amasra Museum for all to admire.—APP

## Procrastination: A lethal personality trait



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**P**rocrastination refers to willingly postponing action with a clear vision of its negative consequences. It is one of the negative personality traits hindering success of ordinary people as well as big leaders. However, there can be multiple reasons leading to procrastination by an individual in a particular situation. Let us delve into some of its major causes: What Causes Procrastination? Sometimes we put off things we don't enjoy or consider them boring, like avoiding studying for an exam or preparing for a job interview by spending time on social media or watching TV. It's because we find these activities more enjoyable than studying for exams or preparing for an interview. Often, we delay tasks because we anticipate they

will require significant effort. This reluctance to exert effort can lead to procrastination. For instance physical Exercise requires physical as well as mental effort, making it a common task to procrastinate on. A lack of motivation can cause us to delay tasks. Various factors can contribute to a person's lack of motivation, such as finding the outcomes either not valuable or not aligned with one's personal needs. Having a low expectancy of achieving the desired outcome can also impact motivation levels. For example, if the winner of a debate competition gets \$ 1000, our motivation to participate would depend on how much that prize means to us and how confident we are in our debating skills. If the prize is valuable to you and you're a good debater, your motivation would likely be high. However, if it's the opposite, it would be low. Ultimately, these factors can lead to procrastination.

Many individuals steer clear of certain tasks out of fear of potential failure. They worry about being ridiculed or negatively evaluated. For instance, if we have a desire to pursue a career in film-making instead of studying, but we are hesitant due to the possibility of negative reactions from friends and family in case you don't succeed or become fearful of repercussions of leaving school. As a result, you continue to procrastinate. When our goals are not clear and well-defined, we are more likely to procrastinate. For instance, a goal like "start exercising" is too vague. But, a concrete goal like "be able to do 20 pushups in a row" is better defined and less likely to cause procrastination. Different factors in the environment can make people prone to procrastination. For instance, a student may find it harder to focus and delay his tasks when there are numerous distractions

in his workspace, like social media access or excessive noise. It's common to put off tasks that won't give us immediate rewards and may even feel insincere because we're usually more driven to tackle tasks that offer instant gratification. Procrastination can affect one's mental and physical well-being. Those who consistently put off responsibilities later regret and feel disappointment, leading to feelings of guilt, increased stress levels, and causing various health issues. Procrastinators often suffer from depression, anxiety, and overall dissatisfaction. Additionally, we may experience physical illnesses such as headache, insomnia, and digestive problems. Studies suggest that procrastination is associated with heart disease and sleep disorders. It is important to stop the habit of procrastination as it can harm our day to day life. Let us consider some ways to overcome this habit.

Firstly, establish SMART (Specific, measurable, accurate, realistic and time-bound) clear goals. For example, if we decide to exercise, a specific and realistic goal could be aiming to do 20 pushups in a row by the end of the month. Vague goals such as "do some exercise" are unspecific, while unrealistic goals like "run a marathon by the end of the month" can be discouraging. Secondly, in order to tackle procrastination we should assess it thoroughly. Start by identifying instances where we delay unnecessarily to understand what exactly we procrastinate on. Thirdly, we should reflect on those situations to determine where and when we tend to procrastinate. Lastly, we should use the knowledge gained from this article to figure out why we procrastinate. Thirdly, create a plan that includes anti-procrastination tactics based on the analysis we conducted.

Some of these techniques may include Prioritize your tasks by identifying those approaching their deadlines. Organize your workplace and remove all distractions. Set deadlines and try to accomplish tasks within them. Break tasks into smaller, easy-to-do steps. Prepare for the task beforehand to make it easy. Make tasks more enjoyable. For example, by listening to music. Take frequent short breaks to maintain your energy levels and prevent burnout. Develop self-efficacy and confidence by reflecting on your successes. Reward yourself after accomplishing tasks. For example, by watching a movie or buying something you want. Finally, implement your plan. Take the time to analyze your progress and adjust your approach as needed. Determine which techniques are most effective for you and find ways to implement them efficiently. Keep refining your approach until you achieve your desired results.



**Briefs**

**Khadija challenges her physical remand in LHC**

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Khadija Shah has challenged an anti-terrorism court's decision of granting her physical remand in the Lahore High Court (LHC).

Barrister Sameer Khosa has filed Khadija Shah's petition in the high court pleading that the police had got physical remand of the petitioner in 9 May case for score of times. "The trial court dismissed the bail petition against the facts of case and the court decided her bail petition after addition of new clauses of law in the case," according to the petition.

"The trial court has granted physical remand of the petitioner against the law. Granting physical remand without recovery has been illegal," petitioner said. Khadija Shah has pleaded to the court to declare the ATC's decision of her physical remand as unlawful.

Petitioner has also requested to the high court to suspend decision of the trial court till the LHC decides the matter. Khadija Shah has been a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and daughter of former finance minister Dr Salman Shah.

Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan was arrested at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on May 9. The protests were held at various cities as the party workers agitated against the party chairman's arrest.

**Pakistan has 35% female doctors jobless**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A large number of female doctors are out of job in Pakistan despite the fact that the world's fifth most populous country badly needs qualified medical practitioners. Ironically, this is happening in a country where the resource-constrained government is spending billions of rupees on subsidizing medical education in public sector universities. As many as 35% female medical doctors are unemployed in Pakistan, revealed a research jointly conducted by Gallup Pakistan and PRIDE across the country. Basing their research on Labour Force Survey 2020-21, Gallup Pakistan and PRIDE analyzed Pakistan Bureau of Statistics' data on labour market specially female medical graduates and disseminated the same for the country's wider policy circles.

**Baldia factory fire**

**Sindh HC upholds death sentences of MQM activists**  
"32 cases were made against me, I was acquitted in all cases," he said, adding that he had faced all the cases

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Monday announced its verdicts on appeals of two activists of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) against their death sentences, upholding the decision of the anti-terrorism court, in the Baldia factory fire case. The ATC had sentenced MQM activists Abdul Rehman and Zubair to death under charges of murder, extortion, arson and terrorism, which the two had appealed in the province's top court. The appeals were heard by a high court division bench headed by Justice Mohammad Karim Khan Agha, who reserved the judgment on August 29. Moreover, in its verdict, the SHC also rejected the government's appeal against the acquittal of four accused, including MQM leader Rauf Siddiqui, Umar Hasan Qadri, Dr Abdul Sattar Khan and Iqbal Adebek Khanum for want of evidence. The Sindh top court, however, accepted the

appeals of the four accused sentenced to life imprisonment. Factory employees and gatekeepers - Shahrukh, Fazal Ahmed, Arshad Mehmood and Ali Mohammad - were sentenced to life imprisonment by the ATC, but the SHC in its verdict today accepted their appeals against their sentences and declared the sentences void. Following the verdict, Siddiqui said: "Double standard of justice is the reason for Pakistan's poor condition." "I feel that the whole case was against me," the MQM leader remarked adding that his party's workers were present at the time of the incident and were breaking walls to evict people. He further said that as the minister of commerce, he had no role in the incident or its proceedings but resigned from his position at the time. "32 cases were made against me, I was acquitted in all cases," he said, adding that he had faced all the cases. I have appeared in all courts, including high court, Supreme Court, he said. Exactly 11 years ago, in 2012, a deadly inferno claimed lives of hundreds of workers

at a factory in the city's Baldia Town. 260 workers were burnt alive while working in the factory in the metropolis.

According to the prosecution, the factory was set on fire by MQM leaders and activists over the non-payment of Rs250 million in extortion. The main accused, Rehman, had admitted in a confessional statement that the Ali Enterprises garment factory in Baldia Town was set on fire on the order of former MQM Karachi Tanzeemi Committee incharge Hammad Siddiqui over the factory owners' refusal to pay Rs250 million in extortion. Appellants counsel Mohammad Farooq, Hassan Sabir and others denied the prosecution charges and laid the blame on the factory owners for the fire in their appeals. They contended that the factory doors were closed when the fire broke out on the orders of the owners. They submitted that there was no emergency exit for the workers when the fire broke out and the people died in the fire due to the negligence of the factory owners

and the related departments. They further submitted that the factory owners were held responsible for the fire in the initial report, but they were acquitted in the joint investigation report. They said that entire evidence was relied on findings of the joint investigation teams by the prosecution, which has no legal value, and no material witnesses were examined by them.

They submitted that the trial court had not scrutinised the evidence with regard to cause of the fire and examination of chemicals used to cause the fire. They said no CCTV camera footage had been included as evidence in the trial court, and appealed to the court to set aside the trial court order with regard to the convictions of the appellants. The additional prosecutor general supported the trial court order and submitted that the prosecution proved its case beyond any reasonable doubt. He submitted that more than 260 people lost their lives due to the criminal act of the appellants, and requested the court to dismiss the appeals.

**Iran, US on verge of prisoner swap**

DNA

DOHA: When \$6 billion of unfrozen Iranian funds are wired to banks in Qatar as early as next week, it will trigger a carefully choreographed sequence that will see as many as five detained U.S. dual nationals leave Iran and a similar number of Iranian prisoners held in the U.S. fly home, according to eight Iranian and other sources familiar with the negotiations who spoke to Reuters.

As a first step, Iran on Aug. 10 released four U.S. citizens from Tehran's Evin prison into house arrest, where they joined a fifth, who was already under house arrest. Later that day U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called the move the first step of a process that would lead to their return home.

They include businessmen Siamak Namazi, 51, and Emad Sharqi, 59, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, 67, who also holds British nationality, the U.S. administration has said. The Tahbaz and Sharqi families did not respond to requests for comment. A lawyer for the Namazi family declined to comment. The identities of the fourth and fifth Americans, one of whom according to two sources is a woman, have not been disclosed. Reuters couldn't establish which Iranian prisoners, in turn, would be swapped by the U.S.

**ATC approves Ali Wazir's bail**

ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Islamabad on Monday approved the bail of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leader Ali Wazir in a fraud case. The court approved the bail application of Wazir and ordered his release. The release verdict was delivered by ATC judge Abul Hasanat Zul-Qarnain. The release was granted against a surety bond worth Rs20,000. The court of Islamabad had handed over Ali Wazir to the police on one-day physical remand in an alleged fraud case. Ali Wazir was produced by the police before duty magistrate Shahzad Khan, where investigation officer (IO) Muhammad Ali requested eight days physical remand of PTM leader. The investigating officer told the court that police wanted to investigate Ali Wazir regarding the money he received and spent to build a property. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence, Lt General Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) presenting a gift to Neil Hawkins, Australian High Commissioner in ministry of defence. - DNA

**'Completely innocent' UK parliamentary researcher denies spying for China**

LONDON: A man reported to be a United Kingdom parliamentary researcher who has been arrested on suspicion of spying for Beijing says he is "completely innocent" and not a "Chinese spy". The man, whose identity has not been released by UK authorities but is said to be in his 20s, denied any involvement in espionage, in a statement released on Monday by his lawyers. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak raised his "very strong concerns" about possible Chinese "interference" in democracy with Prime Minister Li Qiang on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in India on Sunday. Lindsay Hoyle, the speaker of the House of Commons, was due to make a statement on the issue at 13:30 GMT. UK's Sunak voiced 'strong concerns' over alleged China spying to Premier Li "I feel forced to respond to the media accusations that I am a 'Chinese spy'," the suspect said in the statement. "It is wrong that I should be obliged to make any form of public comment on the misreporting that has taken place. However, given what has been reported, it is vital that it is known that I am completely innocent," he added.

"I have spent my career to date trying to educate others about the challenge and threats presented by the Chinese Communist Party. To do what has been claimed against me in extravagant news reporting would be against everything I stand for." Police said over the weekend that they had arrested a man in his 20s at his home in Edinburgh for spying. Another man in his 30s was also arrested, police said. Both arrests took place in March on suspicion of offences under the Official Secrets Act. The two men have been released on bail until October. The Sunday Times newspaper reported the man in his 20s was a researcher in the UK Parliament. He was employed by Alicia Kearns, a ruling Conservative Party MP who chairs the Foreign Affairs Committee, the paper said. The suspect has also been linked to Security Minister Tom Tugendhat, who has been critical of Beijing and is the founder of the China Research Group, which brings together Conservative MPs looking for "fresh thinking" on China. - Agencies

**Biden says raised human rights in India with Modi**

HANOI: US President Joe Biden has said that he raised issues of human rights in India and the importance of a free press with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi. Mr Biden was in the Indian capital to attend the G20 summit. He also held a bilateral meeting with Mr Modi. The US president left India on Sunday before the summit ended to travel to Vietnam. Activists and rights groups have questioned India's deteriorating human rights track record under Mr Modi. His government has denied allegations that attacks on minorities, especially Muslims, have risen since his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 2014. Mr Biden made the remarks at a press conference in Hanoi, where he said he had "substantial discussions" with Mr Modi about continuing to strengthen the India-US relationship. "And, as I always do, I raised the important [subject] of respecting human rights and the vital role that civil society and a free press have in building a strong and prosperous country with Mr Modi," he added. According to the latest World Press Freedom index released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in May, India's spot has dropped 11 places from last year to 161 out of 180 countries. Campaigners have often called on Western leaders including Mr Biden to raise these issues with Mr Modi. But experts say the US will tread carefully as India is seen as a crucial ally in attempts to stem China's rise. In May, the US laid out the red carpet for Mr Modi, who travelled there on a state visit. Before the visit, White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters that while the US would make its "views known" when it sees challenges to freedoms, "we do so in a way where we don't seek to lecture or assert that we don't have challenges ourselves". In Hanoi, Mr Biden also spoke about the India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor deal which was announced during the summit and called it a "ground-breaking partnership". The corridor aims at linking countries in the Middle East by rail and connecting them to India by port and analysts see it as a counter to China's Belt and Road project. Mr Biden travelled to India on Friday for the G20 summit. After his arrival, he and Mr Modi held bilateral talks which was then followed by a dinner at Mr Modi's official residence. - Agencies

**Info Minister Solangi assures APNS of resolution of outstanding issues**

Members of Executive Committee expressed their grave concern that despite various assurances by the outgoing governments, the dues have not yet been paid

DNA

KARACHI: The APNS requested the Minister for Information, Mr. Murtaza Solangi to facilitate the process of increase in the government advertisement rates of newspapers which is long pending. Mr. Sarmad Ali, Secretary General, APNS apprised the Information Minister who held a meeting with the APNS Executive Committee at a dinner that the outgoing government of Mr. Shahbaz Sharif had announced an increase of 35% in the advertisement rates but could not be notified due to early dissolution of the government. He also stated that the summary of the Ministry of Information is pending at Cabinet Division for approval by the Cabinet and requested the Minister to place the summary at the next meeting of the Federal Cabinet. The Minister explained in detail on the vision of the caretaker government and assured that the government would safeguard the interests of the media and protect the freedom of press in the country. He assured that the Ministry of Information will expedite the process of notification of rate increase at the earliest. Earlier a meeting of the Executive Committee of the APNS was held on September 09, 2023 at Islamabad chaired by the President, APNS, Mrs. Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani. The members

of the Executive Committee expressed their grave concern that despite various assurances by the outgoing governments, the dues have not yet been paid against the advertisements released to print media. The members noted that in Punjab and Sindh, the governments have not paid the dues related to SPL advertisements and non-budgeted advertisements respectively, which has caused serious liquidity crisis for newspapers to meet their expenses. The members from KP province pointed out that for last 02 years, the payment of print media accumulated to one billion, has not been made by the Department of Public Relations, despite the reconciliation of dues. The Executive Committee decided that a delegation of APNS headed by the President, APNS will meet the concerned governments for release of payment without delay.

The Executive Committee also noted that due to ban on development activities by the Election Commission, the quantum of advertisements to newspapers has drastically affected. It was also decided that the Election Commission be requested to lift the ban on developmental advertisements. The Executive Committee adopted the report of Advertising Committee on the application of advertising agencies and granted provisional accreditation to M/s. Brain Tree Advertising, Lahore, M/s. Mesh Media (Pvt.) Ltd.,

Lahore and M/s. Mindread Advertising (Pvt.) Ltd., Karachi. The Executive Committee also granted the appeal of Daily Shamal, Karachi and Monthly Sathee, Karachi for restoration of membership. The Executive Committee approved the restructuring of M/s. Kenad (Pvt.) Ltd.

The following attended the meeting: Nazafreen Saigol Lakhani, President, Intinan Shahid, Sr. Vice President, Sarmad Ali, Secretary General, S.M. Munir Jilani, Joint Secretary, Syed Sajjad Bokhani (Daily Aftab), Mohsin Seyal (Daily Aftab), Waseem Ahmed (Daily Awam, Quetta), Mohsin Bilal (Daily AUSA), Ansar Mahmood Bhatti (Monthly Centre Line), Fauzia Shaheen (Monthly Dastaq), Muhammad Waqaruddin (Daily Dunya), Bilal Mahmood (Weekly Family), Muhammad Younus Mehar (Daily Halchal), Javed Mehr Shamsi (Daily Kaleem), Syed Ayaz Badshah (Daily Mashriq, Peshawar), Syed Mumtaz Ahmed Shah (Daily Mashriq, Quetta), Tahir Qureshi, Monthly Naey Ufaq, Naveed Sheikh (Daily Nau Sijj), Rukhsana Saulat Saleemi (Weekly Nikhar), Naveed Akram Niazi (Monthly Naya Rukh), Faisal Zahid Malik (Daily Pakistan Observer), Khushnood Ali Khan (Daily Sahafat), Hamayun Gulzar (Daily Sayadat), and Mr. Jamil Athar (Daily Tijarat), Imran Athar (Daily Jurat, Lahore) and Rahman Athar (Daily The Business, Lahore) attended as special observers.

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