

Islamabad POST

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UN human rights chief decries latest Israeli strikes on Gaza

Detailed News On Page-07

'Won't remain silent on missing persons' issue

Detailed News On Page-08



Azhar supports Babar captancy despite defeat

Detailed News On Page-06



Wishes to address public gathering Palestinians will be victorious in their war: Raisi

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif while talking to Iranian president said the Pak-Iran friendship comprised over decades and Pakistan wanted to enhance co-op with Iran in various economic welfare projects, especially poverty eradication

BUREAU REPORT / DNA

LAHORE: Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said on Tuesday that in a war between Israel and the Palestinians, these would be the Palestinians who would emerge triumphant in the end, while Israel and Jews would be the losers. Talking to the media at the mausoleum of Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Lahore, he praised what he called Pakistan's principled stance on the Palestine issue. Iran's president said ever since he had set on Pakistani soil, he did not feel he was a stranger. "I wished I had addressed a public gathering in Pakistan," Raisi said. He paid rich tributes to Allama Iqbal and said the verses penned down by Poet of the East. Earlier Iran's president arrived in Lahore along with First Lady Jamileh Almotahheda. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz welcomed the president at the Hajj Terminal. Iran's president began his tour to the Punjab capital by visiting the mausoleum of the poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal where he paid his respects. He laid floral wreath at the grave of the poet whose poetry motivated Muslims of the sub-continent to struggle for a separate homeland. On arrival he was welcomed by Badshahi Mosque Imam Abdul Khateer Anam, while a contingent of Punjab Rangers presented him the guard of honour. Later, the president read down his comments in the visitors' notebook. He then headed to the Government College University where he attended a conference. A luncheon was hosted in the honour of the visiting dignitary at the Governor's House later in the afternoon. Meanwhile, the First Lady of Iran, accompanied by Punjab's Senior Minister Maryyum Aurangzeb on

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Trade with Iran

US warns Pakistan of 'possible sanctions'

"We advise anyone considering business deals with Iran to be aware of potential risk of sanctions"

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The United States State Department Tuesday warned against the "potential risk of sanctions" in light of the business deals between Pakistan and Iran following Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi's official visit to Pakistan. Without mentioning Pakistan in a statement, a State Department spokesperson said: "We advise anyone considering business deals with Iran to be aware of the potential risk of sanctions." The spokesperson, while commenting on Islamabad's trade and economic ties with Washington, said US is Pakistan's biggest export market and one of its largest investors. "We have also been a leading investor in Pakistan for the past 20 years, Pakistan's economic success is in both of our interest, and

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ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Australia to Pakistan H.E. Neil Hawkins calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on 23 April, 2024. - DNA

3 terrorists killed in Pishin IBO

Terrorists involved in attacks on Customs officials killed: CTD

SHAMIM SHAHID

RAWALPINDI: On night 22/23 April 24, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Pishin District of Balochistan on reported presence of terrorists. During the conduct of operation, after intense fire exchange, three terrorists were sent to hell, while one terrorist was apprehended in injured condition, who has been identified as an Afghan national. A huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosives was also recovered during the operation. Security forces of Pakistan, in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of

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US report on India cites harassment of minorities

The State Department report said over 60,000 people were displaced between May and November in Manipur

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The US State Department's annual human rights assessment found "significant" abuses in India's northeastern Manipur state last year and attacks on minorities, journalists and dissenting voices in the rest of the country. Manipur has seen fierce fighting between its tribal KukiZo and majority Meitei populations after a

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Neil Hawkins meets Shehbaz

Pakistan, Australia enjoy excellent relations, says PM

The High Commissioner reaffirmed the desire of the Australian side to strengthen its ties with Pakistan and assured Prime Minister of his cooperation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Australia H.E. Neil Hawkins paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif earlier today. The Prime Minister said both Pakistan and Australia enjoyed friendly and cordial ties. He expressed satisfaction on the current state of bilateral relations and said Pakistan was keen to enhance cooperation in agriculture, livestock, mining etc. He also invited Australian companies and experts to share their expertise and best practices with Pakistani counterparts. The Prime Minister also acknowledged the contribution of Pakistani diaspora in Australia, including a significant number of students.

The High Commissioner reaffirmed the desire of the Australian side to strengthen its ties with Pakistan and assured the Prime Minister of his cooperation. He also briefed the Prime Minister on some of the upcoming bilateral engagements, including visits of senior Australian defence officials to Pakistan. While noting the priority areas indicated by the Prime Minister, the High Commissioner also expressed interest in strengthening sports and cultural cooperation, particularly in cricket and hockey. The High Commissioner also praised the valiant efforts of Pakistani security guards whose bravery saved many lives during the recent stabbing attacks in Sydney. One Pakistani security guard lost his life while another was injured during the attack in which five women were killed.

'No place for polarization'

Voters rejected PTI's narrative of hatred in by-elections: Tarar

The minister remarked that people of Pakistan had buried the PTI's narrative based on violence, duplicity and lies as not PML-N voters, but other people also voted for PML-N due to its pro-people policies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that the voters during the recent by-elections had rejected the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's narrative of hatred, hypocrisy and lies. Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, he said much hue and cry was made about so-called rigging in the by-elections but even a single proof could not be presented by the PTI leadership. He said that the outcome of by-elections also cleared doubts about February 8 general elections created by a certain political party. By the grace of Allah Almighty, Pakistan Muslim League-News swept the by-elections as the masses voted for love of Nawaz Sharif, and Prime Minister Shehbaz



Sharif's economic reforms. The minister remarked that people of Pakistan had buried the PTI's narrative based on violence, duplicity and lies as not PML-N voters, but other people also voted for PML-N due to its pro-people policies and track record of servicing the masses. Regarding Bushra

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Briefs

KSA likely to invest \$5bn in Pak

Planning minister calls for political stability

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Planning Minister Abbas Iqbal said on Tuesday that Saudi Arabia was likely to invest \$5 billion in Pakistan. Addressing the Business Summit in Islamabad, Iqbal said: "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will visit Saudi Arabia soon. The Saudi crown prince is likely to visit following the premier visit to Saudi Arabia." "The annual revenue of the country is Rs 7,000 billion. This time around, we need Rs 8,000 billion to pay the loans," Iqbal added. Stressing the need for expanding investment, Iqbal said: "Pakistan needs to expand exports and investment."

Swati's bail confirmed

The court confirmed the bail against a surety bond of Rs5,000

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The district and sessions court has confirmed bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Khan Swati in Section 144 violation case against him. Swati appeared before the court along with his counsel, Judge Awais Muhammad Khan heard the case. The court confirmed the bail against a surety bond of Rs5,000. During the hearing, Swati's counsel argued that the case was illegal and fabricated as his client was granted bail in the case very next day after his arrest, but he was declared proclaimed offender and a police officer was made complainant. The court after listening to the arguments confirmed the bail.

Demands SC to hear petitions

Gohar Ali denies any negotiations with govt Says PTI to hold peaceful protests on Friday against by-poll "rigging"

'People's confidence in judiciary decreasing'

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: A day after Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) stalwart Raza Samiullah extended a "reconciliation offer", Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan clarified on Tuesday that they did not receive any message for dialogues nor holding any secret dialogues. Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan has confirmed that he did not receive any message for dialogues, Barrister Gohar said while speaking to reporters outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail today. "We will publicly confirm if we receive any invitation for talks." The politico categorically rejected holding dialogues with the incumbent government and said that his party would not hold any "secret talks". Regarding the hearing of the cipher case against the former premier at the Rawalpindi jail, Gohar said that the prosecutor presented 21 witnesses who recorded their testimonies today. He complained that

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'People's confidence in judiciary decreasing'

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: The founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has said that if overseas Pakistanis invest here, there will be no need for IMF, however, overseas Pakistanis were not doing so because there was no guarantee for the safety of their investment. Talking to media persons in Adiala Jail, Imran Khan said that democracy was essential for a stable government which was possible only through transparent elections. He lamented that people's confidence in the judiciary was decreasing. He said Bushra Bibi had nothing to do with politics, she was being punished and locked in a room. He said the current setup of the country was harming Pakistan.

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Commissioner revenue FBR, others removed

As per details, cases worth billions of rupees related to government revenues have been pending adjudication in tax tribunals. The prime minister had requested the chief justice of Pakistan for the early disposal of these cases

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ordered the suspension of the Inland Revenue Service's chief commissioner and other relevant officials on Tuesday after he took notice of the "serious" delay in tax cases. The prime minister also ordered initiating an inquiry against the officers. Soon after assuming office, the prime minister directed immediate reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and decided to oversee the process himself. As per details, cases worth billions of rupees related to government revenues have been pending adjudication in tax tribunals. The prime minister had requested the chief justice of Pakistan for the early disposal of these cases. The premier recently took notice of a case in which an FBR counsel had sought adjournment and directed the relevant authorities to inquire into

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Pakistan, KSA, Uzbekistan ink agreement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia have signed a landmark partnership agreement aimed at promoting investment and trade between the three countries. The agreement is expected to boost economic cooperation and create new opportunities for businesses and investors in the region. Under the agreement, Uzbekistan's K-Trade Securities and Ansher Capital, Saudi Arabia,

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

RCCI think Tank discusses Pakistan's economic challenges

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq unveils Think Tank's mission to address economic challenges with solutions

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has organized a Think Tank session on "Economy of Pakistan and Future Challenges".

(NIPS), Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, Immediate Past President Ch. Nadeem A. Rauf, Former Presidents, Executive Committee members, representatives from tax bar associations, women members & distinguished members of RCCI also attended the session.

In his welcome remarks President RCCI Saqib Rafiq shared the scope and aim of RCCI Think Tank and remarked that the idea behind this was not to identify the challenges and shortcomings in the economy but at the same time provide the viable solutions to address economic challenges.



Motorbike scheme address travelling problems of student

FAISALABAD : Provincial Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan has said that according to the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, 20,000 motorbikes will be provided to students across the province under the Chief Minister's Youth Initiatives.

AJK govt releases long awaited funds for local councils

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Government has released long awaited development funds for local councils elected last year.

Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Raja Faisal Muntaz Rathore said on Tuesday that the first tranche of Rs 411 million, including Rs 133 million for rural councils, had been released while the second one of Rs 408 million would be disbursed soon.



ISLAMABAD : H.E WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Paid a courtesy call to Minister for Law and Justice senator Azam Nazeer Tarar.—DNA

Irrigation, mines departments to fully cooperate with KPRA

PESHAWAR : Secretaries of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Irrigation Department and Secretary Mines and Minerals Departments on Tuesday announced to extend full support and cooperation to ensure their prompt utilization in sustainable development and avoid their wastage.

Afghan refugees' management require substantial resources

AMIR MUQAM said that we are immensely grateful for UNHCR's ongoing support and partnership in managing the Afghan Refugees' situation. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration to ensure the safety and dignity of refugees within our borders."

SIFC announces plan to revitalize KP's tourism hubs

IN GANGWAL, these Integrated Tourism Zones (ITZs) symbolize a joint endeavor between public and private stakeholders. In Thandiani, families can look forward to a well-coming retreat within the ITZ, featuring premium residential apartments, a quaint village atmosphere and delightful culinary offerings.

Pakistan faces \$50 billion loss if 10-stick cigarettes allowed

Many countries in the world have banned single-stick and small-stick packet sales

FAISAL SHEIKH ISLAMABAD : Expressing profound concern, health activists questioned recent efforts by the tobacco industry to introduce 10-stick packs. This move, according to the activists, not only jeopardizes the progress made in tobacco control but also directly impacts children and low-income individuals, who are most vulnerable to the harmful effects of tobacco consumption.

Industry is still making a profit from this situation by indulging in practices such as under-reporting, price adjustment, and posing its products in the illicit market. If 10-pack cigarettes are allowed for export, there's a solid chance that the tobacco industry will sell them in the local market. And when they'll be questioned, they'll say they're counterfeit products.

export deals. So the government should stay vigilant. Dr. Khalil Ahmad Dogar, Program Manager, SPARC, said that with approximately 31.9 million adults aged 15 years and above reported as current tobacco users, constituting nearly 19.7% of the adult population, the dire consequences of tobacco consumption extend far beyond individual health. Dr. Khalil urged the government to take proactive measures to protect public health and prevent the exploitation of children and low-income groups by the tobacco industry.

IGP presided over the meeting about "Tahafuz Manzil" project

"Tahafuz Manzil foster home" is providing protection and shelter to children who ran away from home and to the homeless women

LAHORE : Inspector General Punjab Dr. Usman Awarz presided over a meeting about the "Tahafuz Manzil" project. The project is providing protection and shelter to children who ran away from home and to the homeless women. During the meeting, it was decided to further expand the "Tahafuz Manzil" project to help homeless children and women suffering from social problems.

Laure, "Tahafuz Manzil" will also be implemented in Bahawalpur, Faisalabad and Gujranwala, these "Tahafuz Manzil" will play an important role in helping homeless children and women suffering from social problems. Dr. Usman Awarz said that the CPDs and DPOs of the respective districts will supervise the "Tahafuz Manzil" project.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days
April

- April 04/Senegal National Day
- April 07/W. H. O. World Health Day
- April 12/Somalia Armed Forces Day
- April 15/DPR Korea The Day of the Sun
- April 16/Denmark National Day
- April 17/Iran Army Day
- April 17/Syria Independence Day
- April 18/Zimbabwe Independence Day
- April 24/Holy See Anniversary of His Papacy of his Pontificate
- April 25/DPR Korea Armed Forces Day
- April 26/Tanzania National Day
- April 27/Sierra Leone Independence Day
- April 27/South Africa Freedom Day
- April 30/Sweden Birthday of His Majesty
- April 30/Netherlands Birthday of Queen

Hotels & Restaurants

- Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
- Marriott.....051-2826121
- Monal.....0334-5421212



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

- Rescue (Police).....15
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- & Rescue Services.....4451122
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- WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
- CAA.....9281892

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- Cant Hospital.....927090711
- DHQ.....5556311-4
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- Met Office.....9250960-46
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- TMA.....5770886
- Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744880



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb delivered a keynote address at Leaders in Business Summit Islamabad. —DNA

UNICEF, Pak discuss education sector challenges

Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui welcomed Mr. Abdullah A. Fadil and acknowledged the services of UNICEF in the education sector of Pakistan

SAIFULAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative in Pakistan Mr. Abdullah A. Fadil called on the Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui here on Tuesday and discussed the challenges being faced by the education sector of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani in addition with senior officials of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. Federal Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui welcomed Mr. Abdullah A. Fadil and acknowledged the services of UNICEF in the education sector of Pakistan. He appreciated the role of UNICEF in helping Pakistan in its bid to

create equal access to quality education for the people of Pakistan. Federal Minister said that there is a dire need to address the issue of the school children and the broader gap of access and quality of education on an emergency basis. Dr. Khalid said that the ministry of education is working on a holistic plan to create a National Education Framework under which the education and the provinces will be equal stakeholders. Minister said that this policy will be launched within a month and will bring all the stakeholders on the same page. He said that all the provinces along with donor partners will be taken on board to create a national consensus. Dr. Khalid said that the primary goal is to drastically reduce the Out of School Children in Pakistan and that can only be done with a national, concerted and focused

effort. Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani said that this seemingly insurmountable crisis can only be addressed if we can make the solution of the education crisis a corner stone of the broader narrative of economic progress. Mr. Wani said that the federal government will pledge support for the underprivileged areas of the provinces such as slums to ensure broader inclusiveness under the National Education Policy. Mr. Abdullah A. Fadil said that UNICEF has been present in Pakistan since 1948. He said that UNICEF supports efforts to increase access to quality education for all children in Pakistan, with a focus on marginalized and vulnerable populations. This includes initiatives to improve school enrollment, retention, and learning outcomes, as well as promoting inclusive and child-friendly

learning environments. Mr. Abdullah highlighted that UNICEF spent \$150 Mn from 2018-2023 on its education program in Pakistan and that this budget has been increased to approximately \$250 Mn for the next five years. Mr. Abdullah said that the forum of Foundational Learning Alliance, which includes all the major donors in Pakistan, would be held to join the concerted effort under the banner of the National Education Policy. Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that it is high time that every Pakistani can attain his/her right to education irrespective of his/her background. He said that access to quality education, teachers training, infrastructural and curriculum development, retention, and learning outcomes, need to be prioritised. Federal Minister said that

challenges of education cannot be addressed until the provinces and the federation work in unison. He highlighted the importance of ensuring that all the stakeholders are on the same page and furthermore, own the direction taken by the federal government in resolving the current challenges of the education sector. Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani said that the ministry of education has also launched a National Nutritional Strategy under which meals are being provided to underprivileged students in Islamabad; to ensure their attendance in schools. He said that Early Childhood Development (ECD) is a key priority area whose scope needs to be expanded. UNICEF representative Mr. Abdullah A. Fadil acknowledged its importance and committed to launching a pilot project of ECD in Islamabad.

ICT admin hosts three-day book fair

The book fair served as a unique opportunity for Islamabad's readers to connect, explore new books, and take part in community activities that promote both literature and sustainability, the spokesman added

ISLAMABAD: The Director General of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration, FILLI (ret) Asim Ayub on Tuesday kicked off a vibrant three-day book fair at the Islamabad Public Library, aimed to boost interest in reading and bring together book lovers from across the city. The opening ceremony was featured a lively literary walk led by Muhammad Agh Danyal, President of the Pakistan Ideological Civilization, setting the stage for a day filled with book-related activities, said the Spokesman of Chief Commissioner Office, Nouman Nazim here. Following the walk, DG Asim Ayub, accompanied by Muhammad Arshad, Director General of the Library Department, have visited the

various book stalls, engaging with visitors and providing guidance to the library staff. During his address, DG Asim Ayub commended the Library Department's efforts to promote reading and encouraged them to continue creating a welcoming environment for library visitors. He assured attendees that the administration would support the Library Department in providing the best possible facilities for readers. Beyond the book fair, DG Asim Ayub and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zia ul Haq (Tamgha-Imzati) planted a sapling as part of a tree-planting initiative, signaling the event's broader commitment to community and environmental responsibility. The book fair has

also included a seminar titled "Read Your Way," where guest speakers and the event's distinguished guests shared their thoughts on the importance of reading. The seminar concluded with a ceremony where shields and certificates were presented by DG Muhammad Arshad, who thanked contributors to the event. Throughout the three-day event, additional seminars are scheduled, with notable academicians and literary figures invited to share their insights. The book fair served as a unique opportunity for Islamabad's readers to connect, explore new books, and take part in community activities that promote both literature and sustainability, the spokesman added.—APP

'We will reclaim Article 370 with interest,' vows Mehbooba Mufti

ISLAMABAD: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti led several road shows in south Kashmir's Bijnbehara, saying that resolution of the Kashmir issue is a supreme issue for her party. According to Kashmir Media Service, Mehbooba, who was accompanied by party leaders opined that the supreme issue for her party has been the resolution of the Kashmir issue, for which the people here have rendered immense sacrifices, with children orphaned and women widowed in large numbers. "We will reclaim Article 370 and whatever was snatched from us in August 2019, with interest. I am certain about it, but at the same time, we need to put up a collective democratic fight for the restoration of the Kashmir issue for losing heavy financial losses to inequality," she maintained.—APP

'Pakistan-Canada bilateral relations stable, excellent'

ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner in Pakistan Leslie Scanlon has said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Canada are stable and excellent and they have been established for 70 years now. She said the Canadian government and people are connected with Pakistani government and people and this relationship is increasing prosperity between the two countries. She expressed these thoughts while talking to the media at the opening ceremony of Mohammar Khattab Khan Eye Care Free Hospital established on 10 kanals of land by Pakistani brothers Parvez Akhtar and Aqeel Ahmad Khan in Khorakhel village of Hazro tehsil of Attock. Earlier, Mr. Mohammar Khattab Khan, Aqeel Khan, Parvez Khan and their family received a grand welcome on their arrival in Khorakhel. Famous anchor person Sped Iqbal Hassan, prominent intellectual Sped Qasim Ali Shah, senior journalist Nisar Ali Khan, MD Al Mustafa Trust Iqbal Sufat Javed, former provincial minister Jhangir Khanzada, MPA Qazi Ahmed Akbar, former moderator of Formal Zeb Alam Khan, prominent and local people including Saqi Khan, Sajjad Khan were also present. Speaking on the occasion the Canadian HC said that he was very happy to be in Khorakhel, where he paid tribute to Mrs. Khattab Khan, Parvez Khan and Aqeel Khan in wonderful words for starting such a big public welfare project. The Canadian ambassador said that the Prime Minister of Canada has good intentions and good wishes for Pakistan. Iqbal Hassan and Qasim Ali Shah paid tribute to the efforts of Canadian Pakistani brothers Parvez Khan and Aqeel Khan in wonderful words and termed their outstanding philanthropic plan as worthy of emulation adding that both the brothers have done a historic public service.—DNA

EPA to hold public hearing of 132KV grid station's EIA report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) is going to hold public hearing of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report of the construction of 132 KV Grid Station and its feeding transmission lines to be established at the Cabinet Division Housing Society (CDHS), Islamabad to provide reliable supply of power to Roshan Pakistan, Dhok Doray, Dhok Pind Pakistan, Gulshan Sihat, Dhok Paracha, Engineers Housing Society, Farming Housing Society, Hifaq Housing Society, Sector D-12, Sangiani and Farid Islamabad, an official document available with APP stated these details. The main purpose of the project was to increase the efficiency, reliability, and quality

of the electricity supply to Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The CDHS has provided 32 kanals of land free of cost to establish the air insulated station (AIS) 132KV Grid Station that will have two kilometers long transmission line consisting of 14 poles. However, the estimated cost of the project is Rs.1,300 million that will be completed within a year. In case the project is implemented then it will incur heavy financial losses to CDHS and its consumers due to inconsistent power supply and repeated outages, whereas the implementation of the project will help reduce burden on the Company's only grid station in the area vicinity. As a crucial part of the environmental assessment, public consulta-

tion was held with the local masses that all supported the project and believed that it would usher eco-friendly development in the area and agreed that it would address the rapid increase in electric load demand, need to increase efficiency, reliability, and quality of the electricity supply in the area, whereas the major concerns were of increased traffic congestions, over extraction of groundwater, sewage treatment plant, shrinking green spaces due to urbanisation projects, and solid waste management during construction and operational phase of the project. However, the project proponent in the EIA Report has proposed that issues like soil erosion would be mitigated during land clear-

ing, levelling and grading. The excavated slopes would not be left untreated for prolonged durations and proper stabilising measures will be undertaken. Moreover, septic tanks would be constructed with soaking pits to contain domestic sewage of the contractor's camp, while vertical SBR plants have been proposed for the operational phase, waste oils to be collected in drums and sold for the recycling alongwith other recyclable materials. The EIA Report claimed that the project implementation would cause environmental impacts mainly during construction phase that could be mitigated through the proposed activities mentioned above completely and effectively.—DNA

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Shehbaz Town searched during operation

RAWALPINDI: Police have conducted search operations in Shehbaz Town, Mitha Hattah and adjoining areas in the jurisdiction of Naseerabad and Cantonment police stations, said a police spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that Rawalpindi district police, women police and other law enforcement agencies under the supervision of senior police officers participated in the search operation. He said that Rawalpindi district police on the directives of Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations conducted search operations and inspected 40 houses, collected data of 12 tenants, 6 shops, 4 hotels besides checking 124 persons. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations, Rawalpindi said that search operations were being conducted to net lawbreakers and maintain law and order.—APP

Empowering youth through financial support top priority of govt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Tuesday said that empowering youth through financial support was the top priority of the government. He expressed these views during a meeting with Deputy Governor of State Collaborative Program Salim Ullah. The Chairman further said that providing better economic opportunities and making the young generation financially independent and self-sufficient, there was an urgent need to provide them an economic environment, so that they would be able to have a prosperous future. The meeting deliberated on strategies to increase access to financial services for the youth under the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme.

Rana Mashhood said that bursting potential of the youth should be utilized to ensure their role in the development and prosperity of Pakistan. The Chairman reiterated his commitment to work closely with the State Bank of Pakistan to ensure concrete initiatives for the development and empowerment of youth across the country.

The constructive dialogue between the Youth Program Chairman and the State Bank of Pakistan Deputy Governor laid a promising foundation for future partnerships and initiatives. On the occasion, the Deputy Governor of SBP said that collaboration was imperative to involve the youth in economic development and stabilise the economy of Pakistan.

Pak Business Council's delegation calls on Power Minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Business Council called on Minister for Power Dr. Ishaq Ahmad Khan Leghari here Tuesday. Challenges confronted to industrial sector of Pakistan came under discussion during the meeting, said a press release issued here. During the meeting, the delegation highlighted issues facing the industries and presented recommendations to improve the power sector. Speaking on the occasion, Leghari said the recommendations presented by the Pakistan Business Council have already been included in the ongoing reform agenda of the power sector. He said the power sector reforms would be implemented with a clear timeline after approval from the Prime Minister. The reforms would promote favorable environment for industrial growth in Pakistan.

Briefs
President Ibrahim Raisi's visit will expand economic cooperation

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Tuesday that the three-day visit of Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi will open new avenues of economic cooperation between the two countries. He said that a large delegation of Iranian businessmen is also accompanying the distinguished guest, so their visit should be taken full advantage of, and economic cooperation should be increased, which will also help reduce the tension between the two countries.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that economic matters in Pakistan have always been neglected, which has caused the country to come close to bankruptcy. Due to the efforts of the political and military leadership, the country avoided bankruptcy, but the economy could not be de-fused out of danger. Even now, Pakistan is trying to get more loans from the IMF and is forced to sell national assets because essential institutions have been run on a political rather than economic basis; therefore, they have become white elephants. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the Iranian president is visiting when Pakistan's economic condition is weak and the country could be fined twenty billion dollars for non-implementation of the gas pipeline agreement. Mian Zahid Hussain said that elements in the border areas threaten both countries, which has caused tension to become routine in bilateral relations, and both countries continue to make accusations. Pakistan and Iran should work together to clear the border areas of terrorists and build border markets and border trade.

Pakistan can get cheap oil, gas, steel, and dozens of other commodities from Iran, while dozens of different commodities, including foodstuffs, can be exported to Iran. If the two countries establish special and joint economic zones in the border area, it will not only help the people but also reduce Pakistan's import bill.

Pakistani participant delight in cultural spectacle at Weifang Kite Festival

DNA
BEIJING: In a vibrant celebration of tradition and artistry, the 41st Weifang International Kite Festival has captivated visitors from around the globe. Foreign participants have been left in awe as they witness the colorful skies of Weifang, China, adorned with intricate kites of all shapes and sizes. According to a Gwadar Pro's Muhammad Badullah Khan from Pakistan participated in the festival and told the reporter that the festival's rich history and significance in Chinese culture have also left a lasting impression on international guests, fostering a deeper appreciation for the art of kite-making and flying. Through workshops and demonstrations, many foreigners have had the opportunity to learn about the intricate techniques behind crafting these magnificent kites. Weifang is believed to be the birthplace of kites. Nowadays, more than 70% of kites worldwide are exported from here," he added. A foreign expert from the USA said that the festival, known for being the largest of its kind worldwide, has drawn enthusiasts and spectators alike, offering a unique blend of cultural immersion and entertainment. He and other foreign attendees have expressed their delight at the breathtaking displays, showcasing the craftsmanship and creativity of local kite makers.



ISLAMABAD: Women attending the Independence Day function organised by the Mauritius High Commission, at the Islamabad Serena Hotel.—DNA

Oil price deregulation will cause hyperinflation: PPDA

Hasan Shah said that the government should not accept the whole wish list of lenders and reject OGRA's proposal to deregulate oil prices to save the country from bankruptcy

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) said on Tuesday that any attempt to deregulate the price of oil is a prescription for economic disaster. Deregulating oil prices will plunge the nation into hyperinflation and instability, ruining millions of people and businesses and potentially leading to the country's bankruptcy. Since the oil supply chain is extremely unstable, manipulating it could put Pakistan in a situation where a small loaf of bread would cost more than a bag of local currency. Speaking at a hurried meeting, Hassan Shah, Executive Committee Member of PPDA, said that local currency will lose more value because of deregulating oil prices.

and the country will become bankrupt. There will be unrest across the country, and people will not be able to buy bread. Deregulation will make refineries and petroleum companies more arbitrary, leading to a never-ending crisis. Hassan Shah said that in a country where there is no price control mechanism, profiteering and violations of the law are common, and anti-cartelization laws are ineffective; deregulation is like playing with the future of the country. He stated that the private sector should not have control over a vital industry like oil, adding that to move forward with deregulation, Pakistan must maintain an oil reserve that will last for at least 200 days. The nation cannot yet stockpile the oil needed for twenty days. A free market experiment under these circumstances will fail miserably.

Despite the current regulation of the oil sector, refineries and oil marketing companies continue to stop supply without fear of legal consequences to profit illegally. He feared that in the case of deregulation, where everyone receives an open exemption, the price of oil would increase repeatedly under various pretexts. Pakistan's oil supply system is unpredictable and unstable, often leading to shortages. Sometimes, tankers carrying oil arrive late at the port; occasionally, there are no dollars for oil payments; and sometimes, oil prices rise in the global market. Oil companies suspect supply if there is little possibility of a spike in the prices for which the masses have to pay for their greed. Deregulation should not allow them to raise prices under various pretexts for unjustified

profits. Twice a month, this environment of uncertainty emerges, instilling fear in the market. In the case of deregulation, it will be impossible to save the country from hyperinflation. People will face situations similar to those in Syria and Sri Lanka, and buying bread with a bag of local currency won't be easy. He said that in cases of deregulation, businessmen would be free to fix the oil price according to their wishes in every city and town, resulting in the exploitation of the masses. He continued by saying that the price of everything, including food items, depends on the price of oil in the market. The unpredictability of oil prices will lead to extreme cost fluctuations, making life unbearable for individuals and causing businesses to collapse. Deregulation would cause petrol

and diesel prices to vary by city, pump, and brand. Location near the port and refineries may or may not benefit consumers by lowering prices, depending on transportation costs, which will affect the prices of everything, and authorities will not be able to handle it. He noted that various government entities lack the capacity to oversee and address cartelization by marketing corporations and safeguard consumers from unscrupulous acts. Similarly, there is no mechanism to stop companies from presenting imports or tackling oil shortages when prices drop in the international market. Hassan Shah said that the government should not accept the whole wish list of lenders and reject OGRA's proposal to deregulate oil prices to save the country from bankruptcy.

Gillani calls for concerted efforts to tackle environmental issues

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani praised the organizers for their efforts in convening the summit and facilitating meaningful discussions on the nation's critical issues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani Tuesday called for concerted efforts to tackle economic challenges, environmental issues, social welfare, and population growth. While addressing the 7th edition of Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit he expressed gratitude to the organizers for the invitation. He emphasized the importance of forums like the summit in fostering dialogue and collaboration among business leaders, subsequently editing the summit for its role as

a constructive forum for addressing key challenges and formulating strategies for economic growth. Regarding security challenges, the Chairman noted the resurgence of terrorism and emphasized the importance of regional stability. He underlined the need for global attention to end conflict that threaten national security. On the economic front, Yousuf Raza Gillani said that there is a need for a shift in policy paradigms to stimulate economic revival and growth, emphasizing collaboration between the government and business leaders. He also addressed environmental challenges, advocating for sustainable practices and public awareness to mitigate climate change impacts. He highlighted the significance of social welfare programs like the Benazir Income Support Program and stressed the need for efficient resource utilization in social safety-net initiatives. He also emphasized the urgency of addressing population growth to ensure social stability and well-being. He called for prioritizing population welfare and promoting family planning initiatives.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani praised the organizers for their efforts in convening the summit and facilitating meaningful discussions on the nation's critical issues.

Free meal program starts in govt ICT schools

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has started implementation of free food program in federal government educational institutions of Islamabad Capital Territory. According to details, in the first phase, around 40 primary schools will be provided mid-day meal this week. However, in the first phase out of these 40 schools, free meals will be provided to the children in 20 schools of Tarlai and Nakore sectors. Secretary Education, Mubtadin Ahmad Wani, had announced free meals for children along with provision of other facilities in primary schools working under the ambit of Federal Directorate of Education, Islamabad. Secretary Education while commenting on the model facility, told media persons that children are being given lunch with the support of the government and Allah Waley Trust. Meals will be started in all primary schools in the next two months, Wani added.—APP

A releases 129,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 129,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 197,960 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1443.47 feet and was 45.47 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 35,500 cusecs and 5,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1136.85 feet, which was 86.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 55,600 cusecs and 18,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Godda and Sukkur was recorded as 75,200, 29,400, 85,800 and 52,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 85,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 13,600 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.—DNA

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Machine Learning's Journey into Tomorrow

UMER FRAZ AHMED

Within the realm of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning refers to the utilization of statistical models and algorithms that enable computers to learn and make informed decisions based on data, without requiring explicit programming. Historically, computers were programmed by humans with specific instructions. In contrast, machine learning entails analyzing data to uncover patterns and correlations, and subsequently utilizing that knowledge to predict or make informed decisions. Chatbots powered by machine learning can process natural language to provide humanlike responses. However, they require extensive resources and data to understand language nuances. AI

chatbots rely heavily on data resources, which serve as the foundation for their ability to learn, understand, and interact with users. These resources can include a wide variety of data types, such as knowledge bases, structured databases, textual exchanges, and multi-media files. Natural language processing (NLP) models use textual data, such as chat transcripts and written documents, to create humanlike responses for chatbots. Knowledge bases and structured databases act as information repositories, providing chatbots with data, numbers, and background knowledge. The integration of multimedia materials, such as photographs, videos, and audio recordings, enhances chatbots' functionality by enabling voice-based conversations, sentiment analysis, and visual recognition. This data is leveraged through dif-

ferent types of machine learning. Supervised learning-based models provide more precise and predictable outcomes, while unsupervised learning produces more creative and diverse outputs. Some argue that the power source behind AI chatbots is the computing resources required for data analysis. This encompasses everything from the servers running the chatbot software to the infrastructure needed to maintain the hardware and cooling systems to prevent overheating. The amount of processing resources AI chatbots consume depends on various factors, such as the complexity of algorithms, data volume, concurrent users, and infrastructure performance. Smaller chatbot deployments with fewer users may require less processing power, while larger implementations with

high traffic rates may need more. Artificial intelligence (AI) bots have revolutionized production processes in industries such as manufacturing and logistics by automating repetitive tasks like inventory management, assembly, and packaging. This automation has led to increased productivity, lower operating costs, and better quality control. However, the introduction of AI bots has also led to the displacement of manual workers who previously carried out similar duties, resulting in job losses and economic disruption in some areas. In the service sector, the use of AI bots in customer care and support positions has disrupted traditional job patterns. Chatbots and virtual assistants now handle a significant portion of consumer queries and interactions.

ANF recovers 133 kg drugs in six operations

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 133 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 2.4 kg of ice was recovered from two passengers going to Saudi Arabia at Islamabad Airport. 700 grams of ice was recovered from a passenger going to Doha at Peshawar Airport. In third operation, 87 kg hashish and 33.9 kg opium recovered from Noneshara while 5 kg hashish and 1 kg opium were recovered from the possession of an accused rounded up in Taidjani, Hyderabad. 2.7 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested in Sohrah Goth Karachi. 600 grams of hashish was recovered from a drug smuggler settled near Turki Toll Plaza Jhelum. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process.—APP

FIA continues crackdown against electricity theft

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), in the light of the orders of the Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi continued crackdown against elements involved in electricity theft and overbilling on Tuesday. According to the spokesperson, the FIA Peshawar zone conducted raids and registered 13 inquiries against the elements involved in electricity theft. The raids were carried out by Anti-Corruption Circle Peshawar and Composite Circle Mardan. According to preliminary investigation, electricity was being stolen from shops, houses, flats and tube wells directly from the main line and by tampering with meters. Raids were conducted at Al Faisal Street, Bara Gata, Torbar Swabi, Pinda Road Peshawar, Peshawar Center Plaza, King Road Peshawar. In the operation, PESCO officials disconnected the illegal connections on the spot.—APP

Briefs

Palestinians will be victorious...

FROM PAGE 01
arrival headed to Khanna-Farhang Iran to attend an event. After that, she visited the University of Home Economics where she attended a conference. Later, the First Lady headed towards the Governor House where she held a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister. In the end, she paid her respects at the Iqbal Mausoleum. Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said the Pakistan-Iran friendship comprised over decades and Pakistan wanted to enhance cooperation with Iran in various economic welfare projects, especially poverty eradication. Punjab Chief Minister said this while talking to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and First Lady Jamileh Almosbaha at Governor House Lahore Tuesday during a luncheon arranged in the honour of Iranian dignitaries. The Iranian delegation was served with traditional foods of Punjab.

US warns Pakistan of 'possible...'

FROM PAGE 01
we look forward to continuing our partnership,' they added, stressing the significance of economic relations between both countries. However, considering Islamabad's closeness with Tehran amid President Raisi's three-day visit and the bilateral agreements signed between the two nations, the spokesperson hinted towards these relations being at risk with chances of potential sanctions owing to Iran's position in the world. 'We do not preview potential sanctions actions,' the spokesperson said and referred journalists to the Government of Pakistan for any further comment on the matter. The State Department's statement comes at a crucial standpoint in Pakistan's history as it works to advance its 'brotherhood' with Iran by welcoming their president, months after their cross-border skirmishes in January.

Commissioner revenue FBR, others on...

FROM PAGE 01
the matter. He observed that the national exchequer was suffering due to the pendency of tax matters involving billions of rupees. Shehbaz expressed zero tolerance over lethargy in pursuing these legal matters and pledged to monitor tax reforms. 'For enhancing revenue and saving every penny of the country and nation, they would have to strive day and night,' the press release quoted the prime minister as saying. Currently, 145,136 cases are pending in various courts, in which tax cases involving an amount of Rs 4.23 trillion are yet to be decided. FBR officials said, 19,528 cases involving Rs740 billion were pending in four high courts.

Pak, KSA, Uzbekistan..

FROM PAGE 01
Pakistan, and Uzbekistan will establish a strategic partnership to support cross-border investment. Amber Capital, Uzbekistan's largest investment bank, will work closely with KASB Securities Limited (KASB), a leading stock and commodity brokerage firm in Pakistan, to provide financial advisory and corporate finance services to investors. The partnership is expected to expand the market and attract foreign investment, particularly in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure, and agriculture. Both firms will be actively engaged in supporting investors and traders in Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Saudi Arabia, providing them with expert guidance and support to navigate the markets. The agreement is also expected to strengthen trade ties between the three countries, with a focus on increasing trade volumes and promoting economic integration. The partnership will enable businesses to tap into new markets and access new investment opportunities, creating jobs and driving economic growth.

Voters rejected PTI's narrative...

FROM PAGE 01
Bibi's health, he said funny things were being shared on social media, though all her medical tests were clear. He said it appeared that the PTI leaders had sworn that they have to speak against the country's national and defense institutions. He said that due to the efforts of the government, the country was moving towards progress and development. The Iranian President had vowed to increase trade volume with Pakistan upto 10 billion dollars per year. Earlier, he said the high level Saudi Arabian delegation had also discussed prospects of major investment in Pakistan. He said the stock market had broken all previous records due to the favorable environment. The government under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif wanted to introduce serious economic reforms in the country.

Gohar Ali denies any...

FROM PAGE 01
Khan's lawyers were 'not given a chance to present evidence in the 14-hour hearing'. About cases against Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, Gohar said that the former first lady has no connection with the Toshkhans case but cases were lodged against her to pressurise the PTI founder. Raising questions over the legitimacy of Sunday's by-elections, Gohar said that the PTI founder also expressed concerns over the recent election on 21 national and provincial constituencies. He alleged that 'ballot boxes were already filled' before the voting process, and the results of Punjab seats were 'pre-planned'. He also alleged that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) neither provided level playing field to the former ruling party nor took returning officers (ROs) from the judiciary.

'People's confidence..'

FROM PAGE 01
He said there is no democracy in the Punjab by-election, adding that elections were also held in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but the police did not register any FIR and there was no rigging complaint in KP. He said Punjab by-elections were already planned. PTI founder said general elections were postponed from October 2023 to February 2024, only to crush the PTI. He said that even in the Supreme Court, PTI's petition was not heard because they were waiting for PTI to be crushed. He said the majority was turned into a minority in the country, destroying morality.

3 terrorists killed in...

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sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan. Meanwhile, CTD Tuesday claimed to have killed at least eight terrorists who were involved in attacks on Customs offices in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. One of the most wanted terrorists, Jahanzab, was also among those killed in the operation conducted on Monday in the KP district, the CTD said in a statement. The dead terrorists, according to the report, were also involved in extortion and attacks on security forces as well as target killing. The terrorists were present in the district since they carried out sabotage, it added.

US report on India..

FROM PAGE 01
conceder a year ago suggested the US's priority privileges be extended to the Meola. More than 200 people have been killed. The State Department report said over 60,000 people were displaced between May and November in Manipur. There was no immediate comment on the report from the Indian embassy in Washington. In the rest of India, the State Department reported 'numerous instances of harassment, whether it's the government or its allies' 'allegedly pressured or harassed media outlets critical of the government'.



ISLAMABAD: Mehmood Ahmed President Rising Stars Hockey Club presenting a souvenir to Muhammad Farooq Secretary General United Emirates Hockey Club Dubai, Sohail Rafiq Butt Coach United Emirates Hockey Club, Ghulam Raza the physio and Muhammad Nadeem Saif Co-ordinator United Emirates Hockey Club Dubai during their visit to Islamabad. - DNA

Azhar supports Babar captaincy despite defeat in third T20I

The former skipper believes the team should support the Babar Azam

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan captain Azhar Ali voiced his support for the Green Shirts' white-ball skipper Babar Azam after losing in the third T20I against New Zealand on Sunday. Azhar, who led the Men in Green for almost two years, shared his two cents on Azam's captaincy after the home side was handed a seven-wicket loss at Pindi in the third match of the T20I series. The former batter hailed Babar's consistency as a batter saying he has performed with the bat during his captaincy. 'Babar's performance as a batsman has been good. He has consistently performed throughout his captaincy. If he couldn't perform well in the World Cup, it is okay. There have been some captains who have had similar experiences with poor performances in World Cups,' Azhar said in an interview with a local newspaper. He also stated that reappointing Babar as a captain was a sensible move. 'I don't think Babar has any issues with his captaincy. The whole captaincy episode wasn't ideal. Neither removing him was ideal, nor was reappointing him ideal. Now I hope the team supports him better and that there are no hard feelings from anyone,' he added. Remember, New Zealand made a stunning comeback in the five-match T20I series courtesy of Mark Chapman who led the visitors to



Stadob recovered well and had an outstanding partnership with Irfan. In Pindi, 180-190 is a par score. In batting, we did well.' New Zealand made a stunning comeback in the five-match T20I series courtesy of Mark Chapman who led the visitors to victory by seven wickets in the third match at the Pindi Cricket Stadium. The series is now level at 1-1 with two matches remaining in Lahore. The matches are scheduled on April 25 and 27 at the Gaddafi Stadium. Meanwhile, Pakistan captain Babar Azam opened up after the defeat against New Zealand in the third T20I of the series on Sunday in Rawalpindi. Azam said that Pakistan, who posted 178 while batting first, were 10 runs short. 'I don't think it [showing rainwater during the middle overs] made much of a difference because we had caught up. You can say we were 10 runs short,' Azam said after the match. 'Unfortunately, we had a bit of a setback with Rizwan [injury] because it wasn't easy for new batsmen but I think

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Djokovic wins Laureus World Sportsman of the Year

PARIS: Novak Djokovic was named World Sportsman of the Year for a record-equaling fifth time at the Laureus Awards on Monday, while Spanish footballer Alvaro Romo won the Best Footballer award. Djokovic, 36, won his third Grand Slam last year in Miami, and he has also won the Wimbledon title for the first time in his history. 'Our national team is a very challenging one to play for, both on and off the field of the game. I hope the team supports him better and that there are no hard feelings from anyone,' he added. Remember, New Zealand made a stunning comeback in the five-match T20I series courtesy of Mark Chapman who led the visitors to



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Sunil Narine rules out WI return for T20 WC

DURBAN: Sunil Narine says the 'door is closed' on his West Indies career after his sparkling IPL form prompted calls for him to come out of international retirement for their home T20 World Cup. The bowling all-rounder has starred for Kolkata Knight Riders as an opening batsman, with 286 runs including a century and a half-ton in the current IPL. He has taken nine wickets with his mystery spin and stifled the opposition's run flow with an economy of 7.10 in a high-scoring season. West Indies captain Rohan Powell had urged the 35-year-old to make a comeback for the World Cup in June, which the West Indies will host with the United States. 'I'm truly flattered and humbled that my performances recently have moved many people to publicly express their wish for me to come out of retirement and play in the upcoming T20 World Cup,' Narine wrote on social media. 'I have made peace with that decision and whilst I never wish to disappoint, that door is now closed and I will be supporting the guys who take the field in June for West Indies.' Narine announced his international retirement for their home T20 World Cup in June. He added in his post, 'Guys who have worked hard for the past few months and deserve to show our wonderful fans that they are capable of winning another title, I wish you all the best.' Narine has represented the West Indies in 51 T20Is, 65 ODIs and six Test matches since making his debut in 2011. He has taken 52 wickets in T20Is, 92 in ODIs and 21 in Test cricket. - Agencies

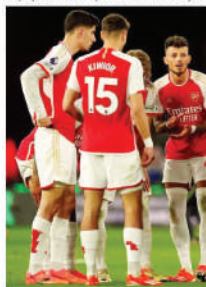
Arsenal boss Arteta warns of Chelsea danger

Manager says win at Wolves gave players a big boost of energy

SPORTS DESK
LONDON: Mikel Arteta says Chelsea deserve to be higher in the Premier League table as he prepares his title-chasing Arsenal team for a testing London derby on Tuesday. The Gunners returned to the top of the league at the weekend, beating Wolves 2-0 to leapfrog defending champions Manchester City. They are level on 74 points with second-placed Liverpool but have a superior goal difference. City are one point behind with a game in hand. Mauricio Pochettino's Chelsea were beaten by City in their FA Cup semifinal on Saturday but are unbeaten in eight league games, with four wins coming in that spell. Arteta said Saturday's win against Wolves was crucial after last week's league defeat at Aston Villa and a Champions League exit at the hands of Bayern Munich. 'We are in a great position in the Premier League,' the Spaniard told reporters on Monday. 'We've been like this for nine months, nine-and-a-half months, and we want really to give it a real go and be really determined to do what is in our hands to try to lift that trophy and tomorrow we are going to have a very tough opponent in front of us.' Pochettino, speaking at his own press conference, said a late call would

be made over the fitness of top-scorer Cole Palmer, who had missed training due to illness. But the Argentine said his team could win with or without their talisman. 'The most important thing is the team and the collective,' he said. 'It is an important part of the team and is doing fantastic for us, but we are Chelsea and we have plenty of players that can perform and do the job.'

Arteta said ninth-placed Chelsea would be dangerous opponents regardless of whether Palmer was fit, praising the squad and 'incredible manager' Pochettino. 'Whoever they put out there, when you look at the squad they have, the quality they have, it's great,' he said. 'I think they are doing very, very well. I think they're doing much better than peo-



ple are talking.' Arteta added: 'They deserve to be in a much higher position in the league when you look at what they've done and what they've produced in games. 'They have reached a final [League Cup], they have collected a semi-final [FA Cup], they could have been through. I think what Mauricio is doing is really impressive and I'm sure he's going to get them there.' 'Something else is the amount and the volume of those games. It's not the moment for us to look at that, we have to think in a positive way and feel and think that we are fresh to perform in the best possible way.'

Arteta said his players were full of energy despite a gruelling season as the club hunt their first Premier League title for 20 years. 'When I saw this this morning I had to stop them because winning is a big boost of energy and after their performance against Wolves, winning and having to play a London derby tomorrow, everybody is ready for it. 'Something else is the amount and the volume of those games. It's not the moment for us to look at that, we have to think in a positive way and feel and think that we are fresh to perform in the best possible way.'

Briefs

US intensifies crackdown on pro-Gaza protests in universities

WASHINGTON : American universities are witnessing crackdowns amid a surge in tensions between pro-Palestinian student protesters and school administrators, resulting in the cancellation of in-person classes and the subsequent arrest of demonstrators. The drive comes in as administrations of the world institutions succumb to the pressure from pro-Israeli groups and far right politicians, as student protests continue around the United States. The demonstrations, which started a week ago at Columbia University with a stable crowd of protesters setting up a "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" on campus, have now expanded to various other universities such as Yale, MIT, and more. Harvard University suspended its Harvard Undergraduate Palestine Solidarity Committee on Monday following a period of administrative repression, harassment, and intimidation by conservative politicians and donors. The committee was ordered to halt all organizational activities for the remainder of the term, or face permanent expulsion, following an arrested demonstration they held last week.—DNA

In world first, Venice to trial day tickets

ROME : Venice will this week begin charging day trippers for entry, a world first aimed at easing pressure on the Italian city during the height of mass tourism. On Thursday — a public holiday in Italy — day visitors will for the first time have to buy a free-entry (€5.3) ticket, monitored by inspectors carrying out spot checks at key points in the UNESCO world heritage site. Venice is one of the world's top tourist destinations, with 3.2 million visitors staying overnight in the historic centre in 2022 — dwarfing the resident population of just 50,000. Tens of thousands more pour into the city's narrow streets for the day, often from cruise ships, to see sights including St Mark's Square and the Rialto Bridge. The aim of the tickets is to persuade day trippers to come during quieter periods, to try to thin out the worst of the crowds. Initially, tickets will only be required on 29 busy days throughout 2024, mostly weekends from May to July. But the scheme is being closely watched as tourist destinations worldwide grapple with surging numbers of visitors, who boost the local economy but also risk overwhelming communities and damaging fragile ecosystems and historical sites.—DNA

UN: 50,000 displaced in N.Ethiopia clashes

NAIROBI : More than 50,000 people have been displaced by clashes in a disputed area in northern Ethiopia, the United Nations said, as the international community expressed concern about the violence involving fighters from rival regions. "The number of people displaced by the armed clashes in Alamata Town, and Raya Alamata, Zata and Oba, since 13/14 April has reached more than 50,000," the UN said late Monday, citing local authorities in the disputed area, which is claimed by Tigray and neighbouring Amhara. "The humanitarian situation is dire, with thousands of women and children in need of broad humanitarian support to survive," it added. Amhara forces occupied Raya Alamata in southern Tigray during a two-year war between Ethiopia's government and regional Tigrayan separatist forces. Under a peace deal between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government and Tigrayan authorities, Amhara forces which backed federal troops during the conflict — were due to withdraw from Raya Alamata after the agreement was signed in Addis Ababa in November 2022.—Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Farmers harvesting the wheat crop in the Golra area of Federal Capital.—ONLINE

Israel fails to prove UNRWA allegations: Report

UN Secretary Antonio Guterres appeals to all stakeholders to actively support UNRWA, as it is a lifeline for Palestine refugees in the region

NEWS DESK

UNITED NATIONS : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has accepted the recommendations from an independent review of UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA's ability to ensure neutrality and respond to allegations of breaches, his spokesperson said. "He has agreed with Commissioner General Philippe Lazarrini that UNRWA, with the Secretary-General's support, will establish an action plan to implement the recommendations. UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement on Monday. "Moving forward, the Secretary-General appeals to all stakeholders to actively support UNRWA, as it is a lifeline for Palestine refugees in the region." The review, led by former French foreign minister Catherine Colonna, was released Monday. The independent review group presented interim report findings and recommendations to the UN Secretary-General four weeks ago. These included evidence that UNRWA had a significant number of mechanisms and procedures to ensure compliance with the humanitarian principle of neutrality, although "critical areas...still need to be addressed," Guterres's office noted at the time. The review panel — working with respected research organizations the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the Chr. Michelsen Institute and the Danish Institute for Human Rights — announced that it would proceed with developing concrete and realistic recommendations to strengthen and improve the agency. The report said that UNRWA had not provided supporting evidence of its claims that employees of UNRWA are members of terrorist organizations. The Colonna report, which was commissioned by the UN in the wake of Israeli allegations, found that UNRWA regularly supplied Israel with lists of its employees for vetting, and that "the Israeli government has not informed UNRWA of any concerns relating to any UNRWA staff based on these staff lists since 2011". Israeli allegations of the involvement of UNRWA staff led major donors in January to cut their funding to the agency, the main channel of humanitarian support not only to Palestinians in Gaza but to Palestin-

ian refugee communities across the region. The funding was cut despite the dire needs of 2.3 million people in Gaza, most of whom have been forced from their homes by the Israeli offensive since October 7 and have been struggling to find water, food, shelter or medical care. Most of the donor nations have resumed their funding in recent weeks. UN ministers had said they would wait for the Colonna report to make a decision on resuming funding. US financial support of UNRWA has been blocked by Congress for at least a year in the wake of the allegations. "I don't think the findings in the Colonna report are particularly surprising," said Louis Charbonneau, the UN Director at Human Rights Watch. "Governments who haven't should immediately resume full funding to UNRWA and so it can deliver aid to desperate civilians. Many Palestinians are facing famine because of Israel's use of starvation as a weapon of war." A separate investigation is being carried out into the October 7 attack by the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services. The UN said that inquiry has not yet been completed.

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Volker decries latest Israeli strikes on Gaza

GENEVA : The UN human rights chief on Tuesday decried the latest series of Israeli strikes on Gaza killing mostly women and children. Volker Turk's remarks came after at least nine children among 16 Palestinians were killed on Sunday in an Israeli bombing targeting several homes east of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. "The latest images of a premature child taken from the womb of her dying mother, of the adjacent two houses where 15 children and five women were killed — this is beyond warfare," OHCHR spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told a UN briefing in Geneva, reading Turk's statement on the matter. Turk reiterated such an operation to Rafah would lead to further breaches of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as it would "risk more deaths, injuries and displacement on a large scale — even further atrocity crimes, for which those responsible would be held accountable." He also said he was "horrified" by the destruction of the Nasser Hospital and Al Shifa Hospital and the reported discovery of mass graves in and around these locations, calling for "independent, effective and transparent" investigations into the deaths. At least 283 bodies have been recovered so far from the mass grave at the Nasser Medical Complex after the Israeli army withdrew from the city on April 7 following a four-month ground offensive, according to Gaza's civil defense agency. On "grave human rights violations" continuing in the occupied West Bank, Turk said that despite international condemnation of massive settler attacks from April 12-14 facilitated by the Israeli Security Forces (ISF), "settler violence has continued with the support, protection.—Agencies

Sunk to announce largest-ever military aid for Ukraine

LONDON : British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has pledged the largest-ever military aid package to Ukraine, including more than 1,600 strike and air defense missiles, his office said. During his visit to Poland on Tuesday, Sunak will announce a £500 million (\$618.6 million) package for Ukraine. The crucial package will include some 400 vehicles, 1,600 munitions and 4 million rounds of ammunition, according to a statement. It will also cover 60 boats, maritime guns and more than 1,600 strike and air defense missiles, as well as Storm Shadows, which are precision-guided cruise missiles with a firing range in excess of 250 kilometers (155 miles). "Defending Ukraine against Russia's brutal ambitions is vital for our security and for all of Europe. If Russian President Vladimir Putin is allowed to succeed in this war of aggression, he will not stop at the Polish border," said Sunak. "This record package of military aid will give (Ukraine's President) Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his brave nation more of the hit they need to kick Putin out and restore peace and stability in Europe," he added. In Warsaw, Sunak will also discuss European security with Polish counterpart Donald Tusk and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. His next stop will be Germany to meet Chancellor Olaf Scholz.—APP

Australia's PM labels Musk arrogant in social media row

Australian PM Anthony said that the Australian authorities want to remove the contents beyond its border

ANKARA : Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Tuesday called X chief Elon Musk "arrogant" for his resistance to remove violent contents of two stabbing attacks in Sydney last week. Premier Albanese said Musk is saying more about himself than anything else. "It just shows his arrogance, really," the Australian premier told a local broadcaster Channel 7, according to transcript issued from his office. Earlier, Musk posted comments mocking Albanese and calling X a platform of "free speech and truth" and said: "Don't take my word for it, just ask the Australian PM." In another post, he wrote on X: "Our concern is that ANY country is allowed to censor content for ALL countries, which is what the Australian 'eSafety Commissioner' is demanding, then what is to stop any country from controlling the entire Internet? We have already censored the content in question for Australia, pending legal appeal, and it is stored only on servers in the USA." He said the Australian authorities want to remove the contents beyond its border. Meanwhile, on Tuesday, Australian Senator Ralph Babet posted a clip on X of Sydney attack when bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel was being stabbed and said he will not remove it. "This opinion piece contains the video that the Australian Government has gone to the Federal court to have removed. I WILL NOT REMOVE IT. Without free speech our nation will fail. The Liberal party, the Labor party and the eSafety commissioner are a threat to democracy," he said on X. Row between Australian government and Musk began after eSafety Commissioner ordered the social media platforms to remove the violent video clip but X vowed to continue fighting, according to media reports. Musk on Saturday said that orders to take down graphic footage of the stabbing attacks in Sydney are an attempt by Australia to censor his social media company. Six people were killed and 16 injured in two separate stabbing incidents at a shopping center and a church in Sydney last week. On Sunday, the Australian opposition has also thrown its weight behind the government's proposed misinformation laws in light of the social media response to the violent scenes. The government will introduce reworked laws to toughen social media compliance.—Agencies

Amb. Hashmi boosts Pakistan-China trade in Linyi

Ambassador Hashmi discussed proposals to further deepens trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and Linyi, including B2B exchanges; education and people-to-people ties

DNA

BEIJING : Ambassador Khalid Hashmi, during his ongoing orientation visit to Shandong province, visited Linyi city on 21-22 April, and interacted extensively with municipal leaders, spoke at a trade and investment symposium and undertook field visits to various business enterprises. In his meetings with municipal leadership, the Ambassador discussed proposals to further deepens trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and Linyi, including B2B exchanges; education and people-to-people ties. Separately, Ambassador Hashmi was briefed on urban development, strategies of the City Planning Hall. Speaking at Pakistan Trade and

Investment Symposium organized by Linyi Municipal Government and other departments, the Ambassador briefed the participants about investment policies, incentives and institutional support in Pakistan, including merits of Special Economic Zones and other facilitation schemes. The Ambassador also had additional interactions aimed at deepening economic cooperation. He engaged with Linyi Trade City Holding Group Co., Ltd., discussing its pivotal role in supporting B2B activities for Gawadar and Pakistan through the Trade City Project initiated in 2016. He also visited other reputable business enterprises, and was separately given briefings on the city's wholesale markets and distribution centers, Linyi, Shandong's largest city,

boasts a bustling economy with a GDP of 610.5 billion RMB last year, driven by its robust commerce and logistics sector featuring numerous wholesale markets and logistics parks.



Iran's True promise ushers in new era for region

TEHRAN : Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri has stressed that Iran's recent retaliatory strikes on the Israeli-occupied territories have had "strategic" impacts both on the region and the world. "The situation in the region has changed — after Iran's retaliatory and punitive action against the sensitive areas and military bases of the Zionist regime," Major General Mohammad Baqeri said in an event on Tuesday. He hailed the victorious operation that was conducted in response to the Israeli strikes, noting that it manifested national willpower against the occupying regime and had "strategic effects" at the regional and global levels. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched extensive missile and drone strikes earlier this month on the Israeli-occupied territories. The retaliatory strikes, dubbed Operation True Promise, inflicted damage on Israeli military bases across the occupied lands. The operation came after the Israeli attack on April 1 against the Iranian consulate in Damascus, located next to the embassy building in Damascus's Moadab district. The airstrike killed two senior Iranian military personnel who were on an advisory mission to Syria as well as five of their accompanying officers.—Agencies

Google fires more employees protesting giant deal with Israel

WASHINGTON : Google has fired about 20 more employees over recent protests against a deal between the US technology giant and Israel. The activist group No Tech for Apartheid said on Monday that the new layoffs bring to more than 50 the total number of Google workers dismissed in the past week. The action is attempting to quash dissent, silence its workers and reassert its power over them," said Jason Chang, a spokesperson for No Tech for Apartheid. Earlier, a Google spokesperson confirmed the company had sacked more employees after continuing its investigation into the April 16 anti-Israel demonstrations, which included sit-ins at offices in New York and Menlo Park, California. The protesters held posters reading "No More Genocide for Profit," "No deal apartheid," "Stand with Palestinian, Arab and Muslim Googlers" and "Don't be evil, stop retaliation." They denounced Project Nimbus, a \$1.2 billion contract awarded to Google and Amazon to supply the Israeli regime with cloud computing services. The contract dates back to 2021, however, the protests followed a report in Time magazine earlier this month, citing an internal company document that the Israeli ministry of military affairs is a Google Cloud customer.—APP

Asia hit hardest by climate in 2023: UN

GENEVA : Asia was the world's most disaster-hit region from climate and weather hazards in 2023, the United Nations said Tuesday, with floods and storms the chief cause of casualties and economic losses. Global temperatures hit record highs last year, and the UN's weather and climate agency said Asia was warming at a particularly rapid pace. The World Meteorological Organization said the impact of heatwaves in Asia was becoming more severe, with melting glaciers threatening the region's future water security. The WMO said Asia was warming faster than the global average, with temperatures last year nearly two degrees Celsius above the 1961 to 1990 average. "The report's conclusions are sobering," WMO chief Celeste Saulo said in a statement. "Many countries in the region experienced their hottest year on record in 2023, along with a barrage of extreme conditions, from droughts and heatwaves to floods and storms.—Agencies

Briefs
PTI demands Bushra be shifted to SKH

FAISAL SHEIKH
ISLAMABAD: PTI leadership has expressed serious anxiety over the health condition of Bushra Bibi after arrival of ambulance and a team of doctors at Bani Gals last night and sounded alarm that the powerholders would be held responsible if anything happens to her because everything has its limit. They made it clear enough is enough and wanted to go to any extent for the safety and security of Imran's spouse because her life was at stake at present and no compromise would be made on her health issue come what may. Speaking at a press conference here on Tuesday, the party leaders warned that Maryam Nawaz, jail superintendent and the King of jungle along with her custodians would be held accountable if God forbid anything happened to her because the current tyrant regime has crossed all boundaries of fascism and inhuman acts. Accompanied by PTI senator Dr. Humayun Moinuddin, Noor-ul-Huda Panjwala and PTI Women Wing Kamran Shahzad, PTI Central Information Secretary Raza Iqbal demanded that Imran Khan's wife should be immediately transferred to Shaheed Khawam Hospital and she should be treated by doctors of her and Imran Khan's choice. He made it clear that now nothing could be kept secret and they would not tolerate no luxury with regard to the health of Bushra Bibi.

Malaysia: 10 dead in helicopters collide

KUALA LUMPUR: Two Malaysian navy helicopters collided in mid-air as they flew in formation during a rehearsal for a military exercise, killing all 10 crew on board. One of the aircraft dipped the rotor of the other before the two crashed into the ground, footage published on local media showed. The incident took place at 09:30 local time (02:30 BST) in the Malaysian town of Lumut, which is home to a Royal Malaysian Navy base. There are no known survivors. All victims were confirmed dead on site and their remains were sent to the [Lumut] Military Hospital for identification, said the Royal Malaysian Navy. It added that it would form a committee to investigate the cause of the incident. One of the helicopters, a BH60 MH60S with seven people on board, is believed to have crashed onto a running track. The other, a Fenec MS26B carrying the other three victims, crashed into a swimming pool nearby. State's fire and rescue department said it was alerted to incident at 06:50 local time (01:50 GMT). - Agencies

Saudi Arabia braced for heavy rainfall

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia is set to receive more rainfall toward the weekend, with Riyadh and its outskirts likely to witness heavy rains from Friday to next Tuesday. In addition, the National Center for Meteorology said on Tuesday: "May forecasts indicate a chance of higher than average rainfall." More rain is forecast this week in Makkah, Jazan, Aser, Al-Baha, the Eastern Province, and regions in Riyadh, the NCM indicate that Makkah and the surrounding areas are set to experience heavy showers, while Riyadh, Wadi Al-Dawasir, and Al-Baha will receive medium rainfall. Southern regions like Jazan, Najran, Asir, and Al-Baha will be impacted by medium to heavy rainfall, with Jazan and Asir expected to receive torrential rain and strong winds. Saudi Arabia's General Directorate of Civil Defense has issued weather warnings and safety instructions. Its message, which has been sent to residents, said: "Forecasts from the NCM indicate that there will be moderate to heavy rainfall in the Riyadh region (Riyadh, Diriyah, Muzalmayyah, Al-Harij, Al-Rajab, HotalBan Tamim, Al-Majmaah, Thadaf, Murree, Al-Ghat, Al-Zulf, Shiqra, and Huraymila). - Agencies

BHC CJ: Won't remain silent on missing persons issue

Kakar says mutilated bodies of children found in Balochistan, youths go missing with families unaware of whereabouts

STAFF REPORT
QUETTA: Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Hashim Kakar has said that the biggest problem in the province is missing persons, mutilated bodies are found, and women are killed in the name of honour, but he will not remain silent over these issues. The CJ said he would dispose of pending cases as soon as possible. The Quetta Bar Association organised an event in honour of the appointment of the chief justice and the retirement of Justice Nazir Langewale. Speaking at the ceremony, the chief justice said that during his tenure, pending cases would be disposed of quickly. Justice Hashim Kakar said that missing persons are the biggest problem in Balochistan, mutilated bodies of local children are found in Balochistan, while youths of the province go missing and their families do not even know about their whereabouts. Innocent people were killed in the name of honour, Justice Kakar said, adding that

Govt to re-constitute committee on issue of missing persons

MEHTAB PIRZADA
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nadeez Tarar on Tuesday said that the incumbent government was serious to address the long standing issue of missing persons and was going to re-constitute the committee on it. He was addressing a press conference here along with Federal Minister for Information Attullah Tarar. The law minister said that 10,200 cases of missing persons were registered in the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (CoIED) out of which around 8,000 cases have been addressed. He said that the former PDM led government formed a committee on the issue with the representation of all stakeholders including BAP party, PMQ, JUI, PPP and others. Now the incumbent government was going to re-constitute the Parliamentary committee to continue its work on the subject. Azam Nadeez said that the issue of missing persons was four decades old but it couldn't be resolved over the night. He said that the involvement of government institutions in the matter couldn't be denied but no concrete evidence was ever produced before the committee in this regard. He said that reports of missing persons were also not 100% correct every time. Two people were facing jail sentences in various cases while one was found among the attackers of Gawadar attack, he said.

He would not remain silent over these issues in the province. He stressed that 300 women were killed in Naseerabad on false charges in the name of honour. He said that 20 incomplete buildings were found on the roadside in Mangocher tehsil of Kalat, and after 2014, no work was carried out on them while Rs2 billion was spent so far. The Chaman Master Plan Project had incurred Rs1.79 billion comprising 550 shops, cold storage, warehouses, a bus stand, truck stand and an international-style vegetable market. "When the person who started the project came to power, the work was stopped. It is not a private property of anyone, it is public money," he stressed. He added that the additional chief secretary had been ordered to implement the projects in a month. He also said that after 10 days, he would visit Chaman and, after 15 days, Mangocher. "I want to see the implementation of these two projects. I will never be negligent about the solution of the problems the country was faced with," he declared.

Ayaz reaffirms resolve to further deepen Pak-Saudi ties



ADIL SHAHEEN
ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday said that Pakistan attached great importance to its long-standing brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia. "Pak-Saudi relations are bound by unbreakable bond of religion, culture, history, and mutual trust and respect," he said during a meeting with the Saudi Ambassador in Pakistan, Nawal bin Sa'eed Ahmad Al-Malkiy who called on him at Parliament House. He also expressed,

"The continuous upward trajectory of our bilateral ties is extremely heartening, and we are committed to taking this mutually beneficial partnership to new heights by expanding cooperation in all fields of mutual interest." The speaker highlighted that the people of Pakistan held deep respect and affinity for Saudi Arabia, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul Al-Haz Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and the people of the Kingdom. "Both brotherly countries share the

5 migrants die while crossing the English Channel

The regional prefect Jacques Billant said a woman, three men and a 7-year-old girl died. He said the boat carrying 112 people attempted to sail off the beach in Wimereux

WEB DESK
PARIS: Five people, including a child, died while trying to cross the English Channel from France to the UK, French authorities said Tuesday, just hours after the British government approved a migrant bill to deport those of those who entered the country illegally to Rwanda. The prefecture responsible for the north of France said in a statement authorities spotted several boats packed with migrants off the coast of Pas-de-Calais, attempting to depart in the early morning. Several French navy ships, including assistance and rescue tug AbeilleNormandie, intervened to rescue "a very overcrowded boat carrying more than one hundred people on board," the statement emailed to The Associated Press said. The regional prefect Jacques Billant said a woman, three men and a 7-year-old girl died. He said the boat carrying 112 people attempted to sail off the beach in Wimereux. The Voix du Nord, a regional newspaper, said the bodies were discovered at the beach on Tuesday morning. About 100 migrants were rescued and placed aboard a French navy ship. They will be taken to the port of Boulogne, the paper said. It came hours after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's latest effort to send some migrants to Rwanda finally won approval from Parliament. The UK government plans to deport some of those who enter the country illegally as a deterrent to migrants who risk their lives in leaky, inflatable boats in hopes that they will be able to claim asylum once they reach Britain. Human rights groups have described the legislation as inhumane and cruel. Both the United Nations refugee agency and the Council of Europe called on the UK Tuesday to rethink its plans for fears they could damage international cooperation on tackling the global migrant crisis.

No justification to end Hamas' presence in Doha: Qatar MFA

NEWS DESK
DUBAI: Qatar said on Tuesday there was no justification to end the presence of an office of Palestinian militant group Hamas in Doha while its mediation efforts continued in the Gaza war. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari added in a press conference that Qatar remained committed to mediation but was reassessing its role in "frustration with attacks" on its efforts. Last week, Qatar said it was re-evaluating its role as mediator in ceasefire talks between Israel and the Palestinian group Hamas, citing concerns that its efforts are being undermined by politicians seeking to score points. Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulazman Al

Thani, who is also foreign minister, said there was a "misuse of this mediation for narrow political interests, and this necessitated Qatar to undertake a full evaluation of this role". As the US-backed Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip entered day 200 on Tuesday, aerial and artillery strikes continued to pound and target different areas and massacre more civilians, mostly children and women. Palestinian Information Center (PIC) said that the Israeli occupation army continued to launch attacks across Gaza, killing and injuring multiple citizens. According to media sources, one citizen was killed and others were injured when the Israeli army bombed a soccer arena sheltering displaced families in Beit Lahia, north of Gaza. An Israeli warplane also bombed an apartment building in Tel al-Husa neighborhood in the south of Gaza City, with reported casualties. Casualties, including one martyr, were reported when the Israeli army bombed a house in the new refuge camp of an-Nusairat in central Gaza. The Israeli army also launched aerial and artillery attacks on other areas of Gaza, killing and injuring dozens of citizens. The health ministry in Gaza said on Tuesday that the Israeli occupation army committed three massacres in different areas of the Gaza Strip during the past 24 hours, killing at least 32 civilians and injuring over 20 others, while a large number of victims are still under the rubble of bombed buildings or lying on roads. In a statement, the health ministry said that the Israeli army killed and injured a large number of civilians in different areas of Gaza during the past 24 hours, but only 10 of them, including 32 martyrs, were transported to hospitals.

CJCSC confers civil awards to eminent scientists, engineers



DNA
RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Sahir-ur-Rahman Mirza, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, conferred civil awards on eminent scientists and engineers from strategic organizations for their meritorious services at the Investiture Ceremony held here on Tuesday at Chakdala Garrison. A total of 35 awardees were conferred with the awards, whereas seven officers were awarded Stars-I-Intiaz, 15 officers were awarded President's Award for Pride of Performance and 13 officers were awarded Tamgha-Intiaz. The Chairman CJCSC lauded the services of the scientists and engineers; hailing them as the nation's unseen heroes. While addressing the awardees, the CJCSC said, "You, all, have selflessly contributed towards strengthening the foundations of a resilient nation; and for that, we are forever indebted to you."

Court grants Aleema interim bail

COURT REPORTER
ISLAMABAD: A sessions court in Islamabad granted interim bail on Tuesday to PTI founder Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan, in a case lodged in response to a prayer gathering arranged in Ramazan for the former premier's release. The PTI held a special prayer gathering in Ramazan for Imran's release in what the party terms as 'hogas' cases. Additional Sessions Judge Nadia Ikram presided over the case and heard arguments presented by both sides. During the hearing, Aleema informed the court that they were praying for her brother's release when a case was lodged against them at the City Police Station. Talking to the media after her appearance in court, Aleema maintained that the cases lodged against the PTI founder are 'hogas' in nature and they will "all end one by one". "Imran will not make any deal, he will face all the cases. Bushra Bibi will continue to be dragged into the cases till the decision of the Al-Qadir Trust case is announced," she added. "The iddat case is also absurd. The cypher case is not going well either and it will also be done away with. In all the cases, the judges are under pressure on how to proceed."

Truce crumbles in Darfur

CAIRO/DUBAI: Attacks around the Sudanese city of Al-Fashir have shattered a truce that protected it from a year-old war, leading to warnings of a new wave of intercommunal violence and humanitarian risks for 1.6 million residents crammed into the North Darfur capital. Al-Fashir is the last major city in the vast, western Darfur region not under control of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The RSF and its allies swept through four other Darfur state capitals last year, and were blamed for a campaign of ethnically-driven killings against non-Arab groups and other abuses in West Darfur. The fight for Al-Fashir, a historic center of power, could be more protracted, inflame ethnic tensions that surfaced in the early-2000s conflict in the region and reach across Sudan's border with Chad, say residents, aid agencies and analysts. - Agencies

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