



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Erdogan: Israel will 'set sights' on Turkiye if Hamas defeated

Detailed News On Page-07

Blinken pledges US support for Ukraine in Kyiv

Detailed News On Page-08

Haaland puts Man City on brink of title

Detailed News On Page-06



CPEC project to continue

Pakistan, China to further solidify relations: FMs

Pakistan to continue supporting China on all issues; peace in Afghanistan a must for regional peace and stability; Chinese protection govt top priority

DNA

BEIJING: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan Ishaq Dar has said Pakistan and China are all set to further strengthen their relations. While addressing a joint press conference with the Chinese foreign Minister Ishaq Dar further said Pakistan will continue supporting China on all issues. He added, peace in Afghanistan was a must for regional peace and stability. He also assured the foreign minister that the Pakistan government will do its best for the Chinese protection. Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar co-chaired the 5th round of China-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue with Member of the Politburo of CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing today. Both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. Noting the China Pakistan 'All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership', Deputy Prime Minister underlined relations with China as the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the threats posed to regional peace and security due to India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir, and appreciated China's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Both sides reiterated the resolve to further deepen the bilateral ties through continued high-level exchanges and bilateral consultative mechanisms. They also renewed the commitment to advance the high quality development of CPEC in its second phase with its focus on five corridors namely growth, innovation, open, livelihood, green corridors.

Pak, US agree to boost IT coop

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Wednesday agreed to enhance cooperation in the IT and Telecommunication sector. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest related to IT and Telecommunication, the digitalisation of Pakistan's judicial system and the promotion of the gaming industry were discussed, said a news release. Talking to US Ambassador, Shaza Fatima said that the IT and Telecom sector of Pakistan is progressing. She said that Pakistan wanted to enhance its relations with the US in the field of IT and Telecom. The minister said that Pakistan wanted to work on the promotion of gaming industry with the collaboration of the United States. She also emphasised increasing business-to-business relations between Pakistan and US. Pakistan aspired to benefit from the experiences of America in the field of technology and exchange of IT experts between the two countries. The minister of State for IT said that the present government is focusing on digitalisation in the country. Economy, governance and society are being digitalised under the Prime Minister's National

Continued on Page 06



BEIJING: Ishaq Dar Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi addressing a joint press stake-out. - DNA

PSX crosses 75,000 mark

Analyst says market reacting positively due to IMF programme

NAZIRSIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Wednesday achieved a new milestone as the market crossed the 75,000 mark in the early hours of trading. The benchmark KSE-100 index shot up to 75,115.32 during the intraday trading at 10:11am but came below the 74,000-mark. A day earlier the KSE-100 Index had closed at 74,531.19 points. Samiullah Tariq, the head of research at Pak-Kuwait Investment Company, told Geo.tv that the market reacted positively due to the optimism regarding the new International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. Tariq added that the expectations of an interest rate cut in the next monetary policy due to declining

Continued on Page 06

Slovak PM injured in shooting

AGENCIES

HANDLOVA: Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico has been shot after he concluded a meeting in Handlova, the country's media reported Wednesday. The condition of PM Fico remains unknown at the moment. The country's news agency TA3 reported that a suspect has been taken into custody. The populist leader was injured as reports indicate the firing of several gunshots, and the 59-year-old had been hit in the abdomen. Zuzana Čaputová, Slovakia's president, condemned the

Continued on Page 06

£190m reference

IHC approves Imran Khan's bail application

IHC CJ-led bench had reserved verdict on PTI founder bail plea a day earlier; PTI leader to stay in prison until he gets bail in two other cases

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court on Wednesday approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's bail petition in the £190 million National Crime Agency (NCA) settlement reference. A two-member bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Tariq MehmoodJahangiri, had reserved the verdict on the bail petition a day earlier after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) prosecutor AmjadParvez concluded his arguments. In December last year, the NAB had filed a £190 million NCA reference against Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi and others. The other accused named in the reference are FarhatShezadi (Farah Gogi), Mirza Shehzad Akbar, Zulfi Bukhari and others. In the reference, the NAB Rawalpindi said that accused persons in connivance with each other have committed

Continued on Page 06

PTI leadership demands probe into 'property leaks'

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan Wednesday demanded a probe regarding the Pakistanis named in the 'Dubai Unlocked' investigation. Speaking with journalists at the Parliament today, the politician said it will be established whether the properties in Dubai are declared or not. The senior politician's statement came after an explosive exposé was made public on Tuesday, listing details of properties owned by the global elite in Dubai, which includes political figures, globally sanctioned individuals, alleged money launderers and

Continued on Page 06

Pak conducts Fatah-II guided system

Fatah-II is being inducted in Pakistan's Artillery Divisions for stand-off, precision engagement of deep targets

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: In a major boost to Pakistan's arsenal, the Pakistan Army on Wednesday successfully conducted the

training launch of Fatah-II Guided Rocket System, said the military's media wing in a statement. The rocket system, which has a range of 400 kilometres, is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation system, unique trajectory and manoeuvrable features. The missile is capable of "engaging targets with high precision and defeating any missile defence system". According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), today's launch was aimed at perfecting the launch drills and procedures. "Fatah-II is being inducted in Pakistan's Artillery Divisions for stand-off, precision engagement of deep targets. The rocket system will significantly upgrade the reach and

Continued on Page 07

Briefs

Governor's entry banned in KP house

Governor's annex will be repurposed to accommodate the needs of MPAs

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM Ali Amin Gandapur has 'banned' entry of Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in the KP house as a block reserved for the governor has been abolished. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif has confirmed the development. Saif said the decision, taken during the latest meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet, aims to address the pressing accommodation issues faced by ministers and members of the provincial assembly.

Court orders Elahi's check-up

Court directs authorities to submit report

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Special Central Court has ordered the Services Hospital medical superintendent (MS) to form a board for the check-up of former Punjab chief minister ParvezElahi. Judge Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh directed the KotLakhpat jail superintendent to produce Elahi before the board. The court directed the authorities to ensure complete check-up and submit the report before May 21. The court also ordered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to contact Interpol for MoonisElahi's arrest. The central court issued the written verdict of money laundering case.

Opposition creates ruckus

Bhutto lambastes PTI for double standards

Speaking at Lower House, Bilawal said, "They talk one thing but their politics is different"

KHAYAMABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari named the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of consequences if the "non-serious party" refuses to tender an apology over May 9 riots. "No one should be permitted to commit terrorism," Bilawal said while speaking on the floor of the National Assembly on Wednesday, adding: "The opposition leadership committed terrorism on May 9 by disrespecting the monuments of martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country." It is noteworthy to mention here that the incarcerated PTI founder Khan, in an informal conversation with journalists in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on May 8 - a day before the first anniversary of the violent protests, turned down the military's demand to apologise for the May 9 riots. He also distanced his party from the violent protests that broke out in the country last year soon after his arrest. Amid the opposition's lawmakers sloganeering, the

Continued on Page 07

FazlurRehman demands govt to step down

DNA

MULTAN: JUIF chief MaulanaFazlurRehman on Wednesday demanded the incumbent government to resign and holding of fresh general elections without the "interference of establishment", ARY News reported. Addressing a press conference here, MaulanaFazl said that his party will fully support the environment for negotiations 'if created', noting that it is not possible for the establishment to be both the "servant and the ruler". He emphasised that the mindset that nothing can happen without the establishment's consent needs to be changed, demanding that the

Continued on Page 07

New defamation law not to affect freedom of speech

Bokhari announces postponing legislation's approval till Sunday, says govt is open to hold talks with journalists

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Punjab government Wednesday reassured that its proposed defamation law will not have adverse effects on freedom of speech. "Professional journalists will not be bothered by this act," Punjab's Minister for Information AzmaBokhari said while addressing a press conference in Lahore. "Only those journalists who fabricate news while sitting in their homes will have an issue [with this legislation]," the minister added. Her remarks come after Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's government tabled the new anti-defamatory legislation in the Punjab Assembly on Tuesday - a move which has faced some resistance from various sections of the society including journalists. As per The News, President Lahore Press Club Arshad Ansari is among such voices and has termed the move as the government's attempt to stifle dissenting voices which amounts to a "direct assault

on the pillars of democracy." "The LPC, in collaboration with fellow journalist organisations, will devise a robust strategy to combat this draconian law [...] we urge the Punjab government to reconsider its stance and uphold the values of democracy and freedom of the press," Ansari added. Elaborating on the details of the proposed legislation, the information minister revealed that notices will be issued to those who speak without backing their statements with relevant proof. The accused will be asked to choose three dates for appearing before the court within 21 days and the cases will be concluded in 180 days, she said, adding that the legislation will apply on social media platforms as well. "If the charge of defamation is proved, Rs3 million will have to be paid [by the guilty] in damages," Bokhari said adding that if someone believes the defamation to be more

Continued on Page 07

MAY 2024

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Faysal Bank inaugurates new regional head office

DNA KARACHI: Faysal Bank Limited (FBL) Pakistan's fastest growing Islamic bank, inaugurated its Multan Regional Head office building, including a flagship branch for its Priority customers. On the occasion, Mr. Yousaf Hussain, President & CEO, Faysal Bank, hosted a reception for key business leaders from the Southern Punjab region. Mr. Yousaf said, "We are privileged to further enhance Faysal Islamic's strong presence in the Multan Region. The Bank will continue to further strengthen its partnership with local businesses within industrial, commercial, SME, agriculture, and retail segments." He thanked all the customers for their support and patronage in making Faysal Bank a leading Islamic bank. Mr. Yousaf further added, "Faysal Bank will maintain its aggressive network expansion plan, reaching 1000 branches over the next two years, InshaAllah. We are committed to broadening access to Islamic banking and finance, aiming to reach not only major cities but also unbanked and rural areas, thereby enhancing financial inclusion in Pakistan."

Police foil terrorist plot, defuse 8kg of explosive material

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Police successfully foiled a terrorist plot by defusing 8kg of explosive material planted near a checkpoint in Landi Kotal, Khyber District. According to police reports, a suspicious box was discovered installed on the wall of the checkpoint, prompting swift action from law enforcement. The police promptly evacuated the checkpoint and assumed positions. The Bomb Disposal (BD) Unit squad swiftly arrived at the scene and successfully defused the explosive material.—APP

Court Notice

بجالات چناب تھوڑا قلعہ صاحب سول جج راولپنڈی دعویٰ حق و باطل کے بارے میں 24 مئی 2024ء کو فیصلہ ہوگا۔

بجالات چناب تھوڑا قلعہ صاحب سول جج راولپنڈی دعویٰ حق و باطل کے بارے میں 24 مئی 2024ء کو فیصلہ ہوگا۔

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Political stability imperative for growth, says Ahsan

Addressing the Pakistan Development Summit, the minister said, "Pakistan is blessed with all natural resources and by mobilizing these resources, we can take the country on the path of rapid economic growth and social development within a ten-year time period."

MAHNOOR ANSAR ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal Wednesday underscored the need for political stability and continuity of economic policies to put Pakistan on a sustained growth trajectory and attain social prosperity. Addressing the Pakistan Development Summit, the minister said, "Pakistan is blessed with all natural resources and by mobilizing these resources, we can take the country on the path of rapid economic growth and social development within a ten-year time period." The theme of the event was "5Es Framework Road

map to a Trillion Dollar Economy by 2035," which aimed to bring together stakeholders from industry, academia and sectoral professionals to shape the future of Pakistan's economic growth. About nine key thematic sessions under the topic of 5EsFramework would gather expert feedback and prepare a comprehensive plan of action to attain sustainable economic development and social prosperity. Speaking on the occasion, the minister stressed the need to form an economic charter, besides maintaining the continuity of these economic policies to turn around the national economy. He said that peace and political stability in the country were the other prerequisite elements

to put the country on a fast track to economic uplift. Ahsan Iqbal also urged the need for an accelerated pace of economic growth and development not only to compete with the regional countries but to bring it at par with these economies. Highlighting the significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC), the minister said, "It was a game-changer project, which will help to transform local industrial and agriculture sectors." He also called for mobilizing domestic resources to meet the financial requirements and reducing the reliance on borrowing. The minister said that the income of the government was Rs7,000 billion and debt repayment was Rs8,000 bil-

lion, adding that it was borrowing 1,000 billion per annum to bridge the gap between income and expenditure. Meanwhile, the minister said, "More than half of the country's population does not pay the electricity bill, besides large businesses and traders are not paying their due taxes." He stressed the need to promote tax compliance culture to generate resources to meet expenses. The Planning Minister also stressed the need to strengthen the foreign exchange reserve of the country to ensure the timely payments of all international commitments. Addressing the event, Secretary Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Owais Samra

said that Pakistan was facing economic difficulties, adding that the government was following a comprehensive policy to revive the economy. He further informed, "The Planning Commission has prepared the framework of 5Es including energy, exports, E-Pakistan, environment and equality." It included various short, medium and long-term projects to achieve sustainable economic development and social prosperity, he added. "Pakistan is facing the challenges of climate change," he said. "The government was taking holistic measures for the mitigation of its adverse impact on the local social and economic landscape, he added.

Minister pledges to introduce effective local bodies system

LAHORE: Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafique pledged on Wednesday to introduce a local bodies system which could deliver in letter and spirit. He said this while chairing a meeting of the special committee, formed by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, at the Civil Secretariat here. The committee deliberated upon matters of preparation of the new local government bill. Members of the committee, MPAs and officials concerned attended the meeting. Proposals for upgrading status of Sialkot, Okara and Rahim Yar Khan's local bodies, creating a metropolitan corporation for more than five lakh population and at all divisional headquarters were considered.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan, Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sad.—DNA

Zong 4G Partners with MEPCO

DNA ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom operator has partnered with Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) to enhance business communication services and cater to their telecommunications needs. MEPCO stands as the preeminent power distribution entity in Pakistan, serving across 13 administrative districts within the southern region of Punjab province. MEPCO harnesses hydro-electric power to generate electricity and distributes it to approximately thirty-four million residents in the region. Zong 4G, through this collaboration aspires to fulfill MEPCO's telecom needs by leveraging its cutting-edge technology and comprehensive business solutions. MEPCO recently issued a tender seeking proposal for fulfilling its telecom requirements, and Zong emerged victorious in securing the contract and resulting in the strategic partnership. The partnership was formally finalized in a signing ceremony at MEPCO HQ led by Zong's 4G's regional director corporate sales Farhan Zakir. This strategic partnership represents a significant milestone for Zong's corporate clientele. Expressing his enthusiasm towards the partnership, the official spokesperson for Zong 4G stated, "This strategic partnership represents a significant milestone for Zong, marking a notable achievement in the company's trajectory. This achievement not only reinforces Zong's position as a leading telecom operator but also highlights its commitment to serving the corporate sector with innovative services and reliable support."

CBEC to be set up in tribal districts

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Education Faisal Khan Tarakai on Wednesday said that community-based education centers (CBEC) would be established in the merged districts to control the drop-out ratio of students from schools and increase the literacy rate. He said the provincial government was working on the Rented Building Program, Sabaoon program and other important projects in the tribal districts to ensure access to education to children and youth of the tribal districts. He said these projects would also provide employment opportunities to the educated youth in the areas, adding that provision of facilities in schools would be ensured and measures would be taken to overcome the shortage of teachers. He expressed these views during a meeting with the Managing Director of Merged Areas Education Foundation, Mian Anullah. Special Secretary Energy and Power Tashfeen Haider was also present on this occasion. Managing Director of Merged Areas Education Foundation Mian Anullah while briefing the Minister said that Merged Areas Education Foundation was taking revolutionary steps for grass root level education in all tribal districts and sub-divisions. He said that more than 47,000 students were enrolled with various programs of the foundation including Literacy for All, Community Based Education Centers, and NCHD Centers. There were more than 600 schools and more than 800 teachers in the merged district, hsaid and added that the new programs included the middle school program and the Sabaoon school program. The MD said that the programs for the next financial year include the establishment of ALP centers in all the tribal districts and the establishment of 200 more community schools to provide higher education facilities to the tribal youth at their doorsteps.—DNA

Pakistan's auto industry behind global standards

KARACHI: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics hosted a round table discussion titled 'Revitalizing Pakistan's Automobile Industry: Moving towards Consumer Welfare, Global Integration & Sustainable Mobility' here in Karachi. The Round Table Conference was attended by representatives of Automobile Companies in Pakistan, Automobile parts manufacturers and academicians. The conference focused primarily on three major themes, Localization Obsession and Supply Chain Constraints, Policy, Reforms and Industry Development, and Electrification and the Future of Mobility. The participants highlighted the major issues being faced by the industry as a whole and firms individually that have kept the automobile sector from developing into a major industry in Pakistan, and in the global automobile industry as well. Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor Pakistan Institute of Development Economics in his opening address to the conference put forth a pertinent question for the stakeholders to ponder upon. He questioned why has Pakistan's automobile industry despite existing for many decades not been able to increase production numbers and quality to target export markets? Dr. Nadeem expressed his worry over the lack of technological adoption by Pakistan's automobile industry which is lagging decades behind the world. Dr. Nadeem also criticized Pakistan's continuous efforts focusing on localizing the entire automobile production chain which have to date not provided any benefit to the automobile industry, and suggested that instead Pakistan must focus on value addition through technological advancements to become part of the global value chain of the automobile industry. Later, the PIDE team presented the findings of their ongoing research on the state of automobile industry in Pakistan and the future outlook. The Round Table Conference participants lauded PIDE's efforts to not only research the industry, but to involve all relevant stakeholders and initiating a necessary dialogue for course correction. All participants wholeheartedly expressed their views on the issues and future way of action to Revitalizing Pakistan's automobile industry. While many differing opinions were shared, all members agreed that without transfer of technology and skills, the automobile industry cannot grow. Academia-industry linkages must also be strengthened for any indigenous innovation in the automobile industry that we wish to see. Academia must also step forward to provide Research & Development Support to the industry, particularly by working on current areas of improvement but with a futuristic approach. The role of government is also essential for the flourishing of automobile industry in Pakistan. It must focus on developing facilitative policy environment and regulations, which at the moment are rather repressive. There was a unanimous agreement that the transition to EV is bound to happen, globally as well as in Pakistan, and we must decide if Pakistan wishes keep the pace with the rest of the world or stay far behind. In case of the former, it is important to foster competition in the automobile industry to provide consumers a fair chance of choosing a quality vehicle of their choice, and also look towards integrating into the global value chain.—DNA

KP Governor for creating awareness among farmers

Kundi said that he would never allow the development of the province to be disrupted because of the governor house and assured to welcome all the political parties and public representatives in the governor house for betterment of the people

DNA PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Wednesday emphasized on creating awareness among farmers about new types of wheat to get maximum yield besides meeting the demand of the province. He said this while inaugurating the new type of wheat harvesting technology during a ceremony here at the Agricultural University Peshawar (AUP). Governor termed

the production of special types of wheat by AUP in collaboration with Washington State University and Agricultural University Faisalabad as the best initiative and also appreciated the efforts of Senator Noman Wazir for introducing the special variety of wheat at AUP. He said that landlords and farmers of the province should get guidance on modern varieties of wheat and use of new technologies in agriculture to increase the productivity of quality wheat. Kundi

directed the vice chancellor of AUP to transfer the modern research to local farmers and landowners, adding that serious efforts were needed to improve agricultural self-sufficiency in the province. He also called for improving the infrastructure for water use in the province so that the barren land could be irrigated in the province and production of wheat and other agricultural commodities enhanced. The governor urged the political parties to work on water conser-

vation and proper use of it. He said that all the provincial governments should provide facilities to farmers and cultivators to make their lives easier. Kundi assured to take up the issues of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the difficulties being faced by the local farmers and growers with the federation. "I want to work together for the betterment of the province, youth and every segment of society," he said adding that under Article 121 and 122 of the constitution, he was not re-

sponsible for anyone's individual decisions or liking or disliking. Kundi said that he would never allow the development of the province to be disrupted because of the governor house and assured to welcome all the political parties and public representatives in the governor house for betterment of the people. "I ask all the political parties to come to the governor house and contest the case of the province with the federation along with him," he said.

MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICES NOTICE OF TENDER

GE (Air) Asghar Khan Risalpur Letter No. 6000-Advt/150/E-6 dated 13 May 2024

- 1. The office of GE (Air) Asghar Khan invites sealed tenders for the following works in the light of PPRARule 13 (1) of 2004.
2. Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,750 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,600 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,391 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 2,850 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,900 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,995 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 1,800 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,500 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,600 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,950 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,750 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 3,200 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 2,500 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 4,000 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 4,000 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 4,000 (M)
Provision of certain facilities at PAF (Q) Rs. 4,000 (M)
3. The contractors are required to submit their applications for issuance of tender documents alongwith their complete credentials as shown at (serial 9). The applications shall be scrutinized and the tender documents will only be issued to the firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field and satisfy other special conditions required for the job and area. Tender will be issued to the scrutinized contractors. The tender must be received in the accepting office by 1130 Hrs on 03 June 2024 and will be opened at 1200 Hrs on the same date.

NOTE:- Contractors shall provide certificate that they are not involved in any type of litigation with Government Department in the Court of Law and that no special report of Directorate of Inspector and Evaluation (E-in-C's Branch GHQ) is outstanding against them.

- 4. All contractors will certify in writing that they are registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), and will submit a copy of their registration. Contractors not registered with PEC are ineligible to apply.
5. Contractor Born on approved list of MES in category 'A' 'B' 'C' 'D' & 'E' and also having experience of this type of work may only apply.
6. Contractors who desire may present at the time of opening of tenders.
7. The accepting officers reserve the right to accept or reject the tender. Rejected tenders will be dealt with as per Para 33 (i) of PPRARules.
8. The interested parties can contact GE (Air) Asghar Khan/CMES (PAF) Peshawar for further details from 0730 to 1420 hours on all working days.

Table with 8 columns: Sl No, Name of the work Executed during the Last 2 Years and in Hand, Agency, Amount of Work, Time allowed (Months), Date of Commencement, Date of Completion, Percentage Progress of work in hand, Department performance Report on each work by the Engineer in-Charge. Includes a vertical label PID(P)139/24.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

May

- May 03/Poland National Day
- May 06/Bulgaria Armed Forces Day
- May 06/UAE Armed Forces Day
- May 07/Kazakhstan Armed Forces Day
- May 08/Czech Republic National Day
- May 09/European Union National Day
- May 17/Norway Constitution Day
- May 21/Hungary Armed Forces Day
- May 22/Yemen Republic
- Re-unification Day(National Day)
- May 24/Eritrea National Day
- May 25/Lebanon Liberation and Resistance Day
- May 25/Argentina National Day
- May 25/Jordan Independence Day
- May 28 /Azerbaijan Republic Day
- May 28/Ethiopia National Day
- May 31/Brunei Armed Forces Day

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Govt committed to building climate resilience: Romina

Says adopting sustainable means of production and consumption is key to tackle climate change and its impacts on various socio-economic sectors, particularly water, agriculture, energy, health and education

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam has said that global warming is adversely affecting glaciers, ecosystems, lives and livelihoods of the people in mountain regions around the world. However, addressing the challenges of rapidly melting glaciers, loss of ecosystem and protection of lives and livelihoods is not possible without the global community join hands to tackle the drivers of the global warming, particularly containing emissions of heat-trapping gases. Chairing a meeting with Italian non-governmental organisation EvK2CNR here on Wednesday, the PM's Coordinator observed that soaring tempera-

tures in the mountain regions including Pakistan are accompanied by changes in seasonal weather patterns, the melting of glaciers, the thawing of permafrost, and reductions in the extent and duration of snow cover. As a result, water flows and its availability for industrial, household and agricultural uses has been shrinking and becoming increasingly unreliable, she added. "Initiatives, which can help slow down global warming, are direly needed to overcome devastating impacts of climate change on glaciers, mountains, ecosystems, water flows, agriculture, public health and education," Romina Khurshid Alam stressed. Since the early 1900s, many glaciers around the world have been rapidly melting. Human activities are at the root of this phenomenon. Specifically, since the

industrial revolution, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have raised temperatures, even higher in the poles, and as a result, glaciers are rapidly melting, calving off into the sea and retreating on land. She said that adopting sustainable means of production and consumption is key to tackle climate change and its impacts on various socio-economic sectors, particularly water, agriculture, energy, health and education. Romina Khurshid Alam told the meeting that the Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is particularly serious and committed towards building Pakistan's environmental sustainability and climate resilience in all socio-economic sectors and has directed his team to leave no stone unturned to stem environmental degradation and increase the country's endurance against

devastating fallouts of climate change. "I will pro-actively engage at all levels with all stakeholders and organisations, with reliable track-record of working and committed to help Pakistan achieve environmental sustainability goals and increase its capability to deal with impacts of global warming on the various socio-economic sectors," the PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid Alam vowed. Meanwhile, the President EvK2CNR, Agostino Da Polenza, apprised the PM's Coordinator about various initiatives being taken by his organization for socio-economic development, uplift of education, protection of mountain ecosystems and protected or environmentally-sensitive areas in Pakistan's mountain areas including Gilgit-Baltistan, which is home to the picturesque mountain peaks. He also informed the PM's Coordinator

Romina Khurshid Alam that his organisation has also conducted various research studies in collaboration with international and Pakistani organisations on impacts of climate crisis on mountains and glaciers and suggested various policy measures to cope with these negative impacts. The senior EvK2CNR representative also lauded the present government's interest in environmental conservation and protection as well as building the country's resilience through various adaptation and mitigation measures and its interest in tapping renewable energy. He assured the PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid of his organisations's all-out support in mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change on glaciers and building resilience of the mountain ecosystems, people and their livelihoods.

ICCI President inaugurates filtration plant at G-11 Markaz



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said that ICCI would extend complete cooperation to the Traders Welfare Association of G-11 Markaz to address the issues of its members. He said this while addressing a ceremony after the inauguration of a filtration plant installed at the markaz from his own pocket. He said that as per his Corporate Social Responsibility he would organize Medical Camps at different business centres of the capital city for the benefit of the traders as well as the general public, adding that it is his earnest desire that the business community of Islamabad could have its

own hospital, school, university even an airport. He reaffirmed his resolve to continue to work for the resolution of business community's problems relating to CDA, Police, MCI etc. by saying that not only the issue of street lights will be resolved but to beef up the security, CCTV cameras will also be installed. In his address, President Traders Welfare Association G-11 markaz Naeem Akhtar Awan expressed heartfelt gratitude to the ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for the gift of filtration plant by pledging that traders will stand by him through thick and thin. Former President ICCI and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that traders of Islamabad are lucky that they are being represented by the vibrant leadership which is deter-

mined to make Islamabad a model city. He called upon the business community to stay united and continue its march for their own well being and country's development. Chairman, Traders Group Asim Abbasi while mentioning traders problems lauded the services of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for the community including the materializing of traders dream of filtration plant. The ceremony was also addressed by Group leader Aftab Gujar, General Secretary Furrakh Khan and others. Among other, former President ICCI Zubair Ahmed Malik, Group leader Blue Area, Yousuf Rajpoot, Shabbir Malik, Nasir Ch. Ch. Waseem, Saifur Rehman, Faizan Shahzad, Abbas Hashmi, Fasihullah Khan, Khalid Ch. Zia Ch. were also present on the occasion.

Students of PIEAS display creative projects

ISLAMABAD :Final year students of Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) being run under the aegis of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) displayed their creative projects at the institute's ninth Open House organized at its campus here on Wednesday. The event was organized by the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) at PIEAS that marks the culmination of the academic efforts of PIEAS graduating students who demonstrated their final year projects for evaluation by the academia and experts. This year's open house also included a career fair, in which various companies participated for recruiting talented students of the university who possess the necessary skills and qualifications. These companies conducted on-the-spot interviews and technically reviewed resumes of students to streamline their recruitment process and identify promising PIEAS candidates for job placements. Over two dozen projects were displayed in the day-long activity. The event was attended by a large number of students, intellectuals from different organizations and industry professionals. The event also provided the students, who displayed their products, with an opportunity to interact with professionals and potential employers. The faculty of PIEAS was also available for further healthy cooperation and discussion. The innovative products developed by the students were of high standard and received overwhelming response from the visitors. A large number of professionals from the industry both from private and public sectors participated in the event. The projects covered crucial areas in science and technology such as fluid mechanics, power electronic, brain imagery techniques, structural analysis, bio-medical engineering, thermal hydraulics, analytical techniques power and heat transmission techniques and automotive engineering control. The creative projects of the students showcased during the Open House reflected the productive education being imparted at the university and spoke volumes of the standard of research being carried out at the university under the supervision of highly qualified and experienced faculty of PIEAS. Talking to APP, Rector PIEAS, Prof. Dr. Naseem Irfan said that this year's open house included a career fair to provide a platform to the students to be directly hired by the companies. The career fair was arranged not only to provide job opportunities to the passing out students by picking them through talent hunt but also offer internship opportunities to the students of early years. He said that arranging open house is an annual feature of the PIEAS to encourage students to display novel projects developed through year-long efforts that can meet the local needs and prove as beneficial for the country. The students of this institute are working on developing various technologies and projects with special focus on robotics and artificial intelligence to compete globally, he observed. It is pertinent to mention here that PIEAS is the leading university of the country in Science and Technology and it ranked among top 400 universities of the world and was also declared the best engineering university of Pakistan, according to the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2019. It has consistently been ranking high among top Pakistani universities in international rankings since then.—DNA

Three killed in firing incident

ISLAMABAD: Three persons were killed and another injured in a firing incident near Charsadda on Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway (M-1) on Wednesday. According to preliminary information, the incident of firing took place due to old enmity, said a spokesperson of National Highways and Motorway Police. A heavy contingent of Motorway Police and District Police reached the spot. The dead bodies and seriously injured person were shifted to the hospital and the search for the accused was ongoing.—APP

Consumer courts providing relief to citizens

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak on Wednesday said that the consumer courts are providing relief to the citizens. Chairing a Divisional Coordination Committee (DCC) review meeting held here, the chairman directed the deputy commissioners to fully activate the Consumer Courts/Consumer Protection Councils as the consumer courts are a major source of public relief. To protect

the rights of the consumers, there are very strong laws in consumer protection which require public awareness of their use, he added. The commissioner said that the public should be informed on how they could register their complaints and get immediate responses. He said that a complaint management system was being made in the Commissioner's Office with the help of the Punjab Information Technology Board. The Commissioner informed that the application received under the Complement Management System could be traced.

Naqvi pays tributes to martyrs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has paid rich tributes to Major Babar Khan, who embraced martyrdom during an operation against terrorists in Zhob, Balochistan. While expressing heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family Interior Minister said that Major Babar Khan fought bravely against the terrorists and laid down his precious life for the country. Interior Minister said that Major Babar Khan showed exceptional courage and bravery in fight against the terrorists and foiled the nefarious designs of the miscreants. He further said that Major Babar Khan attained the highest rank of martyrdom and his sacrifice will not go in vain. He added that martyrs have laid his life for peace and security of the homeland and the entire nation is proud of their great sacrifices.

Police arrest 02 bike lifters

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two bike lifters and street criminals and recovered three stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Rawat Police Station managed to net two bike lifters namely Zohaib and Kashif and recovered three stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Saddar, Muhammad Nabeel said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars.

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Briefs

USSEC's Pitch2Fork spotlights startups

DNA

ISLAMABAD Right to Protein powered by the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) hosted its second Pitch2Fork program in Dubai, UAE. With a focus on innovations in the protein industry, this platform provided a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs across Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan to pitch their rising businesses to a panel of investors. Shortlisted companies that leveraged this unique opportunity included Gladful, Hello Tempay, Poultia, and WeGro. While South Asia ranks as the fastest-growing region in the world, it is challenged with meeting the rapidly growing demand for protein. Reflecting on the potential impact of Pitch2Fork, Kevin Roepke, Regional Director of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa (SAASSA), USSEC, commented "Pitch2Fork is strategically positioned to facilitate the networking needed between startups and investors, accelerating innovation. By embracing disruption, proactively investing in the future, and addressing protein challenges, we create a path towards a more nutrition-secure tomorrow."—APP

Gomal Varsity, PTCL organize workshop

ISLAMABAD: Gomal University organized a two-day workshop for students to enhance their understanding of modern networking technologies and their practical applications. The workshop titled "GPON Network Planning ArcGIS" was held by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology in collaboration with PTCL in connection with the Golden Jubilee commemoration of the university. According to the university's spokesman, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shoaib, Registrar of Gomal University, was the chief guest. Dr. Nasir Saleem, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, along with other professors and students, attended the workshop. Engineer Qazi Mudasar, Manager of Gpon Project & Planning, and Engineer Malik Sadaam Awan, Business Operations Manager, shared valuable insights about the subject. They provided comprehensive training on fiber optic rollout, GIS-based network planning, satellite-based location mapping, and software utilization for GPON networks. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shoaib commended the organizers for their efforts in hosting such a significant workshop.—APP

Hajj pilgrims express satisfaction with Hajj services

ISLAMABAD: As Hajj flight operation to Saudi Arabia is in full swing, majority of intending pilgrims Wednesday have expressed complete satisfaction over the remarkable hajj arrangements made by the government of Pakistan during their stay in Saudi Arabia and saying their experience has so far been "better than private hajj schemes." Talking to PTV news channel, a group of hajj pilgrims commented that they are performing Hajj through the government initiative, conveyed utmost satisfaction with the facilities provided by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and expressed gratitude over warmly welcomed on Madinah airport. "The arrangements made for us here by the Pakistani government are better than expected", said another elderly woman. "The hotel resident is right opposite the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah which is very convenient for us," said a male pilgrim. "I am here for Hajj for the first time and this experience has been very good," said a pilgrim from Lahore, adding, i will recommend all people who want to plan next year hajj that they should prefer government hajj scheme as compared to private schemes as it is more secure and safe.—APP

Climate finance remains untapped in Pakistan

The event concluded with remarks from Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, who thanked the expert panel for setting realistic expectations about the availability and accessibility of green finance. He said the session was a significant step toward fostering dialogue and action on climate finance in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, held a crucial event titled "Climate Finance: Towards Securing Sustainable Resilience in Pakistan". The gathering brought together leading experts and policymakers in the field of climate action and finance for a timely evaluation of the global and domestic climate finance situation. Environmental Policy Consultant Mr. Dawar Hameed Butt opened the floor by presenting findings of a report by Transparency International Pakistan published in March 2024, entitled "Financing Climate Action: Enhancing Effectiveness in Pakistan's Climate Governance Frameworks." He stated that multiple tools are already available publicly, and that Pakistan should learn from countries like Bangladesh that have optimized their pathways in climate finance. The session chair Hon. Romina Khurshid Alam, Climate Coordinator to the Prime Minister, shared her insights on the government's vision for carbon markets and stressed the importance of integrated approaches to climate finance.

A panel discussion followed, moderated by Ms. Selina Irfan, Energy and Climate Change Expert, who stressed the importance of creating enabling conditions for accessing climate finance and at-



tracting private investment.

Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, Climate Advisor to the Planning Commission and member of the newly established Loss and Damage Fund, said the issue lies not in the availability of funds, but in the fact that they remain untapped. He also said the government should be developing its own projects rather than looking for international con-

sultants, because we must "stop outsourcing our thinking".

Mr. Fawad Hayat, Head of Climate Change at NDRMF, said that the main issue is that we are not using the resources we do have effectively. He stressed the need to get out of a self-interested mindset, highlighting that not a single funded project to date has been completed within the given

timeframe. However, he noted NDRMF's positive community interventions such as implementing early warning systems.

Mr. Farrukh Khan, a senior diplomat with over two decades of experience in the domain, believed that improving regional cooperation, investing in civil society, and defining rules and regulations was the way forward to tackling the

governance issue.

The event concluded with remarks from Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, who thanked the expert panel for setting realistic expectations about the availability and accessibility of green finance. He said the session was a significant step toward fostering dialogue and action on climate finance in Pakistan.

How can the country be independent if FBR remains enslaved

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said on Wednesday that Pakistan's economic autonomy is contingent upon the Federal Board of Revenue's autonomy.

He stated that FBR should have autonomy to boost the nation's limping economy. In a statement issued today, Dr. Murtaza Mughal stated that one of the most important institutions, like FBR, should be liberated from the control of members of the

political elite. He said that as long as FBR remains the slave of politicians, Pakistan will have to accept dictation, continue borrowing, and never achieve economic freedom. He added that if FBR becomes independent, the country will have economic freedom and not have to take dictation from any other country or institution. According to Dr. Murtaza Mughal, every patriot wants to see a significant increase in the tax net. Still, certain influential sections reaping the benefits of tax concessions and exemptions do not want it. International institutions

have tried hard to improve the FBR, but those who benefit from the weakness of FBR have frustrated all such efforts. To improve the economy, it is necessary to widen the scope of the tax net and remove the loopholes in the tax system. Currently, some significant sectors are either tax-exempt or have paid very little in taxes, but this process cannot continue because continuous borrowing is not an option. He pointed out that despite investing billions of rupees in the track and track system, the mafia's unique relationships with influential fig-

ures prevented the expected tax increase. Dr. Mughal said that FBR, which is the tax system's foundation, must be reorganized with a primary focus on personnel quality and overstaffing. Many officers perform audits and evaluations that frequently end up in appellate forums because they are overburdened by revenue targets. Tax administrators shouldn't be in charge of policy matters, and automation should take precedence over manual procedures. He observed that improving taxpayers' perceptions of the FBR is imperative to promoting compliance.

Shahbaz Sharif's resolve to sell SOEs welcomed

Transparency needs to be prioritized in privatization, while the sale of PIA and steel mills should be preferred

FAISAL SHEIKH

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 Wednesday that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's determination to sell all government institutions except strategic institutions is laudable.

The Prime Minister should ensure that a minimum number of white elephants are kept in the name of strategic institutions and that the proceeds from the sale of institutions are spent for debt relief and the welfare of the

people. The business leader said that the government should not be involved in business because everyone knows the worst consequences when the government steps into the business. Mian Zahid Hussain said that selling the failed government institutions is essential. Still, it is also important to keep a close watch on private institutions to protect the rights of the people because the black sheep in the private sector keep starting crises for profit. The business leader said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif while addressing the meeting of the Ministry of Privatization and Privatization Commission, and that the government's

job is not to do business but to improve the investment environment and provide facilities. During the meeting, the Prime Minister clarified that all government institutions, whether profitable or loss-making, will be privatized. He has also directed all the federal ministries to fully cooperate with the Privatization Commission and take all necessary steps. Mian Zahid Hussain said that privatization will save almost 1200 billion rupees annually and that private institutions will provide better facilities for the public. Transparency needs to be prioritized in privatization, while the sale of PIA and steel mills should be preferred.

Farewell for Arshad Farid Khan

ISLAMABAD: Farewell meeting of former Chairman of Evacuee Trust Property Board Arshad Farid Khan with board officers through video link in which Board Secretary Farid Iqbal, Additional Secretary Sana Allah Khan, Staff Officer Zafar Iqbal, Controller of Accounts Adeel Ahmed, Secretary PMEIF Faraz Abbas, Deputy Secretary Admin Mazhar Bukhari, Director Legal Uzmi Shahzadi, Deputy Secretary Land Rashid Tanio, Deputy Secretary Property Sheikh Javed, Administrator Gujranwala Asif Raza Sheikh, Board Spokesperson Amir Hussain Hashmi, Assistant IT Mudassar Zaidi and other board officers participated. Board Farid Iqbal praised the performance of Arshad Farid Khan as chairman and said that his tenure will always be remembered in the history of the board. All the officers and employees are extremely grateful to him for the services he provided for the development of the employees, including improving the income, and for making their roles and regulations. 1220million is a matter of pride, which was achieved due to your excellent strategy. Due to your excellent leadership skills, the management affairs of the Trust Board have improved tremendously and one of the most important and long standing has been achieved. The problems have been resolved. Other officers including Additional Secretary and Admin Sanullah Khan also appreciated the work of Arshad Farid Khan as chairman and fully supported his actions. IT Assistant Mudassar Zaidi contributed to the income of the board. Arshad Farid Khan thanked all the officers and employees for their respect and said that without their support it would not have been possible and I will continue to serve in the future. It should be remembered that Arshad Farid Khan as the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony is leaving for Saudi Arabia to serve the pilgrims. Later, under the chairmanship of the Secretary Board, the Board of Gujranwala about the increase in income and recovery.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: The Director General of PNCA, Mr. Muhammad Ayoub Jamali visited the eminent folk singer and artist Abida Parveen at her home, where he expressed his concern for her well-being and extended his best wishes for her continued health and prosperity. As a legendary artist and Sufi singer, Abida Parveen is an acclaimed icon of Pakistani culture, and we pray that ALLAH blesses her with a long and healthy life.—DNA

IRSA releases 178,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 178,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 217,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1471.00 feet and was 73.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 58,100 cusecs and 36,200 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1173.95 feet, which was 123.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 58,700 cusecs and 42,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 126,500, 89,200, 44,300 and 13,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 69,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 16,700 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

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Planning Minister hopes technology spillover

ISLAMABAD: Reiterating continued support to Huawei for its existing and newly planned initiatives in Pakistan, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal expressed the hope that technology spillover would greatly help in boosting country's digital economy. According to press release by Huawei here, the federal minister during his China visit last week visited company's Headquarters in Beijing, leading discussions on potential collaborations in new technologies, cell-phones, high tech equipment manufacturing, automation and use of big data for industry, governance and security. The minister held discussion with Vice President of Public Affairs and Communications Department, Huawei, Tiger Wei; Vice CEO Huawei Pakistan, Ray Yu; Regional Representative, Huawei Public Affairs and Communications Department, Ms. Maya Jin. According to the press release, seeing the latest products designed and produced by Huawei, the Minister showed interest in the new technology developed by Huawei and expressed resolve to enhance cooperation with Pakistan. Minister praised the role of Huawei being a technology giant and a global leader in innovation. During the discussions the VP mentioned that Pakistanis form the second the largest work force in Huawei after Chinese nationals. Huawei has been contributing in Pakistan for many years.—APP

BRICS and dedollarization

The upcoming BRICS meeting in Russia will give top priority to the dedollarization agenda and take steps to further decrease the dependence on the US currency in cross-border trade between the nations. BRICS is currently exploring strategies to undermine the use of the dollar in worldwide corporate transactions. In a recent interview, Sergey Ryabkov, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia, revealed that the dedollarization agenda would take center stage at the BRICS summit in 2024. The alliance will become stronger after the summit, ushering developing nations into a "whole new ball game," he said, adding that it will mark the summit's "big moment." "The notion of a multi-polar world holds the key to dedollarization, where BRICS countries will break free from their dependence on the US dollar," he said. Ryabkov was hopeful that the BRICS would push the boat out and keep making strides "toward a better world." "After completing a third of our presidency, the BRICS quickly established themselves as a formidable force in the global arena and a crucial participant in the constantly changing global landscape," he stated. The BRICS 2024 summit will take place in Russia's Kazan region from October 22-24. The sixteenth summit will see the BRICS forum welcome Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Egypt as new members. Saudi Arabia may also participate in the upcoming summit, but only if the Kingdom approves. KSA has already received an invitation to join, but it has not yet announced whether it plans to join the cause. Saudi Arabia's entry into the bloc has the potential to boost the dedollarization drive. Currently, a minimum of twenty countries, including Brazil and many Southeast Asian states, engage in bilateral trade using their currencies. Even Japan, a close US-EU ally, indicated that it would opt for the local currency for cross-border trade. The geopolitical divide and its economic ramifications have expedited the trend to shift away from the US dollar. As of January 2024, Japan held \$1.15 trillion in US securities, making it the largest non-US Treasury securities holder. China is the second-largest foreign holder of US debt, with \$775 billion in securities bonds as of April 21, 2024. The U.K. is the third-largest holder, with \$700.8 billion in security bonds. The US debt-to-GDP ratio is now 134% and climbing, as US debts are increasing much faster than the GDP. Chinese financial experts assert that while the nominal GDP growth rate in the US appears favorable, significant inflation is driving a portion of this growth, leading to the accumulation of risk factors throughout the US economy. They believe it is now a prevailing tendency to diversify the range of foreign assets. As emerging economies, notably China, outpace the US and its Western allies, their share of world production has declined. China, the foremost economic competitor of the US, has become the principal commercial partner for more than 120 countries, with exports amounting to over £2.8 billion (US\$3.6 trillion). This has the potential to cause the US to lag in the global race for trade dominance. Over the past two decades, China's share of the global economy has grown by more than two-thirds, rising from 8.9% to 18.5%. In contrast, the United States has seen a decline in its share from 20.1% to 15.5% in terms of purchasing power parity, which measures the value of a currency by comparing the prices of specific products.

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Eurovision and Israel

Leaving aside the dubious taste of many of the songs and choreographies performed, the recently held Eurovision Song Contest is very useful to understand what has been happening for more than a hundred years in Natural Syria, of which Palestine is an essential part. To begin with, the participation of "Israel" is a blatant confusion between geography and ethnic, cultural realities, and political and military impositions. There is no entity more European and therefore Western than "Israel". For this reason, its membership in Eurovision is granted and more than justified. Expelling "Israel", furthermore, would mean concealing its spurious origin, its condition as a strange European colonial enclave in Bilad al-Sham and the rest of historical and Natural Syria, which is a comprehensive thousands years social and cultural reality. In every single edition, even more so when the European-Zionist entity perpetrates actions like the ones of this year in Gaza, the Eurovision Song Contest provides a unique opportunity for the general public to ponder the fundamental questions that help us grasp the underlying structure of such an anomaly. The Zionists and their creation, the Israeli entity, did not arise in Natural Syria by spontaneous generation. Zionists came from the heart of Europe, which was influenced by German Romanticism, and which in the last third of the 19th century gave birth to Zionism and other supremacist, exclusionary, and expansionist ideologies as well. Later they were projected onto historical Syria thanks to the imperialism of France and the United Kingdom, which with their secret Sykes-Picot agreement of 1916 to divide and conquer Bilad al-Sham, laid the foundations for the "Balfour Declaration" of 1917, in which the United Kingdom promised Zionists the creation of a state in Palestine. German Nazism accelerated the transfer of the European population to natural Syria and the partition of Palestine, imposed in 1947, attracted other Zionists from around the world, from the United States to Argentina, from Russia to Ethiopia, and so on to this very day. Eurovision, which is organized by public European TV corporations, is as significant as European football or basketball championships. This year, the Israeli contestant said her name was Eden "Golan". Naturally, it is a false surname. The performer is of Ukrainian and Latvian origin, her true paternal surname being Glagolev, with clear Baltic and Slavic origin. In fact, the singer was doing what many other Israelis, especially those attempting to project their propaganda have done, such as film producer and screenwriter Menachem "Golan", who is in reality Menachem Globus, known alternatively as Joseph Gold-man. Or musician Eyal "Golan", known for his surname of Bitton. As evidenced by the most reputable genealogical dictionaries of family names, "Golan" is "an artificial name adopted by many Israelis", from the geographical feature whose name is "the Golan Plateau or Heights." According to the United Nations, the Golan is a territory of the Syrian Arab Republic occupied by "Israel" in 1967 and annexed illegally by the Zionist entity in 1982. Illegal actions that violate International Law and resolutions 242 and 497 involve "Israel's" refusal to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan. The UN Security Council declares the illegal annexation resulting in the displacement of tens of thousands of people from the Golan Heights as null and void. Additionally, "Israel" conducts frequent attacks on the rest of Syria, exacerbating the situation.

Back off and lashback...

Qamar Bashir



However, the establishment's stakes are too high, because the subdued and dominated judiciary was their primary tool to deal with non-compliant political elements. Without the judiciary on their side, they may feel handicapped in achieving their set objectives. To push back defiant judges and regain control, a systematic campaign of character assassination, now familiar to us, was launched in both traditional and social media platforms

There is never a dull moment in Pakistan across any sphere of life. A lot is happening concerning the three pillars of the state. The establishment had dominated all three pillars until one decided to rebel, albeit to some extent, when six judges of the high court penned an SOS message to the Supreme Judicial Council, highlighting the pressure they faced in dispensing justice, particularly in politically consequential cases. Later, during a hearing by the Supreme Court in suo moto cases, the entire judiciary, from top to bottom, joined the outcry, sending chills down the spine of the entire nation and a message to the establishment to ease off, at least for the time being, concerning the judiciary.

However, the establishment's stakes are too high, because the subdued and dominated judiciary was their primary tool to deal with non-compliant political elements. Without the judiciary on their side, they may feel handicapped in achieving their set objectives. To push back defiant judges and regain control, a systematic campaign of character assassination, now familiar to us, was launched in both traditional and social media platforms. Detailed information about the assets of non-compliant judges and their families, travel histories, active visas, US residency status, and other sensitive details were obtained from official channels and injected into social media with a negative spin. Vloggers were enlisted to hurl abuses, allegations, and insults at the six judges. A frontman filed a reference against Justice Kayani in the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), alleging that Justice Kayani "waged a war against the forces of Pakistan in a planned manner by influencing and persuading other high court judges." The judges retaliated, noting that state institutions leaked confidential data, and specific X (formerly Twitter) accounts and hashtags were employed in conducting a smear campaign. They asserted that such actions would face consequences through contempt of court proceedings, which could even implicate "high office." True to their words, upon separate requests from Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Babar Sattar,

Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), Justice Aamer Farooq, constituted two separate larger benches to hear the complaints of the senior puisne judges. A three-member bench, comprising CJ Farooq, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, and Justice Arbab Mohammad Tahir, was formed to hear Justice Kayani's complaint, while another larger bench, consisting of Justice Kayani and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, was established to address Justice Sattar's complaint. However, the matter did not conclude there. Justice Babar Sattar, presumed to be one of the motivators for the six rebel judges, lodged a written complaint on May 14, 2024, with the Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court. He stated that he received an intimidating message from the head of an intelligence agency, urging him to back off from extensive scrutiny of the existence and mode of surveillance by the intelligence agencies in the case filed by PTI founder's wife, Bushra Bibi, and Najam Saqib, son of former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar, last year regarding audio leaks. In the impugned case, the court had issued notices to the heads of intelligence and investigation agencies, including ISI, IB, and FIA, as well as relevant ministries, PTA, and PEMRA, to address the question of whether there exists a legal framework allowing surveillance of citizens. Soon after Justice Babar Sattar's letter was made public, the intelligence agencies promptly sought assistance from the Attorney General of Pakistan, who refuted Justice Babar's claim of receiving a "back off" message, but realizing that their typical tactic had backfired. In addition to the judiciary, which is struggling to regain its independence, albeit with some success, the establishment has retained many other weapons, including kinetic ones, in its arsenal to reassert control over the judiciary. However, it currently faces a challenging situation. The establishment is facing a two-pronged strong defiance from the political

front as well. Despite enduring punishing reprisals from the establishment, the PTI does not appear intimidated, scared, or compromising anymore. The party's founder chairman and leaders have been displaying signs of almost total defiance. They reacted equally aggressively to the assertive press conference by the DG-ISPR. Instead of seeking forgiveness from the establishment, they are demanding that the establishment seek forgiveness from them. Furthermore, the establishment is also facing blatant attacks from Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, who charges the army for actively participating in politics and threatens that as long as the army remains involved in politics, it would be treated as a politician and must face the consequences of being a politician. The establishment faces another significant threat: its public image, which is deteriorating with each passing day. However, the Public Relations Wing, instead of utilizing public relations tools and strategic media management techniques, heavily relies on the coercive use of power, such as slowing down the internet and suspending social media platform services. Additionally, it leverages traditional media instead of addressing the core issues that are generating negative publicity and adversely affecting the image of the armed forces. Despite these threats, the establishment possesses numerous strengths. It exercises total and unquestionable control over the two pillars of the state: the parliament and the government. The parliament is largely composed of members who owe their positions to the establishment's patronage, without which they would have had little chance of being elected. Similarly, the government is formed by parliamentarians initially selected by the establishment. As long as these two pillars remain subjugated, the establishment will persist in achieving its objectives across all sectors, including legislation, politics, justice, economy, finance, and business.

"Regulating the airwaves: PEMRA's role in shaping Pakistan's media landscape"

Imran Ghaznavi



At the helm of regulating this influential medium in Pakistan stands the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA). Established in 2002 and fortified by the PEMRA Act of 2007, this regulatory body shoulders the monumental responsibility of overseeing Pakistan's electronic media landscape, ensuring adherence

In today's fast-paced digital era, electronic media holds sway as a dominant force, shaping public opinion, disseminating information, and molding societal norms. At the helm of regulating this influential medium in Pakistan stands the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA). Established in 2002 and fortified by the PEMRA Act of 2007, this regulatory body shoulders the monumental responsibility of overseeing Pakistan's electronic media landscape, ensuring adherence to legal and ethical standards while championing the principles of freedom of expression and content diversity. Let's embark on a comprehensive exploration of PEMRA's performance and operational dynamics.

Operating within the parameters set forth by the PEMRA Ordinance of 2002 and the subsequent PEMRA Act of 2007, the authority's mandate spans television, radio, and various electronic media platforms, including cable television networks, satellite channels, and FM radio stations. Central to PEMRA's mission is the issuance of licenses to media outlets, coupled with vigilant monitoring to ensure adherence to regulatory standards and codes of conduct. PEMRA strives to strike a delicate balance, ensuring that electronic media content reflects cultural, religious, and societal values while fostering an environment conducive to freedom of expression and creative exploration. Additionally, PEMRA remains unwavering in its com-

mitment to shielding consumers from objectionable content, deceptive advertisements, and unethical business practices, thereby safeguarding public interests. Acting as a mediator for conflict resolution, PEMRA facilitates the resolution of disputes among media entities, stakeholders, and the general populace, fostering a harmonious media ecosystem. Furthermore, recognizing the intrinsic value of diversity, PEMRA champions the representation of varied perspectives, languages, cultures, and regional nuances within electronic media programming. A critical evaluation of PEMRA's recent performance reveals both commendable achievements and areas for improvement. While the authority has made significant strides in licensing electronic media outlets, criticisms have emerged regarding the enforcement of regulations, with occasional allegations of selective application and leniency toward influential media conglomerates. Despite instituting codes of conduct and regulatory frameworks, PEMRA has encountered challenges in curbing the broadcast of contentious or objectionable content on television channels, prompting reflections on the efficacy of its enforcement mechanisms. Nonetheless, PEMRA's efforts to address consumer grievances concerning objectionable content and unfair business practices have been acknowledged, albeit with recommendations for streamlining complaint mechanisms and expediting grievance redressal processes. Moreover,

PEMRA's endeavors to promote diversity within media content have been appreciated, particularly through the elevation of regional languages, cultural representation, and inclusivity but it's too little and a lot has to be done. As, hurdles persist in ensuring equitable access to media platforms for all segments of society. The authority has also faced scrutiny regarding transparency and accountability, with concerns raised about the potential influence of political and commercial interests on regulatory decisions. Consequently, fortifying transparency measures and maintaining independence from external pressures emerge as imperatives for bolstering public trust in PEMRA's operations. Looking ahead, PEMRA must focus on strengthening regulatory enforcement, enhancing transparency, investing in capacity building, fostering engagement with stakeholders, and adapting to technological changes. In essence, PEMRA occupies a pivotal role in sculpting Pakistan's electronic media landscape, reconciling freedom of expression with societal values and public welfare. While commendable progress has been made, a relentless pursuit of improvement, transparency, and accountability is essential to address the evolving challenges of the media sphere and serve the best interests of the Pakistani populace.

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Briefs

Pak, US agree to boost IT...

FROM PAGE 01

Digitalisation Plan, she maintained. Shaza Fatima noted that connectivity is the foundation of digitalisation, adding that steps are on for the provision of connectivity and quality broadband services in the country. Shaza said that the private sector has a very important role in the uplift of the economy, adding that the private sector is being fully supported under the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

PSX crosses 75,000 ...

FROM PAGE 01

inflation is also pushing the market. A day earlier, stocks soared to a fresh all-time high as investors bet on a successful outcome from talks with the IMF on a new loan program and hopes of Saudi investment. The PSX closed at 74,531.19 points by gaining 732.08 points or 0.99% on Tuesday

IHC approves Imran Khan's bail ...

FROM PAGE 01

the offence of corruption and corrupt practices as defined and punishable under the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999. The IHC, its short order today, ordered the authorities to release the PTI founder against the surety bond of Rs1 million. The court announced the short verdict in an open court verbally, however, the detailed order will be issued later. Khan, the deposed premier who ousted from power via opposition's no-confidence motion in April 2022, has been facing slew of charges ranging from corruption to terrorism since his removal as the premier.

PTI leadership demands probe ...

FROM PAGE 01

criminals. Several Pakistani politicians, former military servicemen, bureaucrats, businessmen, among others, have also been named in the investigations. The combined value of Pakistanis on the list is estimated at around \$11 billion. These names include, but are not limited to, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam-Memon, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Senator Faisal Vawda, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sher Afzal Marwat and Azad Jammu and Kashmir Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr. Sohail Habib Tajik - some of whom have said that they possess declared properties in Dubai.

Slovak PM injured in shooting.....

FROM PAGE 01

"brutal" attack on the prime minister. "Police detained a man and security officials pushed someone into a car and drove off," a witness quoted by Reuters said. TASR news agency of Slovakia quoted parliamentary vice-chairman Lubos Blaha as saying Fico had been shot and hurt. Emergency services said a helicopter had been sent for PM in Handlova after receiving information. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, condemned the attack and called it "a vile attack on Fico". The Slovak government was meeting in Handlova, 190 km (118 miles) northeast of Bratislava, as part of a tour of the country's regions after coming to power in 2023. Fico became PM of the NATO and EU member for the fourth time after shifting political gears to appeal to a changing electorate. During a three-decade career, Fico moved between the pro-European mainstream and nationalistic positions opposed to EU and American policies.

Haaland's double strike puts City on verge of EPL helm

Haaland has now scored 63 goals in 65 Premier League appearances

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Star striker Erling Haaland created another record as Manchester City edged closer to the Premier League title on Tuesday with a 2-0 win over Tottenham. According to Opta, Haaland has now scored 63 goals in 65 Premier League appearances, which is the most of any player in his first two seasons in the competition. Haaland is eight ahead of Andrew Cole, who scored 55. Meanwhile, Kevin De Bruyne has now assisted 10+ goals in six different Premier League seasons; the joint-most of any player in the competition's history, along with Cesc Fabregas. Manchester City saw an unlikely hero emerge from their galaxy of superstars to make a potentially defining contribution in their pursuit of an unprecedented fourth successive Premier League title. Pep Guardiola rightly acted with caution when he removed keeper Ederson, with City leading 1-0, after he suffered a nasty blow to the head in a heavy collision at the foot of his post with Tottenham defender Cristian Romero. Ederson, who had a problem with his eye, did not look happy with the decision - taken upon advice from the club doctor -



but his manager was perfectly justified, not just acting in the best interests of the Brazilian keeper but also because he has complete trust in his replacement Stefan Ortega. And in a 21-minute cameo of the highest quality, Ortega - who has performed with distinction every time he has deputised for Ederson this season - may well have rubber-stamped City's sixth title in seven seasons. When the final whistle sounded and the club stood one win away from being champions again, Guardiola headed straight for

Ortega and greeted the German with a kiss on the cheek for his crucial contribution. It was richly deserved. Guardiola did not hold back with the praise as he said: "Ortega is a world-class goalkeeper. An exceptional, exceptional goalkeeper. Ederson did not have concussion, he had

a problem with his eye. He could not see properly so the doctor said I should change." Spurs made a complete mockery of the cynics who suggested they may ease off because any sort of positive result could potentially give rivals Arsenal their first Premier League title in 20 years. Ange Postecoglou's fifth-placed side were fully committed in chasing a goal of their own as they went after a place in the Champions League and it was not for any lack of effort as they came so close to upsetting City's traditional title charge. They were left disappointed in the end as defeat confirmed Aston Villa's fourth-placed finish and they will now join European football's top table. Ortega's impact was instant, denying Spurs substitute Dejan Kulusevski with a good save and then the same player shortly afterwards as City almost paid the price for a performance that was not one of their best. The biggest moment came in the closing minutes, with City clinging on to a one-goal lead, when Son Heung-min collected the ball and raced clear with only Ortega to beat. It was the sort of opportunity the South Korean has taken with aplomb so many times in his Spurs career.

Franchises not in favour of holding PSL alongside IPL

PSL teams also have reservations over remuneration offered to marquee players

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchises are not in favour of holding the next edition of the tournament alongside the Indian Premier League (IPL). According to a local news outlet, franchises urged the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to find a window which doesn't clash with the IPL, during a meeting of the PSL Cricket Committee on Tuesday, in order to ensure availability of top players. Earlier this month, the PCB had proposed April

7 to May 20 window for the PSL 2025, due to the Champions Trophy in Pakistan next year, but it clashes with the window for IPL. The PSL franchises are also against offering higher remuneration to marquee players because it could lead to local star players asking for an increment in their package. The PCB is also contemplating innovative changes to enhance the excitement of PSL matches from the next edition. However, the idea to introduce impact players and replacing coin tosses with bat toss-

es also didn't get the nod from the franchisees. The PSL franchisees are of the opinion that such innovations are already a part of leagues around the world and not something unique. Earlier it was also reported that the PSL 2025 play-offs are set to be held at a neutral venue, which, in all probability, will be England. The next PSL Governing Council meeting will be held towards the end of May 2024. During the meeting, the window for next PSL and changes to playing conditions will be approved. In March

this year, Islamabad United won the PSL season nine after beating Multan Sultans by two wickets at the National Bank Stadium, Karachi. Islamabad, led by Shadab Khan, claimed their third PSL title after emerging victorious in 2016 and 2018 and became the most successful team in the tournament's history. The thriller was decided on the last ball when Hunain Shah came into bat with one run required off the final ball. The youngster smartly identified the gap at point and hit the ball for four.

National Sports conference on Friday

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination and Planning Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday announced to hold the National Sports Conference on May 17 in Islamabad. This was decided in an important meeting between IPC Minister and Federal Secretary, Nadeem Irshad Kayani. Speaking in the occasion, the Minister said the conference aims to bring together professionals, technical experts, athletes, provincial sports boards, sports federation presidents, and other stakeholders together to discuss the challenges faced in sports in Pakistan and propose recommendations for its revival, said a statement issued here. The conference is part of the government's efforts to revitalize sports in the country, following the Prime Minister's vision to declare 2025 as the 'Year of Sports'. Ahsan emphasized that the conference aims to create a constructive environment where athletes can be prepared for international competitions. He also highlighted the importance of sports in promoting mental and physical health and the government's commitment to upgrading sports infrastructure across the country. "Our goal is clear, to bring our athletes to the standard of Olympic medals and increase their performance in other international competitions," the Minister said. "The federal government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, is taking steps for the development and improvement of sports across the country, which have started to have positive effects," he said. -DNA

FIFA WC Qualifiers: Changes expected in Pakistan squad

OUR CORRESPONDENT LAHORE: Pakistan squad will gather in Islamabad on Thursday (today) to begin their preparations for the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers. Pakistan will play back-to-back matches against Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan next month in the second round of the qualifiers. Pakistan will host Saudi Arabia on June 6 at Jinnah Stadium Islamabad and it will be followed by their away game against Tajikistan on June 11 at the Pami Stadium Dushanbe. Pakistan trail at the rock bottom of the group as they have lost all their four matches they have played

so far. Pakistan began their Group G journey with a 4-0 defeat at the hands of Saudi Arabia in Al-Ahsa in November followed by a 6-1 loss at the hands of Tajikistan at Islamabad in the same month. Jordan then downed Pakistan 3-0 in Islamabad in a game held in Ramadan while Jordan then thrashed the Green-shirts 7-0 at the Amman International Stadium. Pakistan's English head coach Stephen Constantine witnessed recently the National Challenge Cup matches. According to sources, it is highly expected that fresh faces will be seen in the camp which will be held at the Jinnah Stadium

Sabalenka cruises through to Italian Open semis-finals

ROME World number two Aryna Sabalenka cruised through to the semi-finals of the Italian Open with victory over ninth seed Jelena Ostapenko. The Belarusian needed just one hour and 13 minutes to dispatch Latvian Ostapenko 6-2 6-4. Two-time Grand Slam champion Sabalenka will face compatriot Victoria Azarenka or American 13th seed Danielle Collins in the last four in Rome. She could then face world number one Iga Swiatek in the final, a repeat of the Madrid Open final earlier this month which the Polish top seed won in dramatic fashion. Swiatek takes on world number



three Coco Gauff in the other semi-final, making it the first time the top three women's players in the world have reached the semi-finals of a WTA event of 250 level or higher since the 2013 French Open. "With this amazing atmosphere and with this amazing support - that's why I'm super motivated here and that's why I always say that this is the dream tournament for me to win," said Sabalenka. "I really enjoy playing here so I don't have to think about being focused. I'm just here enjoying it and doing everything I can to win every point I play no matter what the score. I guess that's the key." -APP

Whites achieve unique feat after thrashing Alaves

Real Madrid have kept 20 clean sheets in 36 La Liga matches this season

MADRID: Real Madrid presented their 36th Spanish league trophy to their fans at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Tuesday, then followed up the celebrations with a 5-0 rout of Alaves that featured a pair of goals by Vinicius Junior and another by Jude Bellingham. Federico Valverde and Arda Guler also scored for Madrid, who were yet to play at the Bernabeu since clinching the league two rounds ago. The club celebrated the title on Sunday through the streets of Madrid, but it couldn't go through its traditional celebration at the Bernabeu because of a concert at the stadium. They couldn't celebrate when they clinched the title in advance with a win against Cadiz on May 4 because it had to play Bayern Munich a few days later in the semifinals of the Champions League, a game they won 2-1 to make it to the June 1 final against Borussia Dortmund in London. "I'm really pleased with the team's performance, we need to get into a good rhythm. We have a very important game left to crown our season," Vinicius

said. "We always enjoy wearing this shirt and playing for these fans at this stadium. My dream since I was a child was to play here and now we have the opportunity to deliver this victory for many kids who want to be here but can't." Alaves' players gave Madrid a guard of honor before the match, lining up near the sideline and applauding Madrid players as they entered the field. Madrid captain Nacho Fernandez stepped onto the field carrying the league trophy. The

other 35 league trophies were represented in images placed around the middle circle. Coach Carlo Ancelotti used the regular starters again after giving them some rest in a 4-0 win at Granada on Saturday. Bellingham opened the scoring in the 10th minute, Vinicius scored his first goal in the 27th and Valverde found the net in first-half stoppage time. Vinicius got his second in the 70th and Guler sealed the result in the 81st. It was the ninth straight league win for Madrid and sixth in their last seven matches in all competitions. They reached 93 points from 36 matches, 17 points more than second-place Barcelona. Earlier, relegation-threatened Mallorca drew 1-1 at Osasuna, moving to 15th place and staying seven points from the demotion zone. Girona missed a chance to overcome Barcelona for second place after a 1-0 loss to mid-table Villarreal at home. Girona stayed in third place after the loss, one point from Barcelona and five ahead of fourth-place Atletico Madrid. Atletico visit mid-table Getafe on Wednesday, while Barcelona are at last-place Almeria on Thursday. -Agencies



Nephew shoots, injures uncle, son

MUZAFFARGARH: Nephew shot and injured his uncle and son over a monetary dispute here on Wednesday. Police, revealing the details, said the accused, namely Bilal, had given Rs. 3 million to his maternal uncle, Muhammad Aslam, and his son, Rafique. After waiting a brief time period to get the land's occupation through the revenue department, Bilal discovered the entire matter was bogus, for there was no land present at the side of his uncle, it was said. When the truth surfaced, the nephew called for the uncle to return the money, but he later reported having avoided complying with the demand.

12 arrested, narcotics recovered

SARGODHA: The police claimed on Wednesday to have arrested 12 criminals from various parts of the district and recovered contraband. In a crackdown, teams of different police stations raided various localities and arrested Naveed, Saleem, Arslan, Tahir, Wajid, Shams, Shahid, Arif, Rehman, Majid, Mubashir and Zain. The police also recovered 1.8-kg hashish, nine pistols, five guns, three kalashnikovs, 490 rounds and cash in millions of rupees from them. -APP

Court Notice

In the Court of Waseem Sajjad Arain Senior Civil Judge Family Division Gujrat

Title: Adeela younas. Versus Yawar Mukhtar etc. Notice to: Yawar Mukhtar S/o. Mukhtar Ahmad cast Jutt Warrach R/o. Sohail Khurd Tehsil & District Gujrat. Presently Residing 2991 sullivant ave, oh, columbus, 4320 United States.

Suit for Dissolution of Marriage on the basis of Khula and etc. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 29-05-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

In the Court of Waseem Sajjad Arain Senior Civil Judge Family Division Gujrat

Title: Sundas Khaliq. Versus Muhammad Farman Notice to: Muhammad Farman S/o. Muhammad Hanif R/o. Barhing, Tehsil Barnaal District Bhimber. Presently Residing Greece.

Suit for Dissolution of Marriage on the basis of Khula and etc. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 27-05-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

In the Court of Amir Sultan Kalachi Judge Family Court Gujrat

Title: Ayesha Mobeen. Versus Muhammad Usman etc. Notice to: 1-Muhammad Usman S/o. Nazir Ahmad, 2-Nazir Ahmad S/o. Mian Khan cast Jutt R/o. Chopala PO Khas Tehsil & District Gujrat.

Suit for Dissolution of Marriage on the basis of Khula and Suit for Recovery of Dowry Articles etc. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 23-05-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Briefs

Fazl demands
govt ...

FROM PAGE 01

government resign and fresh elections be held, with the establishment staying away from the electoral process. He claimed that the incumbent government is 'weak' as Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is not part of the cabinet, noting that his party had already launched a movement against the regime. "They [the government] cannot deliver in current circumstances." FazlurRehman also expressed concern over the country's economic situation, stating that Pakistan's budget is in the hands of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Pak conducts
Fatah-II ...

FROM PAGE 01

lethality of Pakistan Army's conventional arsenal," said the ISPR. The rocket system's launch was witnessed by chief of the general staff of Pakistan Army, senior officers from the three services and dedicated scientists and engineers. "President, prime minister of Pakistan, chairman joint chiefs of staff committee, chief of army staff and all Services Chiefs congratulated participating troops and scientists on this excellent achievement," said the ISPR.

New
defamation
law ...

FROM PAGE 01

than the said amount then he will have to prove it. She also underscored that the accused will be allowed to defend himself if he wishes to do so. Meanwhile, a judge of the high court will be given the status of a tribunal and the party, affected by the alleged defamation, will be able to file a case via the tribunal, the minister said. The tribunal's judge will only have to hear two cases per day, she added. However, Bokhari highlighted that, as per the proposed law, the case registered under it will be a civil one and will neither have any police role nor it will provision for any arrest and incarceration. Responding to the concerns raised by journalists and other sections of the society, the information minister said that the government has decided not to proceed with approval of the said legislation on CM Maryam Nawaz's orders. She said that journalist organisations - having reservations about the law, can communicate their objections to the government till Sunday.

Bhutto lam-
bastes PTI ...

FROM PAGE 01

"They [PTI] want resolution of their personal issues. I want to condemn their non-serious attitude as on one side, they are claiming to struggle for the supremacy of the Pakistani Constitution, and on the other side, they are insisting on holding dialogues only with establishment," criticised Bilawal. He said that the PTI-SIC leadership has no interest in democracy, nor the Constitution and the law, except for redressal of their personal grievances. Amid opposition's lawmakers' "Go Zardari Go" slogans, the PPP chief continued his speech after putting on headphones while several PPP lawmakers gathered around him. He criticised the opposition's behaviour, expressing dismay over their protests during the session, which he believed sent the wrong message to the public and those witnessing the session. He commended President Asif Ali Zardari for focusing on national issues in the speech, avoiding personal or political matters. He emphasised that as the representative of the federation, the president prioritised public concerns, emphasising unity, reconciliation, and collective progress. He remarked that President Zardari recognised that the solution to Pakistan's problems lies in dialogue among political forces.

Ambassador Ahmad lauds
role of Bienvenue en France

The event concluded with a delicious 'potluck lunch' that included traditional dishes of many countries ranging from the main course to desserts prepared by participating diplomatic members /students and the Embassy

DNA

PARIS PARIS: Ambassador of Pakistan to France Asim Iftikhar Ahmad and his spouse Madam Asma Ahmad welcomed Bienvenue en France for their end of academic year event held at the Embassy of Pakistan Paris. President of Bienvenue en France Ms. Veronique Debievre, Vice-President Ms. Catherine Jeantaud, Coordinator French Classes Ms. Dominique Texeido - Herve were present along with a large number of members of the diplomatic community. Welcoming the guests, Madam Asma Ahmad appreciated the multifarious activities of Bienvenue en France especially the French language classes that brought diplomats from many countries together to appreciate French culture and promote wider cultural exchange, friendship and cooperation for the common good. Bienvenue en France is Bienvenue au Pakistan, she said. Ambassador Ahmad lauded the role of Bien-



venue en France which he said was a unique organization doing a tremendous job of welcoming the foreign diplomats' spouses by engaging them in various interesting programs, creating greater awareness through dialogue, conversation and sharing of experiences. Ms. Dominique briefed that spouses of diplomats from around twenty-three (23) countries had successfully completed

their French classes at different levels. The students demonstrated their French skills through various performances including skits, recitation, songs and film reviews. The President of the Association Ms. Veronique Debievre, thanked the Ambassador for the facilitation to hold the event at the Embassy of Pakistan. Such collaboration strengthened partnership and collective spirit of the organization. Bienvenue en France is the association for diplomats and their families stationed in Paris. It is actively supported by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France. To meet its missions of welcoming foreign diplomats to Paris and exchanging world cultures, Bienvenue en France organizes a large number of group or la carte activities led by French volunteers. The event concluded with a delicious 'potluck lunch' that included traditional dishes of many countries ranging from the main course to desserts prepared by participating diplomatic members /students and the Embassy.

US informs
Congress of \$1 bn in
new arms to Israel

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's administration informed Congress on Tuesday of a \$1 billion weapons package for Israel, official sources told AFP, a week after threatening to withhold some arms over concerns of a Rafah assault. The administration informally notified the weapons package to Congress, which will need to approve it, a US official said, while a congressional aide who also requested anonymity said the weapons bought from US weapons makers amounted to around \$1 billion. The weapons would come out of a major \$95 billion package recently approved by Congress in defense support for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, and the Biden administration has repeatedly said it planned to go ahead and appropriate the funds through purchases from US manufacturers. But the deal comes a week after Biden warned that he could withhold bombs and artillery shells to Israel if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went ahead in defiance of US warnings with an assault on Rafah, the southern Gaza city where more than one million Palestinians have taken shelter after half a year of war. The Biden administration also confirmed last week that for the first time it had halted a shipment that includes 2,000-pound bombs, fearing they would be used with devastating risks for civilians in Rafah. Congress could still block the weapons sale to Israel, with left-leaning members of Biden's Democratic Party outraged by the toll on civilians in the Gaza war. But the overall package passed despite opposition from the left, with the rival Republican Party almost unanimously in support of arms for Israel. The Wall Street Journal first reported the new arms package. It said it could potentially include \$700 million in tank ammunition and \$500 million in tactical vehicles. -APP

Indonesia
floods kill 67 as
rescuers race to
find missing

TANAH DATAR: Indonesian rescuers raced Wednesday to find dozens of people still unaccounted for after heavy rains caused flash floods and washed volcanic debris into residential areas over the weekend, sweeping away houses and leaving 67 people dead. Hours of torrential rain on Saturday caused mud and rocks to flow into districts near one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, destroying dozens of houses and damaging roads and mosques. "Some of the missing ones have been found. According to the police identification, 67 people died," national disaster agency chief Suharyanto said Wednesday in a press conference, raising the death toll from 58. He added that 20 people remained missing, with rescuers saying many of the retrieved bodies were found in or around rivers after being swept away by the deluge of volcanic material, mud and rain. The mixture of ash, sand and pebbles carried down a volcano's slopes by rain is known in Indonesia as lahar, or cold lava. Heavy equipment was deployed to clear debris from the areas worst hit by flooding and cold lava flows, which have affected transport access in six districts, said Suharyanto, who goes by one name. More than 3,300 people have been forced to evacuate from affected areas. To aid the rescue effort, authorities on Wednesday deployed weather modification technology, the term Indonesian officials use for cloud seeding. In this case, it is being used in a bid to make clouds rain earlier so the precipitation's intensity is weakened by the time it reaches the disaster-struck area. Indonesia is prone to landslides and floods during the rainy season. In 2022, about 24,000 people were evacuated and two children were killed in floods on Sumatra island, with environmental campaigners blaming deforestation caused by logging for worsening the disaster. -APP

Ambassador highlights potential of more flights

DNA

ABU DHABI: Ambassador of Pakistan to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Faisal Niaz Tirmizi on Wednesday stressed the need to enhance the number of flights between Al Ain and Pakistani major cities, especially Peshawar. He said this in a side-line meeting with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Abu Dhabi Airports Elena Sorlini at Al Ain airport where the launch of PIA's flight from Al Ain to Turbat, Baluchistan was also highlighted. "With the launch of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight from Al Ain airport to Turbat, Baluchistan, we see tremendous potential for further collaboration. In addition to three weekly flights by PIA from Al Ain airport to Pakistan (two to Islamabad and one to Turbat), we feel that there is a need to enhance the number of flights by including other destinations, especially Peshawar and other major cities", the ambassador emphasised. Ambassa-



dor Tirmizi highlighted that Pakistan's strategic location between South Asia and the Middle East offered vast opportunities, especially in tourism for Emiratis and other nationals residing in the UAE. "We are committed to expanding flight connectivity from Al Ain airport to other cities in Pakistan and appreciate the CEO's offer of assistance in this endeavour", the ambassador added. Elena Sorlini, CEO Abu Dhabi Airports thanked the ambassador and his team for attending the event held to promote flight operations from Al Ain airport and offered her fullest support in increasing the number of flights from Al Ain airport to various cities in Pakistan. The meeting was also attended by Sultan Al Dhaheri - Senior Vice President Government Relations, Sharifa Al Kathiri - Head of Retail Services and Mahwish Khan - Senior Manager Aviation Development, Abu Dhabi. Tariq Gulzar, Area Manager PIA, and other senior officials from both sides were also present during the meeting.

ADB sells
\$3.5 bln
2-Year Global
Benchmark
Bond

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has priced a 2-year global benchmark United States (US) dollar bond worth \$3.5 billion, proceeds of which will be part of ADB's ordinary capital resources. "We are grateful for the consistently robust support from our investor community that resulted in an orderbook of over \$9 billion and enabled the issuance of a \$3.5 billion global benchmark bond with 2-year maturity," said ADB Treasurer Pierre Van Peteghem, according to press release received here. "This will help support ADB's commitment to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific," Peteghem said. -APP

Israel will 'set sights'
on Turkiye if Hamas
defeated: Erdogan

FOREIGN DESK

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Wednesday that Turkiye will "continue to stand by Hamas which is fighting for its own land's independence and defending Anatolia." Speaking at the parliamentary group meeting in Ankara, Erdogan said: "Israel will not stop in Gaza, and if not stopped, this rogue state will eventually target Anatolia with its delusions of promised land." He stressed that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and those complicit in genocide will be held accountable for every drop of blood they have shed." He said: "On Nakba, the Day of Catastrophe, we once again declare with all our being and resources that we stand by Palestine and the Palestinian cause." "We (Turkiye) will also ensure that the perpetrators of genocide face justice," he added. On May 15, a day solemnly observed by Palestinians worldwide to commemorate the Nakba anniversary. Palestinians, both within Palestine and abroad, mark this day with various events that honor the significance of this tragic historical event. On Sunday, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics released a report marking the 76th Nakba anniversary indicating that since 1948, around 134,000 Palestinians and Arabs have been killed both inside and outside Palestine. The Nakba anniversary this year comes as the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip are experiencing an Israeli devastating onslaught that has been taking place since Oct.

Georgia NGOs vow
to defy repressive law

If implemented, any organisation or media group receiving at least a fifth of its funding from abroad would have to register as an agent of "foreign influence"

TBILISI: Baia Pataria, the head of a leading women's rights group in Georgia, woke up last weekend to find her apartment building in the capital Tbilisi plastered with posters of her face and the words "foreign agent". The images were also glued in the staircase leading to her front door, where "grant-eating lesbian" was sprayed in orange graffiti. "My neighbours took them down, that was an amazing feeling," Pataria said. Activists, independent journalists and opposition politicians have faced weeks of violence and threats since the government of the former Soviet republic introduced draft legislation last month targeting NGOs. The government says the law is aimed at ensuring "transparency", arguing that foreign-funded groups like Pataria's undermine Georgia's sovereignty. But rights observers and Western governments warn it will harm Tbilisi's path to the European Union and further ignite tensions in the Caucasus country, which has been wracked by polarisation since its independence from the USSR in 1991. Pataria rejected the suggestion that she was a threat. Her group, Sapari, supports women suffering from domestic violence and discrimination. "Whatever I do, I do it for my people, my country, and definitely not for anyone else," she said. For months before the law was adopted on Tuesday, Pataria said the government had been tightening the screws on NGOs, waging a campaign against them in the media. But NGOs like Pataria's remain defiant. "I will never, ever register as a foreign agent," she told AFP. Dubbed the "Russian law" over its similarity to repressive legislation first passed by the Kremlin, the bill sparked weeks of mass protests. If implemented, any organisation or media group receiving at least a fifth of its funding from abroad would have to register as an agent of "foreign influence". Pataria had been targeted by similar posters before. When the ruling Georgian Dream party first tried to pass the legislation last year, an image of her face and the word "traitor" was posted around Tbilisi metro stations. "But this is the first time they have come to our homes," she said. Not registering with authorities would mean facing impossible fines - or closure. Outside the Georgian headquarters of Transparency International, an anti-corruption NGO, there were similar posters threatening the organisation's local head Eka Gigauri. Gigauri, an outspoken critic of Georgia's government, was unsurprised. "The implication would be that they might freeze our assets," the 46-year-old said. Transparency International has been in Georgia for 24 years, like many Western-funded groups that sprung up after Tbilisi gained independence. Gigauri said the group had been targeted over its reports about graft in Georgia, and that she would "never" agree to being labelled an agent or spy. While authorities have signalled that rights monitors will be the primary targets of the bill, foreign-funded NGOs have been vital in supporting other humanitarian causes. On the outskirts of Tbilisi, Nato Shavkaladze agonised over how her safe house for women escaping domestic violence would survive if the law was implemented. Strolling through the modest building that shelters around 20 women, she told AFP one floor was renovated with funds from the Polish embassy, while another was financed by Japan. "This fridge was donated by Israel," she said in the kitchen of the shelter, adding it had also received grants from Estonia. As she spoke, toddlers ran around while a baby slept in the front room. "We are talking about saving lives," Shavkaladze said. -DNA

DC directs
to expedite
anti-dengue
surveillance

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Hassan Waqar Cheema on Wednesday directed the health officials to expedite anti-dengue surveillance activities for tracing larvae and disgorge the affected areas with Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS). Chairing a meeting to review anti-dengue arrangements here at his office, he directed the implementation of anti-dengue regulations and said that stern action would be taken against those failing to comply with the laws. Cheema further directed the officials that uploading bogus or fake entries would be dealt with strictly. During the ongoing season, if surveillance was carried out under an effective strategy, better results would come out in the coming days, he said and added that the work of dengue workers would be evaluated only after the improved outcomes in the last year's affected areas. He asked the officials to create awareness among people to keep their houses clean, adding a vigorous awareness campaign was essential for effective community participation in this regard. On the occasion, the health officials briefed the meeting that around 999 teams were carrying out surveillance for tracing larvae including 788 indoor and 211 outdoor surveillance teams. Giving details of the penalty actions, the health officer briefed that the health authority, in collaboration with allied departments, had lodged 82 FIRs, sealed 89 shops, issued tickets to 247 and a fine of Rs 312,000 was imposed on violations of dengue SOPs from January 1 to date. The health officer further stated that during indoor vector surveillance, the teams detected larvae at 4,300 sites while during outdoor surveillance larvae were found at 850 spots. -APP

Bodies
equipped
with audit
expertise

ISLAMABAD: FANSA, IRSP Wednesday organized training on Rising for Rights under the Freshwater Action Network South Asia (FANSA) and Integrated Regional Support Program (IRSP) to equip Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) with the skills necessary to conduct public and social audits in the WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) sector. A renowned trainer, Dr. Israr Ahmad conducted the training. The training yielded several significant outcomes as participants enhanced their skills and knowledge in conducting social audits, enabling effective monitoring and evaluation of WASH services in their communities. Civil society activists and CBO representatives now have the capacity to hold service providers and authorities accountable through evidence-based advocacy and action. Social audits foster greater transparency and accountability in WASH service delivery, ensuring efficient and equitable resource allocation. By identifying gaps in WASH services, participants can advocate for policy changes and resource allocations that improve access and quality for marginalized communities. The training promotes active involvement of community members in monitoring and decision-making processes, fostering ownership and empowerment. Participants were equipped to form and lead Social Audit Committees (SACs) with clear mandates and guidelines, ensuring sustained monitoring efforts. Understanding the application of legal instruments, such as the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2013, enables participants to access critical information for thorough social audits and advocacy. Participants developed tailored action plans for their communities, outlining specific steps and responsibilities for conducting social audits and implementing advocacy strategies. The training facilitates networking among participants, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing to address common WASH sector challenges. By building the capacity of civil society activists and CBO representatives, the training will contribute to long-term improvements in WASH service delivery. -APP

Briefs

EU urges Israel to end Rafah operation

BRUSSELS: The European Union on Wednesday urged Israel to end its military operation in Gaza's Rafah "immediately," warning that failure to do so would undermine ties with the bloc. "Should Israel continue its military operation in Rafah, it would inevitably put a heavy strain on the EU's relationship with Israel," said the statement issued in the EU's name by its foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. "The European Union urges Israel to end its military operation in Rafah immediately," the statement said, warning it was "further disrupting the distribution of humanitarian aid in Gaza and is leading to more internal displacement, exposure to famine and human suffering." The bloc - the main aid donor for the Palestinian territories and Israel's biggest trading partner - said more than a million people in and around Rafah had been ordered by Israel to flee the area to other zones the UN says cannot be considered safe. "While the EU recognizes Israel's right to defend itself, Israel must do so in line with International Humanitarian Law and provide safety to civilians," it said. The law requires Israel to allow in humanitarian aid, the statement stressed. The EU also condemned a Hamas attack on the Kerem Shalom border crossing which blocked humanitarian relief supplies. - Agencies

Sentence is better than cumbersome proceedings

FAISAL SHEIKH
RAWALPINDI: Expressing his dismay at the lengthy legal proceedings against him, former federal minister and Awami Muslim League head Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has asked authorities to sentence him. "I am tired of these cases, it is better to sentence me," he told media outside the anti-terrorism court here on Wednesday. Rashid said he had to appear before courts in three cases today. "They [a possible reference to police] raid our houses and whisk away our children, but get thrashing by trans persons. Please save us from this day-to-day harassment," he added. He said after Panama Leaks, another scandal of Dubai properties has come to the fore. He said he had predicted turmoil in politics before June 30. The masses would do what they did in Azad Kashmir the other day, he added. He suggested a judicial commission be formed on the May 9 incidents and "do whatever you want to do." "We have been facing cases for two years. Justice is being denied in this country; it is being mocked."

Putin hails China's 'desire' to help resolve Ukraine war

Days before Russia launched its full-scale military assault on Ukraine in February 2022, Beijing and Moscow declared a "no limits" partnership and have since boosted trade to record highs

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed Beijing's "genuine desire" to help resolve the Ukraine crisis, in an interview with Chinese state media published ahead of a two-day visit to the country. Putin arrives in Beijing on Thursday to meet his "dear friend" Xi Jinping, seeking to win greater support from China for his war effort in Ukraine and isolated economy. The visit, where he will also travel to the northeastern city of Harbin for a trade and investment expo, is Putin's first trip abroad since his March re-election and his second in just over six months to China. "We commend China's approaches to resolving the crisis in Ukraine," Putin told the Xinhua state news agency in a Moscow interview, which was also carried in English on the Kremlin website. "Beijing is well aware of its root causes and global geo-



political significance," Putin said, referring to a 12-point position paper published by

China in February 2023 on reaching a political settlement to the crisis. "The ideas and proposals contained in the document show the genuine desire of our Chinese friends to help stabilise the situation," Putin said. Days before Russia launched its full-scale military assault on Ukraine in February 2022, Beijing and Moscow declared a "no limits" partnership and have since boosted trade to record highs. Moscow has looked to China as a crucial economic lifeline since the West hit Russia with unprecedented sanctions over its military offensive. China has meanwhile benefited from cheap Russian energy imports and access to vast natural resources, including steady gas shipments via the Power of Siberia pipeline. But their close economic partnership has come under scrutiny in the West, with the United States threatening to sanction overseas banks and companies that work with Moscow.

Russia says advancing across front line

MOSCOW: Russia said Wednesday its forces had advanced in both north and south Ukraine, capturing three settlements including the symbolically important village of Robotyne that Kyiv reclaimed in 2023. The Ukrainian army has been under intense pressure in the past week, fighting off a surprise Russian offensive in the Kharkiv region while facing critical shortages of ammunition. Russian army units "completely liberated the village of Robotyne" as well as Glyboke and Lukyantsi in the northeast Kharkiv region, the defence ministry said in a statement. Ukraine acknowledged Wednesday it had pulled back from several settlements in Kharkiv region amid heavy shelling along the border, and had sent in reinforcements. - APP

Chairman Service Tyres calls on PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman JinYongsheng and CEO Omar Saeed called on PM Shehbaz Sharif to thank him for the government's support to the tyre industry. ServisLongMarch has committed a further investment of Rs 30b to double its capacity and to increase exports to \$100m in 2025. ServisLongMarchTyres has also shown an intent to invest a further amount of Rs 30b to start a new project exporting special-ised tyres from Pakistan to EU and USA. PM Shehbaz Sharif promised continued support from all departments and instructed relevant ministries to help export led growth in the country. The meeting was attended by the Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, Minister for Privatisation and Investment, Information Minister, Secretary to PM, Secretary Commerce and Secretary BOI.

Property leaks: Pak politicians claim everything is declared

MEHTABPIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of an astounding volume of released data regarding properties owned by foreigners in Dubai, some of the Pakistani politicians named in it have downplayed the development, claiming that there was nothing wrong with the practice and that properties under their name were already declared. The data, provides a detailed overview of hundreds of thousands of properties in Dubai and information about their ownership or usage, largely from 2020 and 2022. It was obtained by the Center for Advanced Defence Studies (C4ADS), a non-profit organisation based in Washington, D.C., that researches international crime and conflict. Prominent names include PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, his siblings Bakhtawar Bhutto Zardari and Aseefa Bhutto Zardari; wife of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Ms Ashraf; Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon; MNA Ikhtiar Baig; son of PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, Hussain Nawaz; son of General (retired) Qamar Javed Bajwa, Saad Siddique Bajwa; Senator Faisal Vawda (split in the data as Fesal), Sardar Sanaulah Zehri, Akhtar Mengal and PML-N MNA Ehsanul Haq Bajwa.

Other prominent individuals whose names appear in the leaks include former Balochistan chief minister Sardar Aslam Raisani, media house owner Salman Iqbal, Farhat Shahzadi aka Farah Gogi, former minister Marvi Memon, Lt Gen (retired) Muhammad Afzal Muzaffar (NLC scandal), IG police AJK Tajik Sohail Aziz, MNA Amer Ali Magsi, MPA Sheikh M Mugheri and former MPA Sardar Khan Chandio. In a response issued an hour after the information was made public, Bilawal's spokesperson Zulfikar Ali Bader had said that the former foreign minister and Aseefa had already declared all their domestic and foreign property with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). He said the information was available on the ECP website, adding that there was "nothing new or illegal" in the data as it was "already in the public domain". Bader said it was public information that the two siblings had grown up in exile and lived in the same property mentioned in the report with their mother, former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, going on to inherit it after her assassination. "Any action or insinuation based on defamation will be challenged in the relevant forums," Bilawal's spokesperson had warned. In a statement shared on the PPP's X account.

Blinken announces \$2 bn Ukraine aid

KYIV: During the second day of a visit to Kyiv, on Wednesday, May 15, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the release of a \$2 billion in military aid for Ukraine, aimed at bolstering Ukrainian forces against Russian attacks along the front lines. This aid is part of a larger \$61 billion package that Washington approved after months of congressional delays. During a joint press conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, Blinken said that the aid is intended "to provide weapons today" and to invest in Ukrainian infrastructure, enabling Ukraine to procure military equipment from other countries. Kuleba highlighted Ukraine's urgent need for seven more air defense systems, particularly for the northeastern region of Kharkiv, which recently came under Russian attack. He also stressed the necessity for faster delivery of promised weapons from allied nations. Addressing the contentious issue of strikes on Russian territory, Blinken said: "We have not encouraged or enabled strikes outside of Ukraine, but ultimately Ukraine has to make decisions for itself about how it's going to conduct this war." On Tuesday, May 14, the US's top diplomat gave a speech at the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. In it he praised Ukrainians for their courage and fierce determination to fight back against a larger foe. - Agencies

OIC on the 76th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba

A Dark Stain in the Human Conscience and a Continuing Setback to Values of Freedom and Justice

JEDDAH, : this day, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) recalls the 76th anniversary of the Nakba of Palestine's land, people, and history, following the establishment of Israel, the colonial occupying power, and the accompanying crimes of genocide, ethnic cleansing, organized terrorism, forced displacement, deliberate destruction of hundreds of Palestinian villages, and confiscation of land and property of the indigenous Palestinian people. The repercussions of the Nakba chapters continue to unfold in an unprecedented manner through crimes of murder, destruction, forced displacement, and genocide as a result of the continuing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, which led to the killing of more than 35,000 martyrs and about 79,000 wounded, the majority of whom are women, children, and the elderly. On this occasion, the OIC affirms that this painful memory is still alive in the individual and collective memory of the Muslim Ummah, as a dark stain in the human conscience and a setback to the values of freedom and justice, due to the human tragedies, mass displacement, and denial of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. The OIC reaffirms the responsibility of the international community towards the necessity of putting an end to the Israeli occupation and activating international justice mechanisms to hold Israel, the occupying power, accountable for the crimes it has committed against humanity, and to rectify the historical injustice that continues to befall the Palestinian people. The OIC also expresses its gratitude and appreciation for the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and its tireless efforts in providing basic services to the Palestinian refugees, whose number is estimated at 6.5 million. The OIC further stresses the need for UNRWA's continued role as an international living witness to the tragedy of refugees and embodiment of the commitment of the international community towards the implementation of UN resolutions, and the need to find a just and lasting solution to the issue of the Palestinian refugees. On this occasion, the OIC pays a resounding tribute to the Palestinian people who, despite the repeated chapters and repercussions of this painful Nakba over the decades, were able to continue the path of their just struggle in all its forms, in order to defend their land, the cradle of civilizations. DNA

Vawda seeks 'evidence' of interference in judicial matters


If there is any interference by institutions then provide evidence and we will stand together," says senator

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Senator Faisal Vawda on Wednesday blasted the Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges over their letter alleging spy agencies of meddling in judicial affairs, saying that the targeting of institutions should stop. "Stop targeting the institutions, enough is enough. If there is any interference by institutions then provide evidence and we will stand together [against it]," said the former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader during a presser. Vawda's comments come after he filed a request to the IHC registrar calling for disclosure of the correspondence between then IHC chief justice Athar Minallah and IHC's Justice Babar Sattar about the latter's green card. The senator's letter referred to the social media campaign against Justice Sattar accusing him of holding a US nationality and having a business interest in a private school in the country. Vawda said that he wrote a letter to the IHC in April but he hasn't received a reply yet. "We should get that record as it has been 15 days," he stressed. "A press release was issued that said Justice Sattar is Pakistani but I didn't get a reply. CJP Qazi Faez Isa, under Article 19, ordered that every Pakistani can get an answer," he said. The former PTI leader said that not getting an answer is making people suspicious, adding that



the judges should be transparent and away from accusations. Vawda, while speaking about the accusations by the IHC judges, reiterated that the names of agencies was being mentioned again and again. "Give evidence and we will stand beside you," he added. "Put a ban on social media. Do it for the whole Pakistan and not for your yourself. Make laws for social media but make them for everyone," said the senator. He said why should a judge have a dual citizenship when assembly members can't, adding that "if an assembly makes a law then we will have to make a law about this too". Vawda then demanded that the Supreme Judicial Council would have to interfere in this matter.









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earn
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