



Islamabad POST

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Georgia president vetoes divisive 'foreign agent' law

Detailed News On Page-07

Assange to receive final verdict today

Detailed News On Page-08



Iga Swiatek wins Italian Open title

Detailed News On Page-06



Slams false propaganda

No casualties in Bishkek incident, FM Dar assures

Kyrgyz ministry announces online exams for foreign students amid violence

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Sunday slammed a political party for spreading propaganda on social media regarding the deaths of Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek during mob violence. Lamenting that "wrong news" was being spread on social media by a political party, Tarar said that "doing this for political point scoring and to humiliate the government is condemnable". Tarar said that the political party spread fake news about death and rape, urging it not to do so. "I believe that such shameful act should not be done in politics," he stressed. He added that pictures of Bangladeshi students were posted on social media with the caption alleging that the Pakistani students have been killed in the incident. The information minister's remarks come as it was reported that some Pakistani students studying in Bishkek lost their lives in the mob violence by locals in the aftermath of their fight with the Egyptian nationals on May 13. Speaking about the incident, Tarar said there was a clash between local students and Arab students, after which this incident took place. He added that the government is helping the students who want to come back. "Kyrgyz foreign minister has said that no deaths have occurred in the incident and that the situation is peaceful," said Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar Ishaq Dar during a press conference flanked by Tarar and Kashmir Affairs Minister Amir Muqam. Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said that he held a detailed discussion with his Kyrgyz counterpart, adding that the Pakistani ambassador in Kyrgyzstan kept giving the details from time to time. Dar said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is looking at the matter. He also said that about 16 students sustained injuries out of which four were Pakistani.

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PM for bringing back students from Kyrgyzstan

DNA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday contacted Ambassador of Pakistan in the Kyrgyz Republic Hassan Ali Zaigham and directed him for making necessary arrangements for a special flight being sent to Bishkek this evening to bring back Pakistani students. The special aeroplane will bring back 130 students to Pakistan on Sunday night, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. At the instructions of the prime minister, the government of Pakistan will bear all the expenses of the special plane. The prime minister directed for keeping continuous contacts with all the students and their families, emphasising that the return of injured students should be a priority. He further asked for bringing back those students back whose families were residing with them in Kyrgyzstan on urgent basis. The ambassador of Pakistan Zaigham apprised the prime minister of his meeting with the Kyrgyz deputy foreign minister. According to Kyrgyz authorities, the situation was under control and no new incident of violence took place in the last two days.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Defence Forces Australia General Angus J. Campbell Sunday paid a visit to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir. - DNA

Australian military commander meets COAS Asim Munir

Both parties expressed a mutual desire to further expand military-to-military cooperation

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Defence Forces Australia General Angus J. Campbell Sunday paid a visit to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), said a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). During their meeting, they engaged in discussions on matters of bilateral professional interest, with a particular focus on the global and regional security environment and cooperation between the two Armed Forces. Both parties expressed a mutual desire to further

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Turkiye FM arrives in Islamabad

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Türkiye Hakan Fidan arrives in Islamabad on a two-day official visit. He was received by Additional Foreign Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Ambassador Ahmed Naseem Warraich and accorded a warm welcome. Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan will call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and hold extensive discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. The two sides will review the state of bilateral relations and assess preparations for upcoming high-level engagements between the two countries.

Pakistan vying UNSC seat to address counter-terrorism issues

Pakistan has been elected as a non-permanent UNSC member seven times with last one being in 2013

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Munir Akram Sunday said that Islamabad is vying to secure a place as a non-permanent

Continued on Page 06

Unfair behavior towards KP Punjab's policies hurt wheat farmers, says Asad Qaiser

The former speaker said nothing conclusive had come out of the wheat inquiry as many influential figures were involved in the scandal

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Former National Assembly speaker and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf senior leader Asad Qaiser said Punjab Chief Minister Martyam Nawaz's biased policies hurt the farmers. He reacted to what he called widespread rumours about the Punjab government's decision to ban the transport of wheat mentioning that it would cause significant losses as the farmers of the province relied a great deal on the wheat crop. The former speaker said nothing conclusive had come out of the wheat inquiry as many influential figures were involved in the scandal. The PTI leader further said the Punjab CM might have some mental illness as she has been adorning the official uniforms one after the other. Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Adviser to Chief Minister on Information and

Continued on Page 06

Punjab govt will elevate citizens' living standard

DNA

SIALKOT: Defense Minister and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Khawaja Asif reaffirmed the commitment of the Punjab government to improve the quality of life for the common man. He shared his remarks on the Punjab CM's performance in a ceremony in Sialkot. Asif lauded Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for swiftly launching public service initiatives within her first three months in office, following in the footsteps of

Continued on Page 06

Iranian President is no more: US media Aircraft carrying Iran's President Raisi crashes

Pakistan President and PM concerned over reports of Raisi accident

DNA

TEHRAN: A helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his foreign minister crashed on Sunday as it was crossing mountain terrain in heavy fog, an Iranian official told media, and rescuers were struggling to reach the site of the incident. The official said the lives of Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian were "at risk following the helicopter crash", which happened on the way back from a visit to the border with Azerbaijan in Iran's northwest. The US and Israeli

media however reported that the Iranian president has been assassinated. "We are still hopeful but information coming from the crash site is very concerning," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed concern over the "distressing news from Iran". "Waiting with great anxiety for good news that all is well. Our prayers and best wishes are with Hon. President Raisi and the entire Iranian nation," he wrote on X. Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari offered heartfelt

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Briefs

Dar holds phone call with Saudi FM

Reviews preparations for the visit of MBS

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephone discussion with His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The two Leaders discussed the robust bilateral relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, exploring various avenues for further strengthening cooperation across multiple sectors. This dialogue underscored the profound and enduring partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. They reviewed preparations for the visit of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Al Saud to Pakistan.

Kundi extends olive branch to KP CM

KP governor vows to bridge gap between centre, province

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi extended on Sunday an olive branch to Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. Expressing his thoughts in Malakand, Kundi said, "I would like to invite the chief minister to the Governor House once again. I will play a role in bridging the gap between the centre and province." "The provincial government will have no solution to the problem by taking control of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO)," he said. Kundi said: "We are aware of the deprivations of Malakand division."

Gaza genocide continues

Israel launches strikes as US envoy visits ME

Jordan calls for international investigation into Israeli 'war crimes' in Gaza

NEWS DESK

GAZA: Israeli planes and tanks pounded areas across the Gaza Strip, residents said, as White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday amid US calls for a more focused military campaign. Sullivan was expected to press for Israel to go after Hamas fighters in a targeted way, not with a full-scale assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah, the White House said before the discussions. Israel has been pushing into the city that it says is the last bastion of Hamas forces. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have fled the area that was one of their few remaining places of refuge. "Across the Gaza Strip, there is no safety,"

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PHF committed to revival of hockey: Tariq Bugti

The President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) says the Army Chief has graciously extended the offer of complimentary medical care for all hockey players at military-operated hospitals

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, Tariq Hussain Bugti has emphasized the comprehensive efforts underway for the revival of hockey in Pakistan. He highlighted the significant gestures exhibited by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir towards the national hockey team, underscoring their deep commitment and keen interest in promoting hockey across Pakistan. Bugti conveyed these sentiments during an exclusive interview with Daily Islamabad Post. The President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) further elaborated that the Army Chief graciously extended the offer of complimentary medical care for all hockey players at military-operated hospitals. Additionally, he reassured the team management of his unwavering commitment to both advancing the sport and ensuring the well-being of the players. Tariq Bugti, reflecting on the recent triumphs in the Azlan Shah Hockey Cup held in Malaysia, eloquently expressed that the team's stellar performance has been instrumental in breathing new life into hockey in Pakistan. He astutely noted that the additional victories secured by the team were not just desirable but absolutely essential for the complete resurgence of the sport, and crucial for sustaining the interest of young enthusiasts, underscoring the profound impact that sporting

success can have on national morale and the cultivation of future talent. The President of the PHF expressed his utmost appreciation for the unwavering support extended by both the Prime Minister and the Army chief. He expressed optimism that with their steadfast backing, the issues

plaguing players, particularly those concerning employment, would be effectively resolved. Emphasizing the urgency of revitalizing departmental hockey, he underscored the imperative of engaging with various departments. The Federation, he noted, is actively liaising with these

entities to encourage the reactivation of their sports directorates. In response to a query, the President revealed plans for the establishment of a dedicated Federation office in Islamabad. Discussions are presently ongoing with the Pakistan Sports Board, aiming to secure a suitable space within its premises for the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF). It is anticipated that these negotiations will culminate in the allocation of a fitting facility for the PHF's operational needs. Tariq Bugti, upon assuming office as the 26th President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, prioritized the revitalization of the sport at its grassroots. Though daunting, he approached this task with determination and a sense of responsibility. Through collaboration with his colleagues at the Federation and relying on divine guidance, he successfully steered the national game back on course. While recognizing the services of the Secretary PHF Rana Mujahid and Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans, and other team management members he said that all these officials need fulsome applause as despite a very short time they were able to cobble together a superb team that ultimately brought laurels for Pakistan. While discussing the upcoming Nations Cup in Poland, he emphasized that Pakistan's first match is scheduled for June 30th. The President of the PHF expressed optimism regarding the team's performance in the tournament, highlighting the opportunity for Pakistan to enhance its international ranking through strong performance.



ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Hockey Federation Tariq Hussain Bugti in a discussion with Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti and Deputy Editor Abid Raza, on the sidelines of the Pakistan Hockey team camp, at the Naseer Bundha Hockey Stadium. - DNA

CM KP expresses satisfaction over timely measures for Pak student

In this difficult time, the leadership role of the Kyrgyz government has been very helpful in normalizing the situation and giving the students a sense of security," Ali Amin Gandapour

DNA

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Ali Amin Gandapur has sent a message to the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan in Pakistan and expressed satisfaction over the timely measures taken by the Kyrgyz government to protect Pakistani students. The timely and effective measures taken by the Kyrgyz government to protect the students are commendable, Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur said. The timely actions of the Kyrgyz government proved helpful in saving the students from

further harm and comforting their parents, said CM KP. "In this difficult time, the leadership role of the Kyrgyz government has been very helpful in normalizing the situation and giving the students a sense of security," Ali Amin Gandapur said. "We are grateful to the Kyrgyz government for ensuring the safety of our students," the CM said. "However, these incidents caused mental stress and suffering for the students and their families," Ali Amin Gandapur said. The safe return of these students to their homes is very important, CM KP added. He said, "For the safe return of these students, a

telephonic conversation has been held with the Pakistani ambassador in Kyrgyzstan." "The KP Government will provide all necessary support and facilities for this purpose," Ali Amin Gandapur said. "The KP government is ready to bear all the expenses for the return of these students," the CM further added. "The safe repatriation of these students is a shared responsibility that requires your continued and focused efforts," Ali Amin Gandapur told the Kyrgyzstan Ambassador. "I am sure that with your cooperation and efforts, the timely and safe return of these students will be possible," CM KP said.



RAWALPINDI: A painter busy in making painting on body of a delivery truck at Pirwadhai. —APP

FIA operations against illegal currency business

PESHAWAR: The FIA crackdown operations continued against Hawala, Hundi and illegal currency exchange in Swabi and Peshawar here on Sunday. Major Operations of Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar in its operations have arrested 5 suspects in raid operations, FIA spokesman said. The alleged accused was arrested from Din Trade Center and Sadar area of Peshawar and Lower Dir, FIA spokesman informed. The alleged accused were found to be involved in Hawala hundi and illegal currency exchange and the accused were doing currency exchange business without license, FIA spokesman said. Among the arrested accused are Khalid Khan, Shayaz Khan, Shoaib, Asghar and Amjad Ali, the FIA spokesman said. A huge amount of domestic and foreign currency was recovered from the possession of the accused and a total of more than 48, 56000 Pakistani rupees was recovered from the possession of the accused. The money also included 355 UAE Dirhams, 115 Saudi Riyals, 20 US Dollars and 550 Ringgits were also recovered in foreign currency, FIA spokesman said. The FIA spokesman said that the accused could not satisfy the authorities regarding the exported currency and evidence related to the reference hundi was also recovered from the possession of the accused with investigation having been started. Raids are being conducted to arrest other accused, FIA spokesman concluded.—APP

TDCP makes best arrangement for Murree tourists

ISLAMABAD: The Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) has made comprehensive and best arrangements for the tourists in Murree to facilitate them with dignity. Talking to APP here on Sunday, a TDCP official said the practical steps are being taken by the organisation for further promotion of tourism in Murree. Foreign and domestic tourists are thronging to Murree due to its scenic beauty and clad mountains to enjoy their trip, he added. He said that the TDCP has already launched an effective cleanliness campaign at different tourist spots in the Murree hilly areas not only to attract them but also to provide a neat and clean ambience. He said the sanitary workers are involved in collecting plastic waste and littering discarded items aimed to ensure a plastic-free environment, especially in green spaces because plastic bottles, wrappers, and shopping bags are rampant littered at the tourist destination.

The official said that tourists appreciated the arrangements made by TDCP to entertain them with dignity and respect. It is pertinent to mention here, that Murree is a mountain resort city located in the Galyat region as it is formed on the outskirts of the Islamabad-Rawalpindi metropolitan area and is about 30 km northeast of the federal capital. Murree is a popular tourist station due to its landscape and beauty.—APP

Experts call for early diagnosis of hypertension

PESHAWAR: The experts at a seminar held at Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) have underscored the need for early diagnosis and treatment imperative to eradicate hypertension. The seminar was held in connection with world hypertension day which is celebrated on May 17th every year. The seminar was organized by the Department of Pediatric Nephrology at SIUT about "Childhood Hypertension: Call to Action for Early Diagnosis and Management." This seminar was fully endorsed by the International Pediatric Nephrology Association (IPNA), Asian Society of Pediatric Nephrology (ASPNA), Pakistan Society of Nephrology (PSN), Pakistan Pediatric Association Nephrology Group (PPA- Nephrology) and the Accreditation Council for Continuous Medical Education. It was a whole day activity in which about 100 in-person registrants and

there about 400 online registrants from 30 countries, says a press release. The target audience was all the healthcare workers who are involved in the care of children who are diagnosed with hypertension. Among the participants, there were nephrology trainees and consultants of both adult and pediatric specialties as well as a large number of pediatric consultants and trainees. Known to be a "silent killer", hypertension slowly damages almost all the vital organs including heart, kidneys, eyes, and the brain. Its manifestations are usually seen in adults when they present with end-organ damage. In children, hypertension is not as common as in adults, however, a globally increasing number of children are being diagnosed with hypertension. In the past, most of the children with hypertension had an underlying condition like kidney failure, tumor, or a birth defect leading to high blood pressure. Nowadays,

with the increasing prevalence of obesity, sedentary lifestyle, and drug abuse in teenagers, the prevalence of primary hypertension in children is also increasing. Moderated by the Department of Pediatric Nephrology at SIUT, the national and international speakers discussed at length the diagnosis and management of all the varieties of childhood hypertension. The international speakers included Dr. Rupesh Raina and Irfan Agha from the USA, Dr. Swasti Chaturvedi from Australia, and Dr. Zainab Arslan from London while national speakers included Dr. Amir Hameed from Ziauddin University, Salman Kirmani from AKUH and Dr. Shazia Mohsin from SIUT. All the speakers shared their expertise on specific topics which was followed by an academic discussion with special emphasis on the approach towards children residing in countries with limited resources.—APP

Tightening noose around wheat hoarders, exploiters

FAISALABAD: After a series of public welfare initiatives by the Punjab government, agriculturists have desired strict action and tightening noose around hoarders and exploiters to save precious money of poor farmers. These market exploiters continue to fleece billions of rupees of poor farmers every year in one context or the other forcing them to live a hand to mouth life for being under debt at the hands of these market mongers. Steps to rescue farmers from cruel clutches of exploiters would encourage them enabling them to more efficiently contribute to national economy as well as initiatives to address food security issues.

Being an agrarian country, Pakistan's farmer force is main component of its economy but they are very commonly made to suffer as happening in the case of wheat crop wherein the exploiters force farmers to sell their wheat for Rs 2800 to Rs 3000 for 40 kg instead of the government announced rate of Rs 3900. "Rs 1000 per 40 kg loss is too less. We had better wheat crop this year and hoped that money earned from it would help us in cultivating other crops. But, market players are not inclined to give us announced price," remarked Muhammad Miran, a small farmer in Faisalabad. "Since prices of seed, fertilizers and other inputs had risen recently resulting in increased per acre cost.—APP

Spiking divorce rate, a threat to our social fabric

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the nation continues to embrace modernization and societal transformation, increasing divorce rate in recent years due to various socio-economic and cultural factors is threatening our social fabric and family system. People see multiple reasons behind this phenomenon like financial instability, illiteracy, intolerance, domestic violence, misperception, changing socio-economic dynamics, women's financial independence, social media, interference of families and not but least the weakening connection with religion. In good old days, the people whom today we consider illiterate and backward had more capacity and depth to maintain relationship. They were good speakers and good listeners and despite being uneducated could understand each other; were tolerant and console the partner when a dispute arose. "In good old days, marriage was considered a union between two families usually basing on kindness, truthfulness and respect. Two people used

to marry even without seeing their faces and it was piety of this relation that tied them into a bond of love whole of life," remarked Human Right Activist and Politician, Advocate Amar Lal. "But, today the standards have changed making this union material instead of spiritual, tolerant and based on understanding. The bride seldom considers her in laws as her family and groom's family reckon on the benefits it can get from parallel family," he explained. "Therefore, when a relation is built on interests instead of accommodating each other, it is destined to spoil." "Even the love marriage usually fail and many couples seen dying for each others before marriage, suffer an unpleasant separation," he said. Apparently, all strata of life including parents, education system, clergy and social reformists seem responsible for this debacle as we produce intolerant and self-centered Diaspora. In many cases, mismatches and marriages imposed by families meet the same fate. Bulk of our youth is ignorant of philosophy of marriage because they are not proper

ly taught. The fact is that when Allah Almighty created Eve, Adam questioned who she was and Allah replied, she is your 'contentment' and you also give her 'love and peace.' But, we have long forgotten this philosophy that hold both groom and bride responsible for a peaceful family. Nothing was impossible for Almighty, but the choice He made for Adam, was of a partner that explains the importance of this relation. He made it a binding between two people and two families and termed divorcing as the most unpleasant act. But changing norms and values and western onslaught on our civilization has put this noble relation at risk. They carry out their agenda sometimes in the name of women empowerment, sometimes rights and duties of a couple and sometimes independence. Many local organizations also play as a tool in their hands to the utter neglect of noble teachings of our religion. Their agenda focuses to flare controversies instead of promoting tolerance and understanding among married couples.

New probation assessment tool

ISLAMABAD: A two-day seminar recently gathered national and international experts to discuss the development and validation of the PSAP, a risk and need assessment tool for probation in Pakistan. The aim is to enhance the effectiveness of the probation system by implementing improved assessment methods and resource allocation. The seminar included notable speakers with varied perspectives. Dr. Mazhar Hussain Bhutta, Project Investigation Officer and Chairman of the Department of Social

ogy at PMASARID Agriculture University Rawalpindi, stressed the need for a rigorous development process for the PSAP tool, encompassing a literature review, solid theoretical underpinnings, and real-world probation case data. On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Registrar Aqeel Sultan of PMASARID Agriculture University Rawalpindi revealed a notable milestone: the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Punjab Government and the uni-

versity. This MOU seeks to enhance the probation system in Pakistan through collaborative efforts and streamline the allocation of necessary resources for efficient implementation. Dr. Qadir Alam, AIG of the Punjab Prisons Department, offered valuable insights by discussing the different elements of Pakistan's criminal justice system. This encompassed the functions of the police, probation officers, and prisons, as well as an examination of various theories of criminal behavior.—APP

Exploring IT potential for economic growth

LAHORE: As Pakistan navigates challenges of a rapidly evolving global landscape, a robust IT industry becomes a catalyst for driving innovation, fostering research and technological development and grabbing slot on the list of developed nations. Fully employing this sector would matter much for Pakistan also in attracting foreign investment and partnerships on way to a progressive economy and steering country out of financial crunch. A thriving IT sector can act as a buffer, reducing dependency on traditional industries with a youthful population contributing visibly as a strategic asset for nation building and making the country flourish in different arena of life. "Information Technology (IT) sector has exhibited consistent year-on-year growth and emerged as one of top five net exporters in the country," stated Pakistan Software Houses Association Chairman Zohaib Khan. "As a primary contributor to net exports in services industry, IT sector plays a pivotal role in shaping Pakistan's economic landscape," Zohaib said. "With the potential to become country's primary foreign exchange earner and achieve ambitious annual national target of over US\$ 15 billion, it is crucial to embrace a comprehensive approach to propel this sector forward." According to Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Pakistan's Telecom sector had generated Rs 850 billion in revenues in 2022-23, marking 17 percent growth from previous year and demonstrating sector's resilience amidst challenges of inflation, high business cost and economic slowdown. In its report, the PTA mentioned to substantial investment potential in this sector, with local industry investments of \$5.7 billion and FDI worth \$1.4 billion over five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23. Moreover, the sector contributed Rs1.27 trillion to national treasury from 2018-19 to fiscal 2022-23. "Pakistan's IT landscape is bright, dynamic and filled with opportunities," remarked former IT Minister Dr Umar Saif. "Human capital is our biggest strength and need monumental up-skilling initiatives to ensure that they not only meet the demands of present digital age but also secure space for future flourishing." He stated that by tapping the immense potential of our freelance community, we must foster innovation, diversity and economic inclusivity while transcending geographical boundaries.—DNA

Automobile industry fails to improve exports

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics hosted a One Day Conference titled 'Revitalizing Pakistan's Automobile Industry: Moving towards Consumer Welfare, Global Integration & Sustainable Mobility' here in Lahore. Representatives of Automobile Companies in Pakistan, Automobile parts manufacturers, policymakers and academicians participated in the conference sharing their experience and knowledge regarding the issues and the future outlook of automobile industry in Pakistan. The conference was well attended by a large number of students from the local universities as well. The discussion in the conference was focused on three sub-themes, Localization Obsession and Supply Chain Constraints, Policy, Reforms and Industry Development, and Electrification and the Future of Mobility.

Extensive and in-depth analysis and views were shared on all the themes by the experts, while students also actively participated in the discussion sessions as well. Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) in his opening address to the conference expressed that the primary agenda of this conference is to explore why Pakistan's automobile industry is not progressing and to discuss strategies for its revitalization. The aim of our institution is the economic prosperity of Pakistan, and this conference is a step towards achieving that by focusing on the automobile sector. The key issues to address include the reasons behind the lack of exports from the automobile industry, the delayed introduction of hybrids and EVs, and the future of the industry in terms of research and development. Despite 50 to 70 years of protection, the sector has failed to export, which is a significant concern






given the country's economic crisis. He further added that the discussion will focus on why the industry has not kept pace with global advancements, such as driverless cars, hybrid cars, etc., and why there is a lack of local R&D. The objective is to have a constructive dialogue to develop policies and understand issues that will drive the development of Pakistan's automobile industry. Dr. Nadeem concluded his remarks by reaffirming PIDE's efforts towards always taking new steps forward, aiming to conduct research and stimulate debate on important topics as the goal is to foster real, productive conversations that lead to actionable outcomes for the sector's growth and integration into the global market. Later, the PIDE team presented the findings of their ongoing research on the state of automobile industry in Pakistan and the future outlook. A second presentation focusing specifically on the potential of Electric Vehicles in

Pakistan, as well as the challenges in its adoption were also presented by the PIDE team at the conference. The participants lauded the work done by PIDE and also the organization's efforts to bring together all stakeholders for developing and promoting a unified reform plan for the revitalization of automobile industry in Pakistan. The message from the conference was clear that Pakistan needs a policy shift if it wants to develop its automobile industry. The focus must shift from absolute localization of the industry to instead focusing on becoming part of the global value chain. For this purpose, it is important that local firms engage with foreign companies for not just capital investment but more importantly for technology and skill transfer. Without being competitive and innovative, the automobile industry cannot be expected to grow into a major global industry, which must be the goal for Pakistan.

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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

'United youth are key to regional development'

Regarding the sociopolitical situation in Afghanistan, he said that the pursuit of common interests in a fair socio-political environment is intrinsically linked to unity. By fostering solidarity, empathy, and collaboration, Afghans, especially the youth, can create a more just, developed, and equitable nation where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to the greater good

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Not arms, but critical thinking, unity, and passion for change can drive the youth of this region forward. They need to have an inquisitive mind to question socio-economic injustices. These remarks were made by Ambassador Durrani, Pakistan's Special Envoy for Afghanistan, addressing a gathering of Afghan and Pakistani youth leaders, hosted by the Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) as part of Pak-Afghan Youth Peace Initiative - Building Bridges, Improving Perceptions. The envoy urged the youth from both sides to take an active role in regional development by focusing on their education, skills, and personal growth as they are the future leaders of the countries. Regarding the sociopolitical situation in Afghanistan, he said that the pursuit of common interests in a fair socio-political environment is intrinsically linked to unity. By fostering solidarity, empathy, and collaboration, Afghans, especially the youth, can create a more just, developed, and equitable nation where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to the greater good. The youth of Afghanistan has the opportunity to change Afghanistan's decades-long label of 'conflict zone' and take an active part in nation-building. The participating Afghan youth voiced their concerns on the issues facing the education landscape in Afghanistan, particularly for females, the delays in visa



issuance for Afghan students studying in Pakistan, as well as the challenges faced by those who have to return to Afghanistan due to their illegal status or expiration of the visa. Mehnaz Akbar Aziz, former MNA, also joined the discussion where she underscored the significant role youth dialogues play in fostering unity between Pakistan and Afghanistan and that engaging the youth from both nations is crucial for bridging diplomatic gaps and building mutual understanding. She highlighted opportunities for youth engagement, such as academic exchanges and collaborative projects, which can help bridge diplomatic gaps. A vital point of her address was the importance of supporting women's education and their involvement in politics and law in both countries. She drew attention to the economic and psychosocial challenges faced by Afghan women as education remains banned for them in the country. Mehnaz lauded Pakistan's efforts in educating Afghan refugees

and shared statistics, noting that currently, 1.4 million Afghan refugees reside in Pakistan, with 50,000 enrolled in primary education. She stressed the importance of continued support for Afghan refugee youth's education in Pakistan and urged the international community to help Pakistan create a more enabling academic environment for them. The executive director CRSS, Imtiaz Gul noted that with the tons of information available in the offline and online space, youth have a huge onus to critically eval-

uate every bit of information they come across for its authenticity before disseminating it. Elsa Imdad, CRSS research fellow and Global UGRAD alumna, concluded that Track III engagements and youth participation are only effective if the Track I stakeholders take ownership of such efforts and give agency to youth in the policymaking. The forum concluded with policy recommendations aimed at fostering better relations, such as establishing educational corridors to empower women and ensuring their involvement in decision-making. They also suggested forming youth committees to address common challenges and prioritized collaboration over discord in diplomatic efforts. Additionally, there was a call for increased youth engagement for peace and unity and for promoting political maturity among young leaders. Strengthening academic exchanges and addressing longstanding issues in trade and transit - which are one of the major issues causing bad blood and negative perceptions - were seen as crucial steps. The Pak-Afghan Youth Peace Initiative is a track III diplomacy effort supported by the US State Department, Global UGRAD Pakistan, and IREX. This initiative aims to foster goodwill and improve public perceptions between Pakistani and Afghan youth through dialogue, interactive workshops, community engagement, meetings with key stakeholders to discuss practical aspects of enhancing youth diplomacy and media interactions.

SBP to celebrate 'Int'l Museum Day' on May 20

ISLAMABAD: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will celebrate International "International Museum Day" on Monday (May 20) with the theme of "Museums for Education and Research." The objective of celebrating this day is to raise awareness about the fact that museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of culture and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and well being among people. According to spokesman, "The SBP Museum & Art Gallery has planned an event wherein underprivileged students (class 4 to 8) from Zindagi Trust School have been invited to participate and learn the art of Pottery Making, Indigo Dye and Painting." The event will commence at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 1:00 p.m.— APP

FTO Asif Jah inaugurates RCCI's Export Dialogue Pakistan and 16th APCPC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Dr. Asif Jah, Federal Tax Ombudsman was the chief guest at the Inauguration Ceremony of Export Dialogue Pakistan and 16th All Pakistan Chambers Presidents' Conference organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) at Serena Hotel, Islamabad.

BMP for revisiting terms of power purchase contracts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has stressed the need for revisiting terms of power purchase agreements with a view to restore the viability of country's energy sector, as billions of rupees could be saved by making payments to IPPs in local currency instead of dollars. FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar said that in view of decreasing cost of production and lesser energy tariffs, the government should bring some major changes in the agreements with IPPs, who are earning

high profits due to certain terms and conditions of their agreements. He further disclosed that the high cost of power tariff was due to a host of factors, including snowballing capacity payments, net hydel profit, transmission constraints, minimum plant factor provision for RLNG based plants, gas price anomalies and financing cost of circular debt. The FPCCI former president said that Pakistan pursued an aggressive policy to add power capacity, but years of slow economic growth, power theft, and under-investment in transmission and distribution networks have meant that bill recovery has not been at par. He said that most IPPs

had an investment payback period of 2-4 years, profits generated were as high as 18.37 times the investment and dividends 23 times the investment and under the 1994 Power Policy, 16 out of 17 IPPs invested a combined capital of Rs52 billion and earned profits in excess of Rs417 billion. The governments' failure to contain the circular debt had cost the country over Rs5,082 billion in the past 15 years, with an annual loss of Rs370 billion. Mian Anjum Nisar added that restoring energy sector viability requires strong cost-side reforms, including continuation of efforts to improve transmission infrastructure, better integration and expansion of

renewable energy capacity; improving DISCO performance via either privatization or long-term management concessions; moving captive power demand to the grid; revisiting, the terms of power purchase agreements; and continuing to convert publicly-guaranteed PHPL debt into cheaper public debt. He outlined the reforms' agenda that has either been undertaken by Pakistan or where Islamabad needs to put more efforts. In the case of the energy sector, terms of power purchase agreements have not come heavily under the scanner as the focus has first been on taking recovery and tariffs to a sustainable level.

Action against illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak has directed the authorities concerned to intensify the operation against illegal housing societies and take indiscriminate action against the rules violators. According to a Commissioner Office spokesperson, Engineer Aamir Khattak has directed the officers of Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) and Food Department to give briefings on daily performance. She said that during a briefing, the officers informed the commissioner that there are 635 housing schemes in Rawalpindi while 104 housing schemes are approved and 96 are under process. The administration on the orders of the commissioner was taking action against the rules violators, she added. She said that the commissioner had instructed the food department to improve its checking system to provide quality food items to the public. Engineer Amir Khattak also directed that cleanliness and hygiene rules should be followed at food and drink places, she maintained. From May 1 this year, during 1998 raids conducted by the Food Department, 864 improvement notices were issued and fines amounting to over Rs 5.3 million were imposed on the violators. Two FIRs were also lodged, she said.—APP

New probation assessment tool

ISLAMABAD: A two-day seminar recently gathered national and international experts to discuss the development and validation of the P-SAP, a risk and need assessment tool for probation in Pakistan. The aim is to enhance the effectiveness of the probation system by implementing improved assessment methods and resource allocation. The seminar included notable speakers with varied perspectives. Dr. Mazhar Hussain Bhutta, Project Investigation Officer and Chairman of the Department of Sociology at PMAS-ARID Agriculture University Rawalpindi, stressed the need for a rigorous development process for the P-SAP tool, encompassing a literature review, solid theoretical underpinnings, and real-world probation case data. On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Registrar Aqeel Sultan of PMAS-ARID Agriculture University Rawalpindi revealed a notable milestone: the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Punjab Government and the university. This MOU seeks to enhance the probation system in Pakistan through collaborative efforts and streamline the allocation of necessary resources for efficient implementation. Dr. Qadir Alam, AIG of the Punjab Prisons Department, offered valuable insights by discussing the different elements of Pakistan's criminal justice system. This encompassed the functions of the police, probation officers, and prisons, as well as an examination of various theories of criminal behavior. Dr. Nadia Khadim, Co-PI of the LCF (Local Challenge Fund) project funded by HEC and Head of the Law Department at FJW University Rawalpindi, presented on the legal framework governing probation in Pakistan. She underscored probation's primary goals of rehabilitating and reintegrating offenders, emphasizing its role as a community service alternative to incarceration. Representing Muhammad Shahid Iqbal, Director General of the Probation and Parole Service, Hafiz Sultan, acting as the focal person, along with Hafiz Muhammad Sultan, Assistant Director of the Rawalpindi Division of the Probation.—DNA

Irony of fate: Education faces climate challenges

Last year, cities like Lahore, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi experienced school closures due to dense fog, impacting educational continuity

ISLAMABAD: Education is widely acknowledged as a crucial weapon in combating climate change and to empower the next generations to tackle environmental challenges head-on. However, the irony of fate is that this narrative faces a harsh reality: the education sector itself is increasingly compromised by the impacts of climate change. This is particularly true in nations like Pakistan, where environmental challenges intersect with educational imperatives, creating a complex and pressing dilemma. Extreme weather events in Pakistan disrupt school schedules, leading to closures and hindering students' learning. For instance, dense fog during winter and scorching heat in summer affect the entire educational system. The recent adjustment of school schedules by the education ministry in the federal capital serves as a testament to the unpredictable climate patterns the school children face. Last year, cities like Lahore, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi experienced school closures due to dense fog, impacting educational continuity. Moreover, smog-related shutdowns occurred in Punjab, contributing to respiratory issues and eye infections among students, particularly those from low-income backgrounds. Rising temperatures also pose health risks, with students vulnerable to heat-related illnesses and dehydration. In a statement to APP, Muhammad

Saleem, Media Spokesperson for the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, highlighted the escalating intensity and frequency of heatwaves in Pakistan's plains. Recent weather records underscore the severity of this trend, with Pakistan experiencing some of the world's highest temperatures in recent years. The IPCC's 2021 findings projected Pakistan to endure more frequent and intense heatwaves. For instance, Jacobabad recorded temperatures exceeding 50°C in June 2021 and May 2022. Such extreme heat poses significant health risks, including heatstroke and dehydration. Saleem emphasized a collaborative approach involving federal, provincial, and district-level departments to mitigate heatwave impacts. Measures include issuing early warnings, developing SOPs, and establishing cooling centers equipped with water and ventilation systems. Additionally, initiatives such as heat-health awareness campaigns, tree plantations, and promoting reflective materials aim to mitigate heat stress. Saleem stressed the importance of public awareness, especially in educational institutions and through media channels, to minimize heatwave-related risks effectively. He also underscored Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's dedication to enhancing Pakistan's environmental sustainability across various sectors. The prime minister, he said, has instructed his

team to exhaust all avenues in addressing environmental degradation and strengthening the nation's ability to withstand the detrimental effects of climate issues. Saleem also highlighted his ministry's efforts to bolster climate resilience, aiming to mitigate the impacts of floods and heatwaves, safeguarding lives and infrastructure across the country. Nasreen Shah, a senior educationist at a government institution talking to this scribe, highlighted the impact of climate change on children's education. She said that the extreme weather conditions can disrupt schooling by making students uncomfortable and unable to focus, especially on hot days when inadequate clothing and crowded classrooms contribute to discomfort and difficulty breathing. Additionally, crowded buses during hot summers increase the risk of heat-related illnesses among children. Nasreen emphasized the importance of ensuring school safety and continuous learning regardless of weather conditions, suggesting the need for strategies to prioritize students' health and well-being above all else. Dr. Gulam Fareed, a family physician, highlighted symptoms of heat-related illnesses such as high body temperature, rapid pulse, headache, and dizziness. He advised immediate action if a child experiences these symptoms, recommending moving them indoors or to a shaded area and applying cool water or wet towels to the skin.

Transporters directed to slash fares by 5% on all routes

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema Sunday said that transporters had been directed to bring down fares by 5 percent on all routes in Rawalpindi after latest reduction in petroleum products. According to a DC office spokesman, the DC while reviewing the reduction of the fares after drop of petroleum products and cleanliness arrangements at the bus stands ordered that the list of the fares should be displayed at prominent places at all bus stands.—APP

RAWALPINDI CANTONMENT BOARD
 Tel: 051-9274406-84 Facsimile No. 051-9274407

PUBLIC NOTICE

DRAFT STANDARDIZATION / UPDATION OF BUILDING BYE-LAWS

This is for information of the general public, especially, the residents of the Rawalpindi Cantonment that the draft standardization / updation of Building Bye-Laws of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board have been approved by the Rawalpindi Cantonment Board vide Cantonment Resolution No: 5.4 Dated 03-04-2024 subject to calling objections from general public (if any).

The copies of draft Building Bye-Laws are available in the Office of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board which can be obtained from CBCARE Center during the official working hours free of cost and can be downloaded from RCB's official website <https://rawalpindi.cantonment.gov.pk>. Whosoever, has reasonable objection in this regard, can submit the same in writing in the Office of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

After lapse of stipulated period, any sort of objection shall not be taken into consideration.

CANTONMENT EXECUTIVE OFFICER RAWALPINDI
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Briefs

Seminar on Dynamics of Xinjiang in Pakistani Perspective held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To highlight the importance of Xinjiang to China and to shed light on the economic prosperity in the region, where people are experiencing unprecedented improvements in their quality of life, a seminar titled "Dynamics of Xinjiang in Pakistani Perspective" was held here at a local hotel. The event, which was organized by Overseas Chinese Association Rawalpindi, also emphasized the crucial role of Xinjiang in strengthening Sino-Pak relations, Gwadar Pro reported. Diplomats, Sino-Pak relations experts, former diplomats, academics, and journalists spoke at the event, while Uyghur school students showcased a lip-sync performance to Chinese songs. Shi Yuanqiang, DCM at the Chinese Embassy, served as the keynote speaker. He highlighted the importance of Xinjiang in the context of Sino-Pak relations, emphasizing the quality of life of local people and their harmonious existence in a secure environment. While highlighting the freedom of religion, he mentioned that Xinjiang has 24,000 mosques, which is more than the total number of mosques in Germany, Britain, the United States, and France combined. —APP

IRSA releases 274,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 274,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 284,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1468.04 feet and was 70.04 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 86,300 cusecs and 90,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1176.15 feet, which was 126.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 64,200 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 151,200, 102,600, 70,800 and 14,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 96,400 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 22,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. —APP

CWAs to boost overseas employment opportunities

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) has given the task to the Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) stationed abroad to strategically enhance job opportunities for Pakistanis in the international market. An official source told APP, that currently, there were 21 CWAs posted abroad by the Government of Pakistan. The main aim of this task was to evaluate and improve the progress of CWAs in identifying and exploring targeted demand for employment prospects for Pakistani nationals through engagements with foreign employers. This involved the formulation, signing, and execution of Letters of Intent (LOIs) and agreements with foreign companies, critical in amplifying the export of Pakistani manpower. It has emphasized the crucial need for close collaboration between CWAs and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, particularly in sharing information related to employment demands abroad and the necessary skills required for those jobs. This step will facilitate the design of training programs specifically tailored to the skills demanded by foreign companies, ensuring that Pakistani workers are well-equipped and aligned with global standards. —APP

ICCI for addressing problems of educational institutions

ICCI members Khalid Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry, Nisar Mirza, Waseem Chaudhry and Faizan Shahzad were also accompanying the President

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the educational institutions in the capital city are facing multiple problems which need to be addressed on priority basis for the advancement of literacy rate in the country. He has also drawn the attention of the Federal Education Minister Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui towards the dilapidated condition of the Islamabad Model College for Girls G-13 by saying that the College is in short of all the basics like teaching staff, security staff, furniture, Laboratory, playground, buses, clean drinking water etc. ICCI President said this during his visit to the College during which he was apprised of the problems the College is facing. On getting the acquaintance of the problems, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari announced the provision of five computers, installation of a water filtration plant and a full-fledged First Aid Box for the College from his own



pocket. He also demanded appointment of permanent teaching staff in the college and announced to cover the cost of the computer teacher by himself. Earlier upon his arrival he was welcomed by the Principal, Col-

lege Committee members as well as the elders of the area. During his visit to Islamabad College for Boys G-13 he announced the installation of a water filtration plant and the provision of a First Aid Box from his own exchequer

by saying that the reasonable amounts have to be allocated for the education sector for the development of the country. Elders of the areas praised Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for his big-heartedness to boost education

and prayed for his long life and success in every field of life. ICCI members Khalid Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry, Nisar Mirza, Waseem Chaudhry and Faizan Shahzad were also accompanying the President.

WASA defaulters given last chance

RAWALPINDI: Managing Director (MD) Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi on the directives of the Managing Director (MD) Saleem Ashraf has given a last chance to the defaulters till May 31 to clear their arrears. According to a WASA spokesman, the MD had directed the authorities concerned to accelerate operation against WASA defaulters. The MD warned the officials concerned that negligence on their part would not be tolerated and all-out

efforts should be made to ensure 100 recovery from the defaulters. The spokesman informed that MD WASA on the directives of Director General, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Kinza Murtaza, had directed the officials to speed up the ongoing campaign against WASA defaulters. He said, WASA is a self-sustaining institution and the agency meet all expenses from its own resources, so the officials had been warned that no shortcoming in revenue

recovery would be tolerated. The MD had given a special ultimatum to the WASA officers for 100 percent recovery of the arrears from all the defaulters. The Revenue Director and Deputy Directors were ordered to immediately disconnect the connections of the defaulters. The Senior Special Magistrate had submitted a report that arrest warrants were issued against four defaulters for non-payment of the arrears. He said that after the dead-

line of May 31 for payment of the arrears, late fees and installments of the WASA bills would be banned and strict action in accordance with the law would be taken including property seizure, arrest of the defaulters and disconnection of water and sewage lines. The spokesman asked the citizens to pay their outstanding bills in time to avert legal action, adding, the crackdown would continue till 100 percent recovery from the defaulters. —APP

Expert stresses for early healthy lifestyle

ISLAMABAD: Medical experts on Sunday suggested multi-pronged awareness drives and for controlling obesity to avoid diabetes which was also one of the leading causes of premature deaths, high blood pressure, heart diseases, renal failure and blindness. Talking to a Private news channel, Renowned Ophthalmologist Dr Nadeem Naem stressed the need for regular blood screenings, particularly for those above 35 or 40 to enable early detection and preventive measures against diabetes. Meanwhile, Dr highlighted that more than 30 million Pakistanis are suffering from diabetes which serves as a significant precursor to other life-threatening conditions. He said people should focus on their fitness, outdoor activities and daily exercise, adding, "All types of diabetes is equally serious and if not properly controlled can lead to serious complications." "Regular screenings and access to healthcare services are of paramount importance not only for detecting diabetes but also for identifying pre-diabetes stages and providing key interventions," he added. He underlined the importance for all members of society to lead healthy lifestyles, including healthy food, physical activity and refraining from smoking. "Diabetes has become a disease that affects economic development in countries around the world," he added. Earlier patients diagnosed with diabetes were above 40 years of age, but now they are being diagnosed in their 20s and 30s. This is an alarming situation worldwide, he added. "The diagnosis of diabetes has a great impact on the patient's life, both physically and psychologically. Diabetes can affect multiple, therefore, it is important to screen for diabetes even at a younger age," he mentioned. "The control of diabetes, and prevention or delay of complications, can be enhanced through equipping patients for self-care and the holistic management of diabetes patients by their regular family doctor," he said. Replying to a question, he said, "A balanced diet by definition means regulating portions and including items like brown rice instead of white, limiting sugary items, and incorporating salads, which provide positive energy and aid bodily functions." —DNA

OPF to establish new female academic block

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) an attached department of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development would establish OPF Higher Secondary Girls School Academic Block the government's unwavering commitment to providing quality education to the children of overseas Pakistanis. An official source told APP that the construction of a new Academic Block at OPF Girls Higher Secondary School, Rawalpindi reflects the government's dedication to meet the educational needs of both the overseas community and the general public. At present, 710 students including 279 children of Overseas Pakistanis are enrolled in the said school. New Academic Block will be constructed on an area of 21057 Sqr. Ft to accommodate around 300 more students. The proposed construction work of the new academic block will be completed with an estimated cost of Rs.99.93 million. The new academic block includes classrooms, daycare, a conference room, an art studio, a medical room, and a cafeteria. —APP



ISLAMABAD: A fruit seller arranging loquat stall at Fruit and Vegetable Market, Sector 1-11 in the Federal Capital. —ONLINE

CCP time-scale: PTCL Acquisition of Telenor

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) is currently conducting a Phase II review of the proposed acquisition of Telenor Pakistan by Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL). This crucial review will determine whether the merger is approved and what conditions may be imposed to ensure competitive fairness in the market. PTCL filed pre-merger application on 6th March 2024. CCP had 30 days to review the application and

issue a Phase I order, according to its law. Phase I order was announced on 3rd May 2024 within the timescale specified in the competition law. Phase-I order analysed that there may be some potential impact on competition in telecom sector therefore, pre-merger application will be considered in Phase II review. CCP has 90 days to complete this detailed review and issue its order. A Phase II review involves an in-depth investigation into the merger's potential impact on market competition. This stage is initiated

when preliminary findings suggest that the merger could restrict competition in the telecom sector. Currently, CCP is conducting extensive analysis, collecting detailed data, market participant responses through comprehensive questionnaires, and comments from Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). CCP will also evaluate efficiencies claimed by the merging entities, which must be beneficial to consumers. The possible outcome of a Phase II review is often "conditional" approval. Historically, CCP has approved

mergers with some structural and behavioural modification with some conditions attached to mitigate anti-competitive effects and to protect consumers from abuse of dominant position. Pakistan operates a mandatory, suspensory merger control regime, meaning any merger meeting the notification requirements must be reviewed and approved by the antitrust agency before it can be finalized. Non-compliance can result in significant fines, remedies, or the transaction being deemed void.

Pakistan records historic increase in IT exports worth \$310m last month

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recorded a historic increase in its IT exports, achieving a growth of \$310 million during the last month, according to Minister of State Shaza Fatima.

This marks the first time in the country's history that such a significant rise in IT exports has been observed within a single month.

The minister highlighted that IT exports for April 2024 surged by an impressive 62.3% compared to the same month last year. She emphasized that increasing IT exports is a top priority for the current government, attributing this remarkable growth to the relentless efforts of the prime minister and the government's dedicated focus on the IT sector. In the month of April, 2024 ICT services export remittances surged to US\$ 310 million, an astounding increase of 62.3% in comparison to US\$ 191 million in April 2023. #MOITT @ShazaFatima pic.twitter.com/tltZLN60c "This unprecedented increase in IT exports is a testament to our commitment to bolstering the digital economy and enhancing Pakistan's position in the global IT market. This increase in IT exports is the result of the tireless efforts of the prime minister of Pakistan," Minister Fatima said. She underscored the importance of continued support and investment in the IT industry to sustain this growth trajectory. The minister of state also pointed out that this achievement reflects the effective policies and initiatives implemented by the government to foster a conducive environment for IT businesses and professionals. Back in April, the Ministry of Information Technology reported a significant surge in Pakistan's IT exports, with a remarkable increase recorded during the period from July to March of the current financial year. According to official figures released by the ministry, there was a 17.44% rise in IT exports during the mentioned period, amounting to an increase of approximately \$339 million. The total IT exports during this period were \$2.283 billion, marking a considerable growth compared to the corresponding period last year, which was \$1.944 billion. The month of March alone witnessed an exceptional boost in IT exports, with a staggering increase of \$306 million reported. This represents a remarkable 36% surge compared to March of the previous year.

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British espionage case against HK

IN the united Anglo-American media front, cause and effect are often reversed. With that, the latest case alleging Hong Kong spies in the city's London trade promotion office could be a learning moment. The conventional news story is that three men with links to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in central London have been charged with "assisting a foreign intelligence service and foreign interference" under the National Security Act. One of the men is HKETO officer manager Bill Yuen Chung-biu, who was also a former senior Hong Kong police officer. The charges specifically refer to Hong Kong, rather than China. No doubt it's just a coincidence, but the British government has been blasting the Beijing-imposed national security law and Hong Kong's own legislation passed under Article 23 of the city's Basic Law while legislating a similarly draconian law that came into force last year. In the current political climate, it's worth your while to consider the reverse, that is, there have been calls to shut down HKETOs in Western countries, but particularly in the US and Britain. And so, a spy case has been conveniently conjured up to add meat to a bare-bone anti-Hong Kong cause that has so far been making wild claims without much evidence. In recent years, in both countries, politicians and their connected and sometimes subsidised activists have been targeting HKETOs. This is despite the fact that the work of those offices has purely to do with trade and economics, and nothing to do with politics. But just like the now mostly cancelled Confucian institutes before them, anything Chinese in the Anglo-American sphere is a target. The spy case also fits nicely with the narrative that overseas Chinese and Hong Kong activists are being tracked down and threatened. And here's the proof. Now I don't exclude the possibility that the case really is as told by the British government and London Metropolitan Police, and a real spy operation implicating Hong Kong was involved. After all, we all know Western governments never manipulate or lie about spy cases. But when it comes to such allegations by one state against another, a healthy dose of scepticism is called for. One must assume, as we have been told constantly by the British and US governments, including their own intelligence chiefs, that the Chinese have amazing spying capabilities that penetrate deeply into Western societies. If that's the case, why would Beijing need Hong Kong's help? In fact, it would be in Chinese interest to keep the city's nose clean because its chief value lies in economics and trade, not geopolitics. Getting Hong Kong involved in spycraft would indeed be counterproductive. Perhaps there are rogue elements operating within the Hong Kong government, and more specifically the HKETO. But then, on the principle that anything is possible, the whole case may also consist of trumped-up charges. But even if those three men really are Hong Kong or Chinese spies, it must be said that countries spy on each other at all times. Nothing is easier to catch than a few inconsequential agents. Usually they are quietly shipped out of the country.



Targeting smartphone app data

DIRECTOR of National Intelligence (DNI) Avril Haines, who oversees 18 separate agencies comprising the wider "intelligence community" - including the CIA, FBI, and NSA - has released a "policy framework for commercially available information." It is not only the very first public confirmation by a US government official that Stateside spying entities acquire extensive data on private citizens from third-party brokers, but admission of this yield is deeply sensitive. While purportedly setting limits on the use of this information by spooks, the details are vague or non-existent. "Commercially available information" (CAI) refers to data collected on individuals, typically by their smartphones, and the apps they use, sold by third parties. Via various sleights of hand and ruthless exploitation of regulatory loopholes, US intelligence obtained information not accessible by average citizens, which would typically require a court-approved search warrant to access. Yet, by purchasing this data from private brokers, spying agencies can still claim this snooping is "open-source", based on "publicly available" records. A particularly rich source of CAI is data hoovered from digital advertising. In-app and website adspace is sold on real-time bidding (RTB) exchanges, and location and other user data are often included as a bonus, to ensure optimal ad targeting. Many data brokers pose as advertisers in order to "scrape" the listings for user information, before selling it on for profit. The value of this data, and the malign purposes to which it can be put, are vast. For example, an intelligence contractor once exploited data reaped from dating app Grindr to track the movements of gay government employees. RTB data has also been used by anti-abortion groups to track women who visit Planned Parenthood clinics in the US. More positively, RTB data has helped construct a dossier on child sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein's associates, tracing smartphone device owners who visited his private island to addresses in the US and other countries. "Personal attributes, conditions, or identifiers traceable to one or more specific US persons, [including] race or ethnicity, political opinions, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, medical or genetic information, financial data, or any other data the disclosure of which would have a similar potential to cause substantial harm, embarrassment, inconvenience, or unfairness to the person or persons described by the data." Furthermore, CAI can include "data that captures the sensitive activities" of target individuals and groups. "Sensitive activities" are defined as any "that over an extended period of time establish a pattern of life; reveal personal affiliations, preferences, or identifiers; facilitate prediction of future acts; enable targeting activities; reveal the exercise of individual rights and freedoms." Terrifying stuff - but Haines' framework offers little to no clear guidance on how the purchase and use of CAI by US intelligence agencies will be restricted. The document claims "additional clarity" will protect citizen privacy, although none is offered in its contents. Disquietingly too, spy agencies themselves are tasked with formulating "safeguards that are tailored to the sensitivity" of CAI they collect, and produce annual reports on their use of this data.

Nawaz Sharif demands accountability...

Qamar Bashir



"The answer to this question also rests with him. All the parties and leaders of the country have been utilizing the establishment to achieve political objectives. The establishment has become so powerful and has wielded these powers for so long that it now assumes the role of kingmaker and is reluctant to relinquish this influence. PML(N), under his leadership, allegedly benefited the most from the establishment's role as kingmaker. Analysis, opinion-makers, political scientists, and election watchdog organizations are largely of the opinion..."

NAWAZ Sharif's much-anticipated address to the PML(N) Central Working Committee was filled with expressions of past grievances and complaints against the judiciary, naming specific judges, and against the establishment, though without naming individuals, regarding the removal of his government three times: first in 1993, second in 1999, and third in 2017. He continues to wonder and seek answers about his unceremonious removal from power, which he believes was part of conspiracies against him, his government, and the country as a whole. He questioned why, in the morning, he was a prime minister and by evening, he was labeled a hijacker. He questioned how a three-person bench, unelected and sitting in the Supreme Court, could declare an elected Prime Minister unfit for office. He asserted that he would continue to seek answers to these questions for the rest of his life, vowing not to rest until all those involved in conspiracies against him, his government, his party, and his country are brought to justice. While indicating the masterminds behind the conspiracies, he pointed to former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar, who, in an audio leak, purportedly stated the intention to keep Nawaz Sharif and Maryam in prison while bringing Mr. Imran Khan to power. Nisar allegedly instructed an accountability judge to decide the case within six months and appointed Ejaz ul Hassan as a monitoring judge. He then referred to another conspiracy involving Mr. Imran Khan, who was summoned to London by former ISI Chief Zaheer Ul Islam. Pervez Elahi and Tahir ul Qadri were also present, collectively hatching the conspiracy to remove his government through long marches and dharnas in 2013. Although the plan fizzled out, it resulted in significant costs for the nation, including delays in the visit of the Chinese President and the launch of CPEC. "Interestingly, all the answers to the questions he posed seem to rest with him, and perhaps no one can answer these questions better than him. His first question was: How could three unelected judges of the Supreme Court remove an

elect prime minister from power? According to him, such an occurrence had never happened anywhere else in the world." He has been the prime minister for three terms, he should have brought a constitutional amendment to give immunity to the prime minister from being removed by judges but he did not do so. There are many countries which have granted immunity to the Prime Ministers and the presidents. France's Constitution grants the President immunity from prosecution during their term, while Italy's Parliament once passed a law granting Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi immunity. In Kenya, the President is provided immunity from criminal proceedings during their tenure, and the Philippines' Constitution offers similar protections to its President. The claim that "nowhere in the world judges remove elected prime ministers" is not accurate. Courts have played a crucial role in removing elected officials in various countries. In Pakistan, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani was disqualified by the Supreme Court in 2012 for contempt of court, Thailand's Constitutional Court removed Prime Ministers Samak Sundaravej in 2008 for a constitutional violation and Yingluck Shinawatra in 2014 for abuse of power. Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi faced multiple legal challenges, leading to his resignation in 2011. In South Korea, the Constitutional Court upheld the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye in 2017 amid a corruption scandal. His second question was why his government was removed three times during his political career. "The answer to this question also rests with him. All the parties and leaders of the country have been utilizing the establishment to achieve political objectives. The establishment has become so powerful and has wielded these powers for so long that it now assumes the role of kingmaker and is reluctant to relinquish this influence. PML(N), under his leadership, allegedly benefited the most from the establishment's role as kingmaker. Analysis, opinion-makers, political scientists, and election watchdog organizations are

largely of the opinion that without the establishment's outright support, PML(N) would not have been able to form governments at the center and in Punjab. If he had learned a lesson, he would have refused the establishment's help for his return to the country, absolving himself of all cases and playing a decisive role in winning his seat. He should have agreed to PTI's demand that the election result should have been based on Form 45 and not on Form 47, which is derived from Form 45 and was allegedly manipulated. If he and PML(N) do not learn to refrain from seeking the establishment's help, then what happened to Nawaz Sharif and what is currently happening to Imran Khan will continue unabated." His third question was that when the politicians have been subject to lethal accountability processes both by the courts and the establishment, why the judges and the establishment are out of the purview of the accountability. The answer to this question also rests with him. While Nawaz Sharif's three terms as Prime Minister saw significant political events, his failure to implement necessary reforms for ensuring the accountability of judges and the military remains a critical oversight. To address this, several constitutional reforms could be introduced: establishing an independent accountability commission to oversee all branches of government, implementing a robust judicial accountability process through an independent judicial council, subjecting military officials to civilian judicial review, strengthening parliamentary oversight committees, protecting whistleblowers who expose misconduct, mandating regular asset declarations for judges and military officials, and reinforcing civilian control over the military. Examples from countries like the United States, India, and South Korea demonstrate that these measures can promote transparency and accountability, ensuring balanced governance and reducing corruption in all branches of government. "Now that PML(N) is once again in power, he should introduce constitutional reforms to end his quest for seeking answers."

Shaping social morals and propagating cultural values through electronic media and role of the regulator

Imran Ghaznavi



One effective strategy of the regulator is to rejuvenate advisory committees and engage stakeholders. These committees should comprise active and notable professionals representing various sectors. These committees can provide valuable insights and recommendations on media policies and practices which should be seriously looked into. Public consultations and feedback mechanisms...

IN the contemporary world, electronic media stands as a formidable force. It influences societal norms, shapes public opinion, and disseminates cultural values. Its pervasive presence, spanning television, radio, and digital platforms, confers upon it a significant responsibility. This responsibility encompasses the dual roles of shaping societal morals and propagating cultural values. Effective Electronic Media Regulatory Authority is crucial in engaging stakeholders and safeguarding public interest. Electronic media, with its vast reach and influence, plays a pivotal role in shaping social morals. Television programs, news broadcasts, reality shows and online content serve as primary sources of information and entertainment. They impact viewers' perceptions and behaviors. The portrayal of ethical dilemmas, social issues, and human interactions on screen can profoundly influence public attitudes. For instance, media coverage of social justice movements can galvanize public support and drive societal change. Responsible reporting on sensitive issues can promote understanding and empathy, which is highly crucial for our society where defamation laws are very weak and justice is hardly seen at the end of the day. However, this influence is a double-edged sword. The dissemination of content that glorifies violence, promotes superficial values, or perpetuates stereotypes can have detrimental effects on societal morals. Media owners, producers and broadcasters bear a significant ethical responsibility. They must strive to create content that promotes positive values, encourages critical thinking, and fosters a more inclusive society. Educational programs, documentaries, and balanced news reporting can contribute to a well-informed and morally conscious public. Cultural values are the bedrock of any society. They encompass traditions, beliefs, and practices passed down through generations. Electronic media plays a crucial role in preserving and propagating these values. By showcasing diverse cultural narratives, media can foster a sense of identity and continuity within a community. Television shows, films, and online content that highlight cultural heritage, traditional practices, and local arts can

strengthen cultural pride and understanding. Moreover, electronic media has the power to bridge cultural divides and promote intercultural dialogue. In an increasingly globalized world, media can introduce audiences to different cultures, fostering mutual respect and appreciation. Programs that celebrate cultural diversity and highlight common human experiences can contribute to a more harmonious and cohesive global society. To effectively harness the positive potential of electronic media, robust regulations are essential. Media Regulator play a crucial role in ensuring that the content disseminated by electronic media serves the public interest. This involves setting and enforcing standards for content quality, ethical journalism, and responsible broadcasting. Regulator must also ensure robust and effective in-house research and mentoring mechanism with highly qualified human capital. Engaging stakeholders is a key component of effective media regulation. Stakeholders, including media producers, broadcasters, advertisers, and the public, have vested interests in the media landscape. Regulators must facilitate dialogue among these groups to address concerns, gather diverse perspectives, and foster a collaborative approach to media governance. One effective strategy of the regulator is to rejuvenate advisory committees and engage stakeholders. These committees should comprise active and notable professionals representing various sectors. These committees can provide valuable insights and recommendations on media policies and practices which should be seriously looked into. Public consultations and feedback mechanisms can also ensure that the voices of the community are heard and considered in regulatory decisions. Transparency and accountability are fundamental to effective media regulation. Regulators should operate with a high degree of openness, clearly communicating their policies, decisions, and the rationale behind them. This transparency builds trust and ensures that regulatory actions are perceived as fair and unbiased. While electronic media holds immense potential for positive influence, it also faces significant challenges. The rapid evolution of digital platforms, the proliferation of

fake news, and the commercialization of content pose risks to the integrity and ethical standards of media. Media regulators must adapt to these changes and implement innovative solutions to safeguard public interest. The rise of social media platforms, in particular, presents unique challenges. Unlike traditional media, social media content is often user-generated and less subject to regulatory oversight. This can lead to the spread of misinformation and harmful content. Regulators must find ways to collaborate with social media companies to enhance content moderation and promote responsible online behavior. Despite these challenges, electronic media also offers unprecedented opportunities for positive impact. Advances in technology enable more interactive and engaging content, reaching wider audiences than ever before. Media can leverage these advancements to enhance educational programming, promote social causes, and foster a more informed and connected society. Electronic media wields considerable power in shaping social morals and propagating cultural values. With this power comes a profound responsibility to create and disseminate content that promotes ethical standards and cultural understanding. Effective regulation, driven by stakeholder engagement and a commitment to transparency, is essential to ensuring that electronic media serves the public interest. By navigating the challenges and seizing the opportunities presented by the evolving media landscape, electronic media can play a pivotal role in fostering a more ethical, informed, and culturally cohesive society. The responsibility of electronic media in molding the social fabric cannot be overstated. It must balance its powerful influence with a deep-seated commitment to ethical standards and cultural enrichment. As society continues to evolve, the role of electronic media in shaping morals and cultural values will remain a cornerstone of public life, necessitating vigilant and adaptive regulatory practices. - The author is a senior media and regulatory practitioner with academic excellence and over 34 year of industry experience. Can be reached at ighaznavi@gmail.com website: www.imranghaznavi.com

Briefs

No casualties in Bishkek incident, FM...

FROM PAGE 01
These were not only Pakistani students. They also included Indian, Bangladeshi and Arabic students, said the foreign minister. He said that about 130 Pakistani students have returned to the country and that 540 more will return today. Dar added that they have restored the emergency unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Speaking about the incident, Dar said that the Kyrgyz FM said their opposition is running campaigns against international students and that it talks against the government's policy.

Israel launches strikes as...

FROM PAGE 01
said Majid Omran who told Reuters his family had fled Rafah and just returned to what was left of their home in the southern city of Khan Younis that they had fled nearly five months ago. We took our children, grandchildren, and daughters and we came and lived above the rubble of our home. Because there is no place to take refuge here, Omran told Reuters inside the wrecked property as a woman cooked over a fire. Israeli forces also pushed deeper into the narrow alleyways of Jabalia in northern Gaza overnight and into Sunday, returning to an area that they said they had cleared earlier in the conflict, residents said.

Pakistan vying UNSC seat to...

FROM PAGE 01
member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) allowing it to address Kashmir and counter-terrorism issues. We are hopeful that we will be elected at the polls on June 6 as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, Ambassador Akram said while speaking virtually to the members of the US-based Pakistan Students Association Coalition (PSA). [Being elected] will bring a lot of responsibilities on Pakistan to play a leadership role in addressing not only our issues which are the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Afghanistan and counter-terrorism but also to promote consensus on peacekeeping, he added.

Punjab's policies hurt wheat...

FROM PAGE 01
Public Relations Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif took the centre to task over the latter's 'unfair behaviour' towards the province. His remark came days after when KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur lashed out at the federal government. In a presser with the province's Food Minister Zahir Shah, the barrister said, the funds of the ex-PATA region have been ended and now its responsibility also falls on KP's shoulders. Defending his chief minister's aggressive speech, he said the purpose his choice of words was to make the centre aware of its rights about KP.

Punjab govt will elevate citizens'...

FROM PAGE 01
her leaders, Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif. Highlighting the proactive stance of CM Maryam Nawaz, Asif commended her efforts to bring essential services directly to the citizens' doorsteps. He emphasized her awareness of the challenges facing healthcare facilities in Sialkot, specifically mentioning her forthcoming visit to the DHQ in Sialkot. As part of the government's initiatives to revolutionize the healthcare sector, Asif spotlighted the introduction of mobile clinics, heralding them as a boon for rural areas. These mobile clinics, equipped with dental and optical experts, aim to provide essential medical services to underprivileged communities.

Balochistan govt to extend all out support to Pak hockey team

Mir Jan Muhammad Musuri Bugti encouraged the players and said that the Pakistan hockey team showed the best performance in the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup and proved that even today the spirit of winning is still there in the national team



DNA
ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti's elder brother Mir Jan Muhammad Masuri Bugti visited the ongoing nation-

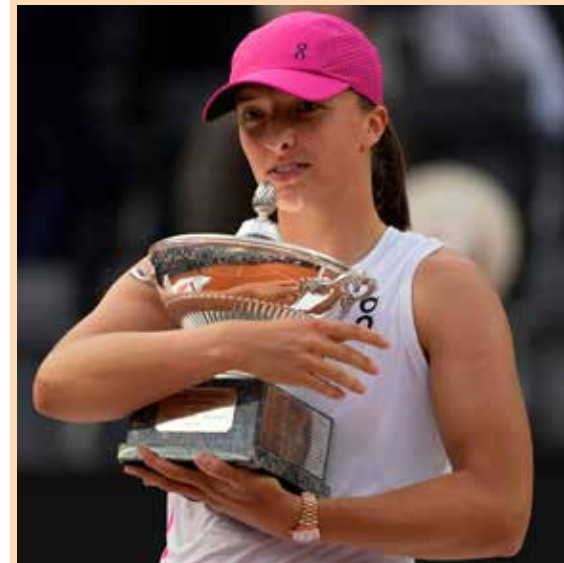
al camp at Naseer Banda Hockey Stadium Islamabad. President PHF Tariq Bugti, Secretary General, Olympian Rana Mujahid Ali and Chief Editor of English newspaper Islamabad Post, Ansar Mahmood Bhatti were also present. Mean-

while, Mir Jan Muhammad Musuri Bugti encouraged the players and said that the Pakistan hockey team showed the best performance in the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup and proved that even today the spirit of winning is still there in the national

team. The national team remained unbeaten throughout the event. De-feated by Japan on shootout in the final but our heroes fought well. Balochistan government will continue to provide all possible support to national sports and athletes. PHF

President Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti thanked them for their arrival and said that their morale has been boosted by the encouragement of the players. We are grateful to the military and national leadership who raised the morale of the players.

Iga Swiatek dominates Sabalenka to win Italian Open



ROME: World number one Iga Swiatek again got the better of Aryna Sabalenka, winning in straight sets to take the Italian Open title. Swiatek won a thriller against the world number two earlier this month in the Madrid Open final. On Saturday the 22-year-old dominated Sabalenka, winning 6-2 6-3 to secure her 21st career title. After Madrid I knew it wasn't going to be easy, Swiatek said. I'm really happy that I was able to play consistently during the clay season. The final tournament is in front of us. I always enjoy playing here. She added that she would celebrate on Saturday night by eating tiramisu after telling the crowd she was disappointed there was none in the trophy. After a third Italian Open title in four years, having not dropped a set in the 2024 edition, Swiatek heads to the French Open as defending champion. The clay court grand slam begins on 26 May in Paris. Swiatek had to resist seven break points in the final set against Sabalenka but was impressive throughout, making just eight unforced errors in the match. Addressing Swiatek after the match, Sabalenka said: Congrats on an incredible two weeks in Rome. I hope we make it to the final at Roland Garros and I'm going to beat you there! Just kidding but I want to do better than today. I love this tournament and hopefully I am going to come back stronger next year. - Agencies

Abhishek Sharma breaks Virat Kohli's IPL record

The 23-year-old from Punjab has scored 466 runs from 13 matches

HYDERABAD: Sunrisers Hyderabad opener Abhishek Sharma claimed the record for most sixes hit by an Indian in an IPL season during the IPL 2024 encounter against Punjab Kings in Hyderabad. With 41 sixes in the 2024 edition, the Punjab batter surpassed the record held by Virat Kohli, who had managed 38 sixes for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2016. Most sixes by an Indian batter in an IPL season: 41 - Abhishek Sharma (SRH, 2024) 38 - Virat Kohli (RCB, 2016) 37 - Rishabh Pant (DC, 2018) 37 - Virat Kohli (RCB, 2024) 35 - Shivam Dube (CSK, 2023) The 23-year-old from Punjab was eventually dismissed for 66 off 28 balls by Shashank Singh. Sharma is 16th on the list of most successful batters of IPL 2024 with 466 runs from 13 matches at an average of just over 42. This was his third fifty of the sea-

son, which came in just 21 balls. SRH are chasing 215 runs for victory after Punjab Kings posted 214 for 5 on the board, thanks to opener Prabhsimran Singh's 71. A win for SRH will see them clinch second place from Rajasthan Royals, who will be facing Kolkata Knight Riders in their final league match later on Sunday evening. Playing Xis: SRH: Abhishek Sharma, Rahul Tripathi, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Abdul Samad, Shabbaz Ahmed, Sanvir Singh, Pat Cummins (c), Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T Natarajan, Vijaykannth Vijaykannth. Impact players: Umran Malik, Jaydev Unadkat, Travis Head, Glenn Phillips, Washington Sundar. PBKS: Prabhsimran Singh, Atharva Taide, Rilee Rossouw, Shashank Singh, Shivam Singh, Ashutosh Sharma, Jitesh Sharma (c & wk), Rishi Dhanwan, Harpreet Brar, Harshal Patel, Rahul Chahar. Impact players: Arshdeep

Singh, Tanay Thyagarajan, Vidwath Kaverappa, Harpreet Bhatia. It must be noted that the four teams have been confirmed that will feature in the IPL 2024 playoffs after Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Chennai Super Kings by 27 runs in a virtual knockout fixture. RCB finished the round stage with 14 points and will now play Eliminator against Rajasthan Royals or Sunrisers Hyderabad. Meanwhile, Kolkata Knight Riders have been booked to play Qualifier 1 after they bagged 19 points in the 13 games. RR and SRH will battle for the Qualifier 1 spot on the last day of the league stage. SRH are scheduled to play Punjab Kings in the opening fixture of the day while RR play KKR later in the night. If SRH win, they will hope RR to lose but if they can't beat PBKS, Sanju Samson's Rajasthan will play KKR in Qualifier 1 on May 21. - Agencies

Australian mily...

FROM PAGE 01
expand military-to-military cooperation. The Australian Chief of Defence Forces expressed his admiration for the high professional standards maintained by the Pakistan Armed Forces, their notable achievements in against terrorism, and their continued efforts to promote regional peace and stability.

Aircraft carrying...

FROM PAGE 01
prayers and good wishes for "well-being and safety" of his Iranian counterpart. Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said bad weather was the cause of the crash and was complicating rescue efforts. The chief of staff of Iran's army ordered all the resources of the army and the elite Revolutionary Guard to be put to use in search and rescue operations. "It is dark and it has started raining, but the search continues. Rescue teams have reached the area ... however, the rain has created mud, making the search difficult," a local reporter told the state-run TV.

Court Notice

بدرت چاب مبران آرم صاحب
سول جنج راولپنڈی
دعویٰ استحقاق راج بابت درافت نامہ
عنوان مقدمہ بشری کفر نامہ عام الان بشری
ظفر بیوہ ظفر احمد سان مکان نمبر 8/B-C محلہ
سلیا سلیا ٹاؤن راولپنڈی اشتہار نامہ عام الان
ہرگاہ مقدمہ عنوان بالا میں کی تکمیل بذریعہ عام
طریقہ ممکن نہ ہے لہذا احوام الان کو بذریعہ اشتہار
اشتہار اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ اگر کسی کوئی قدر
امعزاض ہو تو وہ آئندہ تقرریوں سے
20-05-2024 ہوتے 8 بجے صبح اساتما،
دکھان یا بذریعہ اشتہار حاضر عدالت آویں بصورت
دیکر حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے گی۔
نگلم عدالت دہختر و مہر عدالت

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City eye EPL history as Arsenal's fate hangs in balance

Pep Guardiola's side will face West Ham United while the Gunners will host Everton

SPORTS DESK
LONDON: The Premier League season 2023-24 is coming to its end and the winner will be decided on the final matchday, as Arsenal and Manchester City are two only teams who can lift the title. Man City host West Ham United at the Etihad on Sunday while Arsenal will face Everton at the Emirates Stadium. All eyes would be on the Citizens' match as it will determine the winner of the league title. With 88 points, Man City stay at the Premier League points table summit and they are followed by Arsenal who have 86 points. Man City can simply claim the league title by beating David Moyes' side at their home game as a win tonight would take them to 91 points, which would be two more than the Gunners even if they beat Everton. However, if Guardiola's men draw the

match while Arsenal manage to overcome Everton at home, the Gunners will emerge the winners due to a superior Goal Difference. No team in the history of the Premier League has won the league title four times in a row. In the past, Sir Alex Ferguson's

Manchester United won three consecutive league titles from 2006 to 2008 but that feat has already been matched by Man City. While Man City are fighting to win their fourth consecutive league trophy, the Gunners are aiming for their first league title since 2004, when they were crowned champions without losing a single match the entire season under the guidance of Arsene Wenger. Arteta came close to winning the league title last season when the Gunners stayed on top of the table for the majority of the season but a slip in form in April 2023 saw them dropping eight points within 30 days. Meanwhile, Guardiola didn't waste the opportunity to take advantage of Arsenal's bad form and soon guided his side to their third successive league title. Remember, Arteta worked as Guardiola's assistant at Man City for three years before replacing Unai Emery as Arsenal's head coach in 2019.

Manchester United won three consecutive league titles from 2006 to 2008 but that feat has already been matched by Man City. While Man City are fighting to win their fourth consecutive league trophy, the Gunners are aiming for their first league title since 2004, when they were crowned champions without losing a single match the entire season under the guidance of Arsene Wenger. Arteta came close to winning the league title last season when the Gunners stayed on top of the table for the majority of the season but a slip in form in April 2023 saw them dropping eight points within 30 days. Meanwhile, Guardiola didn't waste the opportunity to take advantage of Arsenal's bad form and soon guided his side to their third successive league title. Remember, Arteta worked as Guardiola's assistant at Man City for three years before replacing Unai Emery as Arsenal's head coach in 2019.



Briefs

Trade bodies support PIAF in LCCI polls

DNA

LAHORE: The delegation of various traders and industrial associations, especially the paper market and Shah Alam Market, Young Traders Association, Beden Road and other markets visited the PIAF office to show their solidarity with the PIAF in the upcoming Lahore Chambers elections. The delegation from Paper Market Ganpat Road was led by APMA former chairman Khamis Saeed Butt while the delegation from Young Traders Association of Shah Alam Market was led by Shehzad Aslam and the delegation from Beden Road was led by Tahir Hafeez. In the meeting the PIAF leadership said that the All Pakistan Paper Merchants Association has always played an important role in the elections of the Lahore Chamber. In the biggest election of the business community of Lahore, PIAF will succeed once again with the support of businessmen and industrialists. The leadership of PIAF is always active in solving the problems of the business community on all forums and will not spare any effort in the future. For the past years, PIAF Founders Alliance has not lost a single seat. PIAF Founders Alliance this time will win all the seats, but despite this, hard work is necessary for elections.—APP

APSUP strongly condemns Kyrgyzstan incident

ISLAMABAD: The Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP) Sunday strongly condemned the recent attacks on Pakistani students in Kyrgyzstan. "These reprehensible acts of violence against innocent Pakistani students studying abroad are deeply concerning and utterly unacceptable," the association said in a statement issued here. "Education is a fundamental right and a beacon of hope for many young individuals striving to build a better future for themselves and their families. Such violent incidents undermine this principle and create an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among international students, APSUP remarked. "We urge the Kyrgyz authorities to take immediate and decisive action to ensure the safety and security of all Pakistani students in their country" adding that it is imperative that the perpetrators of these heinous acts are brought to justice and measures are put in place to prevent any recurrence of such incidents, they stressed. They said we also call upon the government to engage with their counterparts in Kyrgyzstan to address this issue urgently and ensure the well-being of our students.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Group photo of participants of 'Freelancing & Digital Media' Training Session with former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zafar Bakhtawari, IT Specialist Fahid Malik (Nishan-e-Imtiaz) Fatima Hassan and Sec.Gen.IYA Aneeqa Hassan held at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.—DNA

Georgia president vetoes 'foreign influence' law

Ruling Georgian Dream party lawmakers voted through the legislation this week in defiance of protesters concerned the ex-Soviet republic is shifting away from a pro-Western course back toward Russia

TBILISI: Georgian President Salome Zurbishvili on Saturday put a mostly symbolic veto on the "foreign influence" law which has sparked unprecedented protests and warnings from Brussels that the measure would undermine Tbilisi's EU aspirations. Ruling Georgian Dream party lawmakers voted through the legislation this week in defiance of protesters concerned the ex-Soviet republic is shifting away from a pro-Western course back toward Russia. The move has sparked a wave of protests unprecedented in the

recent history of the Black Sea nation. "Today I set a veto... on the law, which is Russian in its essence, and which contradicts our constitution," Zurbishvili said in a televised statement on the measure Saturday. However the Georgian Dream party has enough lawmakers in parliament to override the veto. The bill has sparked a wave of protests unprecedented in the recent history of the Black Sea nation. Its critics say it resembles Russian legislation used to silence dissent. According to opinion polls, more

than 80 percent of the population wants to join the European Union and NATO, and is staunchly anti-Kremlin. - Warnings from EU - Brussels on Saturday repeated its warnings that the measure is incompatible with Georgia's bid for EU membership, which is enshrined in the country's constitution. Council chief Charles Michel on Saturday posted on X, formerly Twitter, that the president's veto offered "a moment for further reflection". He called on lawmakers to "make good use of this window of opportunity" to keep Georgia

on its EU path. Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has signalled his party's readiness to consider Zurbishvili's proposed amendments to the law, should she lay them out in her veto document. But the figurehead president - at loggerheads with the ruling party - has ruled out the prospect of entering "false, artificial, misleading negotiations" with Georgian Dream. The bill requires NGOs and media outlets that receive more than 20 percent of their funding from abroad to register as bodies "pursuing the interests of

a foreign power." In an interview published in France's La Tribune Dimanche paper, Zurbishvili, herself a former French diplomat, called on President Emmanuel Macron to come to Georgia to back their cause. "I wrote to President Macron, I am expecting him for Georgia's independence day, May 26," she said. "It is not only Georgia that is at stake, it is a question of definitively extricating the Caucasus from the mentalities of the Soviet yoke and Russian influence," Zurbishvili told the paper.—Agencies

Dramas elevate Iran cinema but it's comedy that sells

TEHRAN: Social dramas have made Iranian films and their directors renowned at international festivals such as Cannes, but at home it's comedy that sells and has long been the favoured genre. There are around 750 screens in the Islamic republic, and going to the movies is a preferred leisure activity for people seeking distraction from often difficult daily lives. An Iranian film may be in competition at this year's Cannes, but it was comedy that monopolised the top six box office places in the Iranian year 2023-2024 that ended in March. During those 12 months, 28 million cinema tickets were sold in Iran. "These films offer a simple plot and structure that make them accessible to everyone," movie critic Houshang Golmakani told AFP. It's a generic formula that works well and generally has stereotypical characters - pretty women, young people wanting a better life, a "Don Juan" and clumsy pious men. "We need to laugh because the social-economic situation is difficult," said 47-year-old trader Milad, speaking outside a cinema in the capital Tehran. "I go to the movies and can forget all my troubles for a few hours." Elaheh Kargar, a 24-year-old nurse, said she "naturally chooses a comedy" so she can "have a good time" at the cinema. Take one of the big successes of the past few months, the comedy "Hotel".—DNA

Debt servicing economy's biggest issue, says APBF

LAHORE: The governments' borrowing policy over the last decade has brought the country to the brink, as the debt servicing has now become the biggest challenge on expenditures front in the federal budget in the wake of huge domestic and foreign borrowings, as Pakistan's external public debt rose by \$1.2 billion in six months to \$86.35 billion as of Sept, 2023. APBF president Syed Maaz Mahmood, quoting the data, pointed out that the external debt was recorded at \$86.36 billion and domestic debt was recorded at Rs39.5 trillion of the total public debt at the end of Sept 2023. In its first quarterly report on Foreign Economic Assistance of the current fiscal year, the ministry said Pakistan had received total foreign inflows of \$3.5b in July-Sept 2023 against loan repayments of \$1.5b, resulting in a net inflow of \$1.97b. APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi observed that country's fiscal policy over the past decade has focused primarily on macroeconomic stabilization in response to the financial crisis, calling for more emphasis on reforms to foster long-term inclusive growth by adapting to advancing technology and deepening global integration. Ibrahim Qureshi said that reforms will require a growth-friendly budget, re-composition to upgrade tax, social spending, and active industrial policies in close consultation with the real stakeholders to achieve sustainable development goals. The APBF President said that amid increasing discount rates that have now hiked to 22 per cent, Pakistan's total debt and liabilities skyrocketed to Rs35 trillion, which is rising at high speed in the wake of a soaring budget deficit. Syed Maaz Mahmood said that there was no justification for making changes in policy rate because it would further increase debt servicing requirements. The policy rate has gone up by 600 basis points and it seemed at only achieving stabilization and there was a significant increase in real positive interest rate. Around 64 per cent of the total external public debt was obtained from multilateral and bilateral sources having concessional terms and longer maturity, the MEA added. As of September 30, 2023, the total external public debt of the government was \$86.358bn, he said. The external public debt as of March 31, 2023 amounted to \$85.18bn. In comparison, the country had received \$2.2bn in loans and report \$2.06bn during the same period last fiscal year (July-September 2022), leading to net addition of \$142 million. The FEA report said Pakistan had signed new agreements worth \$642m in fresh commitments during the first quarter of the year and all new commitments had been funded by multilateral development partners as international bonds and commercial loans could not be secured in view of adverse market conditions following poor credit rating and resultant unaffordable interest rates. Out of these \$642m commitments, 69pc was for project financing, only 15pc as program financing, and 16pc as commodity financing as top priority was for securing financing for mitigation of the devastating effects of 2022 floods. During July-September 2023-24, disbursements of \$3.538bn were mainly under the project and program loans and grants from multilateral development partners.—DNA

Trump and Biden trade campaign trail barbs

ATLANTA: Donald Trump used an explosive to attack Joe Biden during an address to an influential gun group Saturday, while the incumbent president warned in the crucial swing state of Georgia that his "unhinged" challenger is a threat to US democracy. The dueling events came as Trump sought to make the most of his limited time on the campaign trail, with a criminal trial over hush money payments to a porn star keeping him mostly confined to a gloomy New York courtroom. In a 90-minute rambling address to the politically powerful National Rifle Association, Trump said Biden is "the worst president in the history of our country by far" and suggested the Democrat was "full of bullshit." "You're fired, get out of here Joe!" he called out to laughter from the thousands-strong crowd in Dallas, Texas, where the NRA gave the 77-year-old Republican its endorsement in the White House race. Trump, who is fending off multiple criminal indictments for his unprecedented attempt to overthrow the results of the 2020 election and was twice impeached as president, told the crowd Biden is "crooked" and a "threat to democracy." If Biden were Republican, he would be "given the electric chair," Trump said. Biden meanwhile was stumping in the key southern state of Georgia as he sought support from African Americans - a crucial element in his coalition. The 81-year-old narrowly won Georgia in 2020 and some polls show Black voters are increasingly deserting him ahead of November's rematch with Trump. "Our democracy is really on the line," Biden told supporters at Mary Mac's Tea Room, a Black-owned restaurant in Atlanta. "My opponent's not a good loser. But he is a loser," Biden said to applause. "He's clearly unhinged," Biden said, adding that something "snapped" in Trump after losing the 2020 "Folks, Trump isn't running to lead America. He's running for revenge." "We cannot let this man become president. Our children's future is at stake... We have to win this race, not for me but for America." On Sunday Biden is due to speak at Morehouse College, a renowned historically Black university in Atlanta, then travel to Detroit where he will address the NAACP, the nation's top civil rights group. Trailing Trump - A recent New York Times/Siena poll showed Biden trailing Trump in several key battleground states, despite Trump facing four criminal cases - in Washington, Georgia and Florida in addition to New York. Trump routinely claims the prosecutions are a conspiracy by Biden to prevent his return to the White House. "Our enemies want to take away my freedom because I will never let them take away your freedom," he told the crowd in Dallas. In the end, they're not after me. They're after you. I just happened to be standing in their way.—APP

On protecting women: an overview

GHAZALA ANBREEN

According to a Chinese saying "Women hold half of the sky" but unfortunately even in the present times they are the first to be enslaved and last to be freed at many places of the world, patriarchy and misogynist patriarchy and misogyny hold sway in our society and it is required that domestic violence towards women is combated effectively. Kinds of violence include: 1.Emotional violence, 2.economic abuse and 3.sexual violence. One reason can be the economic situation of the household and secondly the women are not financially independent. Seminars and panel discussions for awareness Educating the women through holding of seminars and panel discussions is essential as it is felt continuously that there are but a few such events and virtual discussions in Pakistan to make women aware of their rights and obligations. Fear clutches and ensnares her most often a woman suffering at the hands of her near ones cannot have the free mind and has a premonition of something sinister may happen to her and she may not be treated well and may be evicted from the house anytime without any fault of her own. She also apprehends that her parents or family may not accept her if she files a complaint concerning any wrong doing. Females in Pakistan in general Females are lagging behind in different aspects and are under developed and under represented in many sectors in Pakistan. The participation of women in electoral process is also quite less. Making the system easy

Protection is not that you make the woman vulnerable. You have to make the system direct, easy and help the women. We have to build the system and reform the society also. We have to break all the barriers. We have to build bridges. Why don't we stand with the women who are facing the trials and instead let them face the misery and remain nonchalant. We rather allow other forums to decide her fate and lot. Forums for facilitating women in Pakistan Many forums are there but lack of awareness is an obstacle in originating the cases. The women lack the basic knowledge as which forum they should go and how to approach the magistrate. We see torture for the women when we see the rigmarole of filing the: 1.FIR, 2.Visiting the court, and then facing prolonged trials, 3.All the communication will be in the form of challan and that is a public document from lawyer to lawyer, chamber to chamber. How can she be facilitated for divorce, making it easy Likewise, for dissolution of marriage there can be a simple statement, "I cannot live with him": this must be sufficient statement for the dissolution of marriage. But she has to go through a tough experience as follows: 4.Lawyer 5.court 6.Advertisement 7.Summons to the person who does not turn up often, 8.Statement is recorded Legislation to combat domestic violence Holistic legislation should be there to address the issue of domestic violence. In Pakistan the cases of domestic violence have seen an increase. Now their percentage is far higher as compared to previous years. It is a common practice that the cases a judge adjudicates daily in civil courts

are inclusive of the cases related to the dissolution of marriage which are also given to the same judge. Number of female judges As per a recent report of Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan "Female makes up a meagre 18 per cent of total working judges across country. There are only seven female judges out of the total 126 judges in Pakistan's superior judiciary". Their number needs to be increased as they have a better understanding of issues related to women and are more familiar with intricate details at domestic level. Importance of mediation For divorce cases importance of arbitration is also important. There should be more mediation councils for reconciliation for dispute resolution. The reality remains that the more lawyers go for arbitration, the more cases they will get. Digitization of the cases is also necessary as it will reduce the backlog. Alternative dispute resolution. DR. LJCP reports that as many as 2.26 million cases are pending adjudication in Pakistani courts. In this regard ADR is helpful in reducing the number of pending cases. Training police officials Training police officials is crucial for the quick response by the police stations to afflicted women for ensuring that she will not be divorced if she files some complaint against her husband or in laws. Make the system direct After 18th amendment the role of the Federal Government was quite less regarding taking initiatives. Plethora of laws for protection of women in Pakistan are there but implementation is lacklustre. We have to work to bridge the gaps while women are deprived. We have to make the system direct and help the women. For amending these laws the situation should be looked at from

an overall point of view. Awareness through seminars, conferences, panel discussions ideas should be promoted regarding making women more aware of their rights. The fact remains that no society can flourish which does not support its females and kids. Awareness needs to be imparted if the case of domestic violence in any household occurs the women can go to the police station or even file the case directly in the court fearlessly. Holy Prophet's PBUH treatment towards women How Prophet PBUH treated his household serves us a good lesson. Whenever his daughter visited, he used to stand up and this practice needs to be followed by all Muslims. Families do not come to support the tormented ladies often As far as domestic violence is concerned our system is not so much women centric. Unfortunately if a lady suffers in some way, 90 percent of the times the families do not support her. In such a case it is the responsibility of the government to give protection to them for some time. Some NPOs are providing pro bono assistance to women and kids and have opened family protection centers having temporary shelters where women can stay with their kids in Pakistan but their number needs to be increased. It is also seen that if some untoward incidence happens to a lady, the fathers themselves do not report considering it a matter of honour. Non cooperation of female police staff The problem which the women face if they go to police stations the staff and especially lady police are not welcoming for the reason they say "it is your domestic issue, solve at your domestic level" despite the fact whether the wom-

an has a solid proof, online violence In addition to face to face or in person violence, online violence is more which is nerve wrecking and takes a heavy toll on women. We are living in an internet era where almost everything is online. There is a lot of violence in the form of bullying etc. Females are being blackmailed by their intimate partners and they are gripped by an apprehension that they may get public any time. This fear consumes them from within. On this issue they need a lot of awareness and need to be sensitized. There are cyber crime cells to deal with the cyber crime stalker. Article 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan ensures that "you cannot discriminate anyone on the basis of sex" Under legal provision of Protection against Harassment of women in the Workplace Act women can obtain the restraining orders against individuals who pose threat to her safety. Under these laws women are provided protection. Encouraging women Females should not feel helpless totally. They must be asked to go and report. Bringing females in the mainstream Bringing females in the mainstream is very important because they have in general proved to be the better leaders and are endowed with greater levels of tolerance and patience. Females are better administrators Women are working in many international organizations and often they emerge as better administrators than the males. Financially also there are few corruption scandals against them. They have done better at governance levels and as team leads. They have proved that under their governance greater emphasis on health is given. Following are some of the laws about women emancipation. 1.The Pre-

vention of Electronic Crime Act 2016 (PECA) Provides protection against if anyone makes your video or message public . 2.Domestic Violence (2022) 3.FOSPA, relates to territorial jurisdiction, and tells if the lady has to go to the native town to file the complaint then what is the use of FOSPA. 4.Section 498-A CPC, 1898 is related to cruelty towards married women by their husbands and in-laws. 5.Section 509 of Pakistan Penal Code addresses the (Intent to Insult the modesty of women) 6.Section 512 of PPC states that (Nobody can Challenge the Modesty) 7.Section 365 (a) and (b) of Pakistan Penal Code, deals with kidnapping a woman to compel her for marriage. Pakistan, an over legislated country We are an over legislated country. So many laws about protection of women are there but their implementation is not witness in real sense. If at all the legislation is there that is not the result of debate. A system should be devised to know how many adjournments were there of cases, how many witnesses were heard. For legislation to put into practice we have to see that it is not deficient. Together we can make a difference and create an equitable society for all. We must make their trails easy and facilitate the suffering women. We must design the system in a way to give relief. Character building of the society Character building of the society is required where they are taught to give respect to women. The men should be made aware that their language towards women in general should reflect their upbringing. The more honorably they will treat the women, the better performance on the part of these women, both in quality and quantity, will be observed for sure.

Briefs

MB meets White House NSA Sullivan

DHAHRAN: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met with White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan in eastern city of Dhahran, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Sunday. During the meeting, the strategic relations between the two countries and ways to enhance them in various fields were reviewed, SPA said. It said efforts to find a credible solution to the Palestinian issue, including a lasting ceasefire and unhindered entry of humanitarian aid in Gaza, with a view to a "two-state solution that meets the aspirations and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people", were also discussed. - Agencies

Musk launches Starlink in Indonesia

JAKARTA: Elon Musk and Indonesian Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin launched SpaceX's satellite internet service on Sunday, aiming to boost connectivity in the world's largest archipelago. Musk, the billionaire head of SpaceX and Tesla, arrived in Bali by private jet on Sunday morning, before attending Starlink's launch at a community health center in the provincial capital Denpasar. Wearing a green batik shirt, he inaugurated Starlink together with Sadikin, Communications Minister Budi Arie Setiadi and Maritime, and Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, and said that the satellite service would help millions in Indonesia to access the internet. "We're focusing this event on Starlink and the benefits that high-bandwidth connectivity can bring to a rural island and to remote communities," Musk told reporters in Denpasar. "I think it's really important to emphasize the importance of internet connectivity and how much of a life-changer that could be." Indonesia, an archipelagic state comprising over 17,000 islands, is home to more than 270 million people and three different time zones. - Agencies

DR Congo army says it has thwarted attempted coup

LONDON: The Democratic Republic of Congo army says it has quashed an attempted coup against President Felix Tshisekedi in the capital Kinshasa involving Congolese and foreign fighters. DR Congo army spokesperson Brig Gen Sylvain Ekenge said on the state-run broadcaster RTNC TV that several suspects have been detained and the "situation is now under control". His statement comes hours after armed men attacked the house of Vital Kamerhe, the former chief of staff and close ally to President Tshisekedi early on Sunday morning. Witnesses say a group of about 20 assailants in army uniform attacked the residence and an exchange of gunfire followed. - Agencies

Punjab Chief Minister says

'We want to promote collaboration with Japan'

Investment & Other Fields of Mutual Interests for Socio-Economic Development need to be explored: Maryam Nawaz Sharif meets Japanese ambassador



ABID RAZA / DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz met with Japan's Ambassador Wada Mitsuhiro on Sunday to discuss strengthening trade, business, and investment ties between the two nations. During the meeting, Maryam Nawaz emphasized the importance of educational and cultural exchange between Pakistani and Japanese delegations, aiming to enhance faculty programs for students. She underscored that mutual cooperation in trade, business, and investment would yield significant benefits for both Pakistan and Japan. Highlighting the vast investment potential for Japanese companies in Punjab, the Chief Minister pointed out that "Punjab is emerging as a significant consumer market." She also emphasized the value of Punjab's skilled youth population as potential assets for Japanese companies. In response, Japan's Ambassador acknowledged the inevitability of people-to-people exchanges between Pakistan and Japan to strengthen bilateral ties. He reiterated Japan's commitment to its relationship with Pakistan and pledged cooperation with the Punjab government. The Ambassador noted that eleven Pakistani students were pursuing master's and doctoral degrees in Japan under the MEXT scholarship program. He highlighted several Japanese projects aimed at public welfare and development currently active in Pakistan.

Flash floods kill at least 50 in Afghanistan

KABUL: At least 50 people have died in flash floods triggered by heavy rains in central Afghanistan, officials have said. Authorities in the Ghor province say a number of others are missing, as people ran to safety on higher grounds just minutes before the floodwaters hit. They say the floods have also killed thousands of cattle, destroyed some 2,000 houses, and damaged many more. The fresh bout of heavy rain follows widespread flooding in northern and central areas this week. Officials say that in the provincial capital, Firozkoh, around 2,000 shops are under water and most roads leading to it have been cut off. A resident there said "a huge and horrible flood" washed away everything, as he and his family raced to safety after being alerted by officials and from mosque loudspeakers. Zahir Zahid told the AFP news agency: "I watched the flood destroy my house with my own eyes. Women and children, everyone was crying." The province's disaster management department declared an "emergency situation" and appealed for shelter, food and water. The spokesperson for provincial governor Abdul Wahid Hamas said dozens of people were missing. More than 300 people died last week, according to UN and Taliban officials, after unusually heavy rains devastated scores of villages in the north. - Agencies

Amid temp. rise

Punjab hospitals told to implement SOPs

Daytime temperatures were "likely to remain 4 to 6 degrees centigrade above normal" in Sindh and Punjab from May 21 to 23 and six to 8°C from May 23 to 27, it said

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department on Sunday directed health facilities in the province to implement certain standard operating procedures (SOPs) ahead of an expected rise in the temperature. Earlier this week, the Meteorological Department warned that the presence of high pressure in the upper atmosphere would result in heatwave conditions in most parts of the country, especially Punjab and Sindh from May 21 and a severe heatwave from May 23 to 27. Daytime temperatures were "likely to remain 4 to 6 degrees centigrade above normal" in Sindh and Punjab from May 21 to 23 and six to 8°C from May 23 to 27, it said. On Friday,

the Punjab government had reduced the timings of all public and private schools from May 18 to May 31. Today, the provincial health department issued directives to the chief executive officers of all district health authorities, and the medical superintendents of tertiary care hospitals, district headquarter hospitals (DHQs) and tehsil headquarter hospitals (THQs). The letter, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, said: "According to the weather advisory from the Pakistan Meteorological Department, [a] heatwave is expected to hit all areas of Punjab from May 21 to May 27, especially in the southern districts of Punjab i.e. Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan." "This is [expected] to cause [a] serious impact on the daily routines and lives of the people across Punjab," it

said, adding that certain SOPs should be implemented. These included establishing heatwave counters at tertiary care hospitals as well as DHQs and THQs, which provided information to the public about heatwaves as well as preventative measures. The health department also directed officials to hold coordination meetings with all stakeholders and "establish the responsibility matrix of each department". Further, officials were told to disseminate information to the general public on how to avoid the heat and limit outdoor activity, proper hydration and how to handle an emergency situation. "All water coolers, with plenty of clean water and air conditioners shall be functional across all health facilities, without fail," it said, adding that all medicines should be made "available across all health facilities round the clock". Further, the department told officials to keep a close liaison with all district/tehsil administrations, Rescue 1122, district disaster management authorities, and to respond to any emergency situation immediately. Moreover, the health department also detailed educational messages which could be used to inform the public. These included limiting outdoor activity, using protective measures when out in the sunlight and avoiding "laborious work in direct sunlight". "Drink plenty of clean drinking water ... to keep yourself hydrated and avoid carbonated beverages," it said, saying that mist fans and air conditioners could be used to keep the environment "in [a] tolerable limit".

MQM-P calls meeting to discuss "budget proposals"

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has summoned an emergency meeting to discuss budget proposals ahead of federal budget 2024. Sources told ARY News that the meeting will focus on development schemes for Karachi and Hyderabad. MQM-P will present its proposals for increased funding for the cities, including for education, health, and law and order, sources added. The meeting will also discuss the Safe City project and transportation budget, with MQM-P seeking to increase funding for these initiatives. Former Finance Minister Sardar Ahmed has also been invited to the meeting, where he will share his views on the budget and development schemes, sources claimed. The Pakistan government will likely present its federal budget for the next fiscal year 2024-25 on June 7, with an estimated total expenditure of Rs 16,700 billion. The government will present the budget 2024 with one eye on precarious economic conditions and the other on 24th 'longer and larger' bailout programme of International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to sources, the initial estimate for expenditures on interest and loans is Rs 9,700 billion, while the initial estimate for subsidies is Rs 1,500 billion. Sources said that the estimate for tax revenue is over Rs 11,000 billion, with direct taxes expected to contribute Rs 5,300 billion and federal excise duty expected to contribute Rs 680 billion. Sales tax is likely to generate over Rs 3,850 billion, while customs duty is expected to generate over Rs 1,100 billion, sources said. The initial estimate for non-tax revenue is Rs 2,100 billion, with petroleum levy expected to generate Rs 1,100 billion. The federal budget deficit is expected to be around Rs 9,300 billion, sources added. - Agencies

Asad elected dean of Hon. Consuls of KP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the honorary consuls of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa was held at Serena Islamabad, in which the new dean Asad Saleem honorary consul of Bosnia and Herzegovina was elected the new dean of honorary consuls of KP unopposed. He will resume the charge of the dean office from 1st June 2024. In the meeting engr said Mahmood (Tajikistan) senator Faisal Saleem (Bulgaria) Asad Saleem Bosnia & Herzegovina) Nawabzada Fazal's Karim (Japan) and Asad Saifullah (Czech Republic) were present.

Assange to receive final extradition verdict today

LONDON: WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange faces a fateful decision today (Monday) as a verdict is awaited by a British court to rule on whether he is to be extradited to the United States after 13 years of legal battles and detentions. London will witness two judges at the High Court rule on whether they are satisfied by US assurances that Assange would not face the death penalty and could rely on the First Amendment right to free speech if he were to stand in a US trial for spying. A statement from his legal team says he could either fly out within 24 hours of the decision, be released from prison, or his case could still be postponed and dragged down for another set of legal delays. "I have the sense that anything could happen at this stage," his wife Stella said this week. "Julian could be extradited, or he could be freed." She relayed on behalf of her husband his hope to be in court on Monday. The US submitted assurances to the London High Court were dismissed by Assange's wife, who dubbed them as mere "weasel words". In late March, Assange was given the chance to fight

against extradition only if the US was not able to provide additional "satisfactory assurances" regarding the WikiLeaks founder's ability to invoke the protections of the First Amendment of the US Constitution and his potential exposure to the death penalty. This includes assurances "that the applicant [Assange] is permitted to rely on the first amendment, that the applicant is not prejudiced at trial, including sentence, by reason of his nationality, that he is afforded the same first amendment [free speech] protections as a United States citizen, and that the death penalty is not imposed." In this context, the US assurances stated that Assange is not being prosecuted because of nationality, that he can seek the First Amendment but only under the authority of US courts, and that the death penalty would not be sought by the US or imposed on Assange. If the London court found the assurances sufficient, then Assange would have no choice but to be extradited to the US. Then, his only hope would be reliance on human rights organization's intervention. - Agencies

Ishratul Ebad may 're-enter' national politics

Former Sindh governor still undecided about what party he'll join despite holding meetings with Khaqan Abbasi, Miftah



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: After remaining out of politics for a long time, former Sindh governor Dr Ishratul Ebad has now hinted at the possibility of him re-entering national politics. The former Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Ebad stressed that there was a need for a "new platform" from where new leadership can come forward to address the national issues. The longest serving Sindh governor is still undecided about what party he would join despite holding meetings with disgruntled Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail, who have announced they would launch a new political party soon. Abbasi on April 8 approached ECP for the registration of a new political party. He had submitted relevant documents to the poll organising authority's office for his party's registration. Pointing towards alleged "tug-of-war" between state institutions, Ebad said the judiciary, armed forces and parliament were crucial pillars of the state and there should not be the perception that their relations were strained. The seasoned politician - who served as governor of Sindh for 14 years, from December 2002 to November 2016 - said that since the president was the head of the state and he represented the federation, hence, the presidency in the current political circumstances needed to utilise its power to allay miscommunications and strain among the pillars of the state. To a query, he said the party he belonged to earlier, MQM, and its founder had dissociated with him in 2015. "When the MQM disowned me, I also parted ways with them," he said dismissing the impression that he had any affection for the MQM. Such an "impression is completely wrong and ridiculous."








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