



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, June 04, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Mexico elects Claudia Sheinbaum as first woman president**

Detailed News On Page-08

**PM's China visit to become a milestone**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Sabalenka into the Paris quarter-finals**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Big relief for PTI

# IHC acquits Imran, Qureshi in cipher case

IHC Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announce the verdict



ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a major relief to the embattled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday annulled jailed founder Imran Khan and party's Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi's conviction in the infamous cipher case containing charges of misusing and misplacing the classified diplomatic document. IHC Chief Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the short verdict on the pleas challenging the conviction in the cipher case after reserving it earlier today. The PTI founder and party's vice-chairman were sentenced to 10 years each in prison in the cipher case in January this year. The case pertains to allegations that the former prime minister had made public contents of a secret cable sent by the country's ambassador in Washington to the government in Islamabad. The latest relief for the PTI founder came

Continued on Page 06

**Govt reacts to ruling Courts should be 'mindful' of national security**

Barrister Aqeel Malik says "courts should never ignore national security's aspect" in any case

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: After the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi got relief from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in cipher case, a federal government's spokesperson on legal affairs said on Monday that the courts should be "mindful" of national security while deciding on the sensitive matters. Barrister Aqeel Malik, the federal government's spokesperson for legal affairs, stated this while addressing a press conference in Islamabad shortly after the IHC acquitted the top PTI leaders in the cipher case. In a major relief to the embattled former ruling party, the IHC annulled Imran and Qureshi's conviction in the infamous

Continued on Page 06



GNIEZNO: Pakistani player tackles Canadian player during the FIH Nations Cup. Pakistan defeated Canada by 8-1. Rana Waheed in picture scored a hat-trick for Pakistan. (News on Page-6). - DNA

**PM directs abolishment of Pak PWD**

Years' long poor performance and corruption behind the decision

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed for immediate dissolution of Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak PWD) due to years' long poor performance and corruption. The prime minister issued directive during a high level meeting held on reducing the government expenditures and the size of its infrastructure, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, the prime minister observed that

Continued on Page 06

**Historic decrease in inflation**

# Tarar reaffirms govt's commitment to revive economy

The consumer price index (CPI) in May rose 11.8% from a year earlier, data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) showed on Monday, the lowest reading in 30 months

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday termed a historic and record decrease in inflation a positive indicator for the country and reaffirmed the government's commitment to work hard till the complete revival of the economy. Addressing a press conference here at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Secretariat at Model Town, the federal minister said, "The inflation rate has dropped to 11 percent during this month beyond expectations, as reported by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics while Bloomberg,

Continued on Page 06

**Dark night of tyranny will end soon: Raof**

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) expressed gratitude to Allah for the acquittal of its Founding Chairman Imran Khan and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in the fabricated cipher case, requesting the court to expedite the hearing of all their remaining concocted and fake cases so as to ensure the prompt release of all unjustly imprisoned PTI leaders and workers, including the Founding Chairman and Vice Chairman. PTI Spokesperson, in his reaction to the

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

**PML-N wants to change election tribunal**

Bias, undue haste shown by tribunal are said reasons to challenge

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Three PML-N MNAs from Islamabad on Monday submitted applications to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to change the election tribunal hearing the election petitions. They submitted that the attitude of the tribunal judge seemed partial so the ECP should change him. Applications submitted to the ECP seeking a change of the Islamabad Election Tribunal. Three PML-N MNAs from Islamabad Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Raja Khurram Nawaz, and Anjum Aqeel raised concerns about the impartiality of the incumbent election tribunal.

**Alvi urges to learn lesson from 1971**

There is a dire need to bring the country out of the prevailing crises, says former president

DNA

LAHORE: Former president Dr Arif Alvi said that fake and baseless cases were made against the PTI workers. He lauded the judiciary for standing firmly with the rule of law and said that there should be equal justice for everyone. Talking to media in Lahore, the former president said that military, civilians and politicians should learn a lesson from the Hamoodur Rehman Commission report. "There is a dire need to bring the country out of the prevailing crises," Alvi said, adding that the powerful quarters should find a way out.

**Reserved seats case**

# SC Judge observes public cast vote for party, not individuals

PML-N, PPP, JUI-F oppose SIC plea in Supreme Court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) on Monday opposed Sunni Itehad Council's (SIC) petition against the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) verdict that denied it reserved seats for women and minorities. The development came as the 13-member full court bench of the Supreme Court took up the plea of SIC, a major ally of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), challenging the PHC's judgment regarding the reserved seats. The bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, comprised Justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Munib Akhtar, Yahya Afridi, Aminuddin Khan, Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Ayesha Malik,

Continued on Page 06

**Campaign against judges**

**IHC rejects defence ministry's report**

Court says the date for next hearing will be fixed in a written order

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court rejected the Defense Ministry's report during the contempt proceedings over the social media campaign against Justice Babar and his family data leak. Seeking the report again, the court ordered an investigation against the people who launched the campaign against Justice Babar - one of

Continued on Page 06

**Christian man attacked in Sargodha**

DNA

SARGODHA: A Christian man who became a target of an angry mob in Punjab's Sargodha district over alleged blasphemy succumbed to his injuries on Monday morning, police officials said. According to the Regional Police Officer (RPO) Sharik Kamal Siddiqui's spokesperson, Nazir Masih, who was over 70 years old, was under treatment in CMH Hospital in Rawalpindi for nine days. Masih also had two surgeries but he couldn't survive the injuries inflicted on his head, said the spokesperson. His postmortem has been conducted and he will be buried later today. According to the report, Masih died due to

Continued on Page 06

# Foreign embassy official runs over police constable

The constable was critically injured and immediately rushed to the hospital

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: An official from a foreign embassy allegedly ran over a police constable at Shakra-e-Dastoor, Islamabad. Sources claimed that a female official from a foreign embassy allegedly broke a traffic signal and ran over a police constable, Amir Kakar, in Islamabad. The constable was critically injured and immediately rushed to the hospital for emergency treatment. Last month, a tragic collision between a truck and a passenger van was reported at Multan-Mianwali road, claiming the lives of 11 people while 15 others sustained serious injuries. The rescue officials reported that the 11 deceased included a total of five men, three women, two children, and one girl. More than 15 individuals sustained serious injuries in the collision between a truck and a passenger van traveling from the opposite direction. The injured and the bodies of the deceased were promptly shifted to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital for medical attention. The passengers in the van, who belonged to Multan's Laar area, were traveling to meet relatives

Continued on Page 06

# Suspect in Saudi diplomat robbery case arrested

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's Prompt Action yields immediate results

DNA

ISLAMABAD, June 3, 2024: On the directions of Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, Islamabad Police has arrested a suspect involved in snatching mobile phones from Saudi citizens in Sector F-8, within 12 hours. Islamabad Police has also recovered

Continued on Page 06

**MURREE SPARKLETTS**  
Bottled Drinking Water

**WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!**

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

330ml, 750ml

For Sales & Supply Contact:  
Adeel Butt 03334131756  
Kaiser Waheed 03325808422  
Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043

Green Journalist awards honor climate action media

PM's aide underscored that the press club was more than most welcome for collaborations to organise capacity building workshops and awards for supporting the journalist fraternity in improving its climate reporting skills

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday conferred Green Journalist Award upon environmental journalists and termed it a recognition to the services of media for highlighting climate action.

Speaking on the occasion, Romina Khurshid Alam thanked the Director General EPA to revive the awards for climate reporters. She announced that the next climate awards would be held in the name of late Senior Reporter Shabbir Hussain who rendered his life in the line of duty.

her. The PM's aide underscored that the press club was more than most welcome for collaborations to organise capacity building workshops and awards for supporting the journalist fraternity in improving its climate reporting skills.



PESHAWAR: Lady Health Worker administering polio drops to a child during anti polio campaign in the Provincial Capital.—APP

7-day anti-polio campaign starts in KP

PESHAWAR :The district administration of Khyber launched a seven-day anti-polio campaign on Monday. Additional Deputy Commissioner Khyber, Muhammad Hamid, inaugurated the campaign by administering polio drops to children.

7th Agriculture census to help boost national GDP

DC said that the Agriculture Census would boost the agriculture sector and enable accurate planning for food needs in the country

BAHAWALPUR : A meeting here on Monday was held under the chair of Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa to review the steps taken regarding the Seventh Agriculture Census.

enth Agriculture Census should be conducted in a better way. He urged the relevant officers to work actively in the field. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur City Dr. Sana Ramchand, Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur Sadar Ahmed Sher Gonda, Statistics Officer Shafiq Abbas, Director Crop Reporting Dr. Islam Shah, officers from Agriculture, Livestock, Education, Population Welfare, CDA and other relevant departments while Assistant Commissioners from other tehsils participated

through video link. In a briefing, Statistics Officer Shafiq Abbas informed that data for the Agriculture census would be collected from August to October 2024. He stated that the Seventh Agriculture Census in 2024 would adopt a comprehensive digital counting approach for the first time in the country.

Zero load-shedding being observed in IESCO

ISLAMABAD : Zero load-shedding is being observed in all circles of Islamabad Electric Supply Company owing to the availability of provision of sufficient electricity from the national grid system.

Rain to subside heatwave conditions during this week

All concerned authorities are advised to remain alert and take necessary measures to avoid any untoward situation

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast dust-thunderstorm rain in upper parts of the country from June 04-07 that will reduce the intensity of hot weather conditions.

and Mirpur from June 03 (evening/night) to June 08 with occasional gaps. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, duststorm/thunderstorm with rain is expected in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Haripur, Kohistan, Shangla, Buner, Malakand, Kohat, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Peshawar, Mardan and Kurram from June 04 (evening/night) to June 08 with occasional gaps.

Khan, Sahiwal, Multan and Layyah from June 05 (evening/night) to June 07. In Balochistan, duststorm/thunderstorm with isolated rain is expected in Quetta, Zhob, Ziarat, Sherani, Kohlu, Musakhel, Dera Bugti and Barkhan from June 05 (Evening/night) to June 07 with occasional gaps.

Islamabad to receive 30 EV buses today

ISLAMABAD: EV buses will reach in Islamabad from Tuesday. This was informed in a meeting held at the CDA headquarters. The meeting was chaired by Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa.

LESCO deploys additional staff during heat wave

LAHORE: Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has arranged additional staff in view of the heat wave, pulling out the staffers from construction, GSE and streetlight sections, and deploying them to circle operations to minimize response time and maintain customer convenience.

Court Notice

کورت نوٹس
احداثت جناب قاضی اعظم صاحب
سول کارپوریشن چی ڈیپارٹمنٹ چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر اور قیادت
برائے ایپلز فرسٹ فلیٹ ہاؤس ایسٹ ایٹم سٹریٹ

Decarbonization of industrial sector imperative to drive growth

This initiative aims to significantly reduce carbon emissions in Pakistan's industrial sector by leveraging the expertise and resources of multiple partners

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) launched Pakistan's Industrial Decarbonization Program (PIDP) during the Policy Dialogue on Just Energy Transition in Pakistan that was conducted under the auspice of SDPI's Network for Clean Energy Transition (NCEET).

textiles, with a focus on harnessing green financing opportunities, developing business case for the industries and implementing best practices from around the world, particularly to align it with the European Union's Cross Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

to be discussed at COP29 in Baku. Managing Director, National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA), Dr. Sardar Mohazzam stressed the importance of a diversified energy portfolio for ensuring energy security and highlighted the shift towards renewables.

international organizations. The key industries under this initiative will cover cement, steel, and textiles in the first phase, with themes covering zero-energy power fuels, trade policies, and GHG accounting for the industry.

Advertisement for freeline MOVERS. Includes logo, tagline 'The Smooth Moving Connection', services list (Packing, Shipping, Freight Forwarding, etc.), and contact information for head office and branch offices.

### 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/Argentina
National Day
May 25/Lebanon
Liberation and Resistance Day
May 28/Azerbaijan
Republic Day
May 28/Ethiopia
National Day



#### Hotels & Restaurants

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



#### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949
------------------------------



#### Emergency

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



#### Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



#### Hospitals

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



#### Departments

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

#### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

#### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480
----------------------------

## Envoy pledges to give new impetus to Pak-Italy relations

The Ambassador reflected on the depth and diversity of their bilateral relations, a revelation that has unfolded since his appointment. Representing Italy in Pakistan was not just an honor but also a privilege, as she navigated the complexities of this strategic partnership in a region pivotal to global political, economic, and demographic dynamics, Italian Ambassador remarked

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Marilina Armellini in a heartfelt address on Italy's 78th National Day acknowledging Pakistan's strategic importance, pledged to enhance bilateral cooperation across various sectors during his tenure. In an event late at night on Sunday held in connection with the celebrations of Italian Republic Day, the envoy extended her gratitude to the Pakistani people for their warm welcome, viewing it as a testament to the enduring friendship between the two nations. Federal Minister for Housing Riaz Hussain Pirzada was the chief guest while Senator Sherry Rehman was invited as a special guest. Italy and Pakistan share a longstanding bond that transcends geographical boundaries. The Ambassador reflected on the depth and diversity of their bilateral relations, a revelation that has unfolded since his appointment. Representing Italy in Pakistan was not just an honor but also a privilege, as she navigated the complexities of this strategic partnership in a region pivotal to global political, economic, and demographic dynamics, Italian Ambassador remarked. The Pakistani diaspora in Italy served as a testament to the strong ties between the two nations. Their presence, marked by entrepreneurs, researchers, students, and workers, enriches both societies and fosters a sense of mutual understanding and appreciation she acknowledged. The significant remittances they send back home,



Marilina said, underscored the strength of the bond between Italy and Pakistan. Trade emerges as a cornerstone of bilateral cooperation, with Italy's recent establishment of the Italian Trade Agency Office in Islamabad signaling a renewed commitment to strengthening commercial ties. The Ambassador recognized Pakistan's immense potential, particularly in sectors like agriculture and energy generation, where Italian expertise can play a transformative

role. In the realm of agriculture, Italy's innovative technologies offer solutions to Pakistan's climate resilience and modernization challenges. Initiatives like the Programme for Poverty Reduction through Rural Development demonstrate Italy's commitment to supporting Pakistan's socio-economic progress and fostering an emerging agribusiness sector. Beyond economic cooperation, cultural exchange forms the bedrock of Italy-Pakistan relations,

dating back to the 19th century she remarked. Renowned scholars like Professor Giuseppe Tucci have unearthed the shared heritage of the Gandhara region, laying the foundation for ongoing archaeological missions supported by the Italian government. As the Italian Ambassador concluded her address, she reaffirmed Italy's commitment to strengthening the bonds between Italy and Pakistan. With a shared vision for a brighter future, both nations embarked

on a journey of collaboration and friendship, guided by mutual respect and a desire for prosperity. The Embassy of Italy in Islamabad and the Consulate in Karachi stand as beacons of this commitment, renewing their dedication to fostering closer ties between the two countries and peoples. As the world continues to evolve, the enduring partnership between Italy and Pakistan serves as a testament to the transformative power of cooperation and friendship.

## PM Shehbaz's China visit to become a milestone in bilateral relations

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said on Monday that under the guidance of two leadership and strong support from the people of both countries, the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China would achieve complete success and become a milestone in the development of China-Pakistan relations. The ambassador in an interview with APP, a day before the prime minister's five-day visit from June 4-8, 2024 to China, said that all preparatory works had entered the final stage, and discussions on Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were in full progress. At the invitation of Premier Li Qiang, Prime Minister Shehbaz will pay an official visit to China. This is his first visit to China after assuming the office this year. Highlighting the components of the visit, he said the prime minister would meet and have talks with Chinese President Xi Jin-

ping, Premier Li Qiang and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji. The leaders will have an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations and issues of mutual interest, and jointly draw up a blueprint for the growth of bilateral relations. In addition to Beijing, the prime minister will visit Guangdong and Shaanxi. "China stands ready to work with Pakistan through this visit to make greater progress in our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and take new steps in building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era," the envoy remarked. Calling China and Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad friends, he said "Our friendship has stood the test of time and remained rock-solid and to use a Chinese expression—'steady as Mount Tai.'" He said in recent years, both countries had close high-level exchanges, conducted fruitful and high-quality cooper-

ation on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and maintained sound communication and coordination in international and regional affairs. Regarding CPEC, he said the landmark BRI project brought a total of US \$25.4 billion in direct investment, 236000 jobs, 510km of highways, more than 8000 megawatts of electricity and 886km of core transmission network, generating a strong impetus to Pakistan's economic and social development. Under the second phase of CPEC, he said both countries would implement the important consensus reached by their leaders including the strengthening synergy of development strategies and policy coordination and accelerate progress on mega projects including upgrade of ML-1, the Gwadar Port and realignment of Karakoram Highway Phase II. Moreover, the two countries will strengthen cooperation in industry, agriculture, mining, new energy, information technology and other fields based on local conditions and further negotiate and promote trade liberalization.

## Govt. to establish 10,000 e-Rozgar centers

ISLAMABAD: The government, in collaboration with the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), plans to establish around 10,000 e-Rozgar centers across the country to facilitate freelancers under one roof. "E-Rozgar centers, already established by the government, are providing top-notch facilities to freelancers, including high-speed internet, UPS, training centers, individual cabins, meeting rooms, and separate office rooms for startups," said an official of the Ministry of Information Technology. He said that the government has fulfilled its promise to the people by enabling a significant number of the existing 1.5 million freelancers, along with new freelancers, to work independently at very low rates. He expressed hope that with the completion of this major project, IT exports would soon increase by \$10 billion annually. Through public-private partnerships, these centers will also significantly enhance the capacity and income of freelancers.—APP

## Railways earn over Rs 70 bln till May

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has achieved an unprecedented earning of over Rs. 70 billion till the month of May (FY 2023-24) despite facing a financial crisis due to floods in the monsoon season. "The department is expecting to generate revenues up to Rs. 80 billion by the end of this financial year through the consistent efforts and hard work of the Railway workers," sources in the Ministry told APP. The department has witnessed a historic increase in revenue in the current financial year as during the last financial year (2022-23), it earned around Rs. 40 billion. The sources said that out of Rs 70 billion, the revenue was derived from passenger and freight trains while other sectors of the department also contributed to the total revenue. At present, they said that Pakistan Railways is operating around 96 passenger trains, more than the previous year when 86 trains were running. Similarly, during the previous year, on average it operated 3.75 freight trains while the number reached seven freight trains this year. The sources said the department emphasized that the issue of delay in payment of salaries to employees has now been resolved and things will be more streamlined, once work on the Mainline-I (ML-I) project kicks off. To a question, they said that Pakistan Railways has beefed up precautionary measures to reduce passenger train accidents and only six minor accidents with no causality took place on the entire railway network.—APP

## Ethics & manners

#### TANVEER HUSSAIN



**E**THICS is a name for politeness and good manners. It is an excellent habit to listen patiently and attentively to others and to respond with good manners. In case of disagreement, instead of expressing anger, one should present his opinion in good words. With this attitude, a healthy society is built. Ethic is a habit that has the ability to turn an enemy into a friend. Holy Quran says: "And speak nicely to people" (Al-Baqaraayat 83). But unfortunately this attitude is lacking in our society. Economic and social problems have also changed the attitudes of people. Today's intolerance has grown to such an extent that people interpret differences of opinion

as enmity. A deep chasm of disunity has developed between the various political and religious groups, which is becoming increasingly difficult to bridge. Precious lives are also being lost due to these differences. The sad thing is that the people whose job it is to reform are themselves engaged in making the situation worse. Generally, people follow their leaders but unfortunately our leaders are also in poor condition. The religious leaders have made the mosques an arena and the politicians have made the streets a battlefield. The parliamentarians are setting a bad example for their workers by clashing with each other on the TV channel. A strange race is going on in the society. Everyone wants to get more than what they are capable of and deserve. Violating the rights of others is not considered bad. The main reason for traffic jams on intersections is the thought that everyone is in a hurry. No one cares about the line or the lane. Motorcyclists and rickshaw drivers are beyond the law. Every person is saying bad things to others. No one tries to fix themselves. The worst examples of this disorder can be seen at the time of "iftar". People forget that "fasting" is another name for patience. Similar examples can be seen in public transport and government institutions. If


a person wants to install electricity, gas or water connection, buy or sell a property or get any kind of certificate from a government department, then this work is equivalent to a k2 head. People feel fear in the name of police and courts. Citizens spend half of their lives pursuing their cases to get justice. A common citizen is deprived of justice even after losing all his savings. Elders say that Allah protect us from police stations and courthouses. The routes used for the VIPs have ruined people's lives. Citizens standing in the sun and rain for hours in the name of elite class protocol has become the norm. This attitude creates anger, frustration and violence in people. If we want to build society on healthy lines, we have to teach people good morals. It will start with reforming the education system. In Japan, for the first five years, children are taught only morals such as truthfulness, honesty, cleanliness, helping others, gratitude, etc. We should bring this culture in our country as well. Apart from this, it is very important to teach good ethics to the members of assembly and the staff of government offices. Ethics subject is very important in competitive exam and services academy. TV channels should also be forced not to neglect ethics in the rating cycle.

## Anti-polio drive postponed in six districts


ISLAMABAD: The scheduled anti-polio drive in six districts of Balochistan has been postponed due to the prevailing heatwave in the province. The drive, set to commence today, has been rescheduled for June 8th in the districts of Nasirabad, Sibi, Jaffar Abad, Ustha Muhammad, Dera Bugti, and Sohbatpur, private news channels reported. According to health officials, the decision to postpone the drive was made following a weather forecast by the Met Office predicting a severe heatwave in the region. The health department has decided to postpone the drive to ensure the safety of the vaccination teams and the public. The anti-polio campaign aims to vaccinate thousands of children in the province, and the new dates have been set to ensure its successful implementation. Parents and caregivers have been advised to cooperate with the health teams to ensure the vaccination of their children.—APP

## 63 gas meters removed over gas theft

ISLAMABAD: The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has disconnected 63 connections during its ongoing crackdown on gas pilferers in Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, imposing fines totaling Rs 1.6 million. According to an SNGPL spokesman, in Lahore and Sheikhpura, regional teams disconnected 17 connections due to the illegal use of gas and imposed fines exceeding Rs 1 million against the offenders.—APP



## 10 Minutes Drive From The Monal



051 8770065 / 66 / 67 | 0300 8881811 / 0300 5221018 / 0345 5555335  
UAN: 051 111 777 778 | @dinovalleypk | dinovalley.pk

## Briefs

**Over 906,011 children to be immunized**

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Aamir Khatak Monday inaugurated the Second Sub National Immunization Drive (SNID-II) by administering polio drops to children under five years of age. The coordinator of the World Health Organization, Health Authority and officers of other relevant departments were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Khatak said the campaign was launched against the presence of positive polio environmental samples in the province which could be avoided by administering the anti-polio vaccine. He informed that around 906,011 children would be immunized during the drive while 2,834 mobile teams, 677 area in-charges, 269 fixed points and 192 Union Council medical officers were participating in the campaign. The commissioner pointed out that children were also immunized at 125 transit points in the district. He directed the officials to give special attention to the high-risk Union Councils of the district and no child should be left without immunization. He further directed to cover the refusal and non-attended cases on the same day, adding no negligence would be tolerated in that regard.—APP

**CPI inflation decelerates further to 11.8 percent**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation came down to 11.8 percent during the month of May 2024 as compared to 17.3 percent recorded during April 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Monday. According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year was recorded at 38.0% (May 2023). On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it decreased to 3.2% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.4 in the previous month and an increase of 1.6% in May 2023. According to data, CPI inflation Urban, increased to 14.3% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 19.4% in the previous month and 35.1% in May 2023. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 2.8% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.1% in the previous month and an increase of 1.5% in May 2023. CPI inflation Rural, increased to 8.2% on year-on-year basis in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 14.5% in the previous month and 4.2% in May 2023. On month-on-month basis, it decreased to 3.9% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.9% in the previous month and an increase of 1.7% in May 2023. The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY increased to 15.3% in May 2024 as compared to an increase of 21.6% a month earlier and 43.0% in May 2023. On MoM basis, it decreased by 4.0% in May 2024 as compared to a decrease of 0.7% a month earlier and an increase of 1.3% in May 2023.

# Women should get equal chances of business: FPCCI

Gender equality in the workplace is important not only because it is a basic fundamental right and the right thing to do, but also because it is linked to overall economic performance. Gender equality helps build inclusive societies and ensure inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Central of Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) and Chairman FPCCI TVET and Skill Development Committee Mian Akbar Farid has called on Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, International Labor Organization and Employers' Federation. A seminar was held on the issue of Pakistan's gender equality and elimination of workplace discrimination. While addressing, Atif Ikram Sheikh President FPCCI said that gender equality is a fundamental human right which is essential for the promotion of sustainable economic development. He pointed out that compared to other regional countries, women's participation and contribution to economic development in Pakistan is very low and its basic. The reason is women's lack of access to education, training and economic opportunities. FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh said that business organizations have the responsibility to provide a favorable environment and work. Provide equal opportunities to women to promote gender equality in the workplace. M. Akram Farid said that business organizations have the responsibility to provide a favorable environment. He added that gender equality in the workplace is important not only because it is a basic fundamental right and the right thing to do, but also because it is linked to overall economic performance. Gender equality helps build inclusive societies and ensure



inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development. Therefore, it is in the national interest for all of us to make a collective effort to eliminate discrimination and promote an enabling environment in the workplace to support gender equality. EFP Secretary General Syed Nazar Ali said that EFP is at the forefront of promoting and advancing decent work for the sustainable development agenda. We are committed to promoting and ensuring gender equality, good working conditions, and empower-

ing women by eliminating all forms of discrimination and harassment in the workplace. Vice President Roy Feroze Alam said recognizing the importance of women's participation in economic activities and promoting gender equality, EFP has developed gender equality guidelines. This workshop is organized to increase your capacity to better understand the concept of gender equality and the guidelines, so that you can apply these guidelines to your organizational business to promote gender

equality within your organization. Enables adoption in practices. From the training workshop FPCCI Chairman Office Karim Aziz Malik, Islamabad Industrial Association President Nasir M. Qureshi, Executive Member ICCI Manza Majid, Chairman Coordination FPCCI Malik Sohail Hussain, Group Leader Islam Women Chamber of Commerce Samina Fazil, Former President FPCCI Zubair Ahmed Malik, Former Senior Vice President RICCI Fazema Azim, Board Member EFP Huma-

yun Nazir, Syed Hasnain Mazhar, Athar Iqbal, Squad Leader Retired Ishtiaq Hussain Kayani. The seminar attendees also discussed challenges faced by women in the workforce. Overall, the seminar highlights the importance of gender equality in driving economic development and the need for collective efforts to create an inclusive and empowering environment for women in Pakistan's workforce.—APP

## Budget should not be made intolerable for public

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that some of the budgetary measures proposed by the IMF are not implementable. He said the upcoming budget should not be made unbearable for the people because the masses and the business community are unable to bear more burdens. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that electricity consumption increases in summer, and the steep increase in electricity prices is condemnable. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the

removal of subsidies in various sectors and commodities, privatization of sick government industries, and continuous increase in electricity and gas prices will give the government temporary relief. The solution to the problems does not lie in breaking the back of the people but in full recovery from the taxpayers and non-taxpayers, which amounts to four thousand billion rupees annually, towards which no significant progress is being made. Also, until the power sector issues are resolved, the dependence on debt will continue to rise. Therefore, instead of increasing the burden on the people, the tax base should be widened, tax collection should be improved, and the affairs of the power sector should be streamlined.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the IMF is demanding that taxes be increased on flour, sugar, rice, milk, tea, and other important food items, which will promote the documentation of the country's economy. On the other hand, it will increase inflation and mass anxiety, so attention should be paid to improving the purchasing power of the people. Taxes on pesticides will affect the agricultural sector and increase inflation, so this should also be considered. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government's dependence on loans from local banks has increased to an alarming level due to the sharp decline in tax collection and foreign investment. Out of the total interest that the government pays on loans, 85 per cent is spent on local loans, and this year.

**Over 906,011 children to be immunized during anti-polio drive**

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Aamir Khatak Monday inaugurated the Second Sub National Immunization Drive (SNID-II) by administering polio drops to children under five years of age. The coordinator of the World Health Organization, Health Authority and officers of other relevant departments were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Khatak said the campaign was launched against the presence of positive polio environmental samples in the province which could be avoided by administering the anti-polio vaccine. He informed that around 906,011 children would be immunized during the drive while 2,834 mobile teams, 677 area in-charges, 269 fixed points and 192 Union Council medical officers were participating in the campaign. The commissioner pointed out that children were also immunized at 125 transit points in the district. He directed the officials to give special attention to the high-risk Union Councils of the district and no child should be left without immunization. He further directed to cover the refusal and non-attended cases on the same day, adding no negligence would be tolerated in that regard. Meanwhile, District Superintendent Vaccination, Dr Muhammad Nadeem told APP that over 160,000 children would be administered against the Polio virus.—APP

## Retailers generate about 25% of their turnover in taxes

ISLAMABAD: The business community has stressed the need for a wide range of reforms in the taxation of the retailer to foster the growth in economy, besides ensuring sustainable tax compliance. In a statement, Chairman Tariq Mehboob Rana and Senior Vice-Chairman Asfand Yar Faruq highlighted that CAP represented over 200 tax-compliant Tier-1 Retailers integrated with the FBR-POS system. These retailers significantly contribute to Pakistan's formal economy and provide direct employment to over 2,000,000 people, with many more jobs created indirectly. Despite efforts to rationalize retail sector taxation, an increasingly imbalanced environment has led to the closure of several integrated Tier-1 retailers and a reduction in physical retail networks over the past two years, Rana said. This has resulted in decreased employment and stagnation of domestic investment in branded retail. The CAP office bearers suggested restoring the 12% GST rate for Integrated Tier-1 Retailers and reviving the POS Prize Scheme for consumers. They explained that a rationalized GST rate would incentivize faster integration of Tier-1 Retailers. Currently, integrated retailers generate 20-25% of their turnover in taxes, while undocumented retailers contribute almost nothing. Reintroducing the POS Prize Scheme will motivate consumers to purchase from Integrated Tier-1 Retailers and verify sales invoices digitally, promoting compliance.—DNA

## CAP wants reforms in taxation in retail sector

ISLAMABAD: The Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) has called for urgent reforms in the taxation of the retail sector to stimulate economic growth and ensure sustainable tax compliance. In a joint press statement, Chairman CAP Tariq Mehboob Rana and Senior Vice-Chairman Asfand Yar Faruq highlighted that CAP represented over 200 tax-compliant Tier-1 Retailers integrated with the FBR-POS system. These retailers significantly contribute to Pakistan's formal economy and provide direct employment to over 2,000,000 people, with many more jobs created indirectly. Despite efforts to rationalize retail sector taxation, an increasingly imbalanced environment has led to the closure of several integrated Tier-1 retailers and a reduction in physical retail networks over the past two years, Rana said. This has resulted in decreased employment and stagnation of domestic investment in branded retail. The CAP office bearers suggested restoring the 12% GST rate for Integrated Tier-1 Retailers and reviving the POS Prize Scheme for consumers. They explained that a rationalized GST rate would incentivize faster integration of Tier-1 Retailers. Currently, integrated retailers generate 20-25% of their turnover in taxes, while undocumented retailers contribute almost nothing. Reintroducing the POS Prize Scheme will motivate consumers to purchase from Integrated Tier-1 Retailers and verify sales invoices digitally, promoting compliance.—DNA

## Insights into global well-being

ZAHRA ALI



Psychology, often misunderstood as solely focusing on mental health and the mind, is in fact a rich and dynamic social science that offers valuable insights and contributions to international development and humanitarian assistance. Beyond its obvious applications in mental health and wellbeing, psychology plays a critical role in understanding human behavior, social dynamics, and cultural contexts,

making it an essential tool in addressing global challenges. Here are some ways psychology contributes to international development and humanitarian assistance: - Human-centered design: Psychology informs the design of interventions, programs, and policies that are tailored to the needs and behaviors of diverse populations. - Community engagement: Psychological principles facilitate effective community engagement, participation, and empowerment, fostering sustainable development and social change. - Cultural competence: Psychology helps practitioners understand and respect cultural differences, promoting sensitive and appropriate responses to global issues. - Social influence and behavior change: Psychological theories explain how people adopt new behaviors, making it possible to develop effective strategies for promoting healthy habits, education, and environmental conservation. - Conflict resolution and Peacebuilding: Psychology informs approaches to conflict

resolution, reconciliation, and peacebuilding, addressing the root causes of violence and promoting social cohesion. - Human rights and dignity: Psychology emphasizes the importance of human rights, dignity, and social justice, guiding efforts to protect vulnerable populations and promote inclusive development. - Capacity building and training: Psychological expertise enhances the skills and abilities of development professionals, humanitarian workers, and community leaders, ensuring effective and sustainable interventions. - Research and evaluation: Psychological research methods and statistical analysis inform evidence-based decision-making, program evaluation, and policy development in international development and humanitarian contexts. - Health and wellbeing: Psychology addresses not only mental health but also physical health, nutrition, and overall wellbeing, recognizing the interconnectedness of human experience. - Education and learning: Psychological theories and research

inform educational programs, curricula, and pedagogies, improving learning outcomes and educational attainment globally. - Economic development and poverty reduction: Psychology sheds light on the psychological factors influencing economic decision-making, savings, and entrepreneurship, informing initiatives that promote financial inclusion and economic empowerment. - Environmental sustainability: Psychological insights into human behavior and decision-making support the design of effective environmental conservation strategies and sustainable development initiatives. Psychology is a vital social science that extends far beyond the realm of mental health, offering a wealth of knowledge and expertise to address the complex challenges faced in international development and humanitarian assistance. By recognizing and leveraging the breadth of psychology's contributions, we can foster more effective, sustainable, and equitable solutions that benefit individuals, communities, and societies worldwide.

## Pak cyclists to feature in Almaty Competition

ISLAMABAD: Eight talented Pakistani cyclists would be representing the nation at the upcoming competition in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from June 6 to 12. According to Syed Azhar Ali Shah President Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF), after a rigorous selection process, which included trials in Karachi and Islamabad, the Federation was confident in the capabilities of the chosen athletes. The selection process was designed with the convenience of players from all provinces in mind, ensuring equal opportunities for participation, he said. He said the team comprises athletes from various categories, including U-23 junior and Master divisions. The team roster boasts a lineup of skilled cyclists, including Ali Ilyas, Amjad Khalil, Abdul Wahab, Mohammad Ismail Anwar, Nisar Ali, Shayan Rizwan, Danesh Nasim, and Atif Husain Qazi Providing crucial support to the team are assistants Sajid and Rizwan, he said. It may be noted that Ali Ilyas, secured a silver medal in the master category at last year's event, setting the stage for high expectations as the team aims for gold this year. Meanwhile, Syed Azhar Ali would also be attending the Asian Cycling Federation Congress meeting, where discussions and participation in the UCI sharing platform.—APP

## Dengue larvae found in 600 spots across ICT in week

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon Monday chaired a high-level meeting regarding dengue measures in the federal capital, during which officials reported finding dengue larvae at 600 locations across the city in just one week. The DC emphasized that controlling the spread of dengue required active participation from residents, said the ICT Administration's Spokesman. The meeting focused on reviewing ongoing initiatives and campaigns aimed at eradicating the larvae. Despite these efforts, one case of dengue was reported in the city last week. The deputy commissioner stressed the importance of community involvement in keeping homes and surroundings clean to prevent the breeding of dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

**MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN**

**WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED**

JUDO  
KARATE  
KUNG-FU  
JU-JITSU  
TAEKWONDO  
UNIFORMS AND COLOURED BELTS

**Ashraf**

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD  
127 C, Industrial Estate  
Shalika-51340, Pakistan  
Phones: +92-52-3259000 / 3259798  
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 170

Email: [dailyisbpost@gmail.com](mailto:dailyisbpost@gmail.com)

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

## Shifting discourse on Palestine

NOT so long ago, if one were to say that a top Spanish government official would someday declare that "from the river to the sea, Palestine would be free," the suggestion itself would have seemed ludicrous. But this is precisely how Yolanda Diaz, Spain's deputy prime minister, concluded a statement on May 23, a few days before Spain officially recognized Palestine as a state. The recognition of Palestine by Spain, along with Norway and Ireland, is important. Western Europe is finally catching up with the rest of the world regarding the significance of a strong international position in support of the Palestinian people and in rejection of Israel's genocidal practices in the Occupied Territories. But equally important is the changing political discourse regarding both Palestine and Israel in Europe and all over the world. Almost immediately after the start of the ongoing Israeli war on Gaza, some European countries imposed restrictions on pro-Palestinian protests, with some even banning the Palestinian flag, which was perceived, through some twisted logic, as an antisemitic symbol. With time, however, Western governments' unprecedented solidarity with Israel became an outright political, legal and moral liability. Thus, a slow shift began, leading to a near-complete transformation in the position of some governments and a partial though clear shift in the political discourse among others. The change of language is also happening in Israel itself and among pro-Israeli intellectuals and journalists in the mainstream media. On a popular podcast in March, New York Times writer Thomas Friedman attacked Netanyahu, saying that he "will go down in history as the worst leader in Jewish history, not just in Israeli history." Unpacking Friedman's statement requires another column, for such language continues to feed on the persisting illusion – at least in the mind of Friedman – that Israel serves as a representation not of its own citizens, but of all Jewish people, both past and present. As for the language in Israel, it is coalescing into two major and competing discourses: one irrationally ruthless, as represented by far-right ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, as well as by Netanyahu himself; and the other, though equally militant and anti-Palestinian, which is more pragmatic. While the first group would like to see Palestinians slaughtered in large numbers or wiped out by a nuclear bomb, the second realizes that a military option is not viable, at least for now. "The Israeli army does not have the ability to win this war against Hamas, and certainly not against Hezbollah," Israeli Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Itzhak Brik said in an interview with the Israeli newspaper Maariv on May 30. Brik, one of Israel's most respected military men, is just one of many who are now essentially repeating the same wisdom. Strangely, when Israeli Minister of Heritage Amihai Eliyahu suggested the "option" of dropping a nuclear bomb on the Strip, his words reeked of desperation, not confidence. Prior to the war, the Israeli political discourse regarding Gaza revolved around a specific set of terminology: "deterrence," represented in the occasional one-sided war, often referred to as "mowing the lawn," and "security," among others.



## Sri Lanka: 15 years after civil war

IT'S been 15 years since the end of Sri Lanka's bloody civil war, during which the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group fought the government to establish an ethnic minority homeland. After three decades, the LTTE's leadership eventually conceded defeat. But the war's brutal legacy continues to reverberate across the country. Sri Lanka's Buddhist Sinhalese-dominated government and LTTE militants killed tens of thousands of civilians in the war. The fighting was marred by widespread instances of extrajudicial killings, indiscriminate attacks and enforced disappearances by government forces. In the final stages of the war, the government led a campaign of indiscriminate bombing, hoping to quickly dismantle the last LTTE stronghold. Military forces shelled scores of Tamil civilians in a declared "no-fire" zone, and justified the campaign as a counter-terrorism imperative. The offensive killed at least 40,000 civilians and sent scores of Tamils missing, fueling grievances and creating collective memory of grave injustice in the eyes of the Tamils. This violent past demands a firm reckoning, not a repetition of past mistakes. 15 years after SL civil war, we still struggle to heal. This video explores the challenges to reconciliation, from land disputes & stateless minorities to a lack of accountability. Can Sri Lanka overcome these obstacles and build a more inclusive future? Many of the war victims and survivors had little to do with the conflict itself, and should be seen as allies in Sri Lanka's push for post-war stability. But the government is at odds with itself as it targets Tamil minorities seeking justice for forced disappearances. According to a new report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, many women seeking accountability face "violations, including harassment, intimidation, surveillance, arbitrary detention, beatings and torture at the hands of army and police," raising questions about the state's determination and capacity to uphold citizen rights without exception. It is this growing sense of alienation that post-war Sri Lanka was supposed to address. For years, the LTTE capitalised on a narrative of violent prosecution and discriminatory government policies to position itself as one of the most ruthless militant groups in modern memory. This makes it imperative for the government to address post-war grievances and create conditions for future reconciliation. Long-overdue accountability on forced disappearances could provide an important opportunity to further that objective. Dearth of action could empower the Tamil diaspora to campaign for rights accountability. Many community members fled former war zones, formed human rights organisations, and backed calls for international investigations into forced disappearances. The government views such activism as a threat, and has labelled these organisations as "terrorist" groups in the past. But that hasn't stopped the diaspora from backing war memorials in defiance of government pressure, and attracting increased international support. Amnesty International's global chief Agnes Callamard became the senior most foreign dignitary this month to attend a civil war memorial in the country, and called out Sri Lankan authorities for their "collective failure" to deliver justice for war victims.

## Unpacking Alvi's 7-points

Qamar Bashir



Dr. Alvi's third point emphasizes the necessity of reducing emotions, anger, and egos among the stakeholders involved in the political crisis. He advocates for a more composed and rational approach to problem-solving, where decisions are not driven by personal grievances or heated emotions. For instance, political leaders must set aside their personal animosities and focus on the greater good, engaging in constructive dialogue rather than confrontational rhetoric.

AFTER his retirement as President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Dr. Arif Alvi, following a brief period of hibernation, has proposed a 7-point plan as a starting point for all stakeholders currently at an impasse, unsure of their next moves. However, at this point, the plan is vague and may only gather weight and effectiveness as time passes. Currently, it raises many questions. For example, while the plan suggests that all stakeholders should come to the table, it fails to specify who these stakeholders are. The biggest stakeholder is the supra-executive, which, although holds de facto power, lacks any legal or constitutional role in purely political matters. The dilemma is that, de jure, this body is the most ardent, effective, influential, and powerful entity, exercising full control over election results and having the final say in domestic and foreign affairs, as well as business, finance, economy, and investment. Therefore, any political deal without its willing consent and agreement will be a farce, having no real consequence or impact. The other stakeholders include PML(N), PPP, and MQM. However, the official stance of PTI is that since these parties are beneficiaries of Form 47, PTI will not engage in any dialogue with them. PTI's second condition for considering them as stakeholders is even more stringent: the return of their "stolen" mandate. Agreeing to this condition would be akin to a death knell for these parties. The catch is that if the supra-executive body agrees and joins hands with PTI, the governments in the Centre and the provinces of Punjab and Balochistan would collapse like houses of cards—an extremely unlikely scenario. Therefore, if Dr. Alvi is able to persuade his own party to accept his 7-point plan, PTI would need to roll back its narrative of refusing dialogue with PML(N), PPP, and MQM. His second point is more dramatic, literary and innovative. It says Zoom out, go to the balcony, have a bird's eye view of the problem, understand the gravity of the situation. It emphasizes the need for a broader perspective on the current political crisis. By advocating for this approach, Dr. Alvi wants stakeholders to gain perspective and move beyond immediate conflicts and narrow viewpoints. For instance, rather than focusing solely on recent disputes, they should consider the historical context and how past political maneuvers have led to the present situation. This broader understanding can help in identifying underlying issues that need addressing, rather than

just treating the symptoms of the crisis. Additionally, Dr. Alvi encourages stakeholders to assess the gravity of the situation and understand the potential long-term consequences if the current trajectory continues. This involves recognizing the broader impact on political stability, governance, and national unity. For example, a failure to resolve the political deadlock could lead to economic instability and diminished public trust in government institutions. By appreciating the full scope of the crisis, stakeholders can better appreciate the urgency and importance of finding a sustainable resolution. In his second point, Dr. Alvi calls for strategic thinking and inclusive solutions. He suggests that stakeholders metaphorically "go to the balcony" to step back from the fray, allowing for a more neutral and objective assessment of the situation. This can lead to more effective and impartial solutions. This collaborative approach is essential for addressing complex issues and finding a path forward that benefits the nation as a whole. Dr. Alvi's third point emphasizes the necessity of reducing emotions, anger, and egos among the stakeholders involved in the political crisis. He advocates for a more composed and rational approach to problem-solving, where decisions are not driven by personal grievances or heated emotions. For instance, political leaders must set aside their personal animosities and focus on the greater good, engaging in constructive dialogue rather than confrontational rhetoric. Dr. Alvi's fourth point is about looking for and building a bridge to the other side underscoring the importance of fostering reconciliation and collaboration among political stakeholders. He encourages all parties to view each other not as enemies but as partners in the pursuit of national stability and progress. By promoting a spirit of forgiveness and moving forward with mutual guarantees, stakeholders can overcome past grievances and work together constructively. This involves setting aside past conflicts and focusing on common goals, such as economic development, social welfare, and political stability. Dr. Alvi's fifth suggestion is to talk about each other's fears and handle them and highlight the importance of empathetic communication in resolving political conflicts. He advocates for an open dialogue where stakeholders can express their concerns and anxieties candidly, creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding. For instance, political parties might

fear loss of power, public backlash, or economic instability. By openly discussing these fears, parties can better understand each other's perspectives and motivations, which can help in identifying common ground and developing strategies that address these concerns. This process not only builds trust but also allows for the creation of solutions that are sensitive to the fears and needs of all parties involved, paving the way for a more cooperative and less adversarial political environment. The sixth point is even more important. The worst alternative to a negotiated settlement entails prolonged political deadlock, escalating tensions, and potential unrest. Without a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue and compromise, parties may resort to extreme measures such as political sabotage, mass protests, or even violence, leading to further polarization and instability. This scenario not only undermines democratic principles but also poses significant risks to the nation's social cohesion, economic prosperity, and international reputation. Moreover, failure to reach a settlement prolongs uncertainty, exacerbating investor concerns and hindering much-needed reforms. The last point concludes once the other six points are complied with. To effectively address the current political crisis, stakeholders must zoom in and focus on solving the underlying issues through proactive and collaborative efforts. This involves engaging in meaningful dialogue, identifying common goals, and exploring pragmatic solutions that address the root causes of the conflict. By prioritizing constructive engagement over partisan interests and ego-driven agendas, stakeholders can foster trust, build consensus, and pave the way for a sustainable resolution. Moreover, zooming in allows for a more nuanced understanding of the specific challenges at hand, enabling stakeholders to tailor solutions that are responsive to the needs and concerns of all parties involved. The plan is both pragmatic and practical, offering a promising starting point to end the tumultuous period marked by unnecessary egoism and personal agendas. It encourages a shift towards prioritizing the greater national interest—a concept often mentioned but frequently overlooked. **Former Press Secretary to the President  
Former Minister to the  
Embassy of Pakistan to France  
Former MD, SRBC**

## Zelensky and Putin should each declare victory and then settle

Alex Lo

Actually, the war could have ended by the summer of 2022, months after it first started. Foreign Affairs in April published a study of peace negotiations during the early months of the war, offering a glimpse of what might have been as the lives of tens of thousands of Russians and Ukrainians could have been spared. The study said: "In the midst of Moscow's unprecedented aggression, the Russians and the Ukrainians almost finalised an agreement that would have ended the war and provided Ukraine with multilateral security guarantees, paving the way to its permanent neutrality and, down the road, its membership in the EU"

LISTENING to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at a defence forum in Singapore, you might think China is a 10-foot-tall giant who can just impose its will on Moscow. He wants Beijing to help secure Ukraine's nuclear safety, stop supplying dual-use systems to Russia, and end the war. Truth be told, that power does not lie with Beijing, but in him. He is the superhero. But perhaps he underestimates himself, or he simply doesn't want to end the war at this time, even though it is hopeless as he himself has admitted without renewed Western commitments that will risk direct Nato involvement and a nuclear war. Let's consider all three points he has made. The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is located in southern Ukraine and has been controlled by Russian forces since early in the war. The fear is that the Russians could damage it so much as to cause a nuclear meltdown and an environmental disaster – Chernobyl 2.0, in other words. However, it's actually located very close to Crimea, which has been occupied or annexed, depending on your political sympathy, by Russia since 2014, and its Black Sea naval fleet. The Russians probably want to avoid a nuclear meltdown as much as the Ukrainians. But if Zelensky really wants to avoid a nuclear accident, it would be a good idea that his forces don't target Russia's nuclear defence systems and risk provoking a comparable response. They did it anyway last week. Having been authorised by Nato and Washington in an unmistakable escalation to strike inside Russia, Ukrainian forces almost immediately carried out an attack on an early-warning radar system 1,800km away, that is, well inside Russian territories. The target probably wasn't what Washington and Brussels wanted, but then, things that are unwanted happen in war all the time. And now, Zelensky talks with a straight face that he wants Beijing to secure his country's nuclear safety. It has never been specified exactly what commercial or civilian Chinese products and systems can be weaponised, despite incessant accusations by Western leaders that China is supplying them to Russia. If you had watched too many kung fu films, as I did, you would know that even Chinese chopsticks could be used as deadly weapons in the right or wrong hands. What is almost never reported is that China has also been selling dual-use products to Ukrainian forces, which have been using them highly effectively – at a fraction of the cost of some US weapon systems. According to a report published by the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft: "The [US]\$60,000 Switchblade drone, produced in limited numbers due to cost, proved useless against armoured targets and was quickly discarded by Ukrainian troops in favour

of [US]\$700 Chinese commercial models ordered online." The Chinese drones have been modified to carry simple but powerful bombs, reportedly with great targeting accuracy against Russian military assets and personnel. US weapons tend to be extremely hi-tech and expensive but often ineffective in battle. That may be inevitable if they are designed less for fighting but for war-profiteering. In this Ukraine war, the fearsome reputations of both US weapons and the Russian army have taken a terrible beating. At least Russian President Vladimir Putin has the decency not to accuse Beijing incessantly for providing dual-use products to Ukraine, unlike his Western and Ukrainian adversaries. And on the third and last point, I think it's fair to assume that it's not within China's power to force Putin to cry uncle to Uncle Sam and apologise to Zelensky and his people for the invasion. And yet, that seems to be exactly what they have been demanding of Beijing. For any settlement or at least a ceasefire, both sides need to sit down and talk. And you don't need China for that. Since April, the Kremlin has repeatedly offered to negotiate. The latest was made through Hungary's pro-Russian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, but which was dismissed by Zelensky, who reportedly said the only dictator who didn't lie was "a silent one". In fact, that was why there was a mass demonstration in Budapest at the weekend. As reported by the Associated Press: "A crowd of tens of thousands gathered in Hungary's capital on Saturday in a show of strength behind Prime Minister Viktor Orban a week before the European Parliament election, a contest he has cast as an existential turning point between peace in Europe and a world war." The demonstration, dubbed by organisers as a 'peace march,' brought Orban's supporters from all over Hungary and neighbouring countries. They marched along the Danube River in Budapest from the city's iconic Chain Bridge onto Margaret Island, waving flags and signs reading 'No War'. The point about ending wars is that such negotiations are by definition conducted between enemies, not friends – that is, people you hate and don't trust. That's why you always need security guarantees. When you say you don't negotiate with dictators, terrorists, criminals or enemies, all you are really saying is that you don't want to negotiate. Actually, the war could have ended by the summer of 2022, months after it first started. Foreign Affairs in April published a study of peace negotiations during the early months of the war, offering a glimpse of what might have been as the lives of tens of thousands of Russians and Ukrainians could have been spared. The study said: "In the midst of Moscow's unprecedented aggression, the Russians and the Ukrainians almost finalised an agreement that would have

ended the war and provided Ukraine with multilateral security guarantees, paving the way to its permanent neutrality and, down the road, its membership in the EU." The authors, Samuel Charap of the RAND Corporation and Sergey Radchenko of Johns Hopkins University, continued: "The Ukrainians walked away from it because of a combination of pressure from their Western patrons and Kyiv's own hubristic assumptions about Russian military weakness." Ukraine today is worse off than it was back in mid-2022 when it could have secured a settlement. The Russians are currently advancing on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city. Its crumbling defence can be partly blamed on Ukraine's notorious corruption. According to a new exposé published in Kyiv-based newspaper Ukrainska Pravda – predictably ignored in the mainstream Western press: "Hundreds of millions of hryvnias [the Ukrainian currency] have probably been stolen from the construction of fortifications in the Kharkiv region, where the [Russians are] now actively advancing. "Multimillion-dollar contracts for the construction of fortifications, for which a total of 7 billion hryvnias [US\$173 million] were spent, were transferred by the Kharkiv OVA [regional military administration] to front companies ... "In particular, the Department of Housing and Communal Services [ZhKG] and the fuel and energy complex of Kharkiv OVA concluded direct contracts for the supply of wood for fortifications with companies with signs of fictitiousness." Of course, that's just the tip of the iceberg. The entire war has been a corruption black hole for Western aid, just like it was with the American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. And it doesn't look like it will end any better. The fact of the matter is that Russia can't take over any more of Ukraine beyond its current occupation of about 20 per cent of territories, while Ukraine and its Western backers can't defeat Russia, hence the stalemate. Putin, though, has neutralised his domestic opposition and can sell what little he has achieved as a victory at home. However, the knives will be out for Zelensky and his Western backers by their respective domestic opponents, especially for President Joe Biden with an election in less than six months. He will not be the first US president to cruelly prolong a war for the sake of winning an election. This is despite the West's reasonable achievement of managing to defend 80 per cent of Ukraine against the Russian war machine without direct Nato involvement, so far. But they have set the terms of victory so high it's now impossible to achieve. Escalation will risk a nuclear war. Blaming Beijing for enabling Putin is just a distraction. If Zelensky doesn't want to help himself and his country, China can't either. Meanwhile, the West is just digging an ever bigger hole for him and his country.

## Briefs

IHC acquits  
Imran,  
Qureshi in  
cipher case

FROM PAGE 01  
days after IHC approved his bail petition in the £190 million National Crime Agency (NCA) settlement reference on May 15. A two-member bench, comprising the IHC chief justice, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, had approved the PTT's founder bail plea in the reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). Khan, the deposed premier who ousted from power via opposition's no-confidence motion in April 2022, has been facing slew of charges ranging from corruption to terrorism since his removal as the premier. He has been behind bars since August last year after he was sentenced in Toshakhana case and subsequently convicted in other cases as well including cipher and illegal marriage cases.

Courts  
should be  
'mindful'...

FROM PAGE 01  
cipher case containing charges of misusing and displacing the classified diplomatic document. "Detailed verdict of the case is due to arrive," Barrister Malik said, insisting that the cipher case was a "reality" which cannot be denied. He said that the former prime minister waved a classified document at a public gathering, whereas, then-principal secretary Azam Khan also confessed about a "missing copy of the cipher". "Nothing is more important than our national security. The prosecution will decide on challenging the IHC's ruling after the issuance of a detailed verdict," lawyer-cum-politician said.

Foreign  
embassy  
official...

FROM PAGE 01  
when the accident occurred. Rescue officials confirmed that all the deceased and injured were members of the same family. However, the rescue officials disclosed that the unfortunate incident has been attributed to the poor condition of the road and construction materials that had been left on the roadway for an extended period.

Suspect  
in Saudi  
diplomat...

FROM PAGE 01  
the both mobile phones. Investigation is under way from the arrested accused while further raids are being conducted to arrest his accomplice. Islamabad Police traced the suspect through Mobile technology, cameras and human intelligence. IG Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi and DIG Ali Raza visited Saudi Embassy and handed over the recovered mobile phones to the Saudi embassy officials. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has appreciated the IG Islamabad Police, DIG, and entire team for their swift action. He also announced that the police team will be awarded appreciation certificates for their excellent work.

Tarar  
reaffirms...

FROM PAGE 01  
Asian Development Bank, UNDP, World Bank and other international departments are also acknowledging progress of Pakistan's economy and also see it on right direction". Attaullah Tarar highlighted the government's tireless efforts from day one, focusing on the economy, leading to several positive outcomes. "These include a significant drop in inflation, lower fuel prices, unprecedented growth in the stock exchange, increased foreign reserves, enhanced direct investment, and record tax collection by the Federal Board of Revenue," he added. He expressed optimism about Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming historic visit to China with a delegation of approximately 100 businessmen.

## FIH Nations Cup

Pakistan crush Canada  
in nine-goal thriller

This was Pakistan's first win in tournament after drawing opening match

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

WARSAW: Pakistan defeated Canada 8-1 in their second match of the ongoing FIH Nations Cup in Gniezno, Poland, on Monday. Four goals by Rana Waheed Ashraf, a brace by Ghazanfar Ali, and one each by Abdul Rehman and Hannan Shahid cruised the Green Shirts to a dominant victory. Canada's Sean Davis opened the scoring in the second minute of the match but Pakistan responded after no less than five minutes as Waheed Ashraf equalled the game with a brilliant strike. Pakistan's lead was doubled by Rana in the 27th minute and the Green Shirts ended the second quarter with a one-goal lead.

The third quarter was no different from the second one as the Green Shirts scored one more goal with



Ghazanfar Ali finding the back of the box. However, the best was yet to come as the Green Shirts played an attacking game and scored five more goals, leaving no room for the Canadian side. What was more impressive than Pakistan's five goals in the last quarter was that all of them came in the last 10 minutes. This was Pakistan's first win in the tournament and they have now gone to the top of Pool B with four points. In the first match against Malaysia, Pakistan made an excellent comeback and secured a draw with a last-minute goal. Malaysia had a three-goal lead in the first quarter but Pakistan, known for their resilience, didn't give up and levelled the match. Pakistan will now face France in their final pool match of the tournament on June 5. Top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semi-finals of the event.

Namibia defeat Oman in T20  
WC after super over thriller

BRIDGETOWN: Namibia scored a nerve-shredding victory over Oman in their T20 World Cup Group B clash in Barbados on Sunday after a low-scoring thriller was decided by a super over. David Wiese was the hero for Namibia, contributing 13 runs in the Africans' super over total of 21 before then restricting Oman to 10 runs with the ball in hand to seal a crucial win at Kensington Oval. The match had gone to a decisive extra over after a tense duel saw both teams finish with 109 runs from their allotted 20 overs. Oman had looked to be heading for defeat after a superb four-wicket bowling display from Ruben Truempelmann saw them all out for 109 off 19.4 overs.

But Oman's bowlers responded with a disciplined performance to contain Namibia's bats, with Mehman Khan conjuring a superb spell to leave the match on a knife edge. Khan finished with figures of three wickets for seven runs off three overs. The veteran Oman bowler took two wickets in the final over to frustrate Namibia, who had needed just five runs from the over to clinch victory. But Khan was bizarrely overlooked for the super over bowling duties by Oman, with Bilal Khan handed the ball instead. That move backfired spectacularly, though, with Wiese blasting a four off the first ball and then crushing a full toss for six off Khan's second

delivery. Wiese took three more runs off the next two balls before Namibia skipper Gerhard Erasmus hit back-to-back fours to set Oman a daunting victory target of 22 off their super over. Wiese took over the bowling duties for Namibia and after conceding just two runs from his first two deliveries, took the wicket of Naseem Khushi. West Indies beat Papua New Guinea by five wickets in T20 World Cup Two more singles left Oman needing 18 from the last delivery to win, meaning Wiese could allow Zeeshan Maqsood to blast a six knowing victory was assured. "I definitely aged a couple of years tonight," the 39-year-old Wiese said. "And I don't have a lot of years left in me. It was an emotionally draining evening." Wiese said he had been confident of steering Namibia to victory with bat and ball in the super over. "It helped that I had a feel of the game and knew if I get a few hits out in the Super Over... then with the ball, felt like taking the ball and executing. "The pitch was difficult and didn't play the way we thought. But we adapted well." Oman captain Aqib Ilyas was left lamenting an agonising near-miss - but defended the decision to opt for Bilal as the super over bowler over the in-form Khan. "I think Bilal is one of the best bowlers you can have at this level," Aqib said. "But there are days where you plan and it doesn't execute. "He was clear, we were clear, but maybe the ball was wet and he couldn't execute." - Agencies

Nooh Butt wins  
gold for Pakistan at  
Strongman Games

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's renowned weightlifter Nooh Dastgir Butt clinched the gold medal in the Hercules Columns competition at the Pahlavan Mahmud Strongman Games 2024 in Uzbekistan. Nooh participated in this event for the first time along with athletes from 18 other countries. His father and coach, Dastgir Butt, was proud of Nooh's achievement, highlighting that his son will try his best to continue making his country proud in future competitions as well. During the Commonwealth Games (CWG) 2022, Nooh had won the gold medal in weightlifting for Pakistan. In 109+kg category, Butt lifted 173kg in snatch, setting a new CWG record. In clean and jerk, Butt lifted 232kg to set another record. Overall, Butt lifted 405kg which was also a CWG record. In 2018 CWG, Butt bagged bronze medal in 105+kg category. He was accompanied by Talha Talib who also won bronze in 62kg category. Earlier, Nooh had been unregistered by the Pakistan Weightlifting Federation (PWF) due to some political issues. A senior official of the PWF said that doors are open for Nooh if he mends his issues with the federation and accepts its constitution. "Nooh is the most precious athlete and the PWF's doors are open for him if he resolves his issues with the federation and registers himself with it as per rules and regulations," the official told The News last year. "Nooh has not talked with us officially on this issue. These are all political things and those people are responsible for this who keep Nooh away from the PWF." - Agencies

Sabalenka powers through  
to Paris quarter-finals

PARIS: Aryna Sabalenka sent an ominous message to her rivals as she powered past Emma Navarro to reach the French Open quarter-finals. Australian Open champion Sabalenka played with controlled aggression to complete a dominant 6-2 6-3 win over 22nd seed Navarro. Belarusian Sabalenka lost to Navarro on the Indian Wells hard courts earlier this season, but overwhelmed the American on the Paris clay. She will face either Russian teenager Mirra Andrejeva or home hope Varvara Gracheva next. Second seed Sabalenka could then face rival and good friend Elena Rybakina in the semi-finals, after the Kazakh comfortably beat Elina Svitolina earlier on Monday. Fourth seed Rybakina struggled for rhythm but grew in confidence and quality to register a 6-4 6-3 win over the Ukrainian. The former Wimbledon champion will face Italy's Jasmine Paolini next after the 12th seed beat Russia's Elina Avanesyan 4-6 6-0 6-1. Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic will aim

to reach his 15th successive French Open quarter-final on Monday after setting an unwanted Roland Garros record. The defending champion and 24-time Grand Slam title winner made the last 16 by defeating Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in a bruising five-set epic. It was the latest ever finish at Roland Garros. "I think certain things could have been handled differently," said the 37-year-old Djokovic. "There is a certain beauty in winning the match at three in the morning if it is the last of the tournament, but this wasn't the case." On Monday, three-time French Open champion Djokovic faces Argentine 23rd seed Francisco Cerundolo for a place in the last eight. Victory would give him a record 37th Grand Slam match win. Cerundolo and Djokovic have never met before but the Argentine stunned world number four Alexander Zverev on clay in Madrid earlier this season on his way to the quarter-finals. The 25-year-old also made the last 16

in Paris in 2023 where he lost in five sets to Denmark's Holger Rune. Zverev, who knocked out 14-time champion Rafael Nadal in the first round, was pushed to the brink by Tallon Griekspoor in the third round where he battled back from 4-1 down in the final set. The 27-year-old German is playing under the shadow of an ongoing trial in Berlin over allegations of assaulting an ex-girlfriend. Zverev is in the fourth round at Roland Garros for the seventh consecutive year and is the only player to reach the semi-finals at the last three French Opens. Novak Djokovic escapes major upset at Indian Wells Serbian Rune, a two-time quarter-finalist in Paris, defeated Zverev in straight sets in their only previous meeting on clay in Munich in 2022. Fifth-seeded Russian Daniil Medvedev takes on Australian 11th seed Alex de Minaur. Former US Open champion Medvedev reached the quarter-finals in 2021, ending a run of four successive first round losses. - Agencies

## AVC Cup: Pakistan beat Thailand to qualify for quarter-final

Pakistan volleyball team defeated Thailand 25-22, 25-14 and 25-21 in another world-class display in the ongoing AVC Challenge Cup

SPORTS DESK

MANAMA: The Pakistan volleyball team defeated Thailand 25-22, 25-14 and 25-21 in yet another world-class display in the ongoing AVC Challenge Cup which is being played in Bahrain. With the comfortable win over Thailand, the Pakistan team led by Murad Khan qualified for the quarter-finals as they now sit on top of Pool B. In the quarter-final, Pakistan will face the side finishing second in Pool D. Pakistan have now won 11 matches in a row under new coach Ruben Wolochin. With two wins in the first two matches, the morale within the team is surely high as they also defeated Australia recently in a three-match series and are eager to continue their high flight. Earlier in their first match of the tournament, the Pakistan Volleyball team defeated Kazakhstan 3-0 with scorelines of 25-19, 25-19, and 25-21.



The match was part of the Preliminary Round and witnessed the utmost resilience and discipline from the Pakistan team that didn't give any ground to their opponent and went on to win with a strong performance. After the win against Kazakhstan, Wolochin expressed his happiness over the team's performance as he believed that the team perfectly executed his strategies. "The boys played with great determination and executed the strategies perfectly," said Wolochin. "This win is a testament to their hard work and dedication." Remember, Wolochin's coaching staff includes Brazilian physical trainer Lucas Rodrigues who has been instrumental to the team's success recently as he is the key to the team's physical condition, which has been great. Pakistan's assistant coach Mohammad Ismail Khan and analyst Juan Cobucci have also played their part in preparing the team for such tournaments so the team could have a shot at lifting the title.

**T20**  
ICC  
MEN'S T20  
WORLD CUP  
WEST INDIES & USA 2024

**Tuesday June 4**  
**Afghanistan vs Uganda**  
Providence,  
Guyana (1.30am)  
**England vs Scotland**  
- Bridgetown,  
Barbados (3.30pm)  
**Netherlands vs Nepal**  
Grand Prairie,  
Texas (4.30pm)

Dark night  
of tyranny  
will end...

FROM PAGE 01  
Islamabad High Court's (IHC) verdict declaring Imran Khan and Qureshi's conviction in the infamous cipher case void, said that Imran Khan and his companion, who were unjustly imprisoned in Adiala jail, were a living metaphor of determination, courage, political maturity and character. He stated that with the blessings of Allah and the prayers of the nation, especially mothers, sisters and daughters, all the false, fake, fabricated, baseless and absurd cases were briskly crumbling one after another like sand wall.

SC Judge  
observes...

FROM PAGE 01  
Athar Minallah, Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Shahid Waheed, Irfan Saadat Khan and Naem Akhtar Afghan. On May 6, a three-member SC bench headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, and including Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah, suspended the PHC verdict and referred the matter to the judges' committee for the formation of a larger bench since the matter required constitutional interpretation. The matter had ended up in the Supreme Court after the PHC had turned down SIC's plea for reserved seats.

IHC rejects  
defence...

FROM PAGE 01  
the judges who wrote to the Supreme Judicial Council over interference with judicial affairs. The court remarked the FIA identified 16 accounts and the people who started the campaign should be killed. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan added that FIA's report is much better than ISI's. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani questioned whether agencies can trace these accounts or not. "How many technical experts do MI and ISI have? What is the number of technical experts with FIA?"

PM directs  
abolishment  
of Pak PWD

FROM PAGE 01  
Pak PWD as department had failed to achieve its objectives and asked for alternate mechanism for the development projects which were tasked to Pak PWD. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, PM's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzeb Khan and other relevant senior officials.

Christian  
man attacked  
in Sargodha

FROM PAGE 01  
severe injuries to his head, said the hospital sources. The incident took place on May 25 in Sargodha after an angry mob tortured Masih for alleged blasphemy. The situation turned violent when enraged people attacked the victim's house in the Mujahid Colony area, damaging his belongings and torching a shoe factory established within it. They also burnt tyres and damaged electricity installations in the area.

## Briefs

## La Nina could help lower temperatures this year

GENEVA: The return of the cooling La Nina weather phenomenon this year should help lower temperatures somewhat after months of global heat records, the United Nations' weather agency said Monday. The impact is likely to be felt in the next few months because the warming El Nino weather pattern — which has helped fuel a spike in global temperatures and extreme weather around the world since mid-2023 — "is showing signs of ending," the UN's World Meteorological Organization said in its latest update. The WMO warned, however, that global temperatures would continue to rise in the long term due to human-induced climate change, which continues to make extreme weather worse and upend seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns. La Nina refers to the cooling of the ocean surface temperatures in large swaths of the tropical Pacific Ocean, coupled with winds, rains and changes in atmospheric pressure. In many locations, especially in the tropics, La Nina produces the opposite climate impacts to El Nino, which heats up the surface of the oceans, leading to drought in some parts of the world and triggering heavy downpours elsewhere. The WMO said there was a "60 percent" chance of La Nina conditions in the period from July to September and a "70 percent" likelihood during August-November.—APP

## Microsoft to invest \$3.2bn in AI in Sweden

STOCKHOLM: Microsoft said Monday that it would invest 33.7 billion kronor (\$3.2 billion) over two years in cloud and artificial intelligence infrastructure in Sweden, its biggest investment in the country. The group will train 250,000 people by 2027 to boost AI knowledge and competence and also increase capacity at its three data centres in the country, it said. "Microsoft's largest investment in our history in Sweden" would enable the Scandinavian country "to build world-leading AI data centre infrastructure," the company's president and vice chair Brad Smith said at a press conference with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson. "A big part of the reason we're able to do this is because of Sweden's forward-looking energy policy, the plentiful access to green energy, whether it's carbon-free energy or renewable energy," Smith said. OpenAI CEO says 'optimistic' on global AI coordination. "Rise in Russian deepfakes" Asked about the risks and abuses associated with artificial intelligence, Smith said Microsoft was monitoring AI-generated deepfakes "very closely". "Our biggest concern, to be honest, is about the Russian government," he said. "We've seen an increase in Russian activity using deepfakes."—Agencies

## Turkiye's exports see record high May figure

ANKARA : Turkish exports posted a record-high May figure at \$24.1 billion, the country's trade minister announced on Monday. Türkiye's overseas shipments surged by 11.4% on an annualized basis, Omar Bolat told a news conference in Istanbul about Türkiye's preliminary foreign trade data. Turkish imports dropped 10.3% from the prior year to \$30.5 billion in May, he noted. The country's foreign trade deficit plunged 47.8% to \$6.5 billion in the same period, Bolat said, adding that the export-import coverage ratio rose by 15.3 percentage points to 78.7% in May. In January-May, Türkiye's exports hit \$106.9 billion, a rise of 4.5% from last year while its inbound shipments fell 9.3% to \$143.7 billion. Thanks to an increase in exports and a decline in imports, Türkiye's trade gap shrank at a 34.4% annualized pace to \$36.8 billion in the 5-month period.—APP

## Pakistan, Korea pledge to strengthen economic coop

The Korean Ambassador appreciated the government's economic initiatives and strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and Korea. He emphasized the need to fully exploit the untapped potential for further collaboration

ISLAMABAD : Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb had a meeting with the Korean Ambassador and representatives of Korean Companies working in Pakistan at the Finance Division today. The Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA), MD Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB), and senior officers from relevant ministries were also present in the meeting. The Korean Ambassador appreciated the Government's economic initiatives and strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and Korea. He emphasized the need to fully exploit the untapped potential for further collaboration. Representatives from

Korean companies briefed the Minister on their concerns regarding project timelines and operational efficiency. The Finance Minister underscored the significant macroeconomic improvements and noted the positive trend in foreign exchange reserves. Furthermore, Senator Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb reiterated the commitment of the Government to address the challenges faced by Korean companies operating in Pakistan and in this regard urged the relevant authorities to ensure their facilitation for smooth business operations. The meeting concluded with a pledge to strengthen economic cooperation between Pakistan and Korea and to work collectively towards addressing mutual concerns for the benefit of both nations.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb had a meeting with the Korean Ambassador and representatives of Korean Companies working in Pakistan.—DNA

## UN experts call for Palestinian state recognition

## FOREIGN DESK

GENEVA: A group of United Nations experts called on Monday for all countries to recognise a Palestinian state to ensure peace in the Middle East. The call came less than a week after Spain, Ireland and Norway officially recognised a Palestinian state, prompting anger from Israel, which has found itself increasingly isolated after nearly eight months of war in Gaza. The experts, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Palestinian territories, said recognition of a Pales-

tinian state was an important acknowledgement of the rights of the Palestinian people and their struggle towards freedom and independence. "This is a pre-condition for lasting peace in Palestine and the entire Middle East — beginning with the immediate declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza and no further military incursions into Rafah," they said. Slovenia's government recognises Palestinian state, needs parliamentary approval "A two-state solution remains the only internationally agreed path to peace and security for both Palestine and Israel and a way out of generational cycles of vio-

lence and resentment." Israel's Foreign Ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment. With their recognition of a Palestinian state, Spain, Ireland and Norway said they sought to accelerate efforts to secure a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza. The three countries say they hope their decision will spur other European Union states to follow suit. Denmark's parliament later rejected a proposal to recognise a Palestinian state. Israel has repeatedly condemned moves to recognise a Palestinian state, saying they bolster Hamas. The conflict has killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, accord-

ing to Gaza's health ministry. Meanwhile, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Sunday urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to sustainably improve the humanitarian aid and health care situation in Gaza. In a phone call with Netanyahu, Scholz also expressed satisfaction with U.S. President Joe Biden's three-stage ceasefire proposal, according to government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit. The two also exchanged views on the regional situation, as Scholz shared his concerns over it escalating into a wider conflict. On Friday, Biden touted a new three-phase deal meant to end hostilities in the Gaza Strip.

## Islamic resistance in Lebanon 'anchor of regional stability'

TEHRAN : Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani has described the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon as the "anchor of peace and stability" in West Asia. He made the remarks during a press conference with Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib in Beirut on Monday. "The firm and solid relations between Iran and Lebanon are critical to the region, just as the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon is the anchor of stability and peace in the region," Bagheri Kani said, stressing that Iran has always sought Lebanon's stability and development. He also noted that both he and the top Lebanese diplomat believe that all regional countries, especially the Muslim ones, should adopt a "collective approach" to confront the Zionists' aggression against Palestine, especially in the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. He further said that the two sides had discussed the holding of an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for "a joint and serious measure" against Israel. Israel waged a genocidal war on Gaza on October 7 after the Hamas resistance movement carried out its historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for the regime's intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people. On May 7, the occupying regime began a ground offensive in Rafah.—Agencies

## Russia FM in Guinea amid Africa influence boost

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrived on Monday in Guinea, his ministry said, the first trip by Moscow's top diplomat to the West African country since 2013. Russia, which has seen its relations with the West plummet after it sent troops into Ukraine in 2022, has sought to boost its influence in Africa in recent years. Russia's foreign ministry announced the visit on the Telegram social media app with a photo of Lavrov at Conakry airport but did not provide details on the trip. Guinea is poor despite considerable mineral and natural resources and has endured decades of dictatorial rule. State news agency Tass said Guinea would be part of a tour of African countries but did not give details on which other nations Lavrov would visit. But Russian news agency afrinz.ru said he was expected in Chad on Wednesday "at the head of an important delegation". The same article also said that a trip to Burkina Faso was possible, without providing a specific date. China could arrange Russia-Ukraine peace conference, Lavrov tells RIA In July, Russian President Vladimir Putin invited African leaders to a summit in Saint Petersburg where he said they agreed to promote a multipolar world order and to fight neo-colonialism. Putin hailed the "commitment of all our states to the formation of a just and democratic multipolar world order" during a statement to the media following the summit.—DNA

## China and Russia are trying to undermine peace summit

Zelensky said Ukraine needs more mental health workers for its soldiers

MANILA : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with the Philippine president on Monday in a rare Asian trip to urge regional leaders to attend a Swiss-organized global peace summit on the war in Ukraine that he accuses Russia, with China's help, of trying to undermine. Zelensky arrived unannounced and under heavy security in Manila late Sunday after speaking over the weekend at the Shangri-La defense forum in Singapore. He was given a red-carpet welcome with military honors Monday at the presidential palace before meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., after which he left the Philippines. Marcos pledged that his country would take part in the peace summit, Philippine Communications Secretary Cheloy Garafil said. "I'm happy to hear today from you that you'll participate in our peace steps," Zelensky told Marcos. "It's a very strong signal." Zelensky said Ukraine needs more mental health workers for its soldiers. Marcos promised to help and welcomed a decision by Ukraine to open an embassy in Manila this year which would hasten efforts to deliver assistance. Top Philippine security official demands Chinese diplomats' expulsion as territorial row escalates "We have ourselves been trying to promote the continuing adherence to international law in our part of the world," Marcos said. "The issues that you are facing are similar and in parallel to ours and, therefore, the position the Philippines takes is always to promote peace." Both leaders spoke critically of China at the Singapore forum, which was attended by top defense and government officials from around the world, including from Washington and Beijing. The talks were held amid the raging wars in Gaza and Ukraine as well as growing tensions and rivalry for influence between the United States and China in the Indo-Pacific region. At a news conference in Singapore on Sunday, Zelensky accused China of helping Russia to disrupt the Swiss-organized peace summit by pressuring other countries not to attend. "Russia, using Chinese influence in the region, using Chinese diplomats also, does everything to disrupt the peace summit," he said, without elaborating. "This is unfortunate that such a big independent powerful country as China is an instrument in the hands of (Russian leader Vladimir) Putin." In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning denied the allegation. "Our position is open and transparent, and there is no such thing as pressuring other countries," Mao said. China has taken what it says is a neutral position on the war, putting it at odds with Ukraine, the U.S. and most of Europe. Its trade with Russia has grown, easing the economic impact of Western sanctions. American, Ukrainian and other intelligence agencies say there is evidence that Chinese parts are winding up in Russian weaponry, even if China is not directly arming its neighbor. Switzerland had been hoping China would attend the peace conference in mid-June, but Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning suggested Friday that was unlikely. At the security forum, Zelensky urged top defense officials to participate in the talks in Switzerland, expressing disappointment over the failure of some countries to commit to attending. Ukraine, he said, has proposals to make at the summit as a basis for peace, addressing nuclear security, food security, the release of prisoners of war and the return of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia.—DNA

## Resistance put Israel on path to destruction

Irans supreme leader Khamenei said that Palestine has turned into the number one issue of the world as students in American universities are chanting slogans to express their support for Palestine

## NEWS DESK

TEHRAN : Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has once again praised resistance groups for their conflict with Israel. "An army that claims to be one of the strongest in the world has failed in its own country," Khamenei told thousands of supporters in Tehran on Monday. The Gaza conflict has put the "Zionist regime on a path that will only end in decay and destruction," he added. "Palestinians foil US plot to change equations" Ayatollah Khamenei further stated that Imam Khomeini emphasized that the people of Palestine themselves would have to restore their own rights and force the Israeli regime to retreat. The Leader noted that everything that the late Imam predicted regarding the issue of Palestine has come true. He said Imam Khomeini believed that the people of Palestine

should not trust the so-called peace talks, play an active role and restore their rights to achieve a final victory in the face of the Israeli enemy. The late Imam also urged all nations, particularly Muslims, to support the Palestinian people to help them defeat the Zionist regime, Ayatollah Khamenei added. "These big developments are being realized now," he emphasized. "Although the US and many Western countries continue to support this regime, they also know that there is no way out for the occupying regime," Ayatollah he stated. The Leader warned that the US, elements of the global Zionism and some regional states have hatched a comprehensive plan to change relations and equations in the region. They sought to establish links between the Israeli regime and some countries in the region in an attempt to prepare the ground for the Tel Aviv regime's dominance over the political and economic develop-



ments in the West Asia region and the entire Muslim world, he explained. They were very close to implement the ominous plot but the start of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm thwarted all schemes of the US, Zionism and their stooges, Ayatollah Khamenei said. He emphasized that the incidents in Palestine over the past eight months destroyed hope for any revival of the plot. He added that the unprecedented crimes and boundless cruelty of the Israeli regime and the American government's support for such atrocities were

nervous reactions to failure of the international conspiracy to dominate the Zionist regime in the region. The Leader pointed to the US inaction in the face of consensus among world nations and emphasized that Washington will have no option but to end its support for the Zionist regime sooner or later. Western analysts believe that Israel has suffered a heavy blow from the resistance groups during Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and that the regime will not be able to recover from it, he emphasized. He said Palestine has turned into the number one issue of the world as students in American universities are chanting slogans to express their support for Palestine. Khamenei made the comments during a speech to mark the 35th anniversary of the death of Iran's revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The speech was held in Khomeini's mausoleum in the south of the capital. Separately, Iran's acting foreign minister, Ali Bagheri, visited

Lebanon. His predecessor Hossein Amirabdollahian, who was killed in a helicopter crash in May alongside president Ebrahim Raisi, made several trips to Beirut during the current conflict to meet leaders from the pro-Iranian militia Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Iran has provided financial and diplomatic backing for the Palestinian resistance group Hamas, which killed 1,200 people and captured 250 hostages during the devastating October 7 attacks in Israel. Israel responded with an ongoing invasion of Gaza which has provoked international outrage due to its massive humanitarian toll. The health authority in Gaza says more than 36,400 people have been killed in the Israeli operation. Israel and Iran have been at odds since the 1979 revolution in Tehran brought the current mullah regime to power. The two countries have repeatedly come close to war, with both sides launching drone and missile attacks in May.

## Sudan's army, RSF paramilitaries clash renewed

KHARTOUM : Violent clashes broke out Sunday between the Sudanese army and members of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Khartoum, Al Jazirah and White Nile states and in the city of El Fasher, eyewitnesses told news agency. They said the army carried out air strikes on centres where the RSF gathered around the Jaali Petroleum Refinery north of the capital Khartoum, adding that thick columns of smoke were rising due to the strikes. The RSF still controls large areas in the city of Bahri north of Khartoum, including the Jaali refinery, while the army is stationed in several neighbourhoods north of Bahri and at a weapons depot and Hattab and Kadroo bases in the city. Army warplanes also carried out raids in areas south of Khartoum and in Alkotainh district in White Nile state, according to eyewitnesses. The Wad Madani Resistance Committees said in a release that military aircraft carried out raids against RSF gatherings in the village of Bika, west of the city of Wad Madani, the capital of Jazirah state. Since December last year, the RSF has controlled several cities in the Jazirah state, including Wad Madani. Eyewitnesses said that clashes also resumed between the army and RSF in northern and eastern El Fasher involving heavy weapons. They added that the army launched airstrikes on RSF gatherings east of El Fasher. On Sunday, the UN International Organisation for Migration (IOM) announced that clashes had resumed Saturday between the army and RSF in several western and southeastern neighbourhoods of El Fasher, leading to the displacement of 250 families and reports of casualties.—APP

## Rwanda asylum seekers' deportation starts July 23

LONDON: The British government says it intends to begin deporting asylum seekers on July 23, court documents showed on Monday, although the controversial scheme is dependent on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservative parties winning the upcoming election. The policy of sending asylum seekers who arrived in Britain to the East African nation is one of Sunak's flagship policies but legal and parliamentary obstacles have meant it has never got off the ground. Sunak recently said the deportation flights would not leave before an election on July 4 but he has promised if he wins they would begin soon after, although he is trailing the opposition Labour Party by about 20 points in opinion polls and it has promised to scrap the plan. In documents submitted to the London High Court as part of a charity's challenge to the policy, government lawyers said the intention was "to effect removals with a flight to Rwanda on 23 July 2024 (and not before)."

## Muslim nations pressured to normalize ties with Israel

JAKARTA : The Indonesia foreign minister on Monday said Israel and its allies had been trying to get Muslim countries to normalize ties. "There are systematic efforts by Israel and its allies to lobby and pressure Muslim countries into considering normalizing ties with Israel," Retno Marsudi told a conference at the Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, central Java province. Jakarta has no diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv, but Israeli media recently claimed Indonesia was mulling establishing ties to gain entry to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Israel is one of the members of the OECD, and Jakarta has to get its approval if it wants to have its membership bid accepted. The government has denied opening ties with Israel. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco signed in 2020 US-brokered Abraham Accords.—APP

Briefs

CM KP announces free solar panels

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur on Monday announced to provide free solar panels to the people of the province. Addressing the provincial assembly, the chief minister said that the government would go with solar power and all official buildings and offices would be shifted to solar power in the first phase. He said that the provincial government would provide free solar panels to the people. "People pay taxes so that they get benefits. The rulers should stop lavishing money on public money. We will cut 20 percent fuel allowance (for the elite) very soon," the chief minister said. CM Gandapur also accused the centre of 'not' providing due share to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government. He said that the federal government has not provided the remaining Rs 100 billion for Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), adding that if the dues are not released immediately, the provincial government will take action.

Christian man attacked in Sargodha dies

SARGODHA: A Christian man who became a target of an angry mob in Punjab's Sargodha district over alleged blasphemy succumbed to his injuries on Monday morning, police officials said. According to RPO Sharik Kamal Siddiqui's spokesperson, Nazir Masih, who was over 70 years old, was under treatment in CMH Hospital in Rawalpindi for nine days. Masih also had two surgeries but he couldn't survive the injuries inflicted on his head, said the spokesperson. His postmortem has been conducted and he will be buried later today. According to the report, Masih died due to severe injuries to his head, said the hospital sources.

The incident took place on May 25 in Sargodha after an angry mob tortured Masih for alleged blasphemy. The situation turned violent when enraged people attacked the victim's house in the Mujahid Colony area, damaging his belongings and torching a shoe factory established within it. They also burnt tyres and damaged electricity installations in the area. Following the incident, at least 25 people were taken into custody by the police who also shifted the victim and his family to an undisclosed location after rescuing them. Sargodha Division Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti pledged that those involved in the incident would be brought to justice after holding a transparent inquiry into the incident. - Agencies

PBC condemns PTI's 'uncalled for' demand from CJP

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) on Monday condemned PTI's "uncalled for" demand seeking recusal of Chief Justice QaziFaez Isa from all the cases involving the party. PBC Vice Chairman Riazat Ali Sahar and Chairman of Executive Committee Farooq Hamid Naek have condemned the PTI's demand that the chief justice should not sit on the benches hearing the PTI-related cases and recuse himself from all such cases, alleging that the party isn't getting justice since the top judge took over. According to a newspaper, PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan made these comments during an interview with a private TV channel, wherein he complained that earlier, his party was not getting justice, but now, even its petitions were not being taken up. "PTI core committee wants that CJP Isa should not sit on benches in our cases," he added.

# Doubts grow over Gaza truce plan as battles rage

The health ministry said that the death toll from the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza since October 7, 2023, has climbed to 36,479 martyrs and the number of the wounded surged to 82,777

NEWS DESK

RAFAH: Doubts were growing on Monday about a plan for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal outlined by US President Joe Biden as heavy fighting raged for a third day since his White House address. Biden on Friday presented what he labelled an Israeli three-phase plan that would end the bloody conflict, free all hostages and lead to the reconstruction of the devastated Palestinian territory without Hamas in power. However, Netanyahu's office stressed Saturday that Israel would push on with the war sparked by the October 7 attack by Palestinian militants on southern Israel until all of its "goals are achieved" including the destruction of Hamas's military and governing capabilities. Israeli media have questioned to what extent Biden's speech and some crucial details were coordinated with Netanyahu's team, including how long any truce would hold and how many captives would be freed when. Israeli media quoted Netanyahu as saying on Monday that the first phase of a US-promoted plan to wind down the Gaza war could be undertaken without necessary agreement on what follows. The leaked quotes from a closed-door parliamentary meeting, which were not immediately confirmed by officials, suggested Israel sees a possibility of entering an initial Gaza truce though it has ruled out ending the war as demanded by Hamas.

Mediators the United States, Qatar and Egypt later said they called "on both Hamas and Israel to finalize the agreement embod-

## More than half of all structures in Gaza destroyed

FOREIGN DESK

GAZA CITY: Almost 55% of Gaza's structures have been destroyed, damaged, or possibly damaged since the war started in October, according to preliminary satellite analysis by the UN satellite analysis agency, UNOSAT, on X. According to our analysis, we identified 36,591 destroyed structures, 16,513 severely damaged, 47,368 moderately damaged, and 36,825 possibly damaged structures. A total of 137,297 structures, or about 55% of the total in Gaza, are affected. The post shows a satellite image taken on May 3 compared with images taken in May a year earlier, last September, and on October 15. In a statement, the UNOSAT said, "According to satellite imagery analy-

sis, Unosat identified 36,591 destroyed structures," adding that it had seen "16,513 severely damaged structures, 47,368 moderately damaged structures, and 36,825 possibly damaged structures of a total of 137,297 structures." "These correspond to around 55 percent of the total structures in the Gaza Strip and a total of 135,142 estimated damaged housing units," it noted. UNOSAT says the image comparisons show that Deir al-Balah and Gaza suffered the worst damage between April 1 and May 3. An additional 2,613 structures had been damaged in Deir al-Balah, while another 2,368 had been damaged in Gaza in just over a month. The Nuseirat municipality in Deir el-Balah suffered the greatest number of newly damaged structures during that period, standing at 1,216, the agency confirmed, as it highlighted that this data was still part of a preliminary analysis yet to be validated in the field. A Palestinian official in Gaza reported on Sunday that approximately 50,000 housing units have been demolished by Israeli occupation forces during their nearly eight-month-long aggressive campaign in the northern region of the territory. The chairman of the Emergency Committee for Northern Gaza municipalities emphasized that along with the destruction of homes, vital infrastructure, such as sewage networks and roads, has been extensively damaged across most municipalities in Northern Gaza.

ing the principles outlined by President Joe Biden." White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Sunday that "we have every expectation that if Hamas agrees to the proposal... that Israel would say yes." US Secretary of State Antony Blinken "commended" Israel on the plan in a phone call with war cabinet member Benny Gantz and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, the State Department said. The Government Media Office (GMO) said that more than 3,500 children are at risk of death in the Gaza Strip due to the Israeli occupation's policies of starvation, food shortages, lack of nutritional supplements, and prevention of aid, calling on the world to urgently save the lives of these children. In a press release on Monday, the GMO elaborated that more than 3,500 children under the age of five are at risk of gradual death in the Gaza Strip due to the Israeli occupation's policies of starving children, shortage of milk and food, lack of nutritional supplements, deprivation of vaccinations, and prevention of humanitarian aid for the fourth consecutive week amid terrible international silence. These children suffer from advanced malnutrition, which has affected their body structure, making them vulnerable to infectious diseases that threaten their lives, delay their growth, and jeopardize their survival, the GMO stated, adding that they lack access to basic services such as food, healthcare, and regular medical follow-up, with their conditions getting worse and more severe due to the deprivation of vaccinations and necessary medicinal doses in their early years of life.

## Iran: More candidates throw hats into ring

TEHRAN: More contenders are throwing their hats into the ring for Iran's upcoming presidential elections on the fifth and final day of registration. A dozen candidates, including some prominent political figures, filed their nominations on Monday. The most high-profile candidates who registered on Monday to run were Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and former first vice president Es'haq Jahangiri. Speaking to reporters after the registration, Qalibaf said the elites have called on him to join the race. He added that experience and skill are the key to conquer the peak. Jahangiri also told reporters that he has decided to enter the competition in the hope of taking steps to correct the existing wrong approaches and procedures and create new capacities. The snap election is slated for June 28 and will elect a new president to replace Ebrahim-Raeisi, who died in a tragic helicopter crash in northwest Iran on May 19 along with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and six of their companions. The candidates must be vetted and approved by the Guardian Council. The country's 12-member election supervisory body will then release the final list of qualified candidates on June 11. Those cleared by the vetting body will have two weeks to campaign, present their manifestos and participate in televised debates before the election. - Agencies

## PM's China visit to become a milestone in bilateral ties: Envoy



### APNS building bridges between Pakistan-China media outlets

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Not many Pakistanis have visited China to this day, but we are working and remain hopeful to create more opportunities so our friends from Pakistan can visit China said Yang Yundong Consul General of the People's Republic of China. He was hosting office bearers of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society at the Consulate. "Today we are happy to host you all friends at the Consulate for an authentic Chinese dinner, and my heartiest greetings to Mr. Sarmad Ali on becoming Senator. We would like Pakistanis to visit China but unfortunately not many Pakistanis have visited China, he stated. We acknowledge Pakistan's support to China in all forums. It is because of the significance of our friendship. China is developing very fast, and the change is many a times a pleasant surprise for even Chinese working abroad when they travel back home" said CG Yang He further added that our focus must be on more exchanges between the media outlets of both countries and APNS can play a role in bringing them together. The Second Phase of CPEC is more important and will focus on agriculture, industrial cooperation and trade for increasing exports from Pakistan and benefiting the lives of people at grassroots level. The delegation of APNS was led by its Secretary General, Senator Sarmad Ali. While expressing his views, Mr Sarmad said that Pakistan is expecting to see investment in agriculture, mining, hospitality & tourism as well as other sectors from China. "Gwadar needs to be developed as a model urban town and the new airport will provide more opportunities in increasing connectivity. Proper real estate development along with hotels is also needed in Gwadar. Chinese media.

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong said on Monday that under the guidance of two leadership and strong support from the people of both countries, the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China would achieve complete success and become a milestone in the development of China-Pakistan relations. The ambassador in an interview with APP, a day before the prime minister's five-day visit from June 4-8, 2024 to China, said that all preparatory works had entered the final stage, and discussions on Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were in full progress. At the invitation of Premier Li Qiang, Prime Minister Shehbaz will pay an official visit to China. This is his first visit to China after assuming the office this year. Highlighting the components of the visit, he said the prime minister would meet and have talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji. The leaders will have an in-depth exchange of views on China-Pakistan relations and issues of mutual interest, and jointly draw up a blueprint for the growth of bilateral relations. In addition to Beijing, the prime minister will visit Guangdong and Shaanxi. "China stands ready to work with Pakistan through this visit to make greater progress in our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and take new steps in building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era," the envoy remarked. Calling China and Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad friends, he said "Our friendship has stood the test of time and remained rock-solid and-to use a Chinese expression-"steady as Mount Tai." - APP

## IHC transfers iddat case to another court on judge's request

Case has been transferred to court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majuka

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday accepted District and Sessions Judge Shahrukh Arjumand's request seeking transfer of the iddat case related to the marriage of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi. The case has now been transferred to the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majuka who will hear the case from now on. The IHC decision comes days after the judge wrote a letter to IHC registrar, stating that it will not be appropriate for him to announce the verdict in the aforementioned case due to reservations raised by Bushra's former husband and petitioner Khawar Maneka. He requested the registrar to transfer Bushra and Khan's appeals against conviction to another court. The judge, in his letter, also complained of repeated disruptions by Maneka and his lawyers during the hearing. Judge Arjumand had written the letter after Maneka himself expressed his lack of confidence in the judge. During the hearing of the case conducted on May 29, the former first last's ex-husband told the judge: "I don't want you deciding this case." "What is the reason for this?" the judge asked while lamenting repeated expressions of no-confidence. "Tell me if there's any concrete reason for this [...] some judge will decide the case eventually," Judge Arjumand said while highlighting that the court has already dismissed a no-confidence motion filed by

Maneka wherein he had expressed no confidence in the judge and requested that the case be transferred to another court. The same day, Maneka was also beaten by PTI lawyer in the premises of the court as he appeared for the hearing of the case. During the hearing of appeals filed by Bushra and Khan against conviction in the iddat case, Judge Arjumand went into his chamber without announcing the verdict. Following the development, PTI lawyers hurled bottles in the courtroom which prompted Maneka's lawyers to escort him out. However, while being escorted out, a PTI lawyer then attacked Maneka within the court premises after which he fell to the ground. The court, on May 23, had reserved the verdict on the appeals which was to be announced that day. Maneka had, in January, moved the court challenging Khan and Bushra Bibi's marriage and terming their nikah as fraudulent, stressing that the marriage was solemnised during her iddat (the time a woman goes into isolation after a divorce or her husband's death). The trial court then handed down a seven-year sentence to the couple in February and imposed a fine of Rs500,000 each on the duo. In its 51-page detailed verdict, the court maintained that the record proves that both of the accused, Khan and Bushra, were in relation before the 2018 "fraudulent" nikah. Commenting on the likelihood of the case's verdict being issued in favour of Khan and Bushra Bibi, PTI Information Secretary Raouf Hasan earlier said: "We know what the decision of iddat case was to be announced on merit. In principle, the court should not be used for political matters, and the court should also not allow itself to be used."

## Mexico elects Sheinbaum as first woman president

MEXICO CITY: Claudia Sheinbaum has been elected as Mexico's first woman president in an historic landslide win. Mexico's official electoral authority said preliminary results showed the 61-year-old former mayor of Mexico City winning between 58% and 60% of the vote in Sunday's election. That gives her a lead of about 30 percentage points over her main rival, businesswoman Xóchitl Galvez. Ms Sheinbaum will replace her mentor, outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, on 1 October. Ms Sheinbaum, a former energy scientist, has promised continuity, saying that she will continue to build on the "advances" made by Mr López Obrador, further building on the welfare programmes which have made the outgoing president very popular. But in her victory speech she also highlighted what has set this Mexican election apart from previous ones. She told cheering voters: "For the first time in the 200 years of the [Mexican] Republic, I will become the first woman president of Mexico." She said it was an achievement not just for her but for all



women. "I've said it from the start, this is not just about me getting [to the top office], it's about all of us getting here." She added: "I won't fail you." Ms Sheinbaum also thanked her rival, Xóchitl Galvez, who has conceded victory. Prior to running for president, Ms Sheinbaum was mayor of Mexico City, one of the most influential political positions in the country and one that is seen as paving the way for the presidency. - Agencies

Advertisement for Serena Hotels and Miles & Smiles program. Includes images of hotel interiors and exteriors, and text: "Experience an unforgettable getaway at any Serena Hotel and earn Double Miles. Offer is valid till 30 September, 2024. For more information, please call: 051-111-133-133 | prestigeclub@serena.com.pk. Prestige Club earn redeem experience."