



Islamabad POST

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Ukraine's Zelenskyy says Russia's Kharkiv offensive 'failed'

Detailed News On Page-07

Ahmadinejad blocked from presidential race

Detailed News On Page-08



Alcaraz beats Zverev to win French Open

Detailed News On Page-06



Lakki Marwat IED blast Captain among seven soldiers embrace martyrdom

The martyred personnel were identified as Pakistan Army Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas, Subedar Major Muhammad Nazir, Lance Naik Muhammad Anwar, Lance Naik Hussain Ali Sepoy Asad Ullah, Sepoy Manzoor Hussain and Sepoy Rashid Mehmood



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Seven Pakistan Army soldiers, including a captain, were martyred after their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Lakki Marwat, the military's media affairs wing said on Sunday. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the security forces vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb during patrolling in Lakki Marwat. The martyred personnel were identified as Pakistan Army Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas, Subedar Major Muhammad Nazir, Lance Naik Muhammad Anwar, Lance Naik Hussain Ali Sepoy Asad Ullah, Sepoy Manzoor Hussain and Sepoy Rashid Mehmood.

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Govt proposes major budget boost for defence development

Rs400 million designated for the procurement of drones

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government has proposed an allocation of Rs5.63 for the Ministry of Defence's development projects in the upcoming Budget 2024-25. This comprehensive allocation encompasses total of 29 key projects, reflecting the government's commitment to enhancing military infrastructure and technology. According to the budget document, Rs3.92 billion has been earmarked for nine ongoing projects within the Ministry of Defence. These projects are crucial for maintaining and upgrading existing defense systems and infrastructure. In addition to this, a substantial amount of Rs1.7 billion

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NEW YORK: Indian players celebrate after taking wicket against Pakistan in T20 World Cup match. DNA

Nations Cup Hockey New Zealand defeat France in Final match

South Africa defeat Pakistan

DNA

WARSAW: New Zealand beat France to win the Nations Cup Hockey tournament played in Poland. New Zealand will not take part in the Pro League matches. The match ended in a draw as both teams scored 2 goals each in the allotted time. On penalty shoot out New Zealand defeated France. In another match Pakistan was defeated by South Africa and thus got 4th position in the Nations Cup.

For 3rd term Modi sworn in as PM

President Droupadi Murmu administers oath of office to Modi at a grand ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi was sworn in as India's prime minister on Sunday for a record-equaling third term, but as a restive coalition's head after a shock poll setback that will test his ability to ensure policy certainty in the world's most populous nation. President Droupadi Murmu administered the

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Another disappointment

T20 Cup: India steal match from Pakistan

After containing India to a small total Pakistani batsmen failed to chase even a small total

AFZAL JAVED / DNA

NEW YORK: India literally stole the match from Pakistan by registering a thrilling victory. India won the match by 6 runs. Pakistani batsmen failed to live up to the expectations and miserably failed to even chase the small total. Indians played like a team and fought till the end. Earlier, Pakistan lost three wickets to archrivals India as their stride for the 120-run target to win the crucial match continued at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

The Pakistani pacers shined at the biggest cricket match of T20 World Cup 2024, as they restricted India to a meagre 119 runs.

The Men in Green need 120 runs to win as it is make-or-break showdown for the national squad after the shocking loss against United States in their first match of the mega tournament. As Pakistan began the run-chase, India took first wicket, sending skipper Babar Azam to the dug-out for just 13 runs of 10 balls. Beyond expectations, Rohit Sharma and Co failed to score big as they were bowled out in quick dismissals in just the 18th over of the first innings. The Men in Green made early progress against archrivals, routing out the opening pair Virat Kohli and skipper Sharma, after the match resumed following a brief delay caused by rain.

Pak commitment to regional peace highlighted at ASEAN

Stressing the need for an equitable and inclusive security framework, the Additional FS underscored the importance of resolving IIOJK dispute in accordance with the UNSC Resolutions

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia & Pacific), Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, represented Pakistan at the Senior Officials Meeting preparatory to the Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held on 8 June 2024. Ambassador Siddiqui appreciated ARF's pivotal role in multilateral efforts for regional peace and prosperity. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to the purposes and

principles of the United Nations Charter and the ASEAN Regional Forum's mandate, he emphasized the importance of international collaboration for shared objectives of stability and sustainable prosperity.

Stressing the need for an equitable and inclusive security framework, the Additional Foreign Secretary underscored the importance of resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and

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Briefs

Zubair parts ways with PML-N

Zubair joins a list of top leaders who recently parted ways with the ruling party

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former Sindh governor Muhammad Zubair on Sunday announced to quit PML-N over some reservations. Speaking to Geo News, Zubair, who did not disclose what issues exactly led to his departure, said he would take decision about his future politics in consultation with his friends. Zubair joins a list of top leaders who recently parted ways with the ruling party, including former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and ex-finance minister Miftah Ismail. The politician has been critical of the incumbent government, which was formed after the February 8 elections, and also recently said he was in the party like Abbasi, hinting at his displeasure with the leadership.

PM may dissolve NA, predicts Wassan

PPP leader said that next three months are very important

DNA

KHAIRPUR: PPP senior leader Manzoor Wassan said that PM Shehbaz Sharif may dissolve the National Assembly during next three months. Talking to media in Khairpur, the PPP leader said that next three months are very important for Shehbaz Sharif. "The provincial assemblies will remain intact but NA can be resolved and elections would be held again," he said. It is pertinent to mention here that PPP leader is famous for predicting political speculations. Talking about the PTI founder, Manzoor Wassan said that Imran Khan only got temporary relief in the cipher case.

Says tried to stop bill

Punjab governor opposes passage of defamation law

Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naemur Rehman also rejected the Punjab defamation law as "black law"

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Saleem Haider has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is against the controversial defamation law passed by the provincial legislature earlier this month. "I tried to stop the [passage] of the defamation bill as governor," he said while speaking to the media in Dubai on Sunday. His statement comes a day after interim Punjab Governor Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan signed the bill into law in the absence of Haider. The Punjab Assembly, on May 20, passed the Punjab Defamation Bill, 2024 amid a strong and noisy protest by the opposition as well as immense backlash from journalists and rights bodies including those

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PTI to challenge defamation law

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to challenge the Punjab defamation law in court. This announcement was made by Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar, the opposition leader in the Punjab Assembly, in a statement on Sunday. Commenting on the Punjab government's performance, Bhachar said that turning the Punjab Defamation Act 2024 into law and compounding problems for farmers by not

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Lithuania, Pakistan can boost cooperation in IT

Egidijus Meilunas, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania says his country offered potential business opportunities to Pakistani companies

Exclusive

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Egidijus Meilunas, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania visited Pakistan in the third week of May 2024. During the visit the Minister held important meetings with the high-level Pakistani officials. The Minister also attended the reception hosted by Hon. Consul General of Lithuania in Pakistan Masood Khan. The Vice Minister talked to Daily Islamabad POST, Centreline magazine and Diplomatic News Agency (DNA). Here are excerpts from his interview.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACTS:

Enhancing interpersonal connections undeniably serves as a cornerstone in fostering stronger bilateral ties between nations. I'm delighted to convey to you that there's a vibrant exchange of intellect and culture between Pakistan and Lithuania, exemplified by approximately 400 Pakistani students currently pursuing various academic disciplines in Lithuania. Among them, many are delving into the realms of technology and medicine, while others are exploring diverse fields of study. Notably, a cohort of Pakistani scholars is even engaged in doctoral research. It's worth mentioning that Lithuanian universities actively recruit students from Pakistan, reflecting the mutual commitment to educational collaboration. Furthermore, the student body in Lithuania comprises individuals from various nationalities, adding

richness and diversity to the academic milieu. This thriving exchange underscores the enduring bonds and shared aspirations between our two nations.

TOURISM POTENTIAL:

Tourism is a burgeoning industry for us, yet one with immense potential. We aspire to warmly welcome tourists from Pakistan and beyond. However, achieving this vision necessitates a concerted effort to foster mutual understanding between Lithuania and Pakistan. Both governments must commit to tirelessly promoting awareness of the unique offerings, particularly within the tourism sector, that each country possesses. By collaborating closely and championing the cultural richness and natural beauty of both nations, we can pave the way for a flourishing tourism exchange that

benefits all involved. Direct airlines can contribute greatly towards promotion of people to people contacts and spurring the tourism activity on both sides.

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS:

Lithuania is world leader in digital solutions, use of IT. Its key areas are: Life sciences including biotechnologies, ICT, digital solutions, new processes and new materials in this category, we can give example of Lithuanian laser industry as Lithuania today produces more than 10pc of scientific lasers. It is quite noteworthy that Pakistan is also investing in hi-tech sector, for example, in financial technologies (Fintech). Pakistani banks have made a significant progress in digitizing their systems and they might be interested in Lithuanian solutions.

AGRICULTURE COOPERATION:

This doesn't mean that we start action right now. First step is exchange of information. Take example of agriculture, Lithuania is traditionally agriculture country with old practices for ages. Now, of course still it is an important sector but its only 3pc of our GDP which used to be 10pc some 30 years ago. What we did: We modernized our agriculture sector to be more productive. Today, I presented to my Pakistani friends some solutions on biological fertilizers. Traditionally, we used synthetic chemicals and fertilizers in agriculture which are quite effective but you need big quantity of them and they are not good for your health. Some Lithuanian companies produced fertilizers based on organic solutions so they are not harmful for nature

and for your health and importantly, you don't need big quantity of them.

TRADE RELATIONS:

Last year our trade turnover was around Euros 50 million. It is not high but it has the potential to increase. Our exports are a little bit more than the imports from Pakistan but more or less they are balanced. We are keen for mutual investment from Pakistan to Lithuania and from our country to Pakistan.

Lithuanian gained independence 35 years ago. We faced challenges of transformation of political system, establishment of democracy, freedom, rule of law and also economic transformation. Under Soviet occupation, we had very ineffective economic system which was so-called centrally governed. Private initiative and private properties were not allowed. So, we had to create new economic system from a scratch.

We have successfully gone through this new system and our economy is very open, very stable and rapidly developing. 84pc of our GDP is created by exports and it is because we are very open globally. Pakistan's public and private sector banks, businesses, enterprises and companies can multiply their growth as well as revenues by entering into cooperation with their Lithuanian counterparts as the country is a world leader in cutting edge technologies such as development of business service centers, startup ecosystem, fintech, software development, cyber security, life sciences, engineering and electronics.

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Rector NUML visits ICCI

NUML, ICCI stress industry-academia collaboration

Rector NUML said that Universities can boost industry productivity, efficiency, competitiveness through strong academia-industry linkages

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rector National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Major General Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI (M) (Retd) has said that academia-industry integration is vital for sustainable economic growth and that NUML is determined to provide wholehearted cooperation to industry in new developments and trends in businesses through research. Speaking at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry he said that this partnership is critical driver of skill

and achievements for the purpose he said that both the institutions can work together to promote research culture to boost industrialisation and produce demand-driven graduates for the corporate sector, adding that this platform will also be a strategic move to bring stakeholders closer to each other to interact for mutual benefits by developing tech products, thereby contributing towards the socio-economic growth of Pakistan. The Rector said that NUML is one of the biggest Universities with 29000 students, second in ranking in Asia with online facility to over 4600 stu-

and that appointment of a focal person by the ICCI will definitely go a long way in strengthening this collaboration. Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari, while welcoming the distinguished guest emphasised the significance of industry-academia cooperation by saying that ICCI is keen to evolve a formal mechanism under the guidance of the NUML for strengthening a viable relationship for the development of corporate sector as per the market economy. He said that ICCI-NUML should create a nucleus for economic, social and cultural linkages with all the countries whose languages like Chinese, German, French, Persian, Arabic etc. are being taught. Vice President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that a vibrant industry-academia linkage will surely bear fruit. He also asserted business role models' regular lectures in the University to acquaint the students about the importance of corporate sector. Convener ICCI sub committee on Higher Education Commission Adnan Mukhtar said that Pakistan cannot progress without the active industry-academia linkage and that ICCI is playing a pro-active role for needful. ICCI Member Sajid Iqbal said that tasking University students for the preparation of feasibility studies about different projects will also be equally important. On this occasion, former SVP Khalid Chaudhry, Executive member Maqsood Tabish, Rizwan Chheena and Ch. Mohammad Ali were also present.



LAHORE: A blacksmith busy in sharpening knives to be used for slaughtering sacrificial animals during upcoming Eid ul Azha.—APP

Ashrafi urges pilgrims to avoid political activities

SPARC praises SIFC for tobacco tax hike

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC) Chairman, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday underscored the importance of maintaining the sanctity of Hajj as a purely religious duty and urged pilgrims to refrain from engaging in political and sectarian activities during their pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. In a media talk, he specifically advised pilgrims to avoid carrying political flags, banners, or pictures, and to steer clear of political gatherings or communal debates. Ashrafi emphasized that adherence to Saudi laws and regulations was crucial for a successful and respectful pilgrimage. Highlighting the scale of this year's pilgrimage, he mentioned that between 68,000 government-sponsored pilgrims and an additional 90,000 private pilgrims were expected to perform Hajj. He noted that all operations related to Hajj would be completed by June 12. He also reminded prospective pilgrims that performing Hajj required official permission and those intending to perform Umrah or holding an Iqama must secure the necessary approvals to participate in Hajj. Ashrafi announced his full support for the recent Fatwa issued by the Supreme Council of Ulema of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, "which mandates that performing Hajj without official permission is impermissible."—APP

ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) hailed the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and previous work on investing in better economic decisions, and tobacco topped the list when it came to increasing taxes on non-essential items for boosting the economy. Health activists are hopeful that SIFC will advocate for an increase in cigarettes taxes by 26% in upcoming budget of year 2024-25. This will be a Win-Win situation for both the economy and public health as it will generate PKR 17 Billion in revenue and after this tax increase, there is huge potential for long-term savings in health cost recovery by 19.8 percent. Malik Imran Ahmad country head Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) said, "Higher taxes on to-

bacco products can lead to increased revenue for the government. Pakistan currently holds the highest proportion of young people, as 64% of the total population of Pakistan is below the age of 30. While 29% is between the ages of 15-29 years. Approximately, 1200 children initiate smoking every day in Pakistan. This number is growing rapidly every year and as responsible citizens and stakeholders we must all take action to protect our future generations from addiction and death." "Revenue from this proposed tax increase will generate billions of rupees for the national exchequer and can then be allocated to various sectors like healthcare, education or infrastructure, which can indirectly contribute to economic growth." "Tobacco is deadly and tobacco-related illnesses are a significant burden on healthcare systems, annually taking lives of around 166,000 people in Pakistan. So reducing tobacco consumption can alleviate some of this burden, freeing up resources for other areas of healthcare," he added. Dr. Khalil Ahmad program manager SPARC, expressed his gratitude towards the SIFC, mentioning the urgent need to make sustainable decisions right now for strengthening economy in the long run and saving Pakistani children. "It is possible if the proposed 26% tax increase on cigarettes secures a place in the upcoming federal budget 2024-25," he added. "Increasing the price of tobacco products through taxation is the ultimate form of keeping children and young people away from smoking. Higher prices make tobacco products less affordable and less attractive to youth, who are often more sensitive to price increases. This measure can deter youth from initiating tobacco use and encourage current users to quit," he suggested.



development, adoption of knowledge and promotion of entrepreneurship in strengthening R&D investment via exploiting the synergies and complementarities present in scientific and technological capabilities. Highlighting the University initiatives

dents and is fully ready to impart necessary education, disseminate business information to Chambers' members for the promotion of businesses in the country. He went on that for the beneficial results, the University will support the ICCI ideas

Zero electricity shortfall in IESCO

ISLAMABAD: The electricity demand in Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Sunday stood at 1,997 megawatts (MW) at 06:00 pm against the allocation quota of 2,100 MW from the national grid system. According to Chief Engineer Operation Director Muhammad Aslam Khan, currently there was zero shortfall of electricity in IESCO and zero load management was being observed across all the six circles including Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Smooth and uninterrupted power supply was being supplied in Islamabad, Rawalpindi City, Rawalpindi Cantt, Jhelum, Attock and Chakwal Circles besides AJK, he added. He said that the company was withdrawing 1,940 MW from the National Grid.—APP

Education Minister praises CM Maryam's education commitment

BAHAWALPUR: Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat has said that that promoting quality education is the vision of the Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. While addressing the launching ceremony of the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Camp in Bahawalpur as the chief guest, he said that students in educational institutions are being provided with high-quality education facilities in an excellent learning environment. He said that the youth are the future of

the country and steps are being taken to educate and train them in the right direction. The minister said that obtaining education is essential to succeed in the world. He said that literacy skills are being provided to students in government schools. He praised the services of Nawab Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan Abbasi for promoting education in Bahawalpur. The minister said that schools will be provided with monitoring, teacher training programs, as well as courses on matriculation in technology and internet

technology. He said that school management councils in schools will play a role in promoting education and providing educational facilities. He said that report cards will be sent to parents of enrolled students and regular meetings between parents and teachers will be held in schools. The minister said that learning camps have been established in Bahawalpur district to provide educational facilities to children who are not enrolled in schools or are weak academically in a better environment.—DNA

ACT Alliance holds dialogue to combat illicit trade

The illicit trade in Pakistan has reached alarming levels, with an estimated \$68 billion in illicit activities occurring annually

MARDAN: The ACT Alliance Pakistan convened a significant civil society and media dialogue in Mardan on Sunday to address the critical issue of illicit trade and its detrimental impact on the local, provincial, and national economies. The event brought together representatives from various sectors, including business leaders, media professionals and civil society organizations, to discuss the pressing economic challenges of illicit trade, tax evasion, smuggling and counterfeiting. The illicit trade in Pakistan has reached alarming levels, with an estimated \$68 billion in illicit activities occurring annually. Tax evasion accounts for over \$21 billion, while smuggling exceeds \$3 billion. Additionally, nearly 80 percent of products, particularly in town centers and rural areas, are counterfeited. These figures underscore the urgent need for collective action to address these pervasive issues. This emphasis on the urgency of the issue should make the audience feel concerned and aware of the immediate need for action. Speaking at the event, Ihsan Bacha, President of the Traders Association, Mardan, lauded the ACT Alliance's efforts in raising awareness and fostering collaboration to combat illicit trade. "The ACT Alliance's initiative to reach out to local communities and raise awareness about illicit trade is commendable. The traders' community in Mardan recognizes the challenges posed by illicit trade and is committed to cooperating to eradicate this menace," said Bacha. The dialogue also shed light on sector-specific tax evasion figures, underscoring the magnitude of the problem. The petroleum sector faces tax evasion amounting to Rs996 billion, the real estate sector Rs500 billion, and the tobacco sector Rs310 billion annually. Despite these staggering figures, the government has disproportionately focused on extracting unjust taxes from the tobacco sector, which already pays heavy taxes. At the same time, a large majority of local companies evade taxes. Local civil society leaders expressed serious concerns about this imbalance. They stressed the need for the government to take decisive action against tax evaders and those involved in illicit trading in tobacco products. Mubashir Akram, the National Convener of ACT Alliance, delivered a compelling presentation to the participants, emphasizing the potential benefits of addressing the illicit economy. "If Pakistan manages to recover even 25% of the losses incurred due to the illicit economy, it will result in billions of dollars being injected into national and local development projects, directly benefiting communities in Mardan as well," Akram stated. This inspiring vision of a more prosperous and equitable Pakistan should motivate the audience to support the ACT Alliance's efforts and promote its messaging to create a broader impact.—DNA

Tarar grieves over demise of senior newscaster Taskeen Zafar

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Sunday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of Radio Pakistan's senior newscaster Taskeen Zafar. In a condolence message, the minister said he was deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of Taskeen Zafar. Taskeen Zafar was a talented and experienced newscaster and her demise was loss of not only Radio Pakistan but also to the media industry, he maintained.—APP

LHC may get its first female CJ

JCP deliberates on elevation of Justice Aalia Neelum as next chief justice

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) has deliberated on the elevation of Justice Aalia Neelum as the next chief justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC). Justice Shujaat Ali Khan is the senior puisne judge in the LHC, while Justice Neelum is third in the seniority list of the LHC after the elevation of incumbent LHC CJ Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan to the Supreme Court. Although it is not a constitutional requirement to appoint the senior puisne judge of a high court as the next chief justice, all senior puisne judges have been appoint-



ed as the CJs since the change of procedure in the appointment of superior courts judges through the 18th Constitution Amendment in 2010. However, prior to the amendment, some senior puisne judges had been superseded by junior judges. One such instance

was that of Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan, who was not the senior puisne judge but was elevated to the position of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) CJ. Sources revealed to The Express Tribune that there was a detailed informal discussion among the JCP members on Friday about the appointment of the next LHC CJ after the elevation of incumbent CJ Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan. During the meeting, Justice Yahya Afridi suggested that once any high court judge is ignored for elevation to the SC despite his seniority, he must not be considered for his appointment as an SC judge next time. Two JCP members confirmed to The Express Tribune that the

JCP unanimously agreed that the two senior-most judges of the LHC—Justice Shujaat Ali Khan and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi—should not be considered for elevation as the high court's CJ due to certain reasons. They said the commission informally decided to appoint Justice Aalia Neelum as the next LHC CJ. Justice Shujaat Ali Khan may take oath as the acting LHC chief justice for some time. However, a JCP meeting will be summoned soon to nominate the new LHC chief justice. Both the government representatives—the attorney general for Pakistan and the law minister—agreed on the consideration of Justice Neelum as the new LHC CJ.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE

June 02/Italy National/Independence Day

June 04/Finland Armed Forces Day

June 06/Sweden National Day

June 10/Portugal Portugal Day (National Day)

June 10/Jordan Arab Revolution & Army Day

June 11/United Kingdom Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth

June 12/Philippines Independence Day

June 12/Russian Federation Day of Sovereignty of the Russian Federation (National Day)

June 13/Zambia Armed Forces Day

June 17/Iceland National Day

June 18/Seychells National Day

June 25/Croatia National Day

June 25/Mozambique National Day

June 26/Azerbaijan Army Day

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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

Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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

Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Australian envoy highlights education, trade cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins on Sunday emphasized Australia's commitment to investing in Pakistan's future through education and trade. He said, "By investing in the people of Pakistan, particularly the young people who study in Australia, we hope they will return with valuable skills to



contribute to Pakistan's future," Hawkins stated. He highlighted the sustained efforts to offer scholarships, focusing on women in executive leadership, climate change and agriculture. "Gender equality and climate change are major focuses for us," he said, underscoring the shared climate challenges between the two nations and the potential for cooperative efforts. The environmental focus, particularly on water and agriculture, remains a critical

aspect of their support, with Hawkins noting his recent visit to northern Pakistan to witness climate change impacts firsthand. Regarding trade, Hawkins noted a significant increase from the 2.5 billion dollars trade volume in 2022, with a 30 percent rise this year. Key exports include agricultural products like cattle, wheat, and canola, with nearly 90 percent of Pakistan's canola sourced from Australia. "If you're enjoying chana or

chickpeas for breakfast, they're likely from Australia as well," he added. This dialogue was part of an event celebrating the achievements of 60 Pakistani scholars who completed their studies in Australia through the prestigious Australia Awards scholarship program. These scholars, including 21 men and 39 women, were recognized for their academic excellence and dedication. The High Commissioner however expressed concern

over a number of cases where, despite having given undertakings to return, some scholarship recipients had remained in Australia post-graduation. He cautioned such actions not only contravene the terms of the scholarship but also undermine the very purpose of this initiative and could ultimately 'jeopardise the future of the program and deprive aspiring Pakistani scholars from an Australian education.'

Sino-Pak relations Boosted by PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD June 9 (): Chinese companies operating in Pakistan expect better opportunities for the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) following Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's visit to China.

World's leading Chinese engineering and power companies such as CMEC and POWERCHINA Pakistan aim to enhance investment and undertake new projects across various sectors. Talking to Gwadar Pro, Dai Bao, Vice General Manager of China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) Pakistan expressed strong interest in collaborating with the Pakistani government during the second phase of the CPEC. He acknowledged the recent high-level meeting between President Xi and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. "The initial phase of the CPEC laid a robust foundation for Pakistan's national destiny and established a pivotal framework for further bilateral cooperation. This progress paves the way for the next steps, and both sides eagerly anticipate the new phase of CPEC. The Prime Minister's visit to China signaled the beginning of this transformative stage." The company's senior representative highlighted that both nations aspire to witness fresh achievements and embrace a renewed outlook of the joint corridor. China, drawing from its experience with reform and openness, extends a friendly hand of support to Pakistan. Notably, CMEC became the first Chinese state-owned company to operate in Pakistan since 1981. "Having closely observed Pakistan's progress, we are confident that both countries will reap benefits from this new chapter."

Long-term loans on low markup vital

ISLAMABAD: Stressing the need for a long-term loan scheme on low markup for the farmers, the business community has said that the provincial government's decision to launch a green tractor scheme will boost agriculture economy in Punjab and help stimulate national economy which is already showing signs of stability with stable value of the rupee, reduced inflation, and expected reduction in the interest rates. Appreciating the government plan of providing subsidies to the peasants for the purchase of tractors, the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers Chairman Abdur Rehman Aizaz said that the tractor subsidy schemes have been introduced in the past as well but last for one year, which creates a boom in the industry followed by a bust in the following year, which is detrimental for the industry. Mumsahd Ali, SVC Paapam and a tractor parts manufacturer was of the opinion that both the federal and provincial budgets should function in unison to support the industry and the farmer. The federal government is likely to impose GST on tractors, and this should be offset by the provincial governments through reduced markup long-term loans, which should continue for at least five years. He was of the opinion that a one-time heavy subsidy on tractors would put the industry in overdrive for the coming financial year, followed by a sharp drop in orders in the next financial year. —APP



QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD

ADMISSIONS FALL 2024

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Ranked No. 1
in Pakistan 315th
Globally by QS World University Rankings 2025

THE World University Rankings 2024 Asia

121ST
among Asian universities in the TIMES Asian University Rankings 2024

Applications are invited from Pakistani and Foreign Nationals for admissions to following Programmes of Studies in Fall Semester-2024

Admissions on Regular/Self Finance Basis (Morning)

Ph.D	Faculty of Biological Sciences	Faculty of Natural Sciences	Faculty of Social Sciences
<p>Ph.D Programmes on Regular Basis Deadline for submission of Application(s) is 23/08/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry • Bioinformatics • Biotechnology • Botany • Environmental Sciences • Microbiology • Pharmacy • Zoology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry • Computer Science • Earth Sciences • Electronics • Mathematics • Physics • Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Studies • Anthropology • English Literature • English linguistics • Economics • History • International Relations • Psychology • Pakistan Studies
<p>M.Phil/MS Regular Basis Deadline for submission of Application(s) is 23/08/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry • Bioinformatics • Biotechnology • Botany • Environmental Sciences • Microbiology • Pharmacy • Zoology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry • Computer Science • Earth Sciences • Electronics • Mathematics • Physics • Statistics • Information Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian Studies (TIAC) • Anthropology • American Studies • Criminology • Defence & Strategic Studies • English literature • English Linguistics • Economics • Gender Studies • History • MBA • Management Sciences • Psychology • Sociology • Pakistan Studies
<p>BS & B.A LL.B Undergraduate Regular & Self Finance Basis (Morning) Deadline for submission of Application(s) is 22/07/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry • Bioinformatics • Biotechnology • Botany • Environmental Sciences • Microbiology • Zoology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry • Computer Science • Earth Sciences • Electronics • Information Technology • Mathematics • Physics • Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropology • Archaeology • Business Administration • Defence & Strategic Studies • Economics • English • Gender Studies • History • International Relations • Political Science • Public Administration • Pakistan Studies • Psychology • B.A LL.B

Pharm-D
BS/Undergraduate Programme Regular & Self Finance Basis (Morning)
Deadline for submission of Application(s) is **23/09/2024**

Pharm-D
BS/Undergraduate Programme Self-Support Basis (Evening)
Deadline for submission of Application(s) is **30-09-2024**

Note:
Separate / independent form (available at QAU Website) for admission in Pharm-D be filled please.

Admissions Purely on Self Support Basis

BS	Faculty of Biological Sciences	Faculty of Natural Sciences	Faculty of Social Sciences
<p>BS Undergraduate Programme purely Self Support Basis Deadline for submission of Application is 19/08/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry • Biotechnology • Botany • Environmental Sciences • Microbiology • Zoology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry • Earth Sciences • Computer Science • Electronics • Mathematics • Physics • Statistics • Mathematics with Finance and Economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropology • Business Administration • Defence & Strategic Studies • English • Economics • International Relations • Tourism Management • Psychology • Public Administration • Pakistan studies
<p>BS 5th Semester programme purely Self Support Basis Deadline for submission of Application is 31/07/2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botany • Environmental Sciences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Sciences • Mathematics • Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychology
<p>M.Phil/MS Programme Self Support Basis Deadline for submission of Application is 23/08/2024</p>	<p>Faculty of Natural Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Data Science (Department of Computer Science) • MS Information Science & Technology (Department of Computer Science) 		<p>Faculty of Social Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Relations • Pakistan Studies • MBA

HOW TO APPLY

- The applicant can apply through Online Application System of the QAU available at www.qau.edu.pk along with a Challan of the Habib Bank Ltd. OR Askari Bank Ltd.
- The applicants are advised to deposit Rs. 2215/- in any branch of Habib Bank Ltd. OR Rs 2200/- in any branch of Askari Bank Ltd. in favour of the Treasurer, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.
- The Bank Challan be attached with the online Admission Data Summary Sheet along with other scanned requisite documents, otherwise application will not be entertained.

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NOTE:- STUDENTS ADMITTED ON SELF FINANCE BASIS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/ SCHOLARSHIP

- No call letter/phone call shall be made separately for selection. Applicants are advised to visit QAU website frequently.
- For detailed advertisement, please visit QAU website: www.qau.edu.pk

Registrar

PID (I) No. 7653/23

Briefs

Omar Iftikhar's new book, Player AI, launched

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Omar Iftikhar's latest book, and his second work of science fiction, Player AI, has been released. The novel, published by Daastan Publishing, uniquely intertwines cricket and technology, set against the backdrop of the T20 Cricket World Cup. The story begins when the captain of the Pakistan cricket team falls ill just months before the tournament. In response, the Pakistan Cricket Alliance (PCA) introduces "Player AI," an android replica designed to emulate the captain's every move. The narrative explores themes of artificial intelligence, consciousness, identity, the ethics of technology, and human-machine interaction. Commenting on the book, Syed Ommer Amer, Founder and CEO of Daastan Publishing, said, "We take pride in bringing unique voices like Player AI to mainstream media through our platform. It is high time that the Pakistani industry moves beyond cliché themes of marriage and divorce to explore new genres in storytelling. Omar's four books, published with us, are a testament to this. I am excited to see how the audience will interact with this masterpiece that combines cricket and AI." Mar-iam Arif, Editor-in-Chief of Daastan Publishing, added, "Muhammad Omar Iftikhar has brilliantly introduced AI into cricket in his latest book, Player AI. It's a unique, fast-paced novel and a real page-turner. It's refreshing to see Pakistani authors develop unique ideas, and Omar is at the forefront of this trend. Player AI is perfect for kids and adults who share a love of cricket."

Solid steps taken to control spread of diseases

RAWALPINDI: The Livestock Department on the directives of the Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak is taking solid steps to control spread of diseases. The Commissioner had issued instructions for necessary measures to prevent the spread of diseases in view of the movement of animals on Eid-ul-Adha, the district administration spokesman informed. He said that all possible steps would be taken to control Congo virus and other diseases. Banners of free veterinary facilities were also being displayed at selected sale points, he said. Mobile veterinary dispensaries of the Livestock Department were being deployed to ensure the supply of free medicines. On the instructions of Engineer Aamir Khattak, the loudspeakers would be used to spread animal welfare awareness messages. Livestock department was ensuring supply of anti-tick spray, antibiotic and other necessary drugs, he informed. Solid steps were taken to ensure establishment of inter-provincial check posts, he said adding, inter-district check posts were also set up to complete the task of spraying animals to prevent them from Congo Virus.—APP

Economic growth linked with success of business sector: ICCI

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that to curb robberies and purse snatching incidents, functionality of safe city cameras is vital and he is in contact with the concerned police officials for the purpose which in turn will boost the attraction of the area for the consumers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that resolving traders issues is of key importance for economic growth and that he will exhaust all options for the purpose to foster the business friendly environment in the capital city. He said this while addressing a mammoth gathering of traders of Blue Area here at Chamber House. He emphasized that nation's advancement is inextricably linked to the success of its business sector and that ICCI under his leadership is exploring every avenue for the smooth business operations. He said that Blue

Area is the biggest business hub of Islamabad as well as the second biggest tax paying market of the country but lacks necessary facilities that's why he is constantly in touch with the Capital Development Authority and other concerned departments' high ups for the quick resolution of its issues like traffic jams, lack of Parking Plaza, provision of space for Flower Market, up gradation of the existing washrooms etc. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that to curb robberies and purse snatching incidents, functionality of safe city cameras is vital and he is in contact with the concerned police officials for the purpose which in turn will boost the attraction of the area for the consumers. He went on to say that under

the campaign he has launched for the installation of water filtration plants in different business centres of Islamabad, a suitable site has also been earmarked in the Blue Area and the work on it would commence in next few days. Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik while appreciating the pro-active role of the office bearers of the Traders Welfare Association Blue Area for the betterment of the community assured unwavering and continued ICCI support for the cause. Present on the occasion, member Sanitation CDA Mashooq Ali Shaikh by announcing that new Wash Rooms will also be built in Blue Area assured all possible cooperation to the traders' community for keeping the business centres clean, green and business friendly.

He also assured that extra parking facility will be created in Blue Area by removing the waste material. Group leader Blue Area, Yousuf Rajput by reiterating his and his colleagues complete support to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari warned that the community has to be vigilant of black sheep in its ranks hell bent to inflict loss to traders interest. President Traders Welfare Association Blue Area, Raja Hassan Akhtar expressed gratitude to ICCI team for addressing problems of his market. President Traders' Welfare Association, F/7, Assad Aziz apprised the audience about the successes of the body for the betterment of the business community. President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran Ajmal Baloch said that creation

of the Mediation Council in the ICCI for the settlement of rent matters is one of the main achievements of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari as President ICCI. Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari emphasized unity, honesty and brotherhood in the ranks of the community to attain due respect and honour by saying that ICCI's only agenda is to promote businesses through giving projection to business role models by making them brands at international level for the cause of the country. Those spoke on the occasion include Chaudhry Mohammad Naeem, Khalid Chaudhry, Abdur Rehman Siddiqui, Basharat Kakakhel, Ahmed Khan, Ch. Intiaz and other.

Steps to control use of plastic bags

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district administration is taking solid steps to control the use of plastic bags and promote the use of paper and cloth-made bags in the markets and bazaars. According to Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi, Dr. Hassan Waqar Cheema, the polythene bags were creating environmental issues. "The bags have been causing havoc in urban and rural areas, besides damaging the sewerage system, polluting soil, causing water pollution, and endangering aquatic life." "The district administration is implementing the ban on plastic bags from June 5 on the directives of the Punjab government," he said. In that regard, the administration had started work to ensure the replacement of plastic bags of less than 75 microns in the shopping malls of the city, he added. Dr. Hassan Waqar Cheema informed us that the teams had been formed under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners and members of the Punjab Environment Department. He said the teams would confiscate plastic bags of less than 75 microns (polyethylene, non-woven polypropylene) from retailers in commercial areas. The environment department would start registering producers, distributors, recyclers, and collectors. He said the registration of producers and distributors would be accompanied by an affidavit stating that they would not produce or distribute plastic bags of less than 75 microns and would phase out their stock in 45 days in an environment-friendly manner. After 45 days, he said, the existing stock of producers and distributors would be confiscated. "Producers, distributors, recyclers, and collectors who do not register themselves in 15 days from June 5 will be sealed on June 21," he said, adding that the Punjab government had imposed a ban on the manufacturing, sale, and use of polythene and plastic bags. The district administration spokesman informed us that the ACs were visiting different shopping malls and grocery store chains to replace plastic bags with paper bags. Many stores and restaurants had agreed to replace the plastic bags, disposable plates, and glass, he added. "The administration has displayed banners made from cloth to create public awareness," he said. He informed me that a seminar to create awareness among stakeholders was also held, in which owners of bakeries, restaurants, and food outlets were informed about the alternatives and samples were given to them.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Jun08 - Horsemen taking part in the "Islamabad 12th Tent Pegging Championship 2024" under the auspices of Chief Organiser of the Program, Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi, Ex Deputy Mayor Islamabad in the F-9 Park in Federal Capital.—ONLINE

'Interest rates should be reduced'

Investment friendly policies should be introduced to protect the economy from further damage

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Shaikh has said that in the budget, zero rated should be restored for industries, electricity rates, interest rates should be reduced. Inflation has reduced to 11.8%. 22% interest rate is unjustified. By reducing the interest rate, the government can save 3 trillion rupees in interest payments. Talking about the textile sector, Atif Ikram said that for the last four months, cotton imports from the US and Brazil have been

blocked at the port, which has led to significant financial burden due to the increase in demurrage charges, which are now Rs 50 million, has been exceeded. These charges are being paid to foreign companies in dollars, which is increasing the economic pressure on the country. The government should take notice of this issue and resolve it immediately. Federation President Atif Ikram said that we believe in the determination of the Prime Minister to promote a favorable environment for business and trade in Pakistan. It is very important to bring investment and business friendly policies.

Farmer support package to help millions

ISLAMABAD: Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), lauded the Punjab Government on Sunday for introducing the Kisan Package, which can revive the agriculture sector and improve food security in the country. He said that through this significant initiative, easy loans will be provided to farmers through the establishment of the Punjab Kisan Bank. He added that the comprehensive package for farmers includes the Green Tractor Scheme, local harvesters and agricultural equipment manufacturing, and the Oilseed Promotion Programme. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that a 70 percent subsidy on small tractors and a 50 percent subsidy on large tractors will be offered through this package. Through the High-Tech Mechanisation Programme, local manufacturing of advanced agricultural equipment in collaboration with foreign companies will be ensured, and incentives will be offered to enhance the technological capabilities of agricultural sector.—DNA

Remittances flow crucial to support account balance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the remittances to Pakistan has hit a record high in May the Ferozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) has said that foreign remittances flows are crucial which can support the country's account balance amidst low volumes of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and nominal growth of exports. The FRIA Senior vice chairman Shahbaz Aslam said that overseas Pakistanis living in Gulf should further be motivated to maintain an upward momentum in remittances, as they contributed more than 60 percent of the total inflows during last couple of months. Quoting the State Bank of Pakistan, he reported that remittances in May totaled \$3.2 billion, an increase of 54.2 percent over the same month last year. In May, remittances rose 15.3 percent on a month-over-month basis. In the 11 months (July-May) of the fiscal year 2024, Pakistan received \$27.1 billion in remittances from its citizens working abroad, representing an 8 percent annual increase. An all-time monthly

surge in remittance flows occurred in May, primarily due to seasonal factors or Eid-related inflows, as Pakistanis living abroad sent large sums of money to their families to purchase sacrificial animals in preparation for Eidul Azha, which falls in the third week of this month. Analysts attribute this to these events. Saudi Arabia (\$819.3 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$668.5 million), the United Kingdom (\$473.2 million), and the United States of America (\$359.5 million) were the top four countries from which remittance inflows arrived in May. However, a shift towards more regulated money transfer channels, a spike in Pakistani immigrants in other countries, and the nation's stable currency and economy are the main causes of the increase in remittances between July and May. Remittances are typically higher during the Eid season; however, the record high numbers are likely due to a stabilizing economy and a large number of people going abroad for work, he said. Remittances are exceeding forecasts, according to him, since they were \$27 billion in July through May of FY2024,

compared to the predicted \$28 billion for the entire year. In the same way, the IMF predicted \$28 billion in overseas remittances for FY2024. "We believe, with this momentum and growth trajectory, Pakistan can achieve remittances of \$29.5-30 billion for FY2024, up 8-10 percent YoY," he said. Remittances are a major source of non-debt-creating inflows that Pakistan relies on to maintain its foreign exchange reserves. Even though the SBP's reserves, which were \$9.1 billion as of May 31, are sufficient to cover imports for nearly two months, they are still low and won't be sufficient to fund expected external financing needs for the next few years at the very least. Pakistan has a looming deadline to repay a substantial amount of debt by July 2024, much of which relies on debt rollovers. The frequent visits of the Prime Minister and his team to Saudi Arabia, UAE, and China are mainly aimed at securing these rollovers, which are essential for setting the stage for the IMF program. Shahbaz Aslam said that remittances can help not only in financing the deficit in import payments.

ANF recovers over 391 kg drugs; arrests 18 accused

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover over 391 kg drugs and arrested 18 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman. He informed that 195.6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of four suspects rounded up in two operations near Lakpas Toll Plaza Mustang. In an operation, 57.6 kg opium and 70.8 kg hashish were recovered from five suspects including a woman arrested in two operations at Sangjani Toll Plaza Islamabad. 34 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of four drug smugglers netted in Hyderabad while 18 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects held in G-15 Islamabad. 15.6 kg hashish was recovered from three accused arrested from Haripur. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process.

Expectation vs reality


TANVEER HUSSAIN




EXPECTATION vs reality is a concept that we all experience in our daily lives. Expectations are what we think will happen, while reality is what actually transpires. The disparity of expectations and reality can often lead to frustration. As a nation we are very emotional people. We always have high expectations from others while absolving ourselves of all responsibilities. We hope that our friends and relatives will always be there to help and serve us. They should also spend time and money for

us when needed. If we are businessmen, we hope that the prices of our products will skyrocket and we will become millionaires overnight. If we are employed we expect not to do any work but to get maximum salary and benefits. We expect from our boss not to ask about our work but he should regularly arrange our salary and other perquisites. It is our national habit to criticize the mistakes of others but find justification for our own mistakes. Many people abuse the players after the cricket match is over. Some emotional people even break the TV set after losing a match. All this is the result of these false expectations. If a team is ranked 6th or 7th in the world, it means they cannot play better than the top level teams. Then it would be unrealistic to expect this team to win the World Cup anyway. Influenced by stories of luxury life and wealth in Western countries, young people want to go to America and Europe through illegal means. Many people lose their lives in this attempt. For those who somehow manage to get there, life becomes difficult. Due to lack of required documents, they are deprived of good employment and medical facilities. Apart from this, the fear of arrest and deportation also hangs over their heads all the time. So they are forced to work hard for less pay. Many

people fall prey to scams and fraudsters as a result of false expectations of high profits and great wealth. Many people place high expectations on jaali peers, gaddi nasheens and aamils to get rid of their problems, gain sudden wealth or to settle any family matter. The result is that they not only do they lose their savings but also risk their lives and honor. We people expect a lot from political leaders after listening to their empty speeches. Neither we think about his past life nor his mental and psychological condition. Is it possible to fulfill the lofty claims he has made in this on-ground conditions? After some time, when the real face of these people comes out, then it is understood that all this is just a link in the chain of fooling the people. We look forward to a reduction in hardship with every upcoming budget. We expect sustainable democracy from every election. After completing the education of the children, they expect a suitable job or a good business for them. But unfortunately these expectations are never fulfilled. Because of this, people have lost trust in society and governments. Depression and frustration are increasing among the citizens. This not only affects their health but also reduces their motivation to work. This situation is not at all useful for the development of the country.



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Colonial expansion and its consequences

THE protests in New Caledonia that began in May have already become an important milestone in the history of this island territory. The French neocolonial model of governance has entered a phase of systemic crisis. There are many reasons for this: The French government's attempt to limit the voting rights of the indigenous population of New Caledonia through constitutional reform, the economic exploitation of the island's resources by French corporations, and the high level of unemployment among New Caledonian youth, etc... But in order to better understand and analyze these events, we can recall their origins during the colonization of New Caledonia. After all, it was colonial rule that inflicted irreparable and severe damage on the local indigenous population - the Kanaks.

Long before the arrival of the colonizers, the Kanaks had their own unique social structure. Communities formed from related families living in the same territory played a key role. These communities could enter into alliances with other communities living in neighboring areas. The Kanaks have had a set of unwritten rules since ancient times. A striking example of such rules was the principle of peaceful resolution of disputes; that is, conflicts between different communities were supposed to be resolved with the help of arguments, without the use of force. Customs, passed on by word of mouth, served as the foundation of society. An important place was also occupied by the exchange system, known in many other regions of Melanesia. Within its framework, the symbolic exchange of certain objects (for example, sea shells) took place between different communities. Such a practice strengthened relations between different communities and had an important ceremonial function.

What does all this mean? That before the arrival of the French colonizers, the Kanaks lived happily on their original territory in accordance with their social structure and way of life. They lived in communities, fished, and were engaged in agriculture. Until the middle of the nineteenth century, they were free from despotic colonial power. However, everything changed when France declared New Caledonia a colony in September 1853. A flood of French settlers poured into the territory. In addition, prisons were created there, where prisoners and exiles were sent en masse from the metropolis. The settlers began to take away the land from the indigenous Kanak population. A little later, the colonizers began to create pastures for cattle on the island territories, which caused great damage to the areas where the indigenous people grew crops. The French colonial administration not only took away most of the Kanak land but also drove the indigenous people into reservations. Ignoring the structure of Kanak society, the colonizers forcibly divided the inhabitants of New Caledonia into different tribes, forcing them to live in isolated areas. The indigenous population was deprived of the tradition of self-government and began to appoint leaders approved exclusively by the colonial authorities and not by the inhabitants themselves.



New trade routes and multipolar world

TRADE routes are vital in our interconnected world. Yet, they face significant challenges from regional conflicts, economic crises and funding uncertainties. Importantly, the shift from a US-led unipolar world to a multipolar one could also give rise to threats to global commerce. In this new landscape, developing economies with ambitious foreign policy agendas - often labelled middle powers - are forging new alliances and seeking new avenues to navigate the uncertainty. While some Western experts dismiss these trends as "exaggerated panic", reality tells a different story. Brics is expanding, and US partners such as the Gulf nations are making long-term business contracts with China while still buying expensive US military hardware. Meanwhile, despite Western sanctions, Russia has stayed afloat partly thanks to China, which has benefited the most from this situation. In this tumultuous landscape, global trade routes have become lifelines, enabling countries - major and middle powers alike - to challenge the monopoly of Western-dominated power structures. China's Belt and Road Initiative is a case in point. This multibillion-dollar project encompasses six major trade routes, extending from China to Europe via Central Asia and the Caucasus, to the Gulf through Pakistan, and Southeast Asia from its southern borders. With this network, China is solidifying its trade influence through a route diversification strategy that protects against sanctions like those imposed on Russia, and mitigates risks associated with the "Malacca dilemma": China vulnerabilities should the US blockade the Malacca Strait. But these routes are not risk-free. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, for one, faces significant terrorist threats, particularly around the Gwadar Port construction site. Another alternative is the 7,200km International North-South Transport Corridor linking Indian ports to Iran, across the Caspian Sea, and finally to Russia. Although Tehran and Moscow, both despised by the US, are entangled in sanctions, New Delhi is pushing for this route, bargaining with Washington to get the partnership going. Its recent deal securing operational rights for Iran's Chabahar port underscores this. For Russia, this corridor represents a vital lifeline to circumvent sanctions. Iran, too, sees this route as a crucial escape from economic restrictions. On the other hand, the US-backed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) envisions a bold route starting from India, moving to United Arab Emirates (UAE) ports, then via rail and road to Saudi Arabia, through Jordan to Israeli ports, finally reaching Europe via the Mediterranean. It aims to divert maritime transport from the Red Sea, where Houthi attacks have caused risk premiums to spike. Despite being affected by Israel's war on Gaza, some movement is taking place. India and the UAE have signed a deal, and France appointed a special envoy for the project. Trade routes are vital in our interconnected world. Yet, they face significant challenges from regional conflicts, economic crises and funding uncertainties. Importantly, the shift from a US-led unipolar world to a multipolar one could also give rise to threats to global commerce.

Palestinians massacred in "rescue" operation lauded by US

Maureen Clare Murphy

THE US has imposed tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles and the European Union is expected to do the same, but most countries in the Global South have not followed suit. In particular, Mexico has become China's second-largest car importer and has seen a recent surge in Chinese investment.

China, the main trading partner of many Southeast Asian and African states, is becoming an important trading country for South America, long seen as America's backyard. Given that the Global South represents 88 per cent of the world's population and 52 per cent of the gross domestic product in purchasing power parity terms, protectionist measures from the West risk isolating their industries - without necessarily ensuring their long-term competitiveness

WHILE Israelis celebrated the release of four captives secured by the military in Gaza on Saturday, Palestinians mourned hundreds of people killed during the daytime operation. Palestinian officials said that more than 210 Palestinians were killed and 400 injured in central Gaza on Saturday, including in the area where the Israeli military says it rescued the four captives from two separate apartment blocks in a residential area of Nuseirat refugee camp. The fresh horror in Nuseirat comes two days after Israel bombed a UN school in the refugee camp where thousands of displaced people were sheltering, killing at least 33. As of 5 June, the Palestinian health ministry in Gaza had recorded more than 36,500 fatalities and 83,000 injuries since 7 October. The actual fatality count is likely much higher, with thousands of people missing under the rubble. An unknown number of Palestinians in Gaza have died in a secondary wave of mortality as Israel has destroyed water and sanitation facilities in the territory, giving rise to diseases, all while engineering a famine and destroying the healthcare system. In Nuseirat refugee camp, "Gazan paramedics and residents said the assault killed scores of people and left mangled bodies of men, women and children strewn around a marketplace and a mosque," Reuters reported on Saturday. Abu Obeida, the pseudonymous spokesperson for the Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, said that some captives were killed during the operation. Israel has not reported any fatalities among the captives during the raid. "By committing horrifying massacres the enemy was able to liberate a few of its prisoners but at the same time it killed some of them during the operation," Abu Obeida said. "This operation will constitute a major danger to the enemy's prisoners and will have a negative impact on their conditions and their lives," he added. Footage from the raid indicated that Israeli forces infiltrated Nuseirat refugee camp disguised in civilian trucks: A wounded eyewitness described walking in the street and seeing what he thought was a truck carrying humanitarian aid before armed forces emerged from the vehicle and shot him in the chest and arm: "The market was full, but then many were shot and lying headless on the ground," the injured man recounted of the raid. Israel has repeatedly accused Hamas of hiding among civilians to justify its targeting and destruction of civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, in Gaza, while apparently using trucks disguised as humanitarian aid to carry out an operation that killed scores of civilians. Feigning civilian or non-combatant status, as Israeli forces appear to have done, and hardly for the first time, may constitute the war crime of perfidy under international humanitarian law. Giving further rise to concerns of perfidy, the temporary floating pier built by the American military appears to have been used in the Nuseirat raid: The plan for the US pier on the Gaza shoreline was revealed in a surprise announcement by President Joe Biden during his State of the Union address in early March and was framed as an effort to increase humanitarian aid into the besieged territory, despite its limited capacity in comparison to the already established land crossings.

The pier took its first delivery on 17 May and only functioned at partial capacity, on and off, for a few days before a storm damaged the modular pier around a week later. The controversial pier is part of a corridor that the Israeli military has cut through the center of the Gaza Strip, south of Gaza City, effectively splitting northern and southern Gaza and allowing Israeli forces to more easily carry out raids in the center of the Gaza Strip. The US Department of Defense said on Friday that repairs to the pier had been completed with the assistance of the Israeli military, raising questions whether the Nuseirat operation was delayed until after the pier was rebuilt. Barak Ravid, the Axios writer who is frequently fed information by Israel's military and intelligence apparatus, reported that Nuseirat operation "was supposed to happen a few weeks ago but was canceled for operational reasons," citing unnamed Israeli officials. Israeli military spokesperson Daniel Hagari said that hundreds of soldiers were involved in the Nuseirat operation and a police officer was critically wounded during the raid; he was later reported to have died from his injuries.

Axios revealed that "the US hostage cell in Israel supported the effort to rescue the four hostages," citing an unnamed US official. The White House released a statement from national security advisor Jake Sullivan in which he said that Washington "is supporting all efforts to secure the release of hostages still held by Hamas, including American citizens." "This includes through ongoing negotiations or other means," Sullivan added. Sullivan's statement on the "successful operation" commends "the work of the Israeli security services that conducted this daring operation" and makes no mention of the scores of Palestinians killed. The White House statement was only one of many from Western leaders celebrating the rescue of the four Israeli captives without any mention of the Palestinians killed in the process. Hamas condemned what it called a "horrific massacre against innocent civilians" in Nuseirat camp and other locations in central Gaza and the reported American involvement. In a statement published on its Telegram channel, Hamas said that it "proves once again the complicity of the US administration" the complicity of the US in war crimes in Gaza. Palestinians residing in the areas of central Gaza attacked on Saturday described "doomsday" scenes like those from a horror film, with quadcopters shooting at civilians in Deir al-Balah while Israel drops bombs from the sky. Video recorded in Nuseirat refugee camp shows Israeli-fired missiles striking a residential area. One graphic video shows around a dozen dead and injured people lying on a street in Nuseirat refugee camp, and other videos show people arriving with severe injuries to overcrowded medical facilities. Yet another graphic video shows a man holding a young boy with a severe head wound standing among shrouded corpses outside a hospital. When the child suddenly moves, the surprised man runs with the boy in his arms towards the hospital entrance. Videos and photos show that another boy was killed with his last meal still in his mouth and a man was shot dead while cooking on a stove. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, one of the few still functioning in Gaza, was overwhelmed with casualties from Nuseirat and

was being run by a sole generator on Saturday while Israeli bombing further threatened its ability to provide urgently needed medical care. The Palestine Red Crescent Society said that it was transporting injured people from hospitals in central Gaza to a field hospital due to the threat of Israeli bombing: The four rescued captives - Noa Argamani, 25, Almog Meir Jan, 21, Andrey Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 40 - were all captured at the Supernova music festival during Hamas' raid on 7 October last year.

During her captivity, Hamas released two videos showing signs of life from Argamani. The most recent video, published on 31 May, features Argamani's voice imploring Israelis to put pressure on Netanyahu's war cabinet, warning that "time is running out." The four former captives "were taken to hospital for medical checks and were in good health," Reuters reported, citing the Israeli military. This is in stark contrast to Palestinians from Gaza who have been arbitrarily detained by Israel in recent months and released with newly amputated limbs removed without anesthesia and their bodies bearing marks of torture. Around 250 people were captured in Israel on 7 October and brought to Gaza. More than 100 were released by Hamas as part of a prisoner exchange deal in November. The US State Department announced on Friday that Antony Blinken, Washington's top diplomat, would return to the region in the coming days to push Israel and Hamas to accept a three-phase ceasefire and prisoner exchange proposal put forward by President Joe Biden last week.

The US has also circulated a draft resolution backing Biden's proposal at the UN Security Council, where it has vetoed multiple resolutions calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Biden presented the proposal as if it was an Israeli initiative, only for that claim to be immediately undermined by Netanyahu. Hamas has not agreed to the plan outlined by Biden, saying that it required clear guarantees that the deal would result in a complete end of the war in Gaza and a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territory. Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official, told Reuters that while the group welcomed "Biden's ideas," the draft resolution circulated at the Security Council "has no mention of ending the aggression or the withdrawal." Reuters paraphrased Abu Zuhri as saying that "Hamas was committed to its 5 May proposal which was based on an end to the fighting and an Israeli withdrawal, a swap deal and a lifting of the blockade of the enclave" - demands consistently maintained by the group throughout the past several months. Meanwhile, Israeli opposition leader Benny Gantz postponed the anticipated announcement of his resignation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war cabinet on Saturday. Gantz had given Netanyahu a deadline of 8 June to deliver a "day-after" strategy for Gaza, where Netanyahu vows to press on until it achieves "total victory" - a goal criticized as "undefined" (he may have meant to say "undefined") by Biden during the announcement of his proposal last week. In an interview published by Time magazine on Tuesday, Biden said there was "every reason for people" to draw the conclusion that Netanyahu was prolonging the war in Gaza for his own aims.

Mexico is ground zero as China takes Global South battle to US backyard

Hugo Wong

Indeed, back in the 16th century, China was already a dominant transpacific player, exchanging its silk and porcelain for up to a third of the silver mined annually in South America. Historians regard the Spanish colony of Mexico as among the first examples of globalisation, when products from three continents were exchanged for the first time in an emerging world order where London and New York were still on the periphery

THE US has imposed tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles and the European Union is expected to do the same, but most countries in the Global South have not followed suit. In particular, Mexico has become China's second-largest car importer and has seen a recent surge in Chinese investment. China, the main trading partner of many Southeast Asian and African states, is becoming an important trading country for South America, long seen as America's backyard. Given that the Global South represents 88 per cent of the world's population and 52 per cent of the gross domestic product in purchasing power parity terms, protectionist measures from the West risk isolating their industries - without necessarily ensuring their long-term competitiveness. Historically, Western polices have triggered China's engagement with what is now termed the Global South. In the 19th century, Western powers made China doubt its place in the world by treating it like one of their colonies and setting up treaty ports. Chinese migrants seeking fortunes abroad found themselves rejected by xenophobia in Western countries and moved instead to the Global South. By the early 20th century, with the Chinese Exclusion Act in force in the United States, some 60,000 Chinese migrants ended up in Mexico. Yet, despite this racism at home and abroad, some Chinese elite still hoped to emulate the West to show that China belonged to the North. In the 1960s, isolated by the West and the Soviet Union, that thinking changed radically. For the first time, China started to claim to belong to the Global South. Through the reform era of the 1980s, China again looked on the US as an economic model. But, in the past decade, partly due to trade tensions, China has pivoted south once more. Like most developing nations, it often sees itself

as a past victim of foreign exploitation. With its Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese infrastructure projects have exceeded Western ones in many countries in the Global South. Yet those investments, beyond a developmental agenda, are only a means to an end; Beijing seeks to open new markets for its products, recycle its trade surpluses and fill a vacuum left by Western investors. Smaller risk appetites and a narrower agenda have often priced out Western infrastructure firms from projects such as the Vietnam to China high-speed rail connection. But the belt and road is not only about government policies. It is also about migrants and entrepreneurs seeking economic opportunities. While countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development remain their preferred destinations, millions of Chinese have travelled to Africa, the Middle East and South America. In Mexico for example, just like a century ago, they are rapidly becoming the second-largest migrant group.

Indeed, back in the 16th century, China was already a dominant transpacific player, exchanging its silk and porcelain for up to a third of the silver mined annually in South America. Historians regard the Spanish colony of Mexico as among the first examples of globalisation, when products from three continents were exchanged for the first time in an emerging world order where London and New York were still on the periphery. Today, China and the West are vying for influence in the Global South. With its soft power, the West enjoys a clear dominance. But the endless wars, some seen as encouraged by the West, and increasingly xenophobic Western politicians could tilt that balance. On the economic front, it is worth emphasising that products made in China, from mobile phones to electric vehicles, seem better suited to the mass markets of the Global

South, giving China a distinct advantage.

Instances when developing nations have established trade partnerships with Western blocs show different economic outcomes. Since the EU included Eastern European countries like Poland in 2004, Warsaw's economy has grown 4.2 per cent every year on average. But, since the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement with the US and Canada - and the 2020 revamped trade pact that replaced it - Mexico's economy has grown by an average of just 2 per cent annually. While creating industrial jobs (some taken from the US), the trade agreement also displaced millions of poor Mexican farmers unable to compete against subsidised US agricultural imports, causing the Mexican population in the US to surge. Imports of US processed foods and having one of the world's highest soda consumption rates have more than doubled Mexico's obesity rate, adding pressure to an inadequate health system. Fuelled by poverty and US firearms, Mexico's organised crime grew and its homicide rate soared by 60 per cent, overtaking Brazil as one of South America's most violent nations, while worsening the US drug crisis. In 2022, the Mexican government felt compelled to sue American gun manufacturers. This may explain why Mexico just re-elected by a landslide an anti-neoliberal and populist government. Western and Chinese experiences in the Global South offer important lessons. Nations will not easily forget the close interplay between environmental, trade, migration and development policies. They will mark the importance of an equitable trade and investment system, and of balancing the economic benefits of globalisation with fair social policies for those displaced by it. Simply imposing trade barriers, tariffs, walls and sanctions is not the best long-term solution for our planet. Promoting social justice at home is.

Briefs

Captain among seven soldiers...

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Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area and perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice, the ISPR said. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the military's media wing concluded. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist activities, especially in KP and Balochistan, since the outlawed militant group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022. Earlier in May, the ISPR reported that the security forces gunned down 23 terrorists in three separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. "On 26-27 May 2024, twenty-three terrorists were killed by the security forces in three separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province," the ISPR said. It said, "On 26 May, an intelligence-based operation was conducted in general area Hassan Khel, Peshawar District, where six terrorists were successfully neutralized by the security forces and multiple hideouts were busted. Captain Hussain Jehangir and Havildar Shafiq Ullah also embraced Shahadat on 26 May, while fighting gallantly".

"On 27 May, in another operation conducted in Tank district, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which ten terrorists were killed." "The third engagement occurred in general area Bagh, Khyber district, wherein, the security forces killed seven terrorists, while two terrorists were injured. However, during the intense exchange of fire, five brave soldiers; Naik Muhammad Ashfaq Butt (age 32 years; resident of district Kahuta), Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar (age 30 years; resident of district Poonch), Sepoy Taimoor Malik (age 32 years; resident of district Layyah), Sepoy Nadir Saager (age 22 years; resident of district Bagh) and Sepoy Muahammad Yasin (age 23 years; resident of district Khushab), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat", the ISPR said.

Govt proposes major...

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is allocated for twenty new schemes aimed at addressing emerging security challenges and advancing the country's defense preparedness. This includes Rs 400 million designated for the procurement of drones, which will be utilized for law enforcement and emergency search and rescue operations, underscoring the government's focus on modernizing defense tools and technologies. Moreover, the budget proposes Rs50 million for the construction of a Research and Regional Center in Islamabad. This facility is expected to serve as a hub for cutting-edge defence research and development, fostering innovation and self-reliance in military technology.

PTI to challenge...

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purchase wheat from them were the Punjab government's achievements in its first 100 days of governance. The PTI leader also slammed the PPP, saying that it claimed to be a democratic party, but allegedly facilitated the signing of the defamation act into law. According to Bhachar, both the PML-N and PPP were two sides of the same coin. The PTI leader said that his party stood with the journalist fraternity and would challenge the defamation law in court. Bhachar said that the Punjab government announced Rs30 billion for the establishment of a cancer hospital, but allocated funds of just Rs300 million which, according to him, were insufficient even for a stretch of five-kilometre road.

Alcaraz rallies past Zverev for first Roland Garros title

Spaniard is youngest man to win Slam on three different surfaces

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Another major triumph, another all-time record achieved in the young career of Carlos Alcaraz. The third seed on Sunday outlasted Alexander Zverev 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 to lift the trophy at Roland Garros. With his four-hour, 19-minute win on the Paris clay, the 21-year-old Alcaraz became the youngest player to capture a Grand Slam title on three different surfaces after his triumphs on hard courts at the 2022 US Open and grass at 2023 Wimbledon. Just as he did against Jannik Sinner in the semi-finals, Alcaraz kept cool after falling two-sets-to-one behind to secure a gritty victory against Zverev. The Spaniard, who arrived at Roland Garros having not competed for three weeks due to a right arm injury, raised his level to win 12 of the final 15 games and secure a major crown for the third consecutive season. As well as his three Grand Slam titles, Alcaraz has won 11 ATP Tour crowns and in 2022 became the youngest No. 1 in PIF ATP Rankings history. Although he did not consistently produce the sort of brilliant, dazzling tennis that helped him reach those milestones against Zverev, he was clinical under pressure to overhaul the German and maintain his perfect record in Grand Slam finals. Alcaraz and Zverev both tried to mix up their play to keep their opponent on his toes, but it was Alcaraz's ability to produce big points at big moments that ultimately proved crucial. The Spaniard converted nine of 16 break points he earned, according to Infosys Stats, with Zverev converting just six of 23. A pivotal moment in the deciding set came with Alcaraz serving at 2-1, 15/40. The Spaniard sent down a second serve that was called out, but the chair umpire checked the mark and called it in. From nearly double-faulting to relinquish serve, Alcaraz went on to hold serve and consolidate his early fifth-set service break. Alcaraz, who is now 52-10 in Grand Slam matches, is the sev-



enth Spaniard to lift the Coupe des Mousquetaires. That list includes his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero, who won the Paris major in 2003. Alcaraz and Zverev's ability to stay the course physically was tested throughout the match. The No. 4 in the PIF ATP Rankings Zverev spent 19 hours and 27 minutes on court en route to Sunday's clash, the longest road to a Roland Garros final since the start of recorded match times in 1991. Yet the German appeared the fresher of the two players, with Alcaraz drinking pickle juice during changeovers to ward off cramp before receiving the treatment to his thigh in the fourth set. Alcaraz clinched the opening set by locking in on return after a cagey start in which both players dropped their opening service game. Zverev began his second major final by serving back-to-back double faults, prompting him to immediately change his racquet. He was nonetheless broken three times in the opening set, and also had to fend off two break points to hold in another of his service games at 2-4. Despite falling behind, Zverev kept his focus, and an improved serving performance from the fourth seed helped him halt Alcaraz's charge on return. The German landed 83 per cent (20/24) of his first serves in the second set and won 80 per cent (16/20) of those points, according to Infosys Stats. Zverev then turned the final on its head by reeling off five consecutive games to claim each of the second and third sets. An improved serving performance from the fourth seed helped him halt Alcaraz's charge on return. The German landed 83 per cent (20/24) of his first serves in the second set and won 80 per cent (16/20) of those points, according to Infosys Stats. Although he let slip three break points in the first game of the second set, Zverev made no mistake in the fifth or seventh games to haul himself back into the match. Alcaraz then appeared to have reasserted control after forging a 5-2 lead and serving for the third set, but Zverev again found a hot streak to charge into the lead.

West Indies pummel Uganda in T20 World Cup match

GUYANA: West Indies thumped Uganda by a massive margin of 134 runs on Sunday at the Providence Stadium, Guyana, during the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024. Chasing a target of 174 runs, Uganda were bundled out for only 39 runs, the joint-lowest team total in the men's T20 World Cup, in 12 overs. The Netherlands were also dismissed for the same score against Sri Lanka in Chattogram in 2014. Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein bowled a sensational spell as he claimed five wickets for just 11 runs in four overs. He also bagged the award for Player of the Match. "I think I needed this. In the nets and in the previous series, I felt the ball was coming out good but I was just not getting the rewards," Hosein said after the match. "I think it is a lot of hard work. When you get success, guys are going to study you and have a plan. You always have to stay a step ahead. For me, it is just about trying to react to what

the surface is doing and planning it out. Even if the ball is going both ways, you cannot do much if you don't plan. So, it is about planning the over well. I am happy to bowl wherever the team needs me." Hosein became the first West Indies bowler to take a five-wicket haul in a men's T20 World Cup innings. Alzarri Joseph also chipped in with two wickets for six runs in three overs. Only tailender Juma Miyagi could get into double figures for Uganda with 13 unbeaten runs in 20 balls. Earlier, West Indies won the toss and decided to bat first against Uganda. Batting first, the Windies scored 173-5 in their allotted 20 overs. Johnson Charles top-scored with 44 runs in 42 balls with the help of four fours and two sixes. Andre Russell played a quick cameo of 30 runs in 17 balls, which included six fours. Uganda captain Brian Masaba was the pick of the bowlers with fig-

ures of 2-31 in four overs.

Windies, who were playing their second match, began their campaign with a victory against Papua New Guinea (PNG) but it wasn't a convincing one. Uganda, on the other hand, lost by 125 runs against Afghanistan but a spirited performance in their next match against PNG helped them bag their first-ever T20 World Cup win. Both teams did not make any changes to their lineup for this match.

Teams: Uganda XI: Roger Mukasa, Simon Sesazi (wk), Robinson Obuya, Riazat Ali Shah, Alpesh Ramjani, Dinesh Nakrani, Juma Miyagi, Kenneth Waiswa, Brian Masaba (c), Cosmas Kyewuta, Frank Nsubuga.

West Indies XI: Brandon King, Johnson Charles, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Roston Chase, Romman Powell (c), Sherfane Rutherford, Andre Russell, Romario Shepherd, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Gudakesh Motie. - **Agencies**

De Jong back in training for Dutch ahead of Euro

AMSTERDAM : Frenkie de Jong has returned to the training field, in a boost for the Netherlands one week before their opening game at the European Championship, coach Ronald Koeman said on Sunday. The playmaking midfielder is seen as keen to Dutch hopes at the tournament in Germany, and he joined the rest of the squad on the pitch for the first time on Sunday after individual training over the last week. De Jong has struggled with ankle injuries this season and not played a match since April. "He was part of the training but we kept him away from any contact," Koeman told a press conference, ahead of Monday's final preparatory friendly against Iceland in Rotterdam. "It is possible that Frenkie will not make it to the first match," Koeman said. "But we can wait until the second or third game. That's a possibility. Even if he can't play the first two games, we'll stick with him. But if it looks as if he will miss the entire group stage, I might have to rethink his selection." Any injury replacement to the 26-man squad, which was finalised on Friday, would have to be made before the Dutch play their first Group D game against Poland in Hamburg next Sunday. On the Dutch squad fitness ahead of the tournament, Koeman said: "A number of the players had some rest towards the end of the season and came in fresh. - **Agencies**

US thrashed 5-1 by Colombia in warm-up

WASHINGTON: The United States' preparations for the upcoming Copa America suffered a humbling reality check on Saturday as Gregg Berhalter's side were thrashed 5-1 by Colombia in a pre-tournament friendly. Colombia secured victory through first-half goals from Fluminense striker Jhon Arias before an overhead kick from Rafael Borre put the South Americans 2-0 ahead after just 19 minutes at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland. The US improved during the second half and were handed a lifeline after a well-worked goal by Timothy Weah on 58 minutes. But Colombia substitute Richard Rios slammed the door on any hope of a US revival on 77 minutes, coolly sweeping in a low finish to restore the visitors' two-goal cushion before Jorge Carrascal added a fourth five minutes from time. Luis Sinisterra then tucked away a fifth on 88 minutes after Colombia sliced open a brittle US defense once again. The rout marked the first time the US have conceded five goals in a game since their 5-0 defeat to Mexico in the 2009 CONCACAF Gold Cup final. The drubbing could have been worse for Berhalter's side, who saw Colombia squander several other goal-scoring chances during the game. US coach Berhalter named a starting line-up comprised entirely of players from Europe's top five leagues as they build towards their Copa America Group C opener against Bolivia in Dallas on June 23. Yet Berhalter's line-up was in danger of being overrun in a one-sided start to the game that saw Colombia hit the ground running with wave after wave of attacks. Arias put the Colombians 1-0 up after just six minutes. Colombia playmaker James Rodriguez attempted to thread a pass through to Arias but instead saw Fulham's Antonee Robinson slide in to make a block. Robinson's interception, however, fell kindly into the path of Arias, who thumped an emphatic finish into the roof of the net. The US almost drew level moments later after Robinson picked out Folarin Balogun, whose low shot was cleared off the line by a desperate sliding clearance from Davinson Sanchez. - **Agencies**

Pak football team to face Tajikistan in June 11

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The Pakistan football team is set to play its final away match of the FIFA World Cup Qualifier Round 2 against Tajikistan on June 11 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. However, the team's travel schedule has faced significant disruptions due to unforeseen circumstances. A private airline flight, initially scheduled to transport the team, was canceled following a bird strike incident, causing two delays before the eventual cancellation, said a press release. As a result, the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has reached out to Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) for a chartered flight. Currently, 8 out of the 35-member squad have arrived in Tajikistan. The PFF is trying its best to facilitate the travel of the remaining squad members to ensure they reach Tajikistan in time for the crucial match.

Cristiano Ronaldo, Modric defy age for Euro 2024

LONDON : Aged 39 and about to play in a record-extending sixth European Championship, Cristiano Ronaldo's longevity at football's highest levels almost defies belief. Luka Modric is 38, still performing for Real Madrid and will be expected to provide the X Factor for Croatia at the Euros in Germany, which start June 14. The best players are extending their careers for longer, despite the increased pace and intensity of the modern game. Higher levels of fitness and stamina are being demanded of athletes, but that is being matched by ever-improving expertise in how to maximize performance. "Sports science has had an impact on how we prepare the modern-day player in terms of diet, nutrition, lifestyle, training programs. We've moved out of the 80s and 90s with the increased level of professionalism," Tony Strudwick, a sports scientist with more than three decades of experience in football, told The Associated Press. Strudwick has held prominent roles at Manchester United, Arsenal and England and is currently director of medical at West Bromwich Albion. He worked with Ronaldo at United when the Portugal forward first established himself as one of the best players in the world. "He just set himself up for success," Strudwick said. "I said four or five years ago, knowing how professional Ronaldo was, he could play up to the age of 40. That was no problem." With his 40th birthday in sight, Ronaldo shows no sign of being ready to quit. And with the advancement of sports science, the longevity that the likes of Ronaldo and Modric are achieving could become the norm. Attitude: It's not so much that athletes have changed physically over the years - rather it has been a shift in mentality. "We have seen a kind of evolution in professionalism as opposed to an evolution in genetics," Strudwick said. "It wasn't that players were unprofessional (in the past), they just didn't know what they didn't know." "There's a lot more scrutiny on players in terms of accountability." Improvements in player lifestyle is lengthening careers, with many using the services of fitness and conditioning experts to ensure they remain in prime condition even during the off-season. Ryan Giggs took on yoga in his later years to help extend his career and allow him to play for United until he was 40. Many top players also rely on the services of private chefs who deliver daily meals that are nutritionally balanced, while also being of restaurant quality. That's in addition to what's provided by elite clubs, which have nutrition departments to help players keep food diaries and provide them with diet coaching. Diet: In the past, some players would have pre-match meal of steak. Much has changed, with some managers banning sauces at the table. Rod Thornley, a masseur who worked with Manchester United and England, can remember when Italian coach Fabio Capello took charge of the Three Lions. - **Agencies**

Lithuania, Pakistan can boost cooperation in IT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HI-TECH ADVANCEMENT:

We have invested a lot in hi-tech sector. Biotechnologies alone create 3pc of our GDP that means 4-time more than EU average. Our goal is 5pc GDP by life sciences or biotechnologies. We are specializing in this sector and last year we developed semiconductor in cooperation with Taiwan. We are going to build our first semiconductor plant in 2029 and it would be one more hi-tech industry in Lithuania. Traditional industries are also well-developed like chemical industry. We also have the biggest oil refinery in Baltic Sea region. We also produce petrol. Engineering industry is also doing well. Logistics and transport sector also create 10pc of our GDP. Small Lithuania has one of the biggest truck fleets in whole Europe. We serve as transportation hub in Europe. Fast Train Project: We still have to improve connectivity in Europe. We have a very ambitious plan extending railway connection starting from Finland, then going through Estonia and Lithuania and then to Poland. This project is called 'Rail Baltica' going through five Baltic states. **ENERGY SECTOR:** In energy, we are also going through energy

transformation. We are building new capacity i.e. renewable sources two wind offshore farms in Baltic Sea and by 2030 we shall be able to produce more than 7Gigawatt electricity. Currently, we are importing electricity but by 2030 we shall be exporting or selling it. Currently, renewable energy share in our grid is 40pc mainly generated from hydro,

wind and solar (though solar's share is less than the other two).

EDUCATION COOPERATION:

A large number of Pakistani students, more than 400 are studying at various colleges and universities in Lithuania. Twenty of these students are doing their Ph.D. Most popular discipline for Pakistani stu-

dents is technical education. Majority of them are concentrated in Vilnius and Kaunas, two major cities of the country. The University of Vilnius established in 1579, is more than 445 years old and among the top universities of Europe. We are also members of NATO and we were present in Kosovo, Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq so we are not only the regular member but also contributing to EU.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Historically as well as traditionally Lithuania is a tolerant nation and respects all religions, faiths, languages, nationalities and beliefs. We condemn Russian's aggression and see it as brutal violation of international law and our stance is very clear and we have to help Ukraine fight back. We support Ukraine as much as we can that means we spent 2pc of our GDP in support to Ukraine that includes humanitarian, financial assistance, energy and military support. Our minister said, victory whatever it takes because for Ukraine and for many other countries in Europe it is an existential question. Nowadays Russia has imperialistic ambitions. They are preparing for long conflict. 20 years ago, we were dependent on Russia for gas and oil but today we are buying zero oil and zero gas from Russia. Today we are buying oil from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and gas from America.



Monday June 10

South Africa vs
Bangladesh
Long Island,
New York (7.30pm)

Pakistan commitment to regional peace...

FROM PAGE 01

the aspirations of the Kashmiri people for lasting peace and security in South Asia. Ambassador Siddiqui condemned the rising tide of Islamophobia and pursuit of Islamophobic political agenda as strategies in election campaigns. He emphasized the importance of comprehensive approaches to address the root causes of terrorism. He also called for international scrutiny and accountability for extraterritorial killings by foreign agents inside Pakistan. The Additional Foreign Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's consistent and principled stance on the Palestinian question and called for an urgent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and an end to foreign occupation of Palestinian territories.

Modi sworn in as PM

FROM PAGE 01

oath of office to Modi at a grand ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president's palace in New Delhi, attended by thousands of dignitaries, including the leaders of seven regional countries, Bollywood stars and industrialists. Modi, who started as a publicist of the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological parent of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is only the second person after independence leader Jawaharlal Nehru to serve a third straight term as prime minister. Modi, 73, secured the third term in elections that concluded on June 1 with the support of 14 regional parties in his BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), unlike in the previous two terms when his party won an outright majority. The outcome is seen as a big setback to the popular leader as surveys and exit polls had predicted BJP would secure even more seats than in 2019. Modi delivered world beating growth and lifted India's global standing but appeared to have missed a step at home as a lack of enough jobs, high prices, low incomes and religious faultlines pushed voters to rein him in. When Modi was the chief minister of the western state of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014, BJP enjoyed strong majorities, allowing him to govern decisively. Modi's new term as prime minister, therefore, is likely to be fraught with challenges on building consensus on contentious political and policy issues in the face of different interests of regional parties and a stronger opposition, analysts say.

Punjab governor...

FROM PAGE 01

based internationally. "I did not sign the bill. However, it will become law automatically after the passing of 15 days," the incumbent governor added. However, according to him, legislation is required to stop the defamation of the people on social media. Governor Haider also said that he would meet the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the media bodies to address their concerns after returning to the country. A day earlier, the central Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the media bodies announced boycotting the coverage of government affairs including official events, such as National Assembly and provincial assembly sessions and upcoming federal and provincial budgets to protest the approval of the defamation law. The Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND), held an emergency meeting to discuss the development and decided to record their protest against the law.

Briefs

UN urges global action on AI's potential and risks

LONDON : Humanity is in a race against time to harness the colossal emerging power of artificial intelligence for the good of all, while averting dire risks, a top U.N. official said. "We've let the genie out of the bottle," said Doreen Bogdan-Martin, head of the United Nations' International Telecommunications Union (ITU). "We are in a race against time," she told the opening of a two-day AI for Good Summit in Geneva. "Recent developments in AI have been nothing short of extraordinary." The thousands gathered at the conference heard how advances in generative AI are already speeding up efforts to solve some of the world's most pressing problems, such as climate change, hunger and social care. "I believe we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to guide AI to benefit all the world's people," Bogdan-Martin told Agence France-Presse (AFP) ahead of the summit. But she lamented Thursday that one-third of humanity still remains completely offline and is "excluded from the AI revolution without a voice." "This digital and technological divide is no longer acceptable," Bogdan-Martin highlighted that AI holds "immense potential for both good and bad," stressing that it was vital to "make AI systems safe." Concentrated power she said that was especially important given that "2024 is the biggest election year in history," with votes in dozens of countries, including the United States.—DNA

Torrential rain trigger flash flooding in Sydney

SYDNEY : Torrential rain, combined with spills from a major dam, caused flash flooding in Sydney, prompting rescue efforts and evacuation orders in several low-lying areas, local media reported. Emergency authorities carried out 13 rescues and received 297 calls for assistance from residents in Sydney, over the past 24 hours, according to local broadcaster SBS News. New South Wales State Emergency Service (SES) said in a statement that at least 10 emergency evacuation orders were in place for the suburbs in the city's northwest. Riverside communities were warned of flood risks after a dam that provides 80% of Sydney's drinking water started overflowing following the downpour. While the overflow from Warragamba Dam, southwest of Sydney, has slowed and the rain has eased, flood risks remain. Riverside communities were warned to evacuate or prepare to be isolated due to floodwaters. "That does not mean that the risk is not there because what we are going to see now is riverine flooding in many areas," acting SES commissioner Debbie Platz told reporters. SBS News reported that the overflow was moving through the Hawkesbury-Nepean system, swelling rivers despite the heavy rainfall easing.—APP

Thousands protest far-right, racism in Germany

BERLIN: Thousands of people on Saturday participated in demonstrations held in various cities across Germany against the far-right and racism. In the capital Berlin, thousands of people gathered to protest far-right extremism and racism. The demonstration with the slogan "Stop the far-right, defend democracy" was organized by an initiative comprising many civil society organizations and groups. Banners in the protest were bearing slogans such as "I reject AfD" (far-right Alternative for Germany party) "Prioritize human rights over far-right ideologies," "Against far-right extremism," and "Diversity." Protests against far-right extremism and racism also took place in Munich, Dresden, Leipzig, and Cologne.—APP

Zelenskyy says Russia's Kharkiv offensive 'failed'

Russian forces have been attempting to breach Ukraine's defenses in Kharkiv region since early May

NEWS DESK

KYIV : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said Russia has "failed" in its offensive in his country's northeastern Kharkiv region. "Today I spoke with the Commander-in-Chief (Oleksandr Syrskiy) — overall, about the situation. A significant outcome is that the Russian army has failed to execute their Kharkiv operation," Zelenskyy said in an evening video address late on Saturday. Expressing that the Ukrainian army is currently holding off Russian forces "to the best of our ability," Zelenskyy said they reinforced the front in the region and they would reinforce further. Zelenskyy also said he was made aware of a report on the situation in the "most difficult" Donetsk front in the east,

indicating that Kyiv was working to provide more reserves for the Ukrainian army. He said they achieved some "new solutions" to reinforce Ukraine's defense capabilities. "Progress has also been made in artillery — including the production of 155-caliber shells in Ukraine, and we are preparing a new manufacturing platform. Our combat aviation and electronic warfare capabilities are also being improved," Zelenskyy also said. He went on to say that new security agreements for Ukraine are almost ready, adding that the past month had seen Kyiv expand its capabilities on the battlefield and that in June, the country should "strengthen our diplomacy and strategic perspectives." Russian forces have been attempting to breach Ukraine's defenses in the Kharkiv region since early

May, opening a new front in the over two-year-long conflict that had hitherto been concentrated in the country's east and south. Clashes in the region have intensified since then, particularly near Vovchansk, located about 74 kilometers (45 miles) from Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, which has also been targeted by Russian airstrikes. Russia claims to have seized control of multiple border settlements since the start of its offensive on the Kharkiv front, as well as other fronts, including Donetsk. Meanwhile, President Joe Biden on Friday for the first time publicly apologized to Ukraine for a monthslong congressional hold-up in American military assistance that let Russia make gains on the battlefield. Biden met in Paris with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who appealed for bipartisan U.S. sup-

port going forward "like it was during World War II." A day earlier, the two had attended ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, where Biden had drawn common cause between the allied forces that helped free Europe from Nazi Germany and today's effort to support Ukraine against Russia's invasion and Zelenskyy had been greeted with a rapt ovation. "I apologize for those weeks of not knowing what's going to happen in terms of funding," Biden said, referring to the six-month holdup by conservative Republicans in Congress to a \$61 billion military aid package for Ukraine. Still, the Democratic president insisted the American people were standing by Ukraine for the long haul. "We're still in. Completely. Thoroughly," he said. The apology — and Zelenskyy's plea for rock-solid support akin

to the allied coalition in WWII — served as a reminder that for all of Biden's talk of an unflagging U.S. commitment to Ukraine, recalcitrance among congressional Republicans and an isolationist strain in American politics have exposed its fragility. And, although unremarked upon, the specter of Donald Trump's candidacy loomed over the discussion, as the Republican former president and the presumptive nominee has spoken positively of Russian President Vladimir Putin and sparked Ukrainian concerns that he would call for it to cede territory to end the conflict. Zelenskyy pressed for all Americans to support his country's defense against Russia's invasion, and he thanked lawmakers for eventually coming together to approve the weapons package, which has allowed Ukraine to stem Russian advances in recent weeks.



ISLAMABAD: Camels reach at Sector 1-14 Maweshi Mandi a head of Eid-ul-Adha.— ONLINE

Norway opposes Musk's \$56B Tesla pay

WASHINGTON : Norway's \$1.7 trillion sovereign wealth fund (SWF), one of the world's largest, said on Saturday it will vote against ratifying Tesla CEO Elon Musk's \$56 billion pay package, which is up for a shareholder vote next week, after a Delaware judge invalidated it earlier this year. The fund is Tesla's eighth-biggest shareholder, according to LSEG data Musk's pay, the largest for a chief executive in corporate America, was approved in 2018, but voided by a judge earlier this year, who said the amount was unfair to shareholders, calling it an "unfathomable sum." The fund said it appreciated "the significant value generated under Mr. Musk's leadership since the grant date in 2018." Still, "we remain concerned about the total size of the award, the structure given performance triggers, dilution, and lack of mitigation of key person risk," Norges Bank Investment Management (NBIM), the operator of the fund said. In 2018, the fund had voted against the package. "We will continue to seek constructive dialogue with Tesla on this and other topics," NBIM added. The fund, which holds a 0.98% stake worth \$7.7 billion according to fund data, has been critical of excessive CEO pay. Responding to a post on social media platform X, Musk said the fund's decision is "not cool," adding that if the fund actually surveyed the constituents, they would discover "overwhelming support in favor." Last year it voted against more than half of U.S. CEO pay packages above \$20 million, warning they did not align with long-term value creation for shareholders. Unions. The fund also said it would vote for a shareholder proposal calling on Tesla to adopt a freedom of association and collective bargaining policy, a win for labor unions seeking to assert their influence over the U.S. car maker. The vote comes as Tesla continues to face industrial action in Sweden, with its mechanics on strike since Oct. 27, in one of the country's longest labor disputes. Norway's wealth fund, which owns 1.5% of all the world's listed stocks, also in 2022 backed a shareholder proposal calling on Tesla to adopt a policy of respecting labor rights such as freedom of association and collective bargaining. The electric vehicle producer faces a backlash in the Nordic region from unions and some pension funds over its refusal to accept the demand from its Swedish mechanics for collective bargaining rights covering wages and other conditions. The wealth fund voted for transferring the EV maker's state of incorporation to Texas from Delaware, a vote Musk sought after the Delaware judge invalidated his pay.—DNA

Lava breach prompts emergency closures in Iceland

This marks the third instance of lava obstructing the road in the Reykjanes peninsula region

ISTANBUL: Lava that overflowed from a crater in southwestern Iceland reached the road of the nearby town of Grindavikurvegur on Sunday and prompted authorities to close a local geothermal resort, local media reported. The Icelandic Meteorological Office said the lava from the Sundhnukagigar crater had breached defensive walls and forced a preemptive closure of the Blue Lagoon resort before guests arrived, according to the Iceland Monitor website. The Civil Protection Department said firefighters were on high alert for potential wildfires and local authorities are closely monitoring the situation. This marks the third instance of lava obstructing the road in the Reykjanes peninsula region, according to the Icelandic Road and Coastal Administration.—APP

Colombia to suspend coal exports to Israel

Colombian President Gustavo Petro wrote on the social media platform X that coal exports will only resume "when the genocide" in Gaza stops

WEB DESK

BOGOTA : Colombian President Gustavo Petro announced that his country will halt exports of coal to Israel over its war on Gaza, as relations between two countries that were once close military and commercial allies further deteriorate. Petro wrote on the social media platform X that coal exports will only resume "when the genocide" in Gaza stops. Petro also posted a draft decree, which says that coal exports will only resume if Israel complies with a recent order by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that says Israel should withdraw its troops from the Gaza Strip. According to Colombia's National Statistics Department, coal exports to Israel were worth more than \$320 million in the first eight months of last year. That's a small fraction of the nation's overall coal exports, which were worth more than \$9 billion in 2023. Israel imports more than 50% of its coal from

Colombia, according to the American Journal for Transportation, and uses much of it to feed its power plants. Petro, who was elected into office in 2022 as Colombia's first leftist president, broke diplomatic ties with Israel in May saying that he could not maintain relations with the "genocidal" government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Both governments have continued to keep consulates in each other's territories and conduct trade. Colombia has long depended on Israel for military hardware that includes assault rifles and intelligence equipment. The South American nation has also bought more than 30 fighter jets from Israel over the past three decades and depends on Israeli companies for their maintenance. New military purchases have been halted, however, as relations between both countries deteriorate. Critics of Petro have said that the president's decision to cut ties with Israel jeopardizes Colombia's security capabilities as its military fights drug cartels and

rebel groups in rural parts of the country. He urged others to support Petro's latest move against Israel. The Global Energy Embargo for Palestine, an advocacy group that has been trying to convince nations around the world to stop coal and oil exports to Israel, said in a statement on Saturday that Colombia's decision could put pressure on Israel to change its policies in the Gaza Strip, and will also put pressure on Israeli settlements in the West Bank that rely on electric plants fueled by coal imports. "We urgently call on South Africa, which provides 9% of Israel's coal, to follow Colombia's lead," the group said in the statement while urging other countries with significant energy exports to also consider a ban. Unlike previous Colombian presidents, who kept strong ties with Israel, Petro has been an outspoken critic of the Middle Eastern nation and initially refused to condemn the Hamas attack that preceded Israel's invasion of Gaza.

CRISPR: The revolutionary tool changing genetic science

USAMA SHAFIQUE

Imagine being able to edit the genes in a living organism as easily as cutting and pasting text on a computer. This is the promise of CRISPR, a groundbreaking technology that has revolutionized genetic science. CRISPR stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, but don't let the complex name scare you. At its core, CRISPR is a powerful tool that allows scientists to precisely alter DNA, the building blocks of life. How CRISPR Works To understand CRISPR,

think of DNA as a set of instructions for building and maintaining an organism. These instructions are written in a language made up of four chemical "letters" (A, T, C, and G). Sometimes, there can be errors in these instructions that lead to diseases or other issues. CRISPR technology uses a special protein called Cas9, often referred to as "molecular scissors," to find and cut specific sequences of DNA. Here's a simplified version of how it works: 1. Guide RNA: Scientists design a piece of RNA (a molecule similar to DNA) that matches the sequence of DNA they want to edit. This

is called the guide RNA. 2. Cas9 Protein: The guide RNA is attached to the Cas9 protein. The guide RNA directs Cas9 to the exact spot in the DNA that needs to be cut. 3. Cutting the DNA: Cas9 acts like scissors, cutting the DNA at the targeted location. 4. DNA Repair: Once the DNA is cut, the cell's natural repair mechanisms kick in. Scientists can manipulate this repair process to add, remove, or replace specific DNA sequences. Applications of CRISPR The ability to edit genes with such precision opens up a world of possibilities. Here are some areas where CRISPR is making a significant impact:

1. Medicine: CRISPR holds the potential to cure genetic diseases. For example, it has been used experimentally to correct the gene responsible for sickle cell anemia, a painful and debilitating blood disorder. Scientists are also exploring CRISPR's potential to treat cancers, HIV, and other genetic conditions. 2. Agriculture: CRISPR can create crops that are more nutritious, resistant to pests, or better adapted to climate change. For example, researchers have developed rice that is more resistant to flooding, a major problem in many parts of the world. Ethical Considerations With great power comes great

responsibility. The ability to edit genes raises important ethical questions. For example, should we use CRISPR to make "designer babies" with specific traits? What are the long-term effects of editing genes in humans and other organisms? There are also concerns about unintended consequences, such as off-target effects where CRISPR accidentally edits the wrong part of the genome. To address these issues, scientists and policymakers are working together to create guidelines and regulations that ensure CRISPR is used safely and ethically....

NZ to end ban on oil and gas exploration

AUCKLAND: New Zealand's government said it plans to reverse a five-year-old ban on new oil and gas exploration, igniting a backlash from political opponents and environmental groups. Resources Minister Shane Jones claimed the ban had stymied international investment and left the country's energy security compromised. "Natural gas is critical to keeping our lights on and our economy running, especially during peak electricity demand," Jones said in a statement. "When the exploration ban was introduced by the previous government in 2018... it also shrank investment in further development of our known gas fields which sustain our current levels of use." Prioritising clean energy Greens co-leader Chloe Swarbrick said the government was "tipping oil and gas onto the climate crisis fire." "We can have a more sustainable and efficient economy by prioritising clean energy that works with the environment, not against it." Jones said the ban would mark the start of a "suite of proposed amendments" designed to spark investment, saying the petroleum and minerals sector contributed US\$1.2 billion to GDP in 2020-21. He said the government plans to ease how petroleum exploration applications are tendered. The announcement comes a day after thousands protested in New Zealand's biggest cities, objecting to another government initiative to boost the economy. The "Fast Track Approvals" bill would allow several environmental regulations to be bypassed and the consenting process sped up for major infrastructure projects.—APP

KSA enhances banking services for Hajj pilgrims

JEDDAH: The Saudi Central Bank has introduced a range of services to meet the needs of pilgrims, making transactions easier. Pilgrims can use their internationally issued bank cards to make payments and withdraw cash while in the Kingdom. According to an Ekhhariya report, the Saudi Central Bank will operate about 110 bank branches, including temporary and mobile branches, in the holy regions, with 36 branches operating throughout the Kingdom during Eid Al-Adha holidays. The bank has also made available 1,220 ATMs and point-of-sale terminals, including 633 in Makkah, 19 mobile devices at the holy sites, and 568 in Madinah. Pilgrims can use their locally issued ATM cards to make payments or withdraw cash in the Kingdom through the national payment system Mada, which supports payment and cash withdrawal transactions through international payment networks such as Visa, Mastercard, UnionPay, Discover, American Express and the Gulf Payment Co. Afaq network. In addition to these services, the central bank has distributed more than SR5 billion (\$1.33 billion) in various denominations of banknotes and coins to its branches in Jeddah, Makkah and Madinah. The bank is closely monitoring daily cash flow in the Kingdom.—APP

More bodies found, NGOs save 160 migrants

Another body has been spotted off the coast of Libya, a day after a Doctors Without Borders (MSF) rescue ship recovered the bodies of 11 migrants in the same area of the Mediterranean Sea and said it had saved more than 160 people from boats. Non-profit organization Sea Watch said on social media platform X that its plane had spotted the corpse on Saturday. "Yesterday our aircraft crew sighted 11 bodies, and so far one more has been discovered on today's flight. The flight and the search continue," the Germany-based non-profit group said. The United Nations has registered more than 20,000 deaths and disappearances in the central Mediterranean since 2014, making it the most dangerous migrant crossing in the world.—Agencies

Briefs

Hamas's chief meets Turkish FM in Doha

DOHA: Head of Hamas's political bureau Ismail Haniyeh met on Sunday with Turkish foreign minister Hakan Fidan in Doha and discussed with him the latest developments related to the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip. According to Hamas's website, Haniyeh briefed the Turkish minister on the efforts underway to put an end to Israel's war crimes in Gaza. The Hamas leader highlighted that the horrific Israeli massacre in an-Nuseirat refugee camp confirmed the need for an overarching agreement ending the aggression, ensuring the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the entire Gaza Strip, and involving prisoner exchanges and a commitment to rebuild Gaza. For his part, Fidan offered his condolences over the Gaza martyrs, especially those who were massacred on Saturday in an-Nuseirat camp, and condemned Israel's ongoing genocidal crimes in the Gaza Strip. The minister talked about the diplomatic efforts being made by Turkey to support the Palestinian people's rights and help the mediators reach a ceasefire agreement over Gaza. The meeting took place one day after the Israeli occupation army launched an all-out attack on an-Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, killing and injuring hundreds of civilians. - Agencies

Houthi missile strikes cargo ship off Yemen

LONDON: Projectiles struck two cargo ships off the coast of Yemen on Saturday night without causing any casualties, maritime security agencies said. An Antigua and Barbuda-flagged cargo ship caught fire after it was hit by a missile off the coast of Yemen on Saturday night, maritime security firm Ambrey said. "The ship was heading southwest along the Gulf of Aden at a speed of 8.2kts when the forward station was struck by a missile. A fire started but was neutralized," Ambrey said in a statement. A second missile missed and "small boats in the vicinity opened fire on the ship" causing it to change direction to port. "No injuries were reported," the security firm added. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), run by Britain's Royal Navy, said in a separate statement that it was informed of an incident southeast of Aden on Saturday night, and that authorities were investigating. "All crew are reported safe and the vessel is now proceeding to its next port of call," it said. - Agencies

Senate dy chairman meets Nawaz

DNA
MURREE: Former prime minister and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif has stated that the real guardian of the constitution of Pakistan was not the streets, but parliament. Nawaz made these comments during his meeting with Senate Deputy Chairman Syed Ahsan Ali Khan on Sunday. Nawaz observed that aimless protests and disturbances on streets and intersections had always harmed the constitution and democracy. PML-N's Parliamentary Leader in the Senate, Irfan Siddiqui, was also present during the meeting. Earlier, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Manzoor Waseem said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif may dissolve the National Assembly during next three months. Talking to media in Khairpur, the PPP leader said that next three months are very important for Shehbaz Sharif. "The provincial assemblies will remain intact but the National Assembly can be dissolved and elections would be held again," he said.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan visits Hunza district

Solar power plants in Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan

Phase I of Duiker Solar Power Plant, which has a generation capacity of 1MWp and 0.6MWh battery storage, commenced operations in Nov 2023, increasing the daily power availability for more than 11,000 people, from 10 to 17 hours in summer and from 4 to 9 hours in winter



DNA
HUNZA: Prince Rahim Aga Khan visited Hunza district in Gilgit-Baltistan to launch the development of Duiker Phase II and Na-

sirabad Solar Power Plants with a total capacity of 3.6 MWp. Phase I of Duiker Solar Power Plant, which has a generation capacity of 1MWp and 0.6MWh battery storage, commenced operations in November 2023, increasing the daily power availability for

more than 11,000 people, from 10 to 17 hours in summer and from 4 to 9 hours in winter. When commissioned in November 2024, Duiker Phase II will expand generation capacity from 1MWp to 1.6MWp, and battery storage from 0.6MWh to 1MWh,

providing increased electricity to an additional 8,760 people. Crucially, Duiker replaces diesel power generation, leading to an annual reduction of 1,100 metric tons of CO2 equivalent. A 2MWp Solar Power Plant with 1MWh battery storage will also be constructed in Nasirabad in lower Hunza. This will supply power to an additional 23,400 people. The Nasirabad Solar Power Plant is expected to be commissioned in June 2025. NPAK Energy Limited, a subsidiary of Industrial Promotion Services (IPS), the industrial and infrastructure development arm of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), is investing \$6m in these projects. Project financing blends equity, sustainable debt, and grants. An additional \$14m has been secured from development partners for the enhancement of the regions energy infrastructure. Over the next five years, NPAK Energy will mobilise additional investments in clean, sustainable sources of electricity across Hunza and surrounding areas, addressing the regions acute energy deficit while contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change. The company is committed to improving public service delivery by creating a sustainable, self-reliant utility operation that catalyses economic opportunities and job creation, and models an innovative and efficient public-private partnership that contributes to sustainable development.

Beijing says US provoking arms race

BEIJING: The US poses the largest security challenge in the South China Sea as its military deployment there is turning it into "the whirlpool of an arms race," Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong said in remarks published on Sunday. Recent maritime run-ins between China and the Philippines, a US treaty ally, have made the highly strategic South China Sea a potential flashpoint between Washington and Beijing. "At present, the biggest security challenge in the South China Sea comes from outside the region," Sun said in comments published by his ministry, after attending a high-level meeting on East Asian cooperation in Laos. Sun said US-led forces were "promoting military deployment and actions in the South China Sea, inciting and intensifying maritime disputes and contradictions, and damaging the legitimate rights and interests of coastal countries." A move by the United States to deploy medium-range missile systems in the area "is dragging the region into the whirlpool of an arms race, placing the entire Asia Pacific region under shadow of geopolitical conflicts," Sun said. - Agencies

Govt didn't take PPP into confidence

Says PPP's proposal should've been included in budget

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) central party leader Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah on Sunday raised reservations over his not party not being consulted on the upcoming federal budget 2024-25. "The government neither told us anything related to the budget nor took us into confidence. We don't know what the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is doing about privatisation policy, taxes, developmental program," said the PPP leader. Shah further said that the PPP does not know anything in terms of relief. He said he's unaware whether the government is making the budget or the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) budget is being imposed. The PPP leader said that their proposals should have been included in the federal budget at any cost. People will ask us what have we done.

Bars Ahmadinejad

Iran's Guardian Council allows 6 candidates to seek presidency

The campaign likely will include live, televised debates by the candidates on Iran's state-run broadcaster



FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Six people, including parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, have been approved to run for the snap presidential election on June 28 following the death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash. The

Guardian Council, a constitutional vetting body, approved former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili and Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani to run, but 74 others were not, marking another election with wide disqualification of candidates. The 62-year-old Ghalibaf, a former commander of the air force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has been parliament speaker for four years, was the mayor of Tehran from 2005 to 2017, and the chief of police before that. He ran for president in 2005, 2013 and 2017, when he withdrew in favour of Raisi. Jalili, who is Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's direct representative to the country's Supreme National Security Council, withdrew from the 2021 election in favour of Raisi, who won virtually unchallenged. Most prominent among those disqualified are Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the populist ex-president, as well as moderate candidate and former three-time parliament speaker Ali Larijani - both of whom did not qualify to run in 2021 as well. Iran was slated to have its presidential election in 2025, but the vote was brought forward after Raisi died on May 19 in a helicopter crash in northern Iran. The 63-year-old Raisi was expected to secure another term in office and was a top name associated with the succession of Iran's 85-year-old supreme leader.

Opp. kills 278 Palestinians US intel helped Israeli Nuseirat Camp massacre

Intelligence collection and analysis teams from the United States and Britain have been in Israel throughout the war, assisting Israeli intelligence

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: The U.S. provided intelligence on the hostages before Israel's successful rescue operation Saturday. American and Israeli officials briefed on the assistance, the

American newspaper the New York Times said in a report. The following is the text of the report: A team of American hostage recovery officials stationed in Israel assisted the Israeli military's effort to rescue the four captives by providing intelligence and other logistical support, one American official said, speaking without attribution to discuss the sensitive operation. Intelligence collection and analysis teams from the United States and Britain have been in Israel throughout the war, assisting Israeli intelligence in collecting and analyzing information related to the hostages, some of them citizens of both countries, according to a senior Israeli defense official familiar with the effort to locate and rescue the hostages. Two Israeli intelligence officials said the American military officials in Israel provided some of the intelligence about the hostages rescued Saturday. Speaking in Paris after meeting with Emmanuel Macron of France, President Biden said he welcomed "the safe rescue of four hostages that were returned to their families in Israel." "We won't stop working until all the hostages come home and a cease-fire is reached," he added, "and it's essential." The Pentagon and the C.I.A. have been providing information collected from drone flights over Gaza, communications intercepts and other sources about the potential location of hostages.

KP Governor Kundi slams CM Gandapur

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The war of words between Kyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Governor Faisal Karim Kundi continues to escalate after the latter responded to the former's threats claiming that the CM won't be able to materialise his fiery speeches. "Dancing horses do not win races," Governor Kundi said while speaking to the media in response to the chief minister's threats against imposing taxes on the province. Kundi, who has a history of verbal spats with Gandapur, further underscored various cases faced by the chief minister over his alleged involvement in the May 9 riots along with the murder of his own provincial minister. "It's good that the CM himself said that he is not my relative [...] tell me any good thing that he has done [so far]," the governor added. Kundi's remarks come after CM Gandapur Saturday pledged to not allow the imposition of taxes in the Malakand Division. "You'll come on your own feet and will leave on shoulders," he said while addressing a public gathering in Swat. He also pledged to "hang" those who have violated the country's Constitution and said: "[I] swear to God, you will not be able to live in Pakistan, let alone Islamabad." Gandapur also asked those, who lodged "fake cases" against jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, to identify themselves.

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Egidijus Meilunas
Lithuania, Pakistan can boost cooperation in IT, other sectors

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