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Kazakh envoy stresses SCO's role in regional economic cooperation

Detailed News On Page-08

Naqvi meets Canadian High Commissioner

Detailed News On Page-08



Bowler Amir's 'unexpected training' in US

Detailed News On Page-06



ISLAMABAD: Female ambassadors/high commissioners in Islamabad including Ambassadors of Bulgaria, Italy, the Netherlands, European Union, High Commissioners of UK and Canada had a meeting with the first-ever Lt. General of Pakistan Army Nigar Johar. The participants exchanged views on a variety of issues. - DNA

US supports Indo-Pak negotiations

Relations between India and Pakistan have deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when New Delhi unilaterally annexed the disputed Himalayan region of Jammu and Kashmir

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States support "direct discussions" between India and Pakistan, saying the two neighbouring countries should work out the mode for the talks themselves, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller has said. "We value our important relationships with both India and Pakistan," he said in response to a question from a Pakistani TV channel reporter at his daily news briefing on Thursday. "As we have said, we support direct discussions between India and Pakistan, but the pace, scope and character should be determined by those two countries, not by us," Miller added. Relations between India and Pakistan have deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when New Delhi unilaterally annexed the disputed Himalayan region of Jammu and Kashmir, leading to heightened tensions between them. Official talks between the two countries have remained suspended since then. Answering another question, he stated, "US and Pakistan both have a common goal of addressing regional security threats." "We partner with Pakistan on security through our high-level counter-terrorism dialogue, including several counter-terrorism capacity building programmes, and we support a series of US-Pakistan military-to-military engagements," Miller said.

£190 million reference case Imran Khan claims talks may result in toppling of govt

Former PM says he wants to negotiate for the sake of Pakistan, not for himself or the government

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan stated on Friday that any negotiations with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) could result in the downfall of their government. During an informal media chat at the hearing of the £190 million reference case, the incarcerated former PM expressed his desire to negotiate for Pakistan's benefit, not for personal or governmental interests. "I want to negotiate for Pakistan, not for myself or the government," he said. Imran reiterated his willingness to step back if it benefits the country, saying, "Convince me it benefits the country, and I will step back." He criticised the current government

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Reduce loadshedding or things might get out of hand, KP CM warns

"..it is a pity that the federal government is not fulfilling its promises," says KP chief minister

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur Friday warned the Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government that things could get out of hand if it does not reduce

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Shazia Mari says

'Not blackmailing' PML-N on budget

Marri says nothing substantial came out of the talks between PPP chief and prime minister

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary Shazia Mari said Friday that her party was not strong-arming the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which is in power in the centre, over the federal budget. Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb presented the budget for the next fiscal year, starting July 1, earlier this month, but the PPP - the main ally of the PML-N - had raised strong objections to the proposals. The party leaders had said that the PML-N had taken a solo flight in preparing the budget, while another had claimed that the PPP was not consulted at all on the financial blueprint. With the differences

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Punjab imposes Section 144 to stave off protests

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Friday imposed Section 144 across the province in light of "the prevailing law and order situation", thereby banning protests and public gatherings. The imposition of Section 144 across Punjab comes as PTI plans to carry out nationwide protests today demanding the release of incarcerated leader Imran Khan.

Continued on Page 06

Govt to ensure timely completion of CPEC projects: PM Shehbaz

Minister stressed the importance of enhanced exchanges between the political parties of the two countries for experience-sharing, capacity building and people-centered governance



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister receives Mr. Liu Jianchao, Minister of International Department of Communist Party of China Mr. Liu Jianchao, Minister of International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad earlier.

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Strategic ties with China to continue: COAS

Chinese minister expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved on CPEC

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the strategic partnership with China and pledged full support for the successful implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He expressed the resolve during a meeting with Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of

Continued on Page 06

Armenia recognizes State of Palestine

A series of countries have recognised the State of Palestine amid the war

NEWS DESK

YEREVAN: Armenia announced Friday its recognition of the State of Palestine, the latest country to do so during the war in Gaza, saying it was against "violence towards civilian populations." A series of countries have recognised the State of Palestine amid the war between Israel and Hamas, drawing strong rebukes from Israeli officials. "Confirming its commitment to international law, equality of nations, sovereignty and peaceful coexistence, the Republic of Armenia recognises the State of Palestine," Yerevan said. Armenia added that it is "genuinely interested in establishing long-term peace and stability in the Middle-East."

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

Minister Jianchao says Pakistan security situation matter of concern for Chinese investors

Says Political stability vital for development of a country; all political parties to join hands for the political stability of the country; broad political consensus needed for CPEC success; security and business environment need to be improved

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Visiting Chinese Development Minister Liu Jianchao has advised Pakistani political leadership to shun differences as "internal stability is imperative for any nation to develop". "In a turbulent world of rising uncertainties, stability within the country is essential for development. Faced with complex internal and external challenges, Pakistan is navigating carefully through turbulent rivers," Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Liu Jianchao said. Jianchao made the remarks as he co-chaired - along with Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar - the third meeting of the Pakistan-China Joint Consultative Mechanism (JCM) of the Political Parties on the CPEC. Leaders belonging to all major political parties, including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), were present during the event. PTI's Barrister Ali Zafar and Raouf Hasan, PML-N's Ahsan Iqbal, Jamiat

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Dar says fool-proof security to be ensured for Chinese nationals

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar met Mr. Liu Jianchao, Minister of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) today in Islamabad. THE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister appreciated the positive contribution of CPEC to Pakistan's socio-economic development, and progress and prosperity. He underscored that as the flagship project of President China's Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has

Continued on Page 06

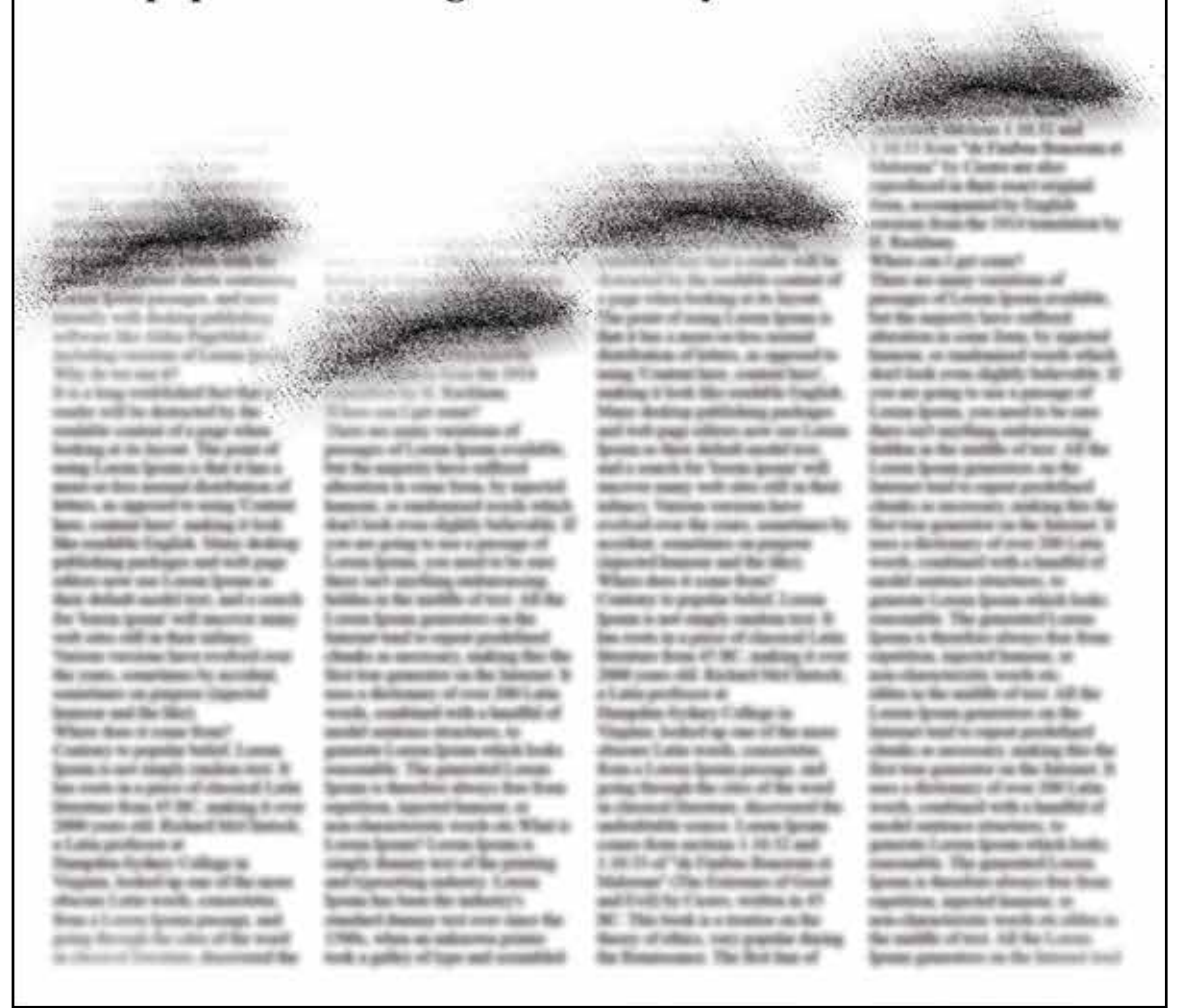


PRINT OR PERISH

The 10% GST Threatens Free Press

1. The newspaper industry is facing an existential crisis due to the 10% GST proposed on newsprint in the recent budget.
2. In an environment full of fake news and disinformation, newspapers are a vital source for credible and authentic news. They play an important role in promoting democratic values and shaping informed public opinions. The imposition of this GST will push many newspapers, particularly small and regional newspapers, towards closure.
3. Newspapers organisations are already subsidising the cost of their publications for their readers as they are not passing on the cost burden to the readers. Taxing the newspapers will further weaken the economies of the print media and impact the citizens' right to know.
4. This tax threatens the survival of an already struggling newspaper industry. While reducing the quality and quantity of news coverage, the tax will increase production costs, endanger jobs, restrict the ability for the industry to pay competitive and timely salaries and will make it impossible for print media organisations to implement the government mandated Wage Board for newspaper employees.

We urge the government to reconsider and withdraw this tax to ensure the survival and continued contribution of newspapers to an enlightened society.



Tourism surge Over 400,000 visitors flock to KP over Eidul Azha

Naran Kaghan emerge as most popular spot, attracting over 174,000 tourists alone

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR : During the recently concluded Eidul Azha holidays, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa witnessed a significant influx of tourists, with more than 400,000 visitors exploring various scenic destinations from June 17 to 19. Naran Kaghan emerged as the most popular spot, attracting over 174,000 tourists alone. The picturesque valleys and serene landscapes of Naran Kaghan continue to charm visitors seeking respite from urban life. In Galiyat, a total of 162,000 tourists enjoyed cultural sites and historical landmarks, highlighting the city's rich heritage. Additionally, Malam Jabba in Swat welcomed over 46,000 visitors, while Upper Dir saw 23,000 tourists exploring its natural beauty. The surge in tourist numbers under-

scores Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's growing appeal as a top destination for domestic travelers, offering a blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and adventure opportunities. Local authorities and businesses have been working to ensure a memorable experience for visitors while managing the influx responsibly. Mean while, As per figures shared by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development Project (KITE), a provincial initiative by the provincial government to develop tourism in KP, 583,452 tourists in total visited on Eid-ul-Fitar. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's tourist spots remained tourists' first priority during Eid holidays," the KP Culture and Tourism Authority said in a statement. "During the five days [April 10-14], over 583,000 tourists visited the tourist spots of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa." According to a breakdown shared by KITE,

Galiyat saw the highest number of visitors with over 237,500 visiting the area during the five days while 151,900 visited Malam Jabba. As many as 92,470 tourists visited Kurnat Valley while 77,372 toured Naran and Kaghan areas, the data showed. Pakistan's inflation last year peaked at 36.4 percent during April 2023 while food inflation surged to 49.1 percent. The South Asian country's inflation outpaced price gains even in Sri Lanka as its currency depreciated and Pakistan hiked fuel and energy prices to comply with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In March 2024, however, Pakistan's inflation rate measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell to 20.7 percent, its lowest in 23 months. However, the country continues to face significant financial challenges, with dwindling foreign exchange reserves and a weak national currency.



RAWALPINDI Mr. Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), met General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at General Headquarters. — DNA

One killed, 15 injured in different incidents

KOTRI: One person lost his life while 15 people sustained injuries in various incidents including clash and accidents in Kotri and Jamshoro areas.

A resident of Shahdad Kot, identified as 40-year-old Ali Bakhsh was crushed by a speeding car while he was crossing the road at M9 Motorway Nooriabad main stop. He died on the spot. Driver of the car managed to escape. Police shifted the body to Thana Bola Khan Hospital. The deceased worked in a factory in Nooriabad Industrial Zone. In Jamshoro RBB Colony, the Solangi community got into a fight over a trivial matter, in which around 10 people were injured by being hit with sticks and bricks. A case was registered against five people at Jamshoro police station on the complaint of Advocate Amir Hazaar Solangi. In a road accident on Indus Highway two women and three children were injured when a van heading to Sehwan collided with a car. Meanwhile, a clash took place between Khakheli and Rind communities on the first day of the opening of Water Park near check post No.13 on M-9 Motorway within the limit of Jamshoro police station. Police reached the park but they were not allowed to enter and intervene. The park is stated to be built by the cousin of an influential officer in the Sindh Police.—APP

Lahore High Court bans smoke-emitting vehicles

Lahore High Court says there are a lot of fires along motorway, which should be controlled

ABID RAZA

LAHORE : The Lahore High Court has taken decisive action to address environmental and public health concerns by ordering a ban on vehicles emitting smoke. This decision came during a hearing on petitions filed for the eradication of smog. During the proceedings, Justice Shahid Karim issued directives for immediate measures against vehicles emitting smoke. The court instructed the traffic police to take strict action against such vehicles and to promptly report violations to the relevant authorities. "Traffic police should take

action against smoke-emitting vehicles and inform the department concerned," the court ruled. Additionally, the motorway police were tasked with addressing cases of lighting fires and enhancing control over fire incidents in the motorway environs. "There are a lot of fires in the motorway environs, which should be controlled," the court said. The court emphasized the motorway inspector general (IG) to ensure the orders are implemented, failing which could result in contempt of court actions. In a related development, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Punjab sub-

mitted a detailed report on heat stroke incidents, highlighting ongoing efforts to mitigate the impact of extreme heat. According to the report, a heat stroke awareness campaign has been launched to educate the public on preventive measures. Moreover, the PDMA reported that 20 water bowlers, each containing 12,500 liters of water, have been dispatched to Cholistan to provide relief to residents affected by water scarcity. The hearing, presided over by Justice Shahid Karim, was conducted on petitions of citizen Haroon Farooq and others. It was adjourned, with further deliberations scheduled for next Friday.

SNGPL disconnects 4 more connections

MULTAN :The Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) disconnected four more connections over different charges here on Friday. The Sui Gas Task Force continued its daily operations, disconnecting four more meters and removing five extensions. Four consumers had illegally transferred their meters from the service to their homes, causing leakage losses to the department. After thorough inspection, the task force disconnected all four connections. Additionally, a meter of a non-billing consumer was also disconnected and sent to the laboratory for further departmental action. Five consumers who were illegally supplying gas to more than one house had their extensions removed. During the inspection of commercial consumers, one commercial consumer who had not paid the ad-hoc bill was made to pay a bill of Rs 210,000. Furthermore, five active commercial consumers were also inspected. In addition, the task force teams inspected the entire colony of Fatima Town for the use of compressors following a Situation Room Complaint.—APP

District admin bans LPG shops due to security

The move aims to mitigate risks associated with the high traffic volume and sensitive movements on Adiala Road, ensuring the safety of all residents and travellers in the area, the officials further said

RAWALPINDI :Various LPG filling agencies and shops, both legal and illegal, operating on Adiala Road have been banned with immediate effect due to security concerns. According to the Rawalpindi district administration, the decision mandates the immediate sealing of illegal shops and agencies, with their goods confiscated. Licence holders are required to relocate their agencies to safer locations. Officials said this precautionary measure arises from the constant VIP movement on Adiala Road, which is heavily trafficked due to the daily transportation of accused individuals from Adiala Jail to the courts and back. Deputy Com-

missioner Cheema has instructed the Civil Defense Department to enforce these orders without delay. In response, the department has issued red notices to all licenced LPG cylinder gas agencies along the stretch from 502 Workshop on Adiala Road to Adiala Village, giving them a seven-day deadline to relocate. Meanwhile, illegal cylinder gas shops and agencies have been sealed immediately. District Officer Civil Defense Talib Hussain confirmed that following these orders, eight illegal cylinder gas filling shops have been sealed. The confiscated items include gas-filling devices and stored gas. Formal cases are

being filed against these illegal operators at the police station. To ensure compliance with the deputy commissioner's orders, two teams have been formed. Any licence holder failing to relocate their agency by June 25 will face further action, including the sealing of their agency. These sealed agencies will only be reopened once they have been safely transferred to new locations. The move aims to mitigate risks associated with the high traffic volume and sensitive movements on Adiala Road, ensuring the safety of all residents and travellers in the area, the officials further said.

Rescue-1122 assists 1562 during Eidul Azha

FAISALABAD :Rescue-1122 Faisalabad provided emergency service to 1562 people affected by various incidents/accidents in the district during the three days of Eidul Azha. District Emergency Officer Zafar Iqbal said here on Friday that Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue-1122) Faisalabad received 1,684 emergency calls at its control room during the Eidul Azha holidays. He said that during the Eidul Azha days, 387 road accidents were reported, in which two people lost their lives. As many as 1107 cases of medical emergencies and 34 of fire eruption were reported in the district.—APP



LARKANA : President Asif Ali Zardari cutting cake on the 71st birth anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto at Garhi Khuda Baksh Bhutto.—DNA

IG Punjab prioritizes police family welfare

DNA

LAHORE : Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has said that Punjab Police is like a family, and resolution of issues faced by its members and their families is a top priority. He said this during a meeting with police employees and their families at the Central Police Office here on Thursday. He listened to the employee's applications and issued orders for relief. The IG Punjab said that all supervisory officers should maintain close contact with their subordinate staff and leave no stone unturned in addressing their applications and concerns. According to the details, the IG Punjab directed the DIG Elite to provide relief on the request of Asmat Shehzadi, who is serving as an assistant, for her transfer from Telecommunications to PHP. Dr. Usman Anwar forwarded the Sub-Inspector Raees Shehzad Khan's departmental promotion request to the Additional IG Punjab

for relief on merit. He instructed the AIG Admin to provide relief on the family claim recruitment request by the widow of late ASI Irshad Khan for her son's job. He forwarded the ASI Ehsan Ali's transfer request from Lahore to Narowal to the DIG Establishment One for relief. On the request of Constable Saqib Mahmood for recruitment as a junior clerk on a family claim, IG Punjab directed the AIG Admin to proceed on merit. The IG Punjab also instructed the Additional IG Welfare and Finance to provide relief on leave encashment requests from retired Sub-Inspector Sai Khan and six other officers. He issued immediate relief orders for other welfare, recruitment, and promotion-related applications. He directed that all officers should take action on the forwarded requests and send compliance performance reports to the Central Police Office. Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, praised the performance of the Special Branch for their ef-

fective reporting on cleanliness arrangements during Eid al-Adha. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar while appreciating the performance of Special Branch officers and personnel across the province, said that due to the objective reporting by the Special Branch, significant success was achieved in the Eid cleanliness operation. He further mentioned that the Special Branch provided timely information that greatly contributed to achieving the zero waste target. Special Branch's effective reporting helped in timely collection and proper disposal of animal remains in the cities. IG Punjab congratulated the entire Special Branch team for their outstanding performance. Punjab police department, on the direction of IG Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, released more funds for monthly health stipends for 582 children of employees affected by cerebral palsy, who are stationed across the province, including Lahore. Spokesperson for Punjab Police

said that a payment of 10,000 rupees per child per month has been made, and for medical expenses from April to June, 30,000 rupees per child has been released. In total, more than 17.4 million rupees have been released. IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar mentioned that each child affected by cerebral palsy is being given 10,000 rupees monthly, amounting to 120,000 rupees annually. Over 70 million rupees will be spent on the treatment of cerebral palsy affected children this year. He further said that the police department is providing the best free treatment for children affected by cerebral palsy. Meanwhile, Dr. Usman Anwar paid great tribute to the sacrifice of police officer Tanveer Abbas, who was martyred in the line of duty while fighting the robbers in Rajanpur. IG Punjab said that the sacrifices of martyred police officers and officials for the protection of lives and properties of the citizens will not go in vain and Punjab police will not hesitate to protect the lives and properties of the citizens.

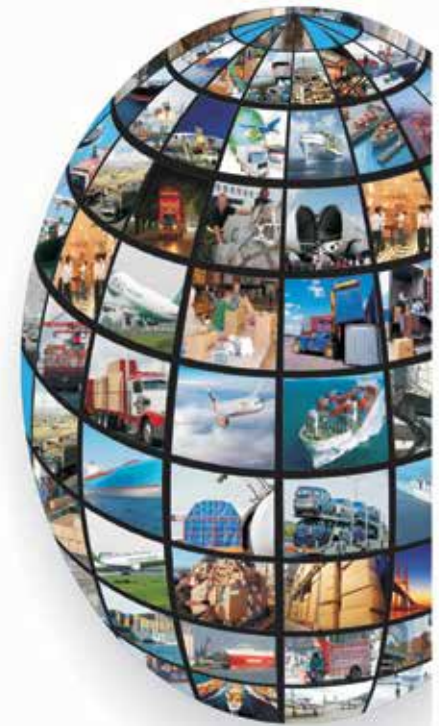
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Briefs

ANF recovers
210 kg
charras

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting a raid managed to recover 210 kg charras and arrested an accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an operation conducted in Karachi, ANF recovered 210 kg hashish from a vehicle intercepted near service road in Sohrab Goth area. During the operation, the accused resident of Quetta was also netted, he said and informed that a case has been registered against the arrested accused under Anti Narcotics Act and further investigation is under process.—APP

Randhawa
commends
CDA staffers
for their
services on
Eid-ul-Azha

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa Friday commended the officers and staff who sacrificed their own celebrations to serve the community during Eid-ul-Azha acknowledging their dedication and commendable services. During the meeting to review the emergency services provided during Eid days, Muhammad Ali emphasized that serving the citizens is the top priority. The Capital Emergency Services, Rescue 1122 played a crucial role in delivering professional services throughout the three days of Eid. The teams from Capital Emergency Services were on high alert, ensuring swift responses to any incidents. During the meeting, it was informed that a total of 154 emergency calls were received in Eid days. These included 55 fire incidents, 24 medical emergencies, 71 traffic accidents and other incidents. The briefing highlighted the prompt response by the emergency services to all complaints. Director General Capital Emergency Services said the deceased and severely injured individuals from accidents were quickly transported to nearby hospitals. The fire incidents reported comprised 37 in green areas, five house fires, and two due to short circuits, among other incidents, it was informed.—APP

Pakistani
internet
influencer
showcases
talent

ISLAMABAD: In a global showcase of linguistic prowess and cultural understanding, Usman, a Pakistani internet influencer and a student at Beijing Language and Culture University, participated in the "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreigners Around the Globe - Storytelling Contest, held here in Hunan province. The contest, which gathered 49 contestants from 37 countries, provided a platform for participants to showcase their proficiency in the Chinese language and share their unique stories of connections with China.—APP

Senators demand broader
economic dialogue

ISLAMABAD: The Senators on Friday demanded the government and the opposition to initiate broader economic dialogue and embrace people's centric approach to provide relief to the masses battered by economic crunch and inflation in the Budget 2024-25. The members of the Upper House of the Parliament were presenting recommendations to the National Assembly on the Finance Bill, 2024. The session commenced 22 minutes late from the scheduled time with the verses of the Holy Quran's Surah Al-Furqan that detailed the characteristics of the virtuous and the followers of Rehman (The Almighty Allah) who walk politely on the earth and bear the best virtues of starting conversation with Salam (Salutation), seekers of the Almighty's forgiveness from the Hell and are not extravagant nor thrifty but main-

Sri Lanka resumes eye
cornea donations to Pakistan

Sri Lanka has a rich history of eye donations, having donated more than 88,000 eye corneas worldwide through the Eye Donation Society of Sri Lanka, established in 1964 by the late Deshamannya Dr. Hudson Silva.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A remarkable act of generosity and friendship marked a new chapter in the longstanding relationship between Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Five eye corneas, donated by Sri Lankan donors, arrived in Lahore today aboard a Sri Lankan Airlines flight. These invaluable gifts were received by Pakistan Military Medical personnel and will soon be transferred to the Pakistan Army Hospital in Rawalpindi.

Sri Lanka has a rich history of eye donations, having donated more than 88,000 eye corneas worldwide through the Eye Donation Society of Sri Lanka, established in 1964 by the late Deshamannya Dr. Hudson Silva. Of these, over 36,000 corneas have been donated to Pakistan. This noble initiative, however, came to a halt two and a half years ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a subsequent shortage of the fluid required for the safe transfer of eye corneas. Today's arrival of corneas signi-

fies the restart of this humanitarian project, rekindling people-to-people contacts between these two brotherly nations that have stood by each other through challenging times. The corneas will be implanted by Pakistan Military Eye Surgeons, bringing the gift of sight to patients in need. Currently, more than 300 patients in hospitals around Lahore are awaiting these vital transplants. The successful coordination for the resumption of these donations was led by Mr. Idris Admani, President of the Pakistan-Sri Lan-

ka Friendship Association. Mr. Admani, who visited Pakistan last month with a Buddhist delegation for the Wesak Festival and the Gandhara Buddhist Conference sponsored by Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, played a pivotal role. He generously provided personal funds and raised additional support from well-wishers to cover the costs of transferring the eye corneas from Colombo to Lahore. In a world often overshadowed by death, destruction, and sadness, this act of kindness during the Po-

son week—a time commemorating the spread of Gautama Buddha's teachings in ancient Sri Lanka—shines as a beacon of ultimate compassion. The selflessness of the deceased donors of these five eye corneas sets a profound example for the world. The Military Eye Hospital in Rawalpindi, which will utilize these corneas, holds a special place of gratitude for Major General (R) Burki, former Pakistan High Commissioner to Colombo, for his contributions to fostering this enduring partnership.



ISLAMABAD: Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.— DNA

IFA seals
3 outlets;
discards
15,000 ltrs
adulterated
milk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) has intensified its campaign against unsafe food, disposing of 15,000 liters of adulterated milk in the Federal Capital. Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of IFA said that the IFA, along with its food safety teams (FSTs), inspected a total of 25,000 liters of milk. During the inspection, the teams identified 15,000 liters as unhygienic and immediately disposed of it. Additionally, the IFA took strict action against violators. Three shops were sealed, and heavy fines were imposed for non-compliance with food safety standards. In another operation, the IFA conducted raids in the G-11, F-11, and I-10 areas of Islamabad. During these inspections, the FSTs examined over 60 food outlets. They discovered and discarded more than 80 kilograms of expired food items.—APP

Engro completes largest-ever
EnVen plant turnaround

ISLAMABAD: Engro Fertilizers has invested approximately USD 50 million in a plant turnaround to enhance its reliability and operational efficiency and the company successfully completed the largest-ever scheduled maintenance activity for the EnVen Plant, spanning 55 days, as planned on June 18, 2024. Established in 2011 with an investment of USD 1.1 billion, the EnVen Plant has an annual production capacity of 1.3 million tons and is the most energy efficient fertilizer plant in Pakistan, with the lowest consumption of gas per ton of urea, said a news release. The project scope of the turnaround included over 5,000 technical activities, including the first-ever replacement of the waste heat boiler, overhaul of the furnace convection section, ammonia storage tank inspection and a comprehensive overhaul of six major turbo trains and gas turbines. At peak, more than 6,000 people were engaged round-the-clock at the Plant site for these turnaround activities. According to Ali Rathore – CEO of

Engro Fertilizers, "The safe and successful completion of this major turnaround, despite extreme weather conditions, showcases the engineering excellence of the Engro Fertilizers team in executing large-scale projects within planned schedules and budgets, while prioritizing the safety of everyone involved in the activity. These critical projects were executed in-house by our talented engineers using innovative techniques and global best practices of safety and quality." He added that, "The meticulous planning and execution ensured that the availability of urea to our hardworking farmers was not impacted, demonstrating the entire Engro Fertilizers team's firm commitment to our purpose of enabling the food security of Pakistan. We would like to thank our employees, contractors, global technical partners, local administration, and all other key stakeholders for their seamless support and guidance that contributed to the success of this major turnaround."—APP

Pakistan facing critical period
since its founding

ISLAMABAD: Murtaza Mughal, President of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW), said on Saturday that the country has been going through a critical period for the masses since its creation. Since the 1970s, families ruling Pakistan have claimed to serve the masses but have become billionaires, while the people began to crave bread, he said. For the last 25 years, Pakistan has been adjusting its budget according to the terms and conditions of the IMF. Still, he added that the country's conditions continued to deteriorate instead of improving. Dr Murtaza Mughal said in a statement issued today that we have been facing problems like reduced net tax, uncontrolled expenditure, and unnecessary incentives and subsidies for the last 25 years because their resolution is limited to announcements. He said that in the last twenty-five years, the neighbouring countries have made fantastic progress, while Pakistan has seen three short periods of artificial growth during which hefty loans were acquired.—APP

Weekly inflation up by 0.94 pc

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.94 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on June 20, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 316.88 points as compared to 313.93 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 23.78 per cent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the lowest consumption group of up to Rs 17,732, increased by 1.58 per cent and went up to 309.10 points from the last week's 304.28 points. The SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175, increased by 1.44 per cent, 1.20 per cent, 1.11 and 0.69 per cent respectively. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 25 (49.02%) items increased, 5 (9.80%) items decreased and 21 (41.18%) items remained stable. The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week basis included petrol (3.76%), diesel (0.84%), rice basmati broken (0.08%) pulse masoor (0.08%) and chicken (0.05%). The commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices on week-on-week basis included tomatoes (65.84%), potatoes (5.61%), onions (3.78%), bananas (3.29%), LPG (2.44%), cigarettes (1.67%), pulse moong (1.53%), garlic (1.29%), milk fresh (0.95%), eggs (0.83%), georgette (0.28%) and shirting (0.17%).—APP



