

Ruckus mars NA session Mixed reaction over military operation against militancy

Asif says PTI stands with terrorists; Gohar objects, says parliament not taken into confidence on "Azm-e-Istehkam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: A turbulent National Assembly session took place on Sunday as the government and opposition remained divided over a new military operation, Azm-e-Istehkam, to root out militancy. The lawmakers from the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said that they weren't taken into confidence over the operation, while the government assured them that their concerns would be addressed.

The lower house session, which is currently discussing the budget but went off track to exchange views over the operation, saw a ruckus ensued from the opposition benches.

The PTI staged a walkout from the session for an hour and returned later, following which their leaders addressed the National Assembly, while they also chanted slogans, including "end the operation", and "we want peace". The Shehbaz Sharif-led government had Saturday announced the fresh counter-terrorism operation, pledging to utilise the full strength of the country's resources, including military, diplomatic, and legislative, to turn the heat up on militants.

The Central Apex Committee on National Action Plan (NAP) gave the approval for the operation, in which top officials of all provinces were present, including PTI-backed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. The move comes as the country has witnessed a significant surge in terrorist attacks in recent months resulting in scores of both civilian and security forces' casualties. Pakistan has time and again called on Afghanistan's Taliban-led administration to prevent its soil from being used by various terrorist

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Govt green lights deployment of FC in AJK

Six FC platoons, deployed in AJK for a period of three months, will provide security for hydro-power projects

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government Sunday approved the deployment of Frontier Constabulary (FC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) in response to the state's request aimed at improving the security situation. The development came after AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq met Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Islamabad. During the meeting, the two mulled over the law and order situation as well as the prevailing political landscape along with the AJK government's budget for the next fiscal year.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding law & order and security projects in Islamabad. - DNA

Monsoon rains Punjab on high alert

Punjab to experience rains 35% above normal; PMDA issues warning of urban flooding, hill torrents in southern Punjab

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued an alert regarding the upcoming monsoon rains, forecasting an increase of 35% above normal levels. All provincial administrations were notified

PICTURE ON BACK PAGE on Sunday to prepare for the heightened rainfall. According to the PDMA, the monsoon season is set to begin on July 1 in Punjab, with 15 to 50 mm of rain

No tolerance for negligence in maintaining peace

PM Shehbaz warns

The Prime Minister said any kind of negligence in maintaining law and order and protecting citizens will not be tolerated. He directed to hold inquiry into delay in completion of Islamabad Model Jail

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says the protection of Pakistani citizens and foreigners in Pakistan is among the top priorities of the state. He was chairing a meeting in Lahore today regarding law and order and security projects in Islamabad. The forum was briefed regarding the current law and order situation in Islamabad and Islamabad Model Jail, Islamabad Safe City, Federal Anti-Terrorism Department and Special Protection Unit. It was also briefed regarding Islamabad National

Continued on Page 06

PM's recent visit to China highly significant: Ahsan

MEHTAB PIRZADA

Briefs

Mushtaq condemns atrocities in Palestine

He also paid tributes to the Gaza March volunteers

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD:Senator Mushtaq Ahmed on Sunday condemned the ongoing atrocities in Palestine, stating that over 16,000 children have been martyred, 70,000 children were displaced and \$33 billion property was destroyed in Gaza during the past over eight months. Addressin a press conference here, he emphasized that these atrocities have no parallel in the world. He lamented the UN's failure and the international community's silence over Palestinians genocide.

T20WC: England qualify for semi-final

Jos Buttler cruised his side to victory in 9.4 overs during the chase

SPORTS DESK

KENSINGTON: England became the first team to qualify for the T20 World Cup 2024 semi-final after a 10-wicket win against the United States in their last Super 8 clash which was played at the Kensington Oval, Barbados on Sunday. Jos Buttler and Phil Salt chased down the 116-run target in just 9.4 overs without losing a single as all the USA bowlers were taken to the cleaners by the English duo. Buttler scored 83 off just 38 deliveries with the help of six fours and seven sixes, including five maximums in a row to USA's Harmeet Singh in the ninth over.

Budget passage PML-N, PPP strike deal on administrative roles Breakthrough comes after an intense negotiation

session attended by key figures from both parties

Adil Shaheen

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government acceded on Sunday to all the demands put forward by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) over governance issues in Punjab and Budget 2024-25. The decision was made during a meeting between the negotiation committees of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and PPP held in Islamabad. The PPP had aired its grievances regarding the distribution of development funds and administrative appoint- ISLAMABAD: Aseements in Punjab, which the government has fa now agreed to address. The breakthrough daughter of Presicame after an intense negotiation session at- dent Asif Ali Zardtended by key figures from both parties. The ari and sister of PPP delegation included Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, PPP Chairman Bi-Ali Haider Gilani, Nadeem Afzal Chan, and lawal Bhutto-Zardari, has criticised

Continued on Page 06

Aseefa calls for unity and relief

PPP MNA slams current economic situation in Pakistan, highlighting record-high inflation and unemployment

FAISAL SHEIKH Bhutto-Zardari,

Hasan Murtaza, while the PML-N was the current economic situation in

Continued on Page 06

expected in the first week. **Continued on Page 06** Israeli air strike on **UNRWA**

aid centre The main gate of the compound, facilitating

aid distribution and housing the displaced, was hit in the attack

AGENCIES GAZA: At least four peo-

ple have been killed in an Israeli air attack near an aid centre that was the main headquarters of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UN-RWA) in the Gaza Strip. The air strike on Sunday hit the main gate of the organisation's compound in Gaza City in the north of the enclave, injuring multiple Palestinians. The facility is used to distribute **Continued on Page 06**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal said that the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China was termed highly

Continued on Page 06

Iran to designate Canadian army as a terrorist entity

The Iranian legislature further noted that the Canadian government is a staunch supporter of the criminal and child-killing Tel Aviv regime

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian lawmakers have roundly denounced the Canadian government's decision to blacklist the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), demanding a countermeasure against the North American country's armed forces. On Sunday, a group of 250 Iranian legislators introduced a motion that requires the administration to designate the Canadian Army and federal police forces as terrorist organizations. They expressed their strong support for the IRGC and hailed its defense of Iran's

national security and territorial integrity in the years following the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The lawmakers also praised the IRGC for its support of oppressed nations in the West Asia region, particularly Palestinians, and its leading role in confronting the criminal Zionist regime. They described the IRGC as a thorn in the side of the Muslim world's enemies, especially Israel and its sponsors. The Iranian legislature further noted that the Canadian government is a staunch supporter of the criminal and child-killing Tel Aviv regime, emphasizing that its blacklisting of the IRGC is in violation of all international law and regulations, and exposes Ottawa's backing for the Zionist entity. The parliamentarians finally called on the Iranian Foreign Ministry to utilize all political and international means to denounce Canada's measure.

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Chinese concerns about CPEC: some musings

⁶⁶ Chinese investments in Pakistan's media, both in cash and kind, seem to have proven counterproductive. Mainstream media houses that are not beneficiaries of these investments often express their frustration through reports that may not always be unfounded but are invariably negative from the Chinese perspective **99**

COMMENT

ANSAR M BHATTI

INISTER of the In-ternational Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), Liu Jianchao, last week acknowledged the support provided by Pakistan's armed forces in ensuring



the security of Chinese nationals and development projects in Pakistan. However, he expressed serious concerns about the ongoing attacks on Chinese nationals, stating that the security situation in Pakistan remains a major issue for Chinese investors. The minister also emphasized the critical need for political stability in Pakistan and underscored the importance of achieving political consensus to help the country navigate its current crises. The minister said, "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,".

The security of Chinese nationals working on various projects in Pakistan has been a consistent concern for both Chinese authorities and the Pakistani security establishment. Since the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2013, numerous Chinese nationals have been killed,

focal point of CPEC activities. Minister Liu's statements about the security situation, made in front of representatives from all major political parties, are highly significant. Such statements are typically not made publicly, suggesting that if a high-level Chinese dignitary chose this prestigious gathering to voice concerns, it indicates that all back-channel options have likely been exhausted. It is now widely known that during the recent visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister and Army Chief to China, similar concerns were expressed emphatically.

To improve political stability in Pakistan, it's important to understand that genuine political stability is crucial for addressing security concerns effectively. Political divides provide opportunities for miscreants to carry out subversive acts. China is likely aware of this, which is why their minister has called for political stability. The question, then, is how to achieve this stability. The most viable way to achieve political stability is through free and fair elections, allowing the legitimate winners to govern. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, free and fair elections have often been elusive. Winning parties are frequently prevented from taking charge, damaging the democratic order in the country.

The Chinese minister rightly pointed out that China wants to work with all political parties in Pakistan, a rational approach. However, China's apparent preference for the PML N over the PPP or PTI has been a source of concern for other political parties. Right or wrong, this inclination gives the impression that China feels more comfortable with

particularly in Balochistan province, which is the PML N governments, which complicates the political landscape in Pakistan. In 2018, when the Nawaz Sharif-led PML-N government was dislodged to bring in the PTI, spearheaded by Imran Khan, China did not welcome the change, fearing it might impact the well-being of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. In this context, it took almost a month or more for the Chinese ambassador in Pakistan to call on the then Prime Minister Imran Khan and congratulate him on his election. The delayed Chinese response was not well received within the ranks of the PTI, which had always viewed the CPEC projects with skepticism. During the PTI government, work on all CPEC projects was halted mainly because the government ordered a thorough audit of the projects, suspecting large-scale corruption. Although China did not have a role in the removal of the PTI government, the incoming PDM government was seen as a positive development in terms of reviving the CPEC projects. Minister Liu also mentioned the 'negative' role of certain media outlets, accusing them of spreading 'false' information about the CPEC. While the minister may have grounds for his claim, it is crucial for the Chinese leadership to review and reassess their media policy. Problems arise when a one-sided media approach is adopted in dealing with the Pakistani media. Often, media officers in the embassy are unavailable, or their ranks are too junior to effectively interact with senior Pakistani journalists. This lack of coordination seems to be the primary source of the dissemination of misinformation whatsoever. Most importantly,

Chinese investments in Pakistan's media, both in cash and kind, seem to have proven counterproductive. Mainstream media houses that are not beneficiaries of these investments often express their frustration through reports that may not always be unfounded but are invariably negative from the Chinese perspective. The Chinese government should reconsider its policy of financially assisting media houses directly or indirectly. This approach either needs to be eliminated or rationalized to ensure balanced and unbiased coverage.

Apart from media problems, another phenomenon that has adversely affected China's image happens to be the "think-tank syndrome." Since the launch of the CPEC project, there has been a mushroom growth of one-man or one-woman think tanks. Hefty sums are allocated to these think tanks, mostly run by pseudo-intellectuals. China needs to engage with genuine and reputable think tanks, which are abundant in Pakistan. This will certainly help augment efforts to strengthen the CPEC projects.

CPEC undoubtedly holds immense benefits and opportunities for both Pakistan and China. It has ushered in an era of significant infrastructural development in Pakistan. The project, therefore, must be protected, supported, and strengthened. A partnership with China can bring about a revolution in Pakistan. Islamabad must address the genuine security concerns expressed by the Chinese minister. Similarly, the Chinese side should reconsider its policies, particularly in the aeras mentioned above, to make this collaboration durable, trusted, and mutually beneficial.

- The writer is the newspaper Editor

NATIONAL

Romina praises Punjab CM for plastic ban enforcement

PM's Aide Emphasizes Public Engagement for Reducing Plastic Waste and Promoting Sustainability

ADIL SHAHEEN

02

ISLAMABAD :Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said that imposing of ban on plastic bags in the Punjab by the Provincial Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was a long-awaited move to deal with the hazardous effects of plastic on the environment and human health. The PM's aide in a press statement on Sunday said that the Punjab chief minister has enforced a comprehensive ban on the manufacturing, distribution, sale and purchase of plastic all over the province in its strict form. "We urge other provincial governments to follow suit to make Pakistan a plastic-free country", she added. "Achieving plastic-free Pakistan is an extremely challenging goal, but it is possible with coordinated efforts by all provincial governments to completely ban manufacturing, distribution and sale and purchase of plastics in all forms and manifestations at all levels," Romina Khurshid Alam remarked. Chief Minister Marvam Nawaz Sharif enforced the province-wide ban on plastics on June 5, a move deliberately coincided with World Environment Day marked every globally on the same day. The Punjab chief minister had announced weeks before that the provincial plastic ban policy would be strictly enforced, particularly in hotels, restaurants and eateries, citing the detrimental effects of plastics on the environment and public health and stating that "No to Plastic" campaign is core of the anti-plastic policy, which aims at reducing environmental pollution and promoting eco-friendly initiatives.

The PM's aide on climate change Romina Khurshid recalled that when the ban on plastics was being imposed in Islamabad under a relevant law, all the provincial, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir governments were requested by the federal government to impose plastic bag in their respective provincial and admirative territories as a part of the federal government's 'Plastic-Free Pakistan' campaign. But, "now it is heartening to note all provincial governments are making efforts to rid the country of environmentally-damaging plastics in support to achieve the goal of Plastics-Free Plastic'," PM's Coordinator Romina Khurshid said, rejoicingly. The PM's aide recalled that in Islamabad implementation ban on single-use plastics and other plastic items faced stiff challenges including resistance from businesses, lack of alternatives, and enforcement issues. But, continuous efforts are needed to ensure compliance and address these challenges. Romina Khurshid Alam, however, underlined the urgency of banning the production, distribution and use of polythene bags, citing their detrimental environmental impact and contribution to respiratory ailments and other life-threatening conditions. PM's aide also urged the provincial governments to promote use of eco-friendly alternatives like cotton bags to replace plastic bags, appealing to the citizens to switch to cloth and paper bags as alternatives to plastic. She also highlighted the unprecedented importance of the public engagement through awareness campaigns to reduce the environmental impact of plastic waste and promote the use of more sustainable alternatives. "Without engaging public through sensitization and awareness about adverse impacts of plastics on environment and public health, the country cannot get rid of the plastic pollution," Romina Khurshid cautioned.

She emphasised that plastic waste has become a major source of various kinds of pollutants, contaminating land, water bodies and oceans and it takes hundreds to thousands of years to decompose, leading to long-term pollution. Highlighting adverse impacts of plastics on the marine life, she PM's aide Romina Khurshid said that plastics in the ocean harms marine animals through ingestion and entanglement. Microplastics, tiny plastic particles, are ingested by marine organisms, entering the food chain and affecting biodiversity, she added. She said further that the production and disposal of plastics contribute to climate changing greenhouse gas emissions. Because, plastic production relies heavily on fossil fuels.

ISLAMABAD: S Islamabad : Delegation of Member National Assembly belonging to Balochistan led by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan in a meeting with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.-DNA

Adulterated Kundi stresses modern foods pose severe risks

health sector development Faisal Karim Kundi said that provision of best healthcare facilities was one of the top most and

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, June 24 , 2024

basic responsibilities of the government

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR : Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Sunday said that health was an important sector in the province and its development on modern line was imperative to provide better facilities to the ailing people. He was addressing a representative delegation of Peoples Doctors Forum that called on him here at Governor House. Matters pertaining to improvement in health sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and treatment facilities came under

discussion. The delegation informed the Governor about the problems and difficulties faced by doctors and medical staff in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Faisal Karim Kundi said that provision of best healthcare facilities was one of the top most and basic responsibilities of the government. He underscored the need for reforms in existing health system in hospitals of the province. The Governor said that MTI system in heath treatment process was not proved impressive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He underlined the need

'digital school on wheels'

for enforcement of Sindh province health model system in the entire country. Faisal Karim Kundi said that visible change in health sector could be witnessed by establishing hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the pattern of Sindh province. He asked the medical experts to prepare paper work and suggestions for establishment of Medical Commission. During the meeting, the delegation led by Dr Janbaz thanked the Governor for his suggestions and cooperation for improvement of health sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Rs. 951.2m imposed on 9,323 electricity thieves

FAISALABAD : The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has imposed Rs.951.2 million fine on 9,323 electricity thieves caught during last 288 days of anti-power-theft campaign in FES-CO region.

FESCO spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Sunday that FESCO had launched a vigorous an-

PTDC launches campaign to promote tourism on mountains

tal impact of irresponsible ISLAMABAD : Pakistan tourist behaviour, such as lit-Tourism Development Cortering, which not only harms poration (PTDC), in collaboration with Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan (STFP), has initiated a comprehensive public awareness campaign aimed at promoting responsible tourism in Pakistan's mountainous regions. Director crowding," Rana noted. of PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman

the natural environment but also jeopardizes the local cultural heritage and traditions. "While tourism has brought economic benefits to local communities, it has also led to environmental pollution, resource depletion, and over-"Our campaign, themed Green our

The joint initiative by PTDC and STFP includes the development of guidelines disseminated through various media channels, including print, electronic, and social media platforms. These guidelines outline practical steps for visitors to preserve the fragile natural ecosystems and respect local cultures. Aftab ur Rehman Rana also Summer proposed that provincial governments implement robust waste management systems at tourist sites and enforce strict anti-littering measures, including fines, to curb environmental degradation caused by tourism activities.-APP

to public health DNA LAHORE :The deliberate addition or contamination of food products with

non-food substances can pose severe health risks, ranging from mild discomfort to life-threatening conditions. Food adulteration is a pervasive issue with serious health implications. The risks associated with adulterated food had far-reaching consequences from acute illnesses to chronic health conditions. The authority concerned need to ensure roundthe-clock vigilance in food markets and take stern action against the violators for playing havoc with the public lives. The experts said that food adulteration 50,000 students to benefit from was an act of adding or mixing low-quality, non-nutritive, or harmful substances to food products for economic gains. This practice Digital certification courses will be conducted and Google for often compromises on the quality, safety, and nutritional value of the food, potentially leading to serious health risks. Explaining food adulteration, Deputy **Director Food Department** Punjab Zahir Qaiser said

Education will support the free certification courses project has further decided that in LAHORE: The Punjab government has taken a princicollaboration with the Auspled decision to launch the tralian organisation 'Allied', 'Digital school on Wheel' prothe assembly of 'Chromebooks' will be done in Punject across the province. jab; 50,000 students of gov-Punjab Education Department official sources told ernment schools of Punjab will be provided with Google APP that in this connection

cooperation in digital education projects, smart classroom and digital educational ecosystem, the sources informed. In this connection 'Google for Education' will compile authentic data of out-of-school children. Digital certification co be conducted and Google for Education will support the free certification courses project for 15,000 university students.-APP

of its region and during 288 days of this campaign the anti-theft teams of the company caught 9323 power pilferers including 49 electricity thieves during last 24 hours. The company had imposed a total fine of Rs.951.2 million on the pilferers under the head of detection units of 21.7 million in addition to getting cases registered against 9132 accused. The police had arrested 6974 electricity thieves so far besides recovering Rs.678 million. Giving further details, he said that the FESCO teams detected electricity theft at 2230 points in First Circle Faisalabad and imposed a fine of Rs.223.4 million on them under the head of 5190,000 million detection units. In Second Circle Faisalabad, the FESCO teams caught 1707 electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs.173 million under 4256,000 detection units. Similarly, 1054 cases of electricity theft were detected in Jhang Circle and the company handed down the power pilferers with a fine of Rs.107.2 million under 3044,000 detection units. He further said that 1355 electricity thieves were caught from Sargodha Circle and they were imposed a fine of Rs.144.8 million under 3120,000 detection units. -APP

ti-theft drive in six circles campaign seeks to raise awareness among tourists regarding eco-friendly practices when visiting Pakistan's breathtaking mountain areas, said a press release on Sunday. He emphasised the detrimen-

Rana highlighted that the

Vacations', aims to educate tourists on the principles of Responsible Tourism. By adhering to our guidelines and code of conduct, tourists can minimize their footprint and ensure that socio-economic benefits reach residents", he

SCO launches software

technology parks in AJK

MUZAFFARABAD : The Special Communication Organization (SCO), a telecom com-

pany working in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), is taking

cutting edge initiatives in the region to facilitate people besides providing modern tele-

communication facilities. Under the program, two software technology parks have been

established at Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot while a freelancing hub has been launched

at Haveli district. The initiative introduces cutting-edge technologies to local youth

for development of niche skills and promotion of business enabling environment

in IT domain. Major General Umar Ahmad Shah HI (M), DG SCO, officiated the

opening, emphasizing SCO's resolve to transform region's IT landscape. The newly

established IT setup at Haveli joins six other Freelancing Hubs in AJK, located

in Kel, Kamhora Ghambir along the Line of Control (LoC), Hattian, Goharabad,

Khairowal, and Koniyon. All these hubs aim at harnessing IT potential of youth and are

connected with major / district level IT hubs for mutual sharing of expertise, skill de-

velopment and mentoring. During the inauguration on Sunday, Director General SCO

Major General Umar Ahmad Shah remarked, "The launch of Freelancing Hub in Haveli

demonstrates SCO's commitment to empower local youth. It provides state-of-the-art

IT facilities in a very conducive environment, with an objective to unlock youth poten-

tial. The purpose is to promote a digitally inclusive society. I anticipate that these facili-

ties will contribute towards fostering IT skills and boosting local economy." He said the

initiative to develop network of IT set ups across the region is a cornerstone of SCO's

broader strategy to transform IT landscape of AJ&K. By nurturing local talent and

providing them with desired IT tools, SCO is playing a pivotal role in the economic and

social development of AJK. Meanwhile, the DG SCO inaugurated software technology

parks (STPs) in Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot in collaboration with Read foundation and

University of Poonch respectively. DG SCO while inspecting the facilities provided in

the parks, said that more STPs would be established in other districts and tehsil towns

of the region to facilitate the youth for taking advantages of the modern technology.

He said that such type of facilities would be provided in colleges of the region to benefit

the students and youth so that they could earn their livelihood by using the modern

technology. Fastest internet and power bank facilities will be ensured at these STPs so

that during the day time students and in the evening, IT professionals can use these

velopment deficit, Nosh-

erwani reaffirmed the

government's resolve to

utilize all available re-

sources effectively to up-

lift the standard of living

for residents across the

He dismissed claims

of misallocated funds,

emphasizing stringent

financial oversight and

accountability measures.

In an effort to resolve

faced by landlords, meet-

ings were convened with

challenges

province.

electricity

concerns

'Let's

stances to increase product weight or volume. He said for example, adding water to milk, starch to spices, or chalk powder to flour is an intentional adulteration. While sometimes

that the first kind of food

adulteration involves the

deliberate addition of sub-

three including Allied, Tech Valley and 'Google for Edu-

Another PTI MNA forcibly restores power supply

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf lawmakers continue to make trouble for the electricity supply companies under the centre's authority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as another PTI MNA on Saturday night barged into a South Waziristan grid station and forcibly restored electricity supply to different areas. A rift is going on between the province and federal government as KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has allowed lawmakers to use force to restore electricity supply to feeders suffering from more than 12 hours of loadshedding. Except for K-Electric, which was privatised in 2005, all the power distribution companies are owned by the Government of Pakistan, as the federal government deals with the power supply matter. Tribal Areas Electricity Supply Company (TESCO) is responsible for supplying electricity in tribal areas, including North and South Waziristan, whereas Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) supplies power to the rest of the province. Gandapur Friday warned the Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government that things could get out of hand if it does not reduce loadshedding to a maximum of 12 hours in his province. Following the footsteps of his party's lawmakers, the KP CM himself restored the electricity supply on the third day of Eid ul Adha. With temperatures rising across the country as climate change shows its effects, power cuts have become frequent and longer in some areas, leading to back-to-back protests. After storming the Jandola grid station with his supporters a day earlier, MNA Zubair Khan Wazir announced his own loadshedding schedule as well. "Electricity supply to FR Jandola and Upper Waziristan will continue for 12 hours and remain shut for 12 other hours," the legislator said. Wazir said his workers would stay at the grid station to switch on and off the power supply.-DNA

Ashura likely on July 17

LAHORE: Ashura, or Muharram 10, is likely to be observed on Wednesday, July 17, this year, experts told APP on Sunday. Every year, people make special preparations for the 10th of the first Islamic month. The month is observed with reverence, particularly among (Shia) Muslims. It marks the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), the grandchild of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The government takes special security measures for mourners, processions, and Majalis. The Punjab government has launched the Price Control Council (PCC) to determine the prices of 49 commodities. Official sources in City District government told APP that the government has enacted a new law to control the prices of essential commodities, whereas in this regard a Price Control Council has also been established under the 'Punjab Price Control Essential Commodities Act'. Punjab Governor Saleem Haider signed the bill after the approval of the Punjab Assembly. The Minister of Industry will be the convener of the Price Council, the Minister of Food and the Chief Secretary will be members of the council. Home, Livestock, Food, and other secretaries will also join the council, sources added.-APP

ID, free of charge, and 1000 teachers of government schools will will receive free digital certification courses. These stakeholders will work on the possibilities of

NATIONAL BANK OF PAKISTAN **INVITATION TO e-BID**

PROCUREMENT OF STANDARD FURNITURE AT NBP PRESIDENT CAMP OFFICE RHQ LAHORE

- 1. This Invitation to Bids follows the Procurement Notice for the subject Project/Procurement which appeared on NBP and PPRA Websites.
- 2. The National Bank of Pakistan has reserved the funds for the procurement planned during the financial year 2024. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the aforesaid procurement.
- 3. The National Bank of Pakistan; now invites bids from eligible Suppliers for PROCUREMENT OF STANDARD FURNITURE AT NBP PRESIDENT CAMP OFFICE RHQ LAHORE.; through EPADS only.
- 4. The bidding shall be conducted in line with the Single Stage One Envelope procedure of the Public Procurement Rules 2004 and any Regulations, Regulatory Guides, Procurement Guidelines or Instructions issued by the Authority (from time to time), and is open to all potential bidders.
- 5. All bids must be accompanied by a scanned Copy of Bid Security in the form of Banker's Cheque or Payment Order or Bank Guarantee in the amount of RS. 140,000/-. The ORIGINAL BID SECURITY MUST be submitted to the National Bank of Pakistan any time before the Closing time of Bid Submission, failing which the bid shall be rejected.
- 6. The original bid, along with all the required documents as stated in the bidding documents; properly filled in, must be submitted ONLY through e-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (EPADS) at or before 11:30 am dated: July 16, 2024. The bids will be opened promptly thereafter on EPADS at 12:00 Noon the same day, and in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the under mentioned address.

Wing Head Procurement (Central & North), Procurement Division, Logistics Communications & Marketing Group,

5th Floor, NBP RHQ Building, 26-Mclagon Road, RHQ Building, Lahore. Tel: +92-42-99213258 PABX: +92-42-99210641 Ext: 3512, 3510, 3509

Balochistan focuses on education, health

facilities ringing a revolution in the IT field in the region-DNA

Finance minister says health sector has witnessed a substantial 45 per cent budgetary increase

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Nosherwani on Saturday said the provincial budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year was equitable in terms of development projects across all divisions of the province with special focus on education and health. During his detailed briefing, he was accompanied by Planning and Development head Zahoor Ahmed Buledi. Nosherwani highlighted the budget's strategic allocations aimed at addressing longstanding

challenges and enhancmillion, aimed at promoting public welfare. ing local infrastructure Reflecting and accelerating commuon the objectives, budget's nity-oriented projects. Addressing over Balochistan's de-

Nosherwani underscored the government's commitment to equal distribution of resources among all areas of Balochistan to ensure comprehensive growth and development.

"This budget marks a significant step towards prioritizing education, health, and climate change initiatives," he stated.

A noteworthy feature of the development budget is the allocation of 100 per cent of funds for projects costing up to Rs100 Prime Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif, who lauded Balochistan's transition of tube-wells to solar power, pledging federal support for sustainable energy initiatives.

Education emerged as a focal point, with over Rs26 billion allocated to bolster school infrastructure and an additional Rs2 billion earmarked for initiatives targeting out-of-school children, he

The health sector witnessed a substantial 45 per cent increase in funding, with Rs23 billion allocated to new projects aimed at improving

said.

healthcare services.

cation' have shown their interest to accomplish the project. The government

stakeholders



National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE

June 02/Itlay 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



MPs urge govt to review taxes on salaried class

DNA ISLAMABAD: Legislators in the National Assembly on Sunday appreciated the government for announcing a balanced budget in a difficult economic situation and urged the government to review taxes on the salaried class. While participating in the budget debate, Pakistan Peoples Party's Dr Mahesh Kumar Malani said that his party always worked for the uplift and welfare of the people. He thanked his party for awarding him a ticket to contest the elections. He said that the PPP always worked for the protection and welfare of minorities and commended the government for presenting the best budget in a difficult economic situation. He praised President Asif Ali Zardari, calling him the king of reconciliation and credited him with the ability to bring the country out of difficult situations by uniting all

institutions and political parties.

He also appreciated the government for not imposing taxes on medicines and supported the tax on luxury items. He highlighted the issues of Tharparkar and urged the federal government to address these problems. Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan's Shahida Akhtar Ali said that the current budget cannot be called people-friendly. She alleged that the budget had been prepared under the directions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and claimed it did not reflect the will of the people. She asked the government to announce a sustainable policy for the solar system and to allocate more funds for the education and health sectors. She opposed the tax on the salaried class. Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's Ali Zahid said that his party had taken charge of the government in a difficult situation and congratulated the finance minister for presenting a balanced budget. He claimed that the coun-

try's economy always performed well during PML-N regimes. He mentioned the stock exchange's remarkable performance and the willingness of friendly countries to invest in Pakistan. He said that the CPEC project, stopped by the previous government, had been reactivated by the current government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said that inflation has decreased due to government policies and praised the performance of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in Punjab, highlighting the many welfare policies announced in the Punjab province. He criticised the Sunni Ittehad Council for ending the politics of tolerance and condemned the May 9 incident, stating that defence installations had been attacked by miscreants. Muttahida Qaumi Movement (Pakistan)'s Sved Amin Ul Haque appreciated the government for increasing salaries, pensions and minimum

wages. He suggested that beneficiaries of BISP should be given Rs 12,000 per month instead of Rs 10,000. He proposed that employees earning Rs 120,000 should be exempted from taxes and that the tax base should be expanded. He supported a tax on the agriculture sector and suggested abolishing the 10 per cent GST on laptops and computers to promote digital Pakistan. He also asked the government to promote mobile phone manufacturing in the country and to improve health facilities in Karachi. He urged the government to initiate urban development projects for Sindh Province and assured that his party would stand by the government.

Pakistan Peoples Party's Nawabzada Iftakhar Ahmed Khan Babar said that the best budget had been presented in a difficult situation. He appreciated the government for not imposing taxes on solar and medicine and

suggested that hybrid vehicles should be exempted from tax. He also asked the government to review the tax on the salaried class and provide more incentives to farmers. Senior leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party Syed Khursheed Shah said that the budget had been announced in a difficult situation. He said that the country is facing population issues that need urgent attention and that more resources are required to tackle the growing population. He suggested that the salaries of employees should be increased in line with inflation and said that Parliament is the supreme body where all issues confronting the country must be discussed. He called for more funds to be allocated for the construction of water reservoirs and expressed hope that remittances would in-

crease in the coming years. He

also asked the House to discuss

to meet the targets of an-

nual development projects,

particularly in light of the

current political and secu-

rity landscape. Sanaullah,

who holds the portfolio of

Inter Provincial Coordina-

tion (IPC), assured that the

proposal to increase the

budget grant would be given

due consideration. He reaf-

firmed the government's

dedication to utilising avail-

able resources to drive

economic development and

social prosperity in Azad

also pledged to provide nec-

essary support to alleviate

the difficulties faced by the

the issue of climate change.

ANF recovers 3.6 kg charras; arrests two accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting an operation managed to recover 3.6 kg charras and arrested two accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF conducted a raid on Sambrial Road near Wazirabad and recovered 3.6 kg charras from a vehicle. ANF also arrested two accused, residents of Nowshera. A case has been registered against the arrested accused while further investigation is under process.—APP

RDA seals 11 commercial properties

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General (DG) Kinza Murtaza has sealed 11 commercial buildings on Caltex Road in the Morgah area. According to the RDA spokes-man, the RDA Enforcement Squad conducted an operation against unauthorised commercial buildings and sealed 11 properties, including seven shops, two warehouses and two restaurants. The Assistant Director Building Control, Building Inspectors and other officials took part in the operation. The RDA Enforcement team took action in accordance with the law as the owners of the properties namely Ch. Akram, Osama, Nouman, Saeed, Nasir Kiyani, Naeem, Ajmal, Muhammad Razzaq, Zahoor Hashmi, Dr Waheed and Mirza Shamim Baig in violation of the rules, approved building plans and maps conducted illegal commercial buildings. The DG had directed the Land Use & Building Control (LU&BC) Wing to take strict action against encroachments, unauthorized constructions and commercial activities in



Rana Sanaullah, **AJK PM discuss** budget boost in funding is essential

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul-Haq on Saturday discussed the upcoming budget and development projects in the region. Anwar-ul-Haq expressed his gratitude to the government of Pakistan for its unwavering support, emphasising the administration's Jammu and Kashmir. He commitment to ensuring good governance and the welfare of the people. However, he highlighted the budget grant, which has remained stagnant for the past five years. The prime minister stressed that a



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



Enguiry

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



Hospitals

СМН	5611111
MH	
Cantt Hospital	.9270907-11
DHQ	
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
ТМА	5770886
Cantonment Bo	oard 9270151-3

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480 of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhary Anwar-ul-Haq.-DNA

Budget 2024: BMP asks govt to fix anomalies

Anjum Nisar questions Rs12.9tr revenue target as BMP's mission is to create stable economy

MEHTAB PIRZADA

the pressure of the Interna-ISLAMABAD: The Federtional Monetary Fund. He ation of Pakistan Chambers also pointed out that the of Commerce and Industry's federal government made Businessmen Panel (BMP) some announcements in the recent budget which has asked the government to fix the anomalies in the lacked logic. He added 2024-25 budget before its that he was not criticizing passage by parliament, as the government's steps for the budget has no incentive ending the tax exemptions for trade and industry. The but the lack of logic. He FPCCI former president and also called for promoting BMP Chairman Mian Anjum industrialization and enhancing exports through Nisar urged the government to solve their problems on lowering the cost of produca priority basis in consultion, paying early refunds tation with the traders, as to solve liquidity crunch the BMP's mission was to and relaxing import policy create a stable economy and for industrial raw material. prosperous business com-The Businessmen Panel (BMP) leader called for munity, he added. He said that he sensed no appetite a growth-oriented budget for reforms in the federal for the trade and industry, budget. He added that the suggesting the government incumbent government took to make visible reduction

in taxes, helping revive the some difficult steps due to businesses in the country. FPCCI former president said that the his group in consultation with business community across Pakistan had finalized its budget proposals, which were sent to the relevant departments and called upon the government to incorporate them in the federal budget 2024-25 as their implementation would address the key issues of trade and industry, facilitate better growth of business activities, improve tax revenue of government and help in revival of economy, but nothing was implemented. He stressed the need for reforming and simplifying the taxation system in consultation with the real stakeholders. Mian Anjum Nisar urged that the

major focus should be on greater relief to especially documented and registered SMEs rather than new taxation measures. The FPC-CI former president urged the authorities concerned to incorporate them in the budget, as their implementation would address the key issues of trade and industry. He said that the government's new measures seem to be inadequate to convince people to file tax returns due to arm-twisting by the FBR, creating unnecessary controversy due to continuous raids on business premises. He asked the government to enhance liaison with the business community with a view to broaden tax base and enhancing tax-to-GDP ratio, as the number of active taxpayers has declined.

ple of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, underscoring the federal government's unwavering commitment to the region's well-being.

residential areas without any discrimination.-APP Dengue larvae

Pak earns \$2.593 billion from IT services' export in 10 months

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$2.593 billion by providing different Information Technology (IT) services to various countries during the first ten months of the current fiscal year 2023-24. This shows a growth of 20.41 per cent as compared with the US \$2.135 billion earned through the provision of services during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the months under review, the export of computer services grew by 24.55 per cent as it surged from US \$1.729 billion last year to US \$2.153 billion during July-April 2023-24. Among the computer services, the exports of software consultancy services witnessed an increase of 10.80 per cent, from US\$ 633.107 million to US\$ 701.456 million this year while the export of hardware consultancy services also surged by 19.24 per cent, from US\$ 4.793 million to US\$ 5.715 million. The export of repair and maintenance services however decreased by 45.69 per cent from US \$2.762 million to US \$1.500 million whereas the export and imports of computer software services surged by 6.77 per cent, from \$489.737 million to \$522.909 million. Meanwhile, the export of information services during the months under review witnessed an increase of 105.90 per cent from US \$4.240 million to US \$8.730 million. Among the information services, the exports of news agency services surged by 167.58 per cent, from US \$2.505 million to US \$6.730 million whereas the exports of other information-related services increased by 16.83 per cent, from US \$1.735 million to US \$2.027 million. The export of telecommunication services increased by 7.04 per cent as these went up from US \$402.260 million to US \$430.590 million, the data revealed.-APP

found at 8,064 sites in RWP RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority has detected larvae at 8,064 sites during anti-dengue surveillance from January 1, 2024 to date. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control Dr Sajjad Mehmood told APP that 999 teams including 788 indoor teams and 211 outdoor teams were carrying out the surveillance in the district to control the breeding of larvae. Giving details of the detection of dengue larvae, the health officer said that during indoor surveillance the teams detected larvae at 6.735 homes while larvae were found at 1,361 sites during outdoor surveillance. He said that the required activity was also done and urged the residents to keep their water tanks clean and leave no place wet or with stagnant water as they are the leading cause of larvae breeding. Dr Sajjad said the government was making all-out efforts to control the spread of dengue larvae, however, no campaign could be substantiated without the active participation of the people.-APP

Shezra Mansab urges all political parties to solve core issues

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly (MNA) Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Dr Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal on Sunday said that all parties should sit together on core issues of the country. Talking to a private news channel, she conveyed her confidence and expressed her satisfaction at the recent all parties meeting, where members from all parties came together to voice their support for the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. While commenting on the reservations of coalition partners, she expressed her viewpoint that the beauty of democracy was to form a coalition government and coalition partners always had demands and reservations. She hailed the role of the Prime Minister and said that most of the demands of the coalition partners had been accepted and committees had also been constituted to work out the ways to address the remaining one. According to her, the Charter of Democracy (CoD), which was signed by the leaders Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, urged the political parties to engage in dialogue rather than to drag the country into chaos like situation.-APP

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04

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Monday, June 24 , 2024

Briefs

Budget combination of assumptions. contradictions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Hanif Mughal, Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad, said on Friday that the Federal Budget combines assumptions, expectations, and contradictions. He said it would be impossible to achieve the goals set in the budget, and the budget would not lead to economic development, but the economy would shrink further. Dr. Hanif Mughal said that the rich class has been spared, while the poor and middle class have been targeted in the budget, which will further reduce their purchasing power and affect production. He added that the IMF always insists on taxation but does not call for reductions in government spending, which is reprehensible. In a statement issued here, Dr. Hanif Mughal said that the government wants to increase the growth rate to 3.6 percent, but with the steps being taken, it will be impossible to achieve a growth rate of 2 percent. The policymakers are repeating the mistake of considering enhanced taxation on the masses as the resolution of the problem. By increasing the salaried class tax, it is claimed that the government will receive 85 billion rupees more from them, but in reality, they will receive about 150 billion rupees more. Imposing sales tax on goods and medicines, etc., will further reduce the purchasing power of the people, which will result in reduced demand and production. Increasing the federal excise duty on cement will affect construction activities and reduce employment opportunities. He said five percent of federal excise duty has been levied on the sale of property, which is illegal, and the courts will overturn it. Dr. Hanif Mughal said that instead of this unconstitutional decision, it would have been better if the sale and purchase of files in the property sector had been brought under the tax as the imposition of capital gains tax on the non-filers working in the property sector would not help the government im prove tax collection. Tax on inherited property has also been increased, which is regrettable. Making cars and stationery more expensive will also affect the middle class and the economy.



ISLAMABAD: Motorcyclist passing through a huge portrayal at Rawal Chowk in the Federal Capital. -ONLINE

APNS, PBA urge withdrawal of tax amendment on advertising costs

In separate letters sent to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aurangzeb, both entities emphasised that members of PBA and APNS are already facing severe hardships due to the contraction of the documented economy, lack of innovation, and overall lacklustre economic growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) and Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Saturday to withdraw the proposed amendment regarding the disallowance of sales promotion and advertising costs in the Finance Bill 2024-25.

In separate letters sent to the Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aurangzeb, both entities emphasised that members of PBA and APNS are already facing severe hardships due to the contraction of the document-

ed economy, lack of innovation, and make us further less attracand overall lacklustre economic

growth. They added that due to an amendment in the recent finance bill, sales promotion and advertising expenses, up to 25% of a company's total, will not be available for adjustment in the income tax return. "In other words, the tax liability of the large multinational companies will increase significantly, moreover, the additional tax liability will attract super tax," read the letters. Both entities added: "The effective tax they pay is already the highest in the region and this bar on claiming sales and promotion and advertisement will add fuel to the fire

tive, from a foreign direct investment perspective." They said the APNS and PBA were aware of the challenges being faced by the government and therefore supported it in its efforts to document the economy and highlight the positive steps being taken by all stakeholders. "We are also cognisant that the economic slowdown is unavoidable and requires patience and resilience from every section of society, which includes our members, their staff and workers and we continue to highlight positivity," the letters mentioned. The media and press bodies emphasised that their members were under constant pressure, had

reached a threshold, and could not face a further decline in our business. "The consequence of further decline means unemployment due to closure of small media channels and newspapers and its eventual negative impact on the overall community," read the letter. While both APNS and PBA commit to stand on the frontline with the state and government, despite the challenges they are facing, they expect that rationale will prevail. "The curb on a claim of sales and promotion and advertisement will have a huge impact on our members. Our customers, the multinationals are already walking on thin ice, when compared to the opportunities in other regional

countries and keeping them engaged is the responsibility of all of us. "Those who stayed with us for last many decades should not be punished, for short term gains by increasing their cost of doing business and adopting knee jerk measures to collect revenue, which is not sustainable and in the longer run will impact the documented economy," they said in the letter. The press and media bodies in-

sisted that the proposed change is "also very weak, neither the intent of global best practices were considered, nor the local environment has been evaluated" "Additionally, it will discourage any future Foreign direct invest-

ment (FDI) in Pakistan."

IMF not satisfied with budget measures

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Sunday that many conditions of the IMF have not been fulfilled in the recent budget, due to which the acquisition of new loans may be in danger. He said that allocating 1400 billion rupees to the developmental schemes is tantamount to cruelty to the people. Relief could have been given to the people by cutting unnecessary development projects, but this will not be done due to political reasons.

Talking to the business community Shahid Rasheed Butt said that last year, 950 billion rupees were earmarked for development projects, of which not even half could be spent. Still, Rs 1400 billion has been allocated this year to reward the favourite politicians, businessmen, and bureaucrats. Direct taxes have been given excessive importance, which will increase poverty and misery, while the reduction in government expenditure has been neglected, and expenditure has been increased massively. Politically motivated development projects will reduce government revenue, which will not be acceptable to the IMF, he observed. Several hundreds of billions of rupees of concessions have been given to industries, which clearly violates the commitments made to the IMF. New mini-budgets will have to be brought in, increasing the pressure on the people. Big infrastructure projects have always damaged the country's economy, but this remains the weakness of many leading politicians. Politicians should delay spending money on unnecessary projects for two years to improve the country's economic condition. he demanded. Despite the huge inflation increase, keeping those with income up to six lakhs in tax net is excessive. In the current situation, those who earn at least twelve lakh rupees

should be exempted from

paying taxes.

HEC signs contract to automate Pak universities with TMC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) via its Higher Education Development Programme in Pakistan (HEDP) held a contract signing ceremony where key personnel and leadership of HEC and Tally Marks Consulting (TMC) were present. The signing ceremony represents a significant milestone for Pakistan's higher education sector, said a press release. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) receiving state-of-the-art Student Lifecycle Systems (SLC) and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) will completely digitise their administrative, accounting, operations, and end-to-end student lifecycle processes from admission to degree completion. All the leading universities of the world have already adopted these systems and this activity marks HEC's commitment as well as investment to implement the same in Pakistani HEIs. The systems enhance efficiency, and transparency and promptly provide key higher education data for decision making. At the signing ceremony Chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmed, Executive Director HEC Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum, MD TMC Abdul Haseeb, and Partner Director SAP Amir Shah were present among other senior officials of HEC, HEDP, TMC and SAP. Speaking at the occasion, Dr Mukhtar Ahmed said, "We are now one team and it's a great collaboration that will increase the quality of education for all in Pakistan. There are 260 plus HEIs in line to be digitized and this signing ceremony is the starting point of a fully digitized education system in Pakistan.

Devcom-Pakistan launches 'Mansoor Rahi cubism award'

DNA

ISLAMABAD:

and organizations

Rahi.

tively as the Generation Rahi. His influence extend-Mansoor ed far beyond Pakistan, in-Rahi, a celebrated Cubist fluencing the international artist from Pakistan whose art community with his recent passing left an indelunique artistic vision and ible mark on the global art technique.

landscape, was honored by The memorial event, athis disciples of the Genertended by prominent figation Rahi at a memorial ures from the art world, event held on Saturday. To served as a tribute to Racommemorate his legacy hi's life and career, highand contributions to the lighting his impact on conworld of art, Devcom-Pakitemporary art practices. stan announced the launch Devcom-Pakistan, a leading national voluntary organof the Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award on the occasion. ization committed to pro-An open competition will be moting cultural and artistic endeavors, took the opporannounced soon in collaboration with the Rahi Gentunity to announce the eseral and other art galleries tablishment of the Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award. This Speaking at the Reference prestigious award aims to in memory of Mansoor recognize and encourage Devcom-Pakistan excellence in Cubism in Pa-Executive Director Munir kistan, celebrating artists Ahmed said: Rahi was the who demonstrate innovaonly Pakistani artist widely tion, creativity, and a commitment to pushing artistic

recognized for his significant work in Cubism art, a boundaries, much like Mangenre that he not only massoor Rahi did throughout tered but also imparted to his illustrious career. Munir Ahmed said the Mancountless aspiring artists

people, but it seems difficult.

The business leader said that

last year, 950 billion rupees

were earmarked for develop-

ment projects, of which only

379 billion rupees could be

who became known collecsoor Rahi Cubism Award will be a symbol of honor and inspiration for artists dedicated to the Cubist tradition, fostering a spirit of creativity and innovation in the art community. The award will be another feather in the Devcom-Pakistan cap that is a non-profit voluntary organization dedicated to fostering cultural, social, environmental, and development economic through various initiatives in Pakistan. Through partnerships and collaborative efforts, Devcom-Pakistan aims to promote sustainable development and cultural diversity in the region. Hajra Mansoor appreciated the Generation Rahi for organizing the reference in memory of his late legendary artist husband, and also appreciated the announcement of the Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award by Devcom-Pakistan.

Hajra Mansoor said: "I am deeply touched and grateful to Devcom-Pakistan for honoring my late husband,

Mansoor Rahi, with the establishment of the Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award. This award will not only celebrate his artistic legacy but also inspire future generations of artists. The launch of the Mansoor Rahi Cubism Award is a fitting tribute to Mansoor's lifelong dedication to the art of Cubism. It is heartwarming to see his influence continuing to shape the artistic landscape, both in Pakistan and beyond."

"As Mansoor Rahi's wife and lifelong supporter of his artistic journey, I am moved by the recognition bestowed upon him through this prestigious award. I believe it will encourage artists to explore and innovate within the Cubist tradition, just as Mansoor did. This award embodies Mansoor Rahi's passion for artistic exploration and innovation. I am optimistic that it will encourage emerging artists to push boundaries and contribute meaningfully to the evolution of Cubism.

Major Renovation at Islamabad Model College for Boys I-8/3

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Federal education & Professional Training has initiated a major renovation and development project at the Islamabad Model College for Boys I-8/3. The college staff have expressed their gratitude for these essential improvements, which began at the start of the summer vacation. The project's objective is to enhance the learning environment and overall infrastructure of the college. The renovation includes repainting all classrooms and improving the college's appearance. New rooms are being constructed, and the college auditorium is undergoing extensive refurbishment. Upgrades to the washroom facilities involve new sanitary installations and tiles. A filtration plant is also being installed to provide clean drinking water for both students and staff. A state-of-the-art computer lab with forty advanced computers is being established, along with the creation of seven smart classrooms. Science labs are being outfitted with modern equipment, ensuring students have access to the latest technology and resources. The ministry is also focusing on student health and fitness by adding an infirmary and an open gym. The college library is being transformed into a state-of-the-art facility, offering a comprehensive range of resources for academic needs.-DNA



Budget measures are in line with IMF guidelines

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Saturday that some conditions of the IMF have yet to be fulfilled in the recent budget. He said that in contrast, most of the budget proposals are as per the instructions of the IMF. He said that honouring commitments with the IMF will help Pakistan secure new loans to keep the country afloat

spent till May. The budget is Mian Zahid Hussain said altoo focused on indirect taxes. locating 1400 billion rupees which will increase poverty for developmental projects while reducing government expenditure, which should in these difficult circumbe addressed. There has stances is a miracle. Talking yet to be a concrete plan to to the business community, the veteran business leader eliminate the losses of 1200 said that electricity could be billion rupees per year from made cheaper by Rs10 per the power sector. Besides, unit for the industrial sector the privatization of 80 govby a 200 billion rupees cut in ernment institutions, which development projects. The incur losses of 1200 billion affordable electricity will inrupees annually, must be crease exports by five billion done immediately. In both terms, 2400 billion dollars, increase employment, and provide relief to

rupees can be saved annually, which makes it possible to save seven and a half billion dollars in government expenses. He said that in the total budget of 18 thousand billion rupees, a deficit of 9

thousand billion rupees has been shown, which is half of the total budget. This deficit will be covered by taking more loans from various sources. Nine thousand billion rupees interest will have to be paid on government loans this year and 10 thousand billion rupees next year. To avoid this situation, there is no alternative but privatization and an increased tax base. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the industries of former Fata, Pata and other parts of the country are being given incentives of more than 200 billion rupees. At the same time, there are several incentives, that violate the promises made to the IMF.

Talks only way to prevent trade war

lthough Vice-Chancellor of Germany and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck does not represent the European Commission, his three-day visit to China has helped to ease tensions between China and the European Union over the issue to a certain degree. In his packed itinerary that consisted of stops in Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou, Habeck not only met with business leaders of both China and Germany, he also had faceto-face meetings with Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao and Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission Zheng Shanjie in Beijing on Saturday. Habecks respective meetings with the Chinese commerce chief and head of the country's economic policymaking body have served to reinforce the two sides' consensus on the need to avoid a damaging trade war and produced some concrete bilateral cooperation agreements and projects on trade facilitation, the green economy and energy. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Germany. Both have been beneficiaries of economic globalization, and the two countries' economic interests are deeply intertwined. Both Beijing and Berlin know clearly that cooperation poses no risk, but that decoupling does. Habeck's hosts reaffirmed that China is willing to work with Germany to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides' enterprises, create an open and fair competition environment, and inject more positive energy into the healthy and stable development of China-Germany and China-EU economic and trade relations. The productive exchanges during Habeck's visit clearly convey the common pro-free trade stance of the EU's largest economy and the world's second-largest economy, as well as their joint concerns over the dire implications of the European Commission's planned punitive tariffs on Chinese EVs. If implemented, the tariffs will unavoidably plunge the EU and China into a damaging trade war that will actually harm the EU's green transition and consumers' interests, as Habeck said. Beijing's announcement that it is launching an anti-dumping probe into imports of EU pork products indicates that China will resolutely defend its legitimate rights and interests. The EU launched its anti-subsidy investigation on Chinese EVs in October, without any application from member states or the industry. And the details that have been disclosed regarding the investigation clearly indicate that the probe and the resulting planned punitive tariffs violate World Trade Organization rules. By adopting such protectionist measures, the EU aims to suppress the development of Chinese companies, which is doomed to failure, and will not help boost the global competitiveness of the EU's EV companies either. As both China and Germany urge, Brussels should try and resolve its differences with Beijing through dialogue and consultation in good faith. In that sense, it is good to hear that after a video conference between the Chinese commerce chief and Executive Vice-President of European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis on Saturday, the two sides have agreed to launch consultations on the EU's anti-subsidy investigations into Chinese EVs.

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Monday, June 24 , 2024

New Delhi must reevaluate direct China flights

irect passenger flights between China and India have been suspended for four years and have not yet been restored. A media report on Thursday said that several times over the past year or so, China's government and airlines have asked India's civil aviation authorities to re-establish direct air links, but India has shunned the call. The report cited a senior Indian official as saying that "unless there is peace and tranquility on the border, the rest of the relationship cannot move forward." The Times of India reported that India remains hesitant due to ongoing tensions over a border dispute. As the two most populous countries in the world as well as neighbors, not having direct flights is obviously extremely abnormal. At present, India still imposes strict visa restrictions on Chinese citizens. Chinese people applying for business visas are faced with all kinds of difficulties. Most Chinese students admitted to Indian universities fail to obtain Indian visas. Chinese journalists in India have also encountered discriminatory treatment such as rejection of visa renewal applications and forced departure within a time limit. There are no permanent journalists between the two countries and media exchanges have been thwarted. In addition, since India tightened restrictions on investment from China in 2020, about 200 investment applications from Chinese companies are still waiting for approval by the Indian government. The reason why India does this is related to its current complicated mindset toward China. First of all, some Indian politicians insist that "as long as border differences are not resolved, bilateral relations will not return to normal" when handling many specific bilateral affairs, and "border problems" seem to have become a convenient excuse for India to avoid carefully considering the pros and cons of its own interests in specific affairs. Second, some people in India are still obsessed with the idea of "decoupling" from China and have adopted "decoupling" policies in a number of fields. They believe that the more they rid themselves of dependence on and reduce exchanges with China, the better, as if India can develop faster that way. In fact, seeking decoupling from the Chinese economy is neither economical nor realistic, and even less possible. In recent years, China-India trade has grown against this trend, reflecting the genuine needs of both countries. According to Indian statistics, bilateral trade reached \$118.4 billion in the fiscal year 2023-24. A survey report by India's "Business Today' in December last year showed that over half of Indians purchased "Made in China" products during that year. Some Indian scholars admit that bilateral trade is destined to increase. BBC also quoted Indian experts as saying that India's efforts to reduce import dependence on China have failed. There were approximately 1.0674 million trips between the two countries in 2019, and approximately 869,600 Indian citizens entered the Chinese mainland. Whether viewed from an economic perspective or in terms of personnel exchanges, resuming direct flights benefits China, but even more so India.

The complex reality of American exceptionalism

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



This ideology suggests that the U.S. has a mission to spread its values, such as democracy and human rights, around the world. However, this belief often leads to complex ethical and moral dilemmas for U.S. policymakers when they are dealing with global issues

American exceptionalism is a deeply rooted belief that has significantly influenced the way the United States engages with the world. This belief, held by many Americans, posits that the United States has a unique and special role in history and occupies a distinctive position in the global order. This sense of exceptionalism has historically guided U.S. policymakers in their approach to international affairs. American exceptionalism is based on the idea that the United States is fundamentally different from other countries. This ideology suggests that the U.S. has a mission to spread its values, such as democracy and human rights, around the world. However, this belief often leads to complex ethical and moral dilemmas for U.S. policymakers when they are dealing with global issues. One of the main consequences of American exceptionalism is that it sometimes results in actions that prioritize U.S. interests, even when these actions are presented as efforts to promote democracy and human rights. For example, when the United States

ing to uphold and spread democratic values, other countries and international observers often see American actions as self-serving. They perceive the U.S. as more interested in preserving its own influence and status quo rather than genuinely promoting democracy and human rights. This dual nature of American exceptionalism has profound implications for U.S. foreign policy. On one hand, it drives the United States to take active roles in international conflicts and global governance, advocating for democratic values and human rights. On the other hand, it leads to criticism and skepticism about the true motives behind U.S. actions. For instance, when the U.S. engages in military interventions or imposes economic sanctions, it often claims to be acting in the interest of global stability and justice. However, critics argue that such actions are more about securing American geopolitical and economic interests than about altruistic concerns. The idea of American exceptionalism involves a continuous balancing act between how the

al issue because it involves deciding when or if it is right to get involved in other nations' affairs. Lawmakers often struggle with whether it's justified to interfere in other countries and how far they should go in using military power. They must figure out how to reconcile America's global influence and interests with the sovereignty of other nations. When America tries to promote its values worldwide, it can sometimes lead to conflicts. Other countries might see these efforts as a threat to their own political systems and sovereignty. As international relations change and become more complex, new ethical concerns arise. Lawmakers need to constantly rethink their strategies and policies to adapt to these changes. Adapting to the evolving nature of global politics is a continuous challenge for lawmakers. They need to uphold democratic norms while also considering and respecting the diverse perspectives of other countries. Maintaining a balance between exerting American influence and recognizing the independence of other nations is a difficult task in a world that is always changing. American exceptionalism is about how the U.S. views itself and its role in the world. It involves many moral and ethical challenges, especially for those who make the laws. They must carefully navigate the delicate balance between promoting American values and respecting other nations' sovereignty. This task is made even harder by the constantly changing nature of international relations.

intervenes in other countries, it often justifies its actions by claiming to support democratic principles. Yet, in reality, these interventions frequently aim to maintain or enhance America's own status and power on the global stage. This contradiction between the stated ideals and the actual actions of the United States can lead to negative perceptions. While the U.S. portrays itself as a global force for good, strivnation views itself, moral issues, and ethical dilemmas. This concept means that the United States often sees itself as unique or special compared to other countries. However, this self-view brings a lot of responsibilities and challenges, especially for lawmakers.

One major challenge is balancing respect for other countries' independence while also promoting democratic values. This is a tough mor-

Uzbekistan: a focus on promoting reading

Ramzidin Nuridinov

The source of this invincible power is books and libraries - the great invention of mankind". At the present stage, education has become one of the most important areas of state policy. The government of the Republic of Uzbekistan pays special attention to the development of this sphere, recognizing its key role in the prosperity of the country. In recent years, the republic has achieved significant success in the educational domain. These achievements are aimed at modernizing the system, improving the quality of education and training, and expanding access to education for all citizens of the country. At the same time, special attention is paid to the promotion of reading and the fostering of the reading culture of the population. And in the **Presidential Decree**

ibraries play a key role in education, culture, and community development, providing an invaluable resource for accessing knowledge, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting intellectual growth. In the modern information society, they remain an important institution that promotes the education and self-development of people of all ages. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasised during the opening ceremony of the People's Library under the President of the Republic of Turkey in Ankara: "Intellectual potential, high morale is what makes a nation strong. The source of this invincible power is books and libraries - the great invention of mankind". At the present stage, education has become one of the most important areas of state policy. The government of the Republic of Uzbekistan pays special attention to the development of this sphere, recognizing its key role in the prosperity of the country. In recent years, the republic has achieved significant success in the educational domain. These achievements are aimed at modernizing the system, improving the quality of education and training, and expanding access to education for all citizens of the country. At the same time, special attention is paid to the promotion of reading and the fostering of the reading culture of the population. And in the Presidential Decree adopted on September 13, 2017, "On the program of comprehensive measures to develop the system of publishing and distributing book products, improving the culture of reading", clear goals are outlined for the creation of an effective system of information and library services to the population, which served to move this area to a new stage of development and contributed to raising the level of social and information culture and the role of libraries, made it possible to develop and implement modern innovative and educational technologies that increase the competitiveness of Uzbekistan in the world market. In addition, the Presidential Decree "On further improvement of information and library services for the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted on June 7, 2019. The main goals of the decree are: • improving the regulatory framework in order to ensure high-quality social guarantees to the population for information and library services; • development of information and library institutions taking into account modern requirements: • promoting the sustainable development of information and library services the for population in the regions; • strengthening the material and technical base of information and library institutions; • development of public-private partnerships in the library sector, a network of private and electronic libraries; • expanding cooperation with Internet resources that specialize in distributing electronic books to improve the efficiency of libraries and the efficiency of servicing (including ensuring the safety of information paid) users; • and library institutions and the safety of information and library collections as part of the national and world cultural heritage; • formation and enhance-

ment of the information culture of society, sustainable interest in national history and culture, enhancement and promotion of a reading culture; • staffing information and library institutions with qualified specialists. The adoption of this decree expands the range of services in the country, including access to electronic resources and holding cultural and educational events, as well as improving staff qualifications and introducing modern methods of user service. In addition, these changes not only contribute to the development of the information society and economic growth by attracting investment in education and culture, but also promote the formation of a literate and informed society, which is an important step in the development of the country. The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers dated December 14, 2020 approved the National Program for the Development and Support of a Reading Culture for 2020-2025, which includes the publication of quality books that meet the spiritual, educational, artistic and aesthetic needs of the population; supporting the activities of publishers and artists, publishing children's literature; translation of the best examples of national and world literature; simplification of the organization of book sales; improving the delivery system for newly published books and distribution of information sources; expansion of international cooperation in the field of online ordering of foreign work, their delivery and distribution. In turn, it should be noted that within the framework of the "Uzbekistan - 2030" Strategy, special attention is paid to the popularization of masterpieces of Uzbek and world literature. The country's leadership strives to instil in citizens a love of reading and ensure access to libraries and information services for everyone. The Strategy "Uzbekistan - 2030" puts forward such main goals as increasing the number of young book lovers to five million, the annual creation of 100 works of art and 50 books for children and adolescents, the publication of the multi-volume book "Uzbek adabiyoti khazinasidan" ("From the Treasury of Uzbek Literature"), the 100-volume book "Jakhon Bolalar Adabiyoti Durdonalari" ("Pearls of World Children's Literature") in Uzbek, as well as the digitalization of a book fund of almost 40 million books. On November 28, 2023, there was signed the Presidential Decree "On measures to implement the project "A Thousand Books for Youth", aimed at creating a system for translating books popular in the world into Uzbek, that contribute to increasing the intellectual and scientific potential of the younger generation. At the same time, within the framework of the "Olympiad of Five Initiatives", the following 5 projects in the field of reading and intellectual games are annually implemented: "Young Reading Family", "Poetry Competition", "Young Reader", the intellectual game "Zakovat" and the project "Example of Foreign Languages". These projects increase the interest of young people in reading books and help expand logical thinking and knowledge through intellectual games. The "Young Reader" and "Young Reading Family" competitions are important events held to promote reading, the spiritual enrichment

of youth, and increase their intellectual potential. This competition serves to increase interest in books among young people and expand their knowledge and horizons. Also, within the framework of the project "A Thousand Books for Youth", the Agency for Youth Affairs will have to work on acquiring rights to use works from authors, translating them into Uzbek, and preparing for printing and publishing books on the basis of a state order and at the expense of the State budget (with the exception of books, published for state higher educational institutions). Two stages have been established for translation into Uzbek and the publication of popular books in the world. First: a preliminary list of books is formed annually by the Expert Council. Second: the preliminary list is posted in the information systems of the Agency for Youth Affairs for selection by the population by voting, and thus the final list is formed.

The list of books published annually must include at least 20 percent of popular science works. The rights to the works prepared for publication will belong to the Agency for Youth Affairs, which will provide them free of charge to publishing houses. It is also planned to create and ensure the continuous operation of a special mobile application that accumulates literature in the Uzbek language and provides the population with free access to a wide range of information. On the recommendation of the Expert Council, the works will be distributed to information and library institutions (including libraries of public and administration authorities), and electronic versions will be donated free of charge to the Alisher Navoi National Library of Uzbekistan and the relevant institutions of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan for wide use by readers. The necessary spiritual, legal, material, and technical basis has been created in the Republic to develop children's literature and improve the quality of textbooks and teaching aids. The country's publishing houses have increased the publication of works by authors of world and Uzbek children's literature. In accordance with a number of documents adopted to promote book reading, systematic measures are being taken in all regions to popularise literature among children and adolescents. Over the past four years, a number of presidential decrees and government resolutions have been adopted to guide the country's publishing, printing, and bibliographical information institutions. Thus, bibliographical information services play a critical role in ensuring public well-being by providing citizens with easy access to information, knowledge, and culture. In addition, the development of digital services, collaboration with communities, and the use of new technologies strengthen the role of libraries as centres of learning, information, and communication. This helps to enhance the capabilities of people and stimulates their desire for education. The development of the potential of information and library services contributes to lifelong learning, self-improvement, cultural and spiritual enrichment of the population. This is of crucial importance for modern society. Ramzidin Nuridinov Expert of the Development Strat-

Ramzidin Nuridinov Expert of the Development Strat egy Center.

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WORLD / SPORTS

Islamabad **POST** Monday, June 24 , 2024

Briefs

Mixed reaction over military operation...

FROM PAGE 01

organisations against Pakistan - an allegation Kabul has denied. 'PTI standing with terrorists' Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said Sunday that the opposition was "standing with the terrorists", not the country as the PTI vehemently opposed operation Azm-e-Istehkam. Talking on the floor of the National Assembly," Asif said: "In yesterday's meeting, their Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister was present. All these decisions were taken in front of him." Asif, coming down hard on the PTI lawmakers, said that their protest in the parliament was tantamount to them supporting and standing with the terrorists.

Govt green lights deployment of FC in...

FROM PAGE 01

The sources say that the FC, apart from assisting the AJK police, will provide foolproof security for Neelum-Jhelum, Mangla and Gulpur hydro-power projects. As many as six FC platoons will be deployed in the AJK for a period of three months, the sources added. Speak ing on the occasion, Naqvi reassured the AJK PM that all possible cooperation would be extended to maintain peace and improve the security situation in the area. Last month, AJK witnessed violent protests which resulted in multiple deaths, including that of a policeman along with dozens of people being injured during the four-day protests against inflation and high electricity tariffs.

PML-N, PPP strike deal on...

FROM PAGE 01

Afghanistan stun Australia with 21-run T20 World Cup win

PM's recent visit to China highly...

Gulbadin Nabi the hero as Afghanistan beat Australia to stay semi final hopes alive in T20 World Cup

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BARBADOS: Gulbadin Naib was Afghanistan's man with the golden arm, bowling his team to a surprise 21-run victory over previously unbeaten Australia in their Group One Super Eight encounter in the T20 World Cup at the Arnos Vale Stadium on Saturday.

a target of 149, Glenn Maxwell (59 off 41 balls, six fours, three sixes) had the Test and One-Day champions on course until he became Gulbadin's third wicket in the 15th over, opening the door to a result which keeps the duel for semi-final spots alive going into the final two fixtures in the group on Monday. Gulbadin finished with four for 20 from his four overs of medium pace to turn the match as Australia suffered their first-ever defeat to the Afghans in a senior international encounter, being dismissed for 127 with four balls left in the match. "It is a great moment for me, my nation, my people," said an exultant Gulbadin on receiving the Man of the Match award. "I learned a lot about the pitch from when we batted and I am glad that (captain) Rashid (Khan) had faith in me."Earlier, Pat Cummins



claimed his second hat-trick in as many matches as Afghanistan lost momentum after another century opening stand from Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, settling for a total of 148 for six having been put in. A top score of 60 off 49 balls (four fours, four sixes) by Gurbaz and 51 off 48 balls (six fours) from Zadran gave the

Afghans an excellent platform of 118 - their third century partnership of the tournament - by the 16th over. But having ridden their luck via half-chances and misfields in gaining the ascendancy, four wickets for eight runs put the innings back in the balance. Marcus Stoinis made the breakthrough and leg-spinner Adam Zampa ap-

plied the brakes with two wickets. Yet it was Cummins, who claimed a hat-trick against Bangladesh against in Antigua on Thursday, who essentially switched off the Afghanistan innings with the wicket of Rashid Khan at the end of the 18th over before adding Karim Janat and eventual hero Gulbadin at the start of the 20th

over. "It was an off night for us in the field and we own that," conceded Australian captain Mitchell Marsh. "We knew it was a difficult wicket but both teams bowled on it, both teams batted on it and we were simply outplayed by a better team on the night.' In

reflecting on an historic night for his team, Rashid acknowledged the reward of returning to the opening pair of Gurbaz and Zadran. "It was important to return to the previous playing eleven after we tried a few different things in the last match against India," he explained. "We had in our minds that 140 was a good total on this wicket. The belief was there and as a captain, having so many bowling options like Gulbadin makes the job easier."

With two teams from the group advancing to the semi-finals, Australia will now have to win their final match against unbeaten leaders India in St Lucia on Monday to be assured of a place in the last four. Afghanistan, also on two points like Australia, will stay in St Vincent where they face Bangladesh later on Monday by which time they will know what is required to qualify for the semi-finals for the first time.

FROM PAGE 01 significant in the context of Pak-China friendly relationship. He expressed these words while talking in a programme aired on a private news channel the ther day. He said he had been participated along with the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in all meetings there in China. He said that Chinese leadership was very enthusiastic and committed to help Pakistan in different ventures. He said that it was Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's wish to enhance Industrial-level contacts with China to promote industrialization between the two states. Minister said that we had focused on enhancing business-to-business relationships to promote the industries. He said that China's leading telecom company, Hawaii, would become a strategic partner of Pakistan in the transformation of the Pakistani economy to a digital economy. He was also optimistic that the company would provide IT training to 0.3 million Pakistani youth. While talking about the gains in the larger context of CPEC he said China was committed to starting five corridors in the upgraded version of CPEC in Pakistan.

Iran to designate Canadian...

FROM PAGE 01

In a hostile move against Iran, Canada's Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc Ottawa on Wednesday listed the IRGC as a "terrorist entity" under the Criminal Code and called on Canadians in Iran to leave. Last month, the Canadian House of Commons adopted a non-binding resolution calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to blacklist the IRGC and expel an estimated 700 Iranians. The move makes Canada the second country in North America after the United States to blacklist the IRGC. Canada broke off diplomatic ties with Iran and closed its Tehran embassy in a surprise move in 2012, citing various reasons, including Iran's support for Syria, its nuclear work, and alleged threats to the Israeli regime.

Mahmood to take legal action over false allegations Pakistan's assistant coach denied these allegations and

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan men's team assistant coach Azhar Mahmood has announced to take legal action over false allegations and narratives circulating on social media and other media platforms after a disappointing performance in the T20 World Cup 2024. There have been allegations circulating that the families of players and coaching staff travelled to the USA on Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) expense. He denied these allegations and stated that they are entirely baseless and false, citing it it is extremely up-setting to hear them. "This

stated that they are entirely baseless and false culture of falsely accusing and my family, and strict action will be taken acand misleading people to believe a false narrative is cordingly. We will not be

now getting ridiculous and dangerous. Speaking without evidence and misconstruing facts is a criminal offence, and those engaging in such behaviour will be dealt with through legal action," Mahmood wrote on X (formerly Twitter). "Pursuing an increase in followers and media attention by spreading falsehoods is downright unacceptable. "I will be pursuing legal advice against those responsible for making these false allegations towards me

discussing this matter further on social media. "I urge everyone to avoid engaging with or entertaining these harmful narratives as it is essential to put an end to such behaviour in our media culture," he added. Earlier, Geo News reported that Pakistan captain Babar Azam could take legal action against YouTubers and former players who accused him of misconduct during the T20 World Cup. Following Pakistan's early exit from the competition, criticism mounted against Ba-

bar and the team's performance. Sources indicate a social media campaign targeted Babar during the tournament, prompting him to feel disheartened by the allegations. Babar is reportedly considering sending legal notices to the individuals involved and has begun consultations with legal experts. PCB's legal department is said to be gathering evidence related to the statements made against Babar by YouTubers and former players. Remember, Pakistan didn't qualify for the Super Eight, which led to its elimination from the tournament.-DNA

Miller Reprimanded for ICC Code of Conduct **Breach**

ISLAMABAD : South Africa player David Miller has been handed an official reprimand for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during a Super Eights Group 2 match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 against England at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St Lucia on Friday. Miller was found to have breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match." In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Miller's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in 24 months, said a press release. The incident occurred in the 19th over of South Africa's innings. Miller played a full toss from Sam Curran and expected it to be called a 'no ball' for height. When it was not declared a 'no ball', he showed dissent at the umpire's decision by signalling to review the decision when it could not have been reviewed. Miller admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Jeff Crowe of the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Chris Brown and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, third umpire Joel Wilson and fourth umpire Chris Gaffaney levelled the charge. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.-DNA

represented by Malik Ahmed Khan, Rana Sanaullah, and Saad Khawaja Rafique, among others. The discussions aimed to resolve ongoing issues and ensure the smooth passage of the upcoming budget for the fiscal year 2024-25. Senior PPP leader Nadeem Afzal Chan, speaking to the media, highlighted the concerns in Punjab, including capacity issues and local body elections. He emphasized the PPP's commitment to non-revengeful governance and effective administration in the province. The resolution of these issues is critical for the coalition government, especially with the budget session underway. PPP's participation in the budget session, previously marred by a boycott, signals a positive shift.

Aseefa calls for unity and relief

FROM PAGE 01 Pakistan, highlighting record-high inflation and unemployment. Speaking in the National Assembly on Sunday, the PPP member said the new budget does not represent the public and should have provided relief for farmers and ordinary citizens. "Do the people of Pakistan deserve this anti-people budget?" she asked. "We need to move forward to provide relief for the common man and strengthen our farmers. The people of Pakistan deserve better, and we should work together to achieve improvement."

No tolerance for negligence...

FROM PAGE 01 Facility Centers and K-9 unit established for identification and tracking of narcotics and explosives. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said any kind of negligence in maintaining law and order and protecting citizens will not be tolerated. He directed to hold inquiry into delay in completion of Islamabad Model Jail. He said the project of Islamabad Model Jail should be completed as soon as possible keeping in view the requirements of modern times.

Murray withdraws from Wimbledon after back surgery Wimbledon runs from July 1-14 while the tennis competition at the Olympics will begin on July 27

PARIS : Twice champion Andy Murray will miss Wimbledon after having back surgery, the ATP announced on Sunday. "After an operation on a spinal cyst, Andy Murray is sadly out of Wimbledon," the ATP said on social media platform X. "Rest up and recover Andy, we'll miss seeing you there." Following a victory over Alexei Popyrin at the Queen's Club Championships in his 1,000th tour-level singles contest, Murray withdrew due to the injury while trailing 4-1 in the first set of his second-round match with Jordan Thompson on Wednesday. Andy Murray named for fifth Olympics The ongoing issue was aggravated by Murray's participation in the French Open and leaves the former world number one out of Wimbledon where he has won two of his three Grand Slam titles. Murray, 37, breathed new life into his career after having hip resurfacing surgery in 2019 but has struggled to make the latter stages of the top tournaments and recently had to deal with an ankle injury sustained at the Miami Open in March. The Scottish double Olympic gold medallist had previously said that he was unlikely to continue playing next season and it would be a fitting end to his glittering career if he bowed out at the All England Club or the Paris Games. Wimbledon runs from July 1-14 while the tennis competition at the Olympics will begin on July 27.-APP

Richardson punches ticket to Paris Olympics with 100m win

Jasmine Moore won the women's triple jump on her final attempt of 14.26 metres, while Keturah Orji was second with 14.22 and 2022 world bronze medallist Tori Franklin took third with a leap of 13.72.

LONDON : Sha'Carri Richardson earned her Olympic redemption on Saturday, winning the 100 metres final at the US trials to punch her ticket to Paris, as Noah Lyles cruised through the opening heats on the men's side. The world champion wrested the lead midway through the race and accelerated through the final metres to finish in a world-leading 10.71 seconds, with Melissa Jefferson taking second in 10.80 and Twanisha Terry third in 10.89. The fan favourite saw her Tokyo Olympic dream shattered with a positive cannabis test three years ago but was able to shake off the bitter memories as she took in the wild cheers from the adoring crowd in Eugene, Oregon. "I feel honoured. I feel everything, every chapter I've been through in my life... prepared me for this moment," she said in a televised interview after the race The moment was made all the sweeter for Richardson as she will travel to Paris with her training partners Jefferson and Terry. The trio embraced in a scene of utter joy after crossing the finish at Hayward Field. "I cannot wait to go to Paris and represent," said Richardson, who went into the stands to hug her grandmother after the win. "It was a great race." Richardson is also entered to compete in the 200 metres, with the opening heats for the longer sprint set for Thursday. Lyles got a speedy start off the blocks to produce the fastest time across the opening heats in 9.92, kicking off his trials campaign with rapper Snoop Dogg sitting next to his mother in the stands. Lyles, who completed the sprint double last year in Budapest, told reporters it was the best he has ever felt in an opening round 100 metres race. "It was definitely the start I was looking for," he said. Pacquiao Olympics boxing bid knocked out: official "I'm really proud of what I've put together." Christian Coleman, who missed the Tokyo Games after receiving a two-year ban for breaching whereabouts rules, was the second-fastest of the day in 9.99. The 200 metres Olympic silver medallist Kenny Bednarek also advanced to the semi-final stage, along with 2022 world champion Fred Kerley. Shot put world record holder Ryan Crouser overcame multiple injuries earlier this year to win the men's final with a best throw of 22.84 metres, while his main rival Joe Kovacs finished second with 22.43 and Payton Otterdahl third. "It was a tough spring to say the least," said Crouser, who hopes to claim a third consecutive gold in Paris. "So I'm just happy to be out here competing again." Jasmine Moore won the women's triple jump on her final attempt of 14.26 metres, while Keturah Orji was second with 14.22 and 2022 world bronze medallist Tori Franklin took third with a leap of 13.72.-APP

Punjab on high alert

FROM PAGE 01

The second week could see 25 to 35 mm, while the third week might bring 15 to 25 mm to upper and southern Punjab. The fourth week of July is predicted to have the highest rainfall, with 50 to 70 mm expected. Heavy rain with thunderstorms is anticipated across upper, central. and southern Puniab. The PDMA has warned of urban flooding and hill torrents in southern Punjab during the monsoon season. In response to directives from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, all relevant departments have been put on high alert. PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia emphasised the need for district administrations to ensure all precautionary measures are in place before monsoon rains begin.

Israeli air strike on UNRWA...

FROM PAGE 01

the little humanitarian aid that gets into Gaza. Hundreds of people displaced by the Israeli military's ground invasion of Gaza were sheltering inside the facility at the time of the incident. A Palestinian woman at the scene told media that she saw many dead bodies and that two of her children were injured in the attack. "What did these innocent children do wrong? They are running from death towards death. Young men and women are slaughtered by the Israelis," she said. The attack comes after a series of strikes throughout the city a day earlier, including on the Shati and Tufah camps, where displaced Palestinians in the north had been told to seek refuge by the Israeli military. At least 42 Palestinians were killed in those attacks.

Belgium revives Euro hopes with win over Romania

SPORTS DESK

COLOGNE : Youri Tielemans breathed new life into Belgium's Euro 2024 campaign as the Aston Villa midfielder's goal after just 73 seconds inspired a vital 2-0 win against Romania on Saturday. Domenico Tedesco's side would have been on the brink of elimination if they had suffered a second successive Group E defeat. But Tielemans' second-minute strike in Cologne eased fears of vet another major tournament flop from star-studded Belgium. Kevin De Bruyne wrapped up the points in the closing stages to leave all four teams in the group level on three points. The stage is set for a dramatic final round of fixtures in the battle to reach the last 16. Belgium face Ukraine and Romania play Slovakia on June 26. With 45 rungs separating the two nations in FIFA's rankings, third-placed Belgium's 1-0 loss to Slovakia on Monday was the biggest upset in European Championship history. Romania, ranked in 47th place, competed gamely as they chased their own shock, but this time Belgium's superior class proved decisive. "I have the same feeling as against Slovakia: we played well but the difference is that we scored and won today," said Belgium captain De Bruyne.

gave away a few chances, but we can be satisfied with our performance, both offensively and defensively." Having bowed out at the group stage of the 2022 World Cup and lost in the quarter-finals of the last two Euros, Belgium's golden generation have given themselves fresh hope of finally delivering on their vast potential. Romania had powered to a 3-0 win against Ukraine on Monday - their first victory in a major tournament since beating England at Euro 2000. Despite this loss, Edward Iordanescu's team are still in contention to make the Euro knockout stage for the first time in 24 years. "We never gave up, we fought very hard. In the second half, we were better. With a bit of luck we could have got a point," said Romania coach Iordanescu. Belgium had failed to score in over 300 minutes at major tournaments since netting against Canada at the last World Cup. They needed less than two minutes to end that drought. Influential De Bruyne A sweeping move climaxed when Jeremy Doku's pass found Romelu Lukaku in the Romania penalty area and he laid the ball back to Tielemans, who smashed a powerful low strike past Florin Nita from the edge of the area. Romania's Tottenham defender Radu Dragusin

"We made a few mistakes and

Portugal secures knockout al sky-high standards, De Bruyne had looked below his best against spot with Turkey victory

DORTMUND: Portugal cruised to a 3-0 win against Turkey on Saturday and booked their spot in the Euro 2024 last 16 as Group F winners thanks to a Bernardo Silva strike, an own-goal by Samet away by Nita. Doku was denied Akaydin and a Bruno Fernandes tap-in. Silva scored his first goal in by another good stop from Nita after a major international tournament in the 21st minute when a cross from Nuno Mendes deflected off a Turkish defender to find the Manchester City forward ghosting alone in the area, who then smashed it past the goalkeeper to put the Portuguese ahead. Seven minutes later. Turkish defender Akavdin made a comical mistake as he tried to play the ball back to his goalkeeper who was out of position and there was nothing he could to stop it from rolling into the net despite their desperate attempts to keep it out. Portugal kept dominating and extended their lead after substitute Ruben Neves set Cristiano Ronaldo free with a long ball to beat the offside line and, after drawing in the goalkeeper, squared the ball for Fernandes who only had to tap it into an empty goal. The win lifts Portugal to a guaranteed first place in Group F on six points, three ahead Turkey in second and five ahead of Georgia and Czech Republic with one game to go. European Championship newcomers Georgia held the Czechs to a 1-1 draw earlier on Saturday, taking a shock lead through a Georges Mikautadze penalty before an equaliser off the chest of Patrik Schick. Though pass before being ruled narrowly Georgia will be proud of a first point at a major tournament against a team ranked 40 places higher, it could have been even better, substi- from that escape as Dennis Man tute Saba Lobjanidze squandering a glorious chance to win the game raced clear, but couldn't find the acat the death. Both teams need to win their final group matches to progress to the knockout stages in Germany.

In an intense game at Hamburg's Voklsparkstadion, Mikautadze sent Czech goalkeeper Jindrich Stanek the wrong way with his spotkick in the fourth minute of first-half stoppage time after a handball Nita. "You saw a team with lots by Robin Hranac.—Agencies

stretch. After an injury-plagued

season with Manchester City, in

which he failed to reach his usu-

went close to equalising moments later with a towering header that Koen Casteels tipped over at full

Slovakia. The Belgium captain was far more influential this time, with a lung-bursting surge that ended with a pass to Dodi Lukebakio, whose strike was pushed wriggling through the over-worked Romania defence. Valentin Mihaila wasted a golden opportunity to equalise soon after half-time, pouncing on Amadou Onana's wayward pass and sprinting clear, only to blaze high into the stands. De Bruvne was moving through the gears ominously, curling just past the far post from 20 yards, then drawing a smart save from Nita with a shot on the turn. Lukaku had two goals, including a late equaliser, disallowed by VAR against Slovakia. The striker was denied by VAR again in the 63rd minute when he converted De Bruyne's offside. Romania nearly profitted curacy to beat Casteels. De Bruyne finally delivered the knockout blow in the 80th minute, running onto Casteels' long punt and firing past of quality, they have speed, they have explosion, power. They are a complete team. They are a

candidate to win the title," Ior-

danescu said of Belgium.

07

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs Italians hold pro-Palestine rallies

PARIS : Rome, Milan, and Messina are among the Italian cities hosting rallies in solidarity with the Palestinians this weekend. On Saturday, in the Italian capital. Palestinian students organized a rally entitled "Stop the Genocide" to protest against the ongoing US-Israeli genocide in Gaza. Weekend after weekend, hundreds of pro-Palestine protests have been held across Italy for over eight months. What has kept us going over the past month is also the great desire for a change here in Italy. We lack opportunities, social justice, that's why we feel connected to the Palestinian struggle. Protester 01 Protesters say now is not the time to ease the pressure against Israel as the Zionists are counting on people's fatigue and are waiting for their resolve to weaken. Pro-Palestine demonstrations continue across Italy while an increasing number of Italian universities are voicing their firm opposition to Israel The more we keep receiving awful news from West Asia, Ukraine, and the rest of the world, the more we have to take to the streets and have our say. People at the rally are saying that amid the death and devastation that has been unleashed by Israel against Gaza since October last year, the thing that perhaps hurts Palestinians the most is the inaction of some of their Muslim brethren in West Asia. Protesters believe that the silence, and at times complicity, of certain Arab countries is disheartening. For over eight months, we've been staging protests against the complicity in the genocide of the Palestinians of the international community, of the west, of Italy. It is now time to also point the finger at some Arab countries that have only paid lip service to supporting Palestine and have done nothing to concretely help us. Some protesters argued that exports to Israel from Egypt, The United Arab Emirates, and Jordan, have surged in 2024 compared to the

Philippines not in business of instigating wars: Marcos

WEB DESK MANILA: Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Sunday his country is not in the business of instigating wars and will always aim to settle disputes peacefully, amid escalating maritime confrontations with China. "In defending the nation, we stay true to our Filipino nature that we would like to settle all these issues peacefully," Marcos said in a speech during a Sunday visit to the headquarters of the Philippine South China Sea forces on Palawan island. Marcos awarded medals to 80 sailors who took part in the resupply mission, urging them to "continue to fulfil your duty of defending the nation" even as, he said, the situation has

President Marcos says he is in favour of peaceful resolution but refuses to be intimidated after a navy clash with China

become "dangerous". "We will never be intimidated or oppressed by anyone," said Marcos, who did not name China in his speech. He pledged to "continue to exercise our freedoms and rights in support of our national interest, in accordance with international law". The violent clash which took place Monday off Second Thomas Shoal – about 200km (120 miles) from Palawan and more than 1,000km (621 miles) from China's nearest major landmass - saw Chinese forces injuring Filipino navy personnel and damaging at least two military boats with machetes, axes and hammers in the disputed South China Sea. A Filipino sailor lost a thumb in the clash, with Manila also accusing the Chinese coastguard sailors of stealing or damaging their equip-



ment, including guns and inflatable boats.

Beijing insisted its coastguard behaved in a "professional and restrained" way and blamed Manila for the clash. This was the latest and most serious incident in a se-

ries of escalating confrontations between Chinese and Philippine ships in recent months as Beijing steps up efforts to push its claims to nearly all of the strategically located waterway. The incident led to condemnation and alarm from the United States, the European Union, Japan, Australia and other Western and Asian nations, while China and the Philippines blamed each other for instigating it, heightening concern that the US, which has a mutual defence pact with Manila, may get dragged into the dispute. The Philippine government said it did not consider Monday's clash as an "armed attack" that would trigger a provision in the treaty for Washington to come to Manila's aid. However, it also said it was concerned Chinese forces would launch a similar attempt to dislodge a small Philippine military garrison on Second Thomas Shoal. The territorial disputes, which involve China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, have long been seen as a flashpoint that could pit the US against China if high seas confrontations escalate into armed conflict. Washington has repeatedly warned that it is obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Philippine forces are attacked, including in the South China Sea. Beijing enacted new regulations last week to enforce a 2021 law permitting its coastguard to use lethal force against foreign ships in claimed waters

The coastguard can also detain suspected trespassers for up to 60 days without trial.

Ruto ready for 'conversation' with protesters

IslamabadPOST

Monday, June 24 , 2024

NAIROBI: Kenya's President William Ruto said he was ready for "a conversation" with thousands of young protesters who held nationwide demonstrations this week to oppose proposed tax increases, a presidency official said Sunday.

Led largely by Gen-Z Kenyans who have livestreamed the demonstrations, the protests caught the government off-guard, as discontent mounts over Ruto's economic policies.

"Our young people have stepped forward to engage on the affairs of their country. They've done their democratic duty, to stand and be recognised. I'm proud of them," Ruto said in quotes shared by presidency spokesman Hussein Mohamed on X, formerly Twitter. "We'll have a conversation with you to identify your issues and work together as a nation," he added, making his first public comments on the protests. Two people have died and dozens of others were injured in Thursday's demonstrations in the capital Nairobi, according to rights campaigners.-APP

Algerian women pioneer eco-friendly farming

ALGIERS Ibtissem Mahtout and Amira Messous pick fresh strawberries and tomatoes on the eco-friendly smallholding the two women are working near Algiers, a pioneering initiative in Algeria's male-dominated agricultural sector. After graduating from university four years ago, they left the capital and started working on the small patch of land in Douaouda, some 30 kilometres (18 miles) to the west. "As soon as I'm in the field I'm happy," said Messous, 28, holding a bundle of fresh beetroot. "From morning to night, we're here. To me, it's the most beautiful job in the world." The plant ecology and biodiversity graduates now run one of the country's rare ecological plots of land, where the produce is grown in harmony with the broader ecosystem and without using pesticides. Messous said it was challenging at first to "have to integrate" into a sector in which most people who work the land are men. According to local media, as of last October just four per cent of workers registered with the Chamber of Agriculture in Tipaza province where their land is were women. But some "male farmers are happy to see educated women working the land", said Messous. "They take the time to explain things to us, and it brings more value to their own work." Her 29-year-old partner. Mahtout, recalls that they launched the project with just 60,000 Algerian dinars (around \$445) - "enough to buy basic tools" - after renting the patch of land. With the help of Torba, an association that promotes ecological farming in Algeria, they "learned to plant, to sow, to work the soil". – APP

Gaza war deprives 800,000 students of 'right to education'

More than 800,000 students of various educational levels in the Gaza Strip have been deprived of their right to education since Oct. 7 last year

the Office added.

News Desk

GAZA : At least 800,000 students have been deprived of an education as Israel's months-long offensive against the Gaza Strip continues, the Gaza Media Office said in a statement. The Office said, according to a statement by the Ministry of Education in Gaza, "more than 800,000 students of various educational levels in the Gaza Strip have been deprived of their right to education since Oct. 7 last year, due to the genocidal war being waged by the criminal Zionist occupation on the Gaza Strip." Among them: "40,000 high school students from var-

in local and international Flouting a UN Security Coununiversities and colleges," cil resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, Israel Early Saturday, 50,000 has faced international constudents went to final high demnation amid its continschool exam halls, "Tawued brutal offensive on Gaza jihi," in West Bank goversince an Oct. 7 attack by norates and Palestinian the Palestinian resistance schools abroad, while the group, Hamas. More than 37,500 Palestinians have Israeli onslaught prevented students in Gaza from taksince been killed in Gaza, ing the exams. The Gaza most of them women and Media Office said that "85% children, and nearly 86,000 of educational facilities are others injured, according to out of service due to direct local health authorities. and deliberate targeting, More than eight months posing a significant chal-

into the Israeli war, vast lenge to efforts to resume tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade the educational process after the war ends." "Plans of food, clean water and have been put in place to medicine.

Israel is accused of genomake up for the academic year for students from the cide at the International first (elementary) grade to Court of Justice, whose the eleventh grade and highlatest ruling ordered Tel

China issues alerts for rainstorms

Meteorological Center has renewed an orange alert for rainstorms and issued a blue alert for severe convective weather Sunday morning. From now to Monday morning, heavy rains and rainstorms are forecast to hit parts of Anhui, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jiangxi and Fujian, among other regions, the center said. According to the meteorological center, parts of Anhui, Jiangxi, Zhejiang and Guizhou are forecast to be hit by torrential rains. Local governments have been urged to cut dangerous outdoor power supplies and suspend outdoor operations in open areas. The center also issued a blue alert for severe convective weather in multiple regions of the country from Sunday morning to Monday morning, Xinhua reported. Thunderstorms. gales and hail will sweep parts of Jilin, Liaoning, Hebei, Shandong, Anhui, Shanghai, Hunan, Jiangxi and Zhejiang. Short and heavy rainfall with hourly precipitation of over 20 mm will lash parts of Jilin,

Textile exporters reject normal tax regime shift

LAHORE: The value-added textile exporters have rejected the proposed shift from one percent turnover-based Final Tax Regime (FTR) to the standard taxation at 29 percent of taxable profit, proving to be disastrous for the exports. Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA), in a hurriedly called meeting, held here today, observed that this proposal to remove exports from FTR must be dropped from the Finance Bill 2024 to prevent further deterioration of trade deficit and resulting pressure on foreign exchange reserves. "We are in state of shock on the adverse announcements in the Federal Budget 2024-2025 against exports which will sabotage the hard decades-long efforts of exporters to earn valuable foreign exchange for the country and to provide highest employment." Besides PHMA North Zone senior vice chairman Amanullah Khan, M. I. Khurram of Comfort Knitwear and Sheikh Zafar Mahmood of Combined Fabrics, a large number of knitwear industry representatives attended the meeting to review the anomalies of the new budget 2024-25. PHMA North Zone SVC Amanullah Khan observed that historically, the FTR has offered transparent mechanism for taxing export proceeds electronically irrespective of profit or loss on realization of their export proceeds. He said that this imprudent tax measure has been proposed not with an intention to enhance revenue but to open up the doors of corruption and harassment in the hands of FBR. He mentioned that presently the exporters are also contributing 0.25% as Export Development Surcharge. M. I. Khurram of Comfort Knitwear, while addressing the meeting, stated that the proposal to eliminate zero-rating on local supplies under Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) will have highly adverse effects on export. He said that removal of zero-rating on local supplies to registered exporters will compel the exporters to claim refunds of Sales Tax from FBR which is lengthy process contrary to the spirit of EFS. M. I. Khurram said that already, billions of rupees Sales Tax Refunds are stuck-up with the government. Therefore, this adverse proposal must also be dropped from the Finance Bill 2024, he demanded. Sheikh Zafar Mahmood of Combined Fabrics, on this occasion, added that the proposal to confer extraordinary powers to FBR officials through investigative audit would open up a floodgate of corruption. The newly added concept of "Investigative Audit" under Section 25 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, aims to address tax fraud but increases regulatory burdens and the risk of misinterpretation, leading to frequent audits based on vague suspicions, he said.-APP

BEIJING : China's National

previous year, despite Tel Aviv's genocidal war on Gaza.-Agencies

Dutch app supermarket boss predicts tech boom

UTRECHT : Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are poised to drive a "massive" boom in online grocery deliveries, accord ing to the head of Picnic, a Dutch app-only supermarket rapidly expanding into Germany and France. Picnic has disrupted the Dutch supermarket landscape with its offer of free delivery in a time window of 20 minutes - made possible by squeezing efficiency out of huge amounts of data. The firm already uses AI for a vast range of operations, explained CEO Michiel Muller, 59, at the firm's 43,000-square-metre distribution hub in Utrecht, central Netherlands. "For instance, predicting how many bananas we will sell in three weeks' time. Or what happens when the weather is good or bad. Or doing our whole route planning," he told AFP. As technology improves and datasets grow, predictions will become more accurate, further reducing food waste and offering even more precise time slots for customers, he forecast. "Don't forget that supermarkets weren't there 60 years ago. You only had smaller stores. So there's always a movement around new technology and new ways of delivering goods.' "The supermarket will remain. That's for sure. Stores will remain. But the online part will grow massively," he said. Picnic has developed its own in-house software to fine-tune every element of the delivery process, from processing and packing stock at the warehouse to the famously complex "last mile" of dropping off the goods. Delivery times are calculated with extraordinary precision, with reams of information crunched by 300 data analysts and 300 software engineers at Picnic's headquarters. "We know exactly how long it takes to walk around the vehicle and when it's dark outside, we add six sec onds to the delivery time," said Muller.-APP

branches will not be able to participate in this year's session of the high school exams, representing an unprecedented violation that threatens their future and undermines their chances of enrolling

er education students, ensuring that the academic year is not lost and that they possess the essential concepts and skills necessary for their continued learning," said the Office.

Normal tax

regime threatens textile exports

LAHORE: The value-added textile exporters have rejected

the proposed shift from one percent turnover-based Final

Tax Regime (FTR) to the standard taxation at 29 percent of

Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association

(PHMA), in a hurriedly called meeting, held here today,

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Zone senior vice chairman Amanullah Khan, M. I. Khurram of

Comfort Knitwear and Sheikh Zafar Mahmood of Combined

Fabrics, a large number of knitwear industry representatives

attended the meeting to review the anomalies of the new

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observed that historically, the FTR has offered transparent

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proceeds. He said that this imprudent tax measure has been

proposed not with an intention to enhance revenue but to

open up the doors of corruption and harassment in the hands

of FBR. He mentioned that presently the exporters are also

contributing 0.25% as Export Development Surcharge.-APP

taxable profit, proving to be disastrous for the exports.

Aviv to immediately halt its operation in Rafah, where more than 1 million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.

Liaoning, Hebei, Anhui, Jiangsu, Shanghai and some other regions, the center The center has adsaid. vised the public to take precautions, such as reducing outdoor activities.-DNA

PIAF warns proposed taxes will raise inflation

Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has opposed the imposition of more taxes in the 2024-25 budget before its approval by the parliament, questioning how inflation can be maintained at 12% when more than 40% of revenue targets will be achieved from tax and nontax measures and the elimination of tax exemptions. The PIAF chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that the PIAF had taken all trade and industry associations on board for preparation of proposals for the upcoming budget. He said that efforts were made to give government a set of suggestions for upcoming budget to make it business-friendly. The PIAF Chairman said that Pakistan's inflation rate is the highest among all the South Asian nations. He said that the world is moving towards alternative sources of electricity generation but the Pakistan government's policies are contrary to it. Pakistan is the most frequent customer of the IMF and the governments often depend on borrowing from the lending arm and accepted stringent conditions, despite the fact that this institution is merciless money lender, which has always forced Pakistan to adopt bad policies like new taxes in the budget, rupee depreciation and massive increases in the electricity and

ISLAMABAD: Children selling plastic bags at Sector G-10 Sunday Bazaar in the Federal Capital. ONLINE PHOTO

Egypt cracks down on tourism companies after pilgrim deaths

The tourism companies which facilitated the travel of those who died did not provide them with services of any kind, including medical

FOREIGN DESK

CAIRO : Egypt withdrew the operating licenses of 16 tourism companies and referred them to the public prosecutor, accusing them of being responsible for the deaths of Egyptian pilgrims during Hajj 2024, a crisis unit tasked with addressing the situation. Medical and security sources say at least 530 Egyptians died during this year's hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, while the statement from the unit, formed on Thursday and headed by prime minister Mostafa Madbouly, said 31 deaths were confirmed as a result of chronic illness. The tourism companies which facilitated the travel of those who died did not provide them with services of any kind, including medical, the statement said without naming the companies involved.

The agencies are being blamed for sending pilgrims to Saudi on personal visit visas, rather than haj visas that allow access to Mecca where haj rituals take place. Medical services offered by Saudi authorities to alleviate the hardships of the pilgrimage are not offered to those traveling with a personal visa. The pilgrims who died had to walk through the desert into Mecca to avoid arrest or deportation, the statement added. Egyptian authorities also say those travel agencies did not provide the pilgrims with "appropriate accommodation," adding that this caused pilgrims' "exhaustion due to the high temperatures." Egyptian authorities also documented 31 deaths among registered Egyptian pilgrims, citing "chronic diseases" as the cause of deaths. Most of those who died were unregistered, the statement

said. In recent days hundreds of people from different countries have died in punishing conditions for the haj pilgrimage in the Saudi city, where temperatures have at times exceeded 51 degrees Celsius (124 Fahrenheit). No appropriate accommodation provided

The tourism companies have been blamed for sending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia on personal visit visas, rather than Hajj visas that allow access to Mecca where Hajj rituals take place. Medical services offered by Saudi authorities to alleviate the hardships of the pilgrimage are not offered to those travelling with a personal visa, Reuters reported. The government unit pointed out that the pilgrims who died had to walk through the desert into Mecca to avoid arrest or deportation. Authorities, meanwhile said that the companies also did not provide

the pilgrims with "appropriate accommodation." This caused pilgrims' "exhaustion due to the high temperatures."

Majority of victims were unregistered Cairo documented 31 deaths among registered Egyptian pilgrims, citing "chronic diseases' as the cause of deaths. The unit further said that Most of those who died were unregistered. In a statement, the Egyptian cabinet said, "The prime minister has ordered the licenses of these companies to be revoked, their managers to be referred to the public prosecutor, and the imposition of a fine to benefit the families of the pilgrims who died because of them." Meanwhile, The death toll from this year's hajj has exceeded 1,000, more than half unregistered worshippers who performed the pilgrimage in extreme heat in

The new deaths reported included 58 from Egypt, according to an Arab diplomat who provided a breakdown showing that of 658 Egyptians who died, 630 were unregistered pilgrims. Around 10 countries have reported 1,081 deaths during the pilgrimage, one of the five pillars of Islam which all Muslims with the means must complete at least once. The hajj, whose timing is determined by the lunar Islamic calendar, fell again this year during the oven-like Saudi summer. The national meteorological centre reported a high of 51.8 degrees Celsius (125 Fahrenheit) this week at the Grand Mosque in Mecca. A Saudi study published last

Saudi Arabia.

month said temperatures in the area are rising 0.4 degrees Celgas tariffs.-APP sius each decade.

LAHORE : The Pakistan



Islamaba POST WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK MONDAY, JUNE 24 , 2024



Briefs Marri demands relief for masses in budget

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) MNA Shazia Marri demanded relief for the masses in the budget. "Don't facilitate the PPP but give some relief to the people," Marri said, while speaking in National Assembly on Sunday during the ongoing budget session. She said there were earlier hopes that the people would be provided relief in the budget. "We were not taken on-board in the budget-making process," she said. The provinces were doing good and they should be allowed to discharge their duties, she added, saying issues would never be resolved if everyone would be saying that all was good. She said that the opposition was silent on the tragic incidents of Sargodha and Swat which was worrisome. Marri stated the PPP had reservations on budget, especially on developmental projects. The MNA stated that the finance minister should be corrected as this budget wasn't made with the input of Bilawal Bhutto.

"The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) should go after the non-taxpayers. Increasing petroleum levy is tantamount to increase burden on the masses," Marri concluded.

K-P set to *impose new* road user tax

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: While the imposition of a new tax policy might be just another fiscal decision made by legislators sitting comfortably in an air-conditioned office, its jolts are felt worst by those low-income citizens, who



ISLAMABAD: After heavy rain and hail in the federal capital, the roads are looking like ponds. A serious problem of water drainage, the rains controverts the CDA's tall claims. -ONLINE

Swat lynching: Police move 23 suspects to 'unknown' location

Police say efforts underway to apprehend others after mob lynches man to death over blasphemy allegations

DNA

by a federal agency had SWAT: Police have arrevealed that the hotel rested 23 suspects for management had asked their alleged involvethe deceased, accused ment in the lynching of blasphemy, to open the door. The accused, and killing of a person along with the torching the report added, had of Madyan Police Stathen opened the door tion in Khyber Pakhand denied the alletunkhwa's Swat, police. The arrested individuals, the police said, have been shifted to an unknown location while efforts are underway to arrest others who were allegedly involved in the incident. The development comes after a violent mob had beaten a local tourist to death on Thursday night after accusing him of desecrating the Holy Quran, and later set his body

as well as the Madyan

Police Station ablaze. political leaders during the mob violence also A day earlier, a report contributed to the loss, it added. Furthermore, the report mentions that the accused was in police custody for during which he de- joint hurled

ignorance about any such report, saying the investigation in the case was still ongoing and its report will be sent to the IGP as well as the governaround 40 minutes ment. Meanwhile, a investigation nied the blasphemy team (JIT) including

Inspec-

Additional

vestigation Badshah Hazrat, will also have members from Intelligence Bureau, Special Branch and other departments. Earlier, the DPO had said that members of the mob had been identified and "ef-

Hezbollah drone strike hits Israeli military base

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has conducted a drone strike on an Israeli military base, leaving casualties among the occupation forces. In a statement released on Sunday, Hezbollah said that its fighters had targeted the command headquarters of the "Sahel" brigade in the "Beit Hillel" barracks north of the occupied territories using an attack drone. It added that the raid had killed and wounded an unspecified number of Israeli officers and soldiers. Hezbollah also emphasized that the strike came in support of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and their resistance, as well as in response to an Israeli assassination operation in Lebanon. On Saturday, an Israeli drone strike targeted a car in the town of Khiara in the Western Bekaa area and killed its driver, who was later identified as Ayman Hashem Ghattma, a leader of the Islamic Group political party in Lebanon. In a statement, the Islamic Group called the targeted killing "a new crime" committed by the Zionist regime against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. The party further noted that Ghattma's assassination will not deter it from carrying out its duty in defending the Lebanese in the country's south and the Palestinians in the occupied lands. Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging deadly fire since early October, shortly after the regime launched a genocidal war on Gaza following a surprise operation by the Palestinian Hamas resistance group. Hezbollah has vowed to keep up its retaliatory attacks as long as the Tel Aviv regime continues its Gaza onslaught, which has so far killed at least 37,551 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 85,911 others.-APP

Shandana alleges coercion in fiery NA speech

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: In a fiery speech at the National Assembly Sunday, PTI's Shandana Gulzar made startling allegations about her treatment and the state of the country under the current government. Gulzar claimed she was kidnapped on August 9 last year by masked individuals who demanded she join either Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's party or Maryam Nawaz's party. "I was told to join either 'Bilawal's or Maryam's'," she stated, revealing the coercion she faced. The lawmaker also spoke out about the treatment of women within her party, citing the arrest and mistreatment of female members. "Our women were arrested. Tayyaba Raja was dragged by the hair," Gulzar recounted, highlighting the rough handling of PTI women. Gulzar criticized the recent budget, calling it a tool to ruin the people, and questioned the economic decisions made by the current coalition government. "This budget was made to ruin people," she said. "Why did PDM sink the ship of the country?" She accused the government of indebting the nation further with \$21 billion in loans, expressing her dismay at the current economic conditions.

Gaza: EU foreign policy chief dismayed over UN reports

DNA

BRUSSELS: EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has said that he is dismayed



were barely an inch away from sinking into inescapable poverty. Recently, in an apparent attempt to boost revenue generation, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) government announced its plans to impose the "Road User Tax", which will allegedly be levied against all new vehicles operating on roads in the province holding registration numbers from Punjab, Sindh, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Balochistan.

Opposing this new policy were locals like Shahid Khan, a fruit dealer, who felt that this would only add to the financial woes of the common household. "We are already overburdened by electricity, gas, water bills and property taxes on our houses. During the past three years, bills and inflation have crushed citizens, leaving them in a miserable state. Now, the government is expecting us to pay a new tax just for driving on the roads. This move will force people to leave the province," protested Shahid.

allegations gations of blasphemy, after which the police took him to the police station - a move criticised in the report which termed it as a "grave" mistake. The report further says that neither the station house officer (SHO) of the said police station took guidance from the higher-ups on the matter nor shifted the suspect to a "safe" spot. Also, the absence of high police officials or

against him. The retor General Special port said that an ex-Branch Kashif Alam change of fire also and Additional IGP took place between Investigation Alam the mob and police Shinwari visited the during which 11 peoplace of the inciple and five cops susdent and collected tained injuries. The evidence from the mob set on fire the room of a local hotel building of the police where the deceased station, a police van, Sulaiman, a resifive other vehicles dent of Sialkot, was staying, The News and two motorcycles, The News reported reported on Sunday. on Sunday. However, The JIT, established Swat's district police under officer has expressed dent of Police Inforts for their arrest are underway".

He said that two first information reports (FIR) had also been registered under the charges of blasphemy and damaging state property, respectively.

The official further said that the suspect was reportedly a drug addict and had been booked in a case of domestic Superintenviolence on the complaint of his mother.

and the World Health Organisation Gaza, adding that there was "no improvement on humanitarian access and delivery". In a post on X, Borrell said that the UN Human Rights documented "disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks". "The Red Cross premises have been damaged by shelling. We urge all parties once again to stop this cycle of suffering and destruction." he said. He also said that an economic collapse in the West Bank was "looming".

HUNZA SERENA

United Kingdom election betting scandal widens

LONDON: The chief data officer of Britain's Conservative Party has taken a leave of absence, British media reported Sun day, following growing allegations that the governing party's members used inside information to bet on the date of Britain's July 4 national election before it was announced. The Sunday Times and others reported that Nick Mason is the fourth Con servative official to be investigated by the UK's Gambling Commission for allegedly betting on the timing of the election. The Times alleged that dozens of bets had been placed with potential winnings worth thousands of pounds. The reports came after revelations in recent days that two Conservative election candidates, Laura Saunders and Craig Williams, are under investigation by the gambling watchdog. Saunders' husband Tony Lee, the Conservative director of campaigning, has also taken a leave of absence following allegations he was also investigated over alleged betting. Police said one of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak 's police bodyguards was arrested Monday on suspicion of misconduct in public office. The arrest came after the gambling regulator confirmed it was investigating "the possibility of offenses concerning the date of the election." The growing scandal, just two weeks ahead of the national election, has dealt a fresh blow to Sunak's Conservative Party, which is widely expected to lose to the opposition Labour Party after 14 years in power. -Agencies

Karachiites protest against inflated bills

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Protests against loadshedding and overbilling erupted at 22 locations across the city, with the central protest taking place near the Kalapull following a call by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI). Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Karachi, Munim Zafar Khan, addressed the main protest rally, highlighting the ongoing issues faced by Karachi's residents due to K-Electric's operations. Munim Zafar Khan criticized the power distribution company, stating that despite promises of affordable electricity during privatization, the company has failed to deliver. He pointed out that while the number of consumers has increased, K-E's production has decreased. He highlighted that the citizens of Karachi are lack of electricity, gas, and water and questioned the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) recent stance against K-Electric, asking why they were silent before.

Russia, Ukraine conduct air attacks as war intensifies

Russia says four killed in attacks by Kyiv, while Russian strikes on Ukraine cause injuries and damage to buildings

News Desk

MOSCOW: Russia and Ukraine traded attacks which resulted in casualties overnight and into Sunday, officials from both sides say. One person was killed and ten others wounded by Russian strikes on Ukraine's eastern city of Kharkiv, regional governor Oleh Synehubov said. "The occupiers have conducted strikes on the civilian infrastructure of Kharkiv," Synehubov wrote on Telegram, adding that the strikes appeared to have been conducted with glide bombs. The governor said there were casualties at two separate strike sites in the city, two teenage children among them. Two of the wounded victims were in a "severe condition", he added. Moreover, two people were injured and dozens of residential and other buildings damaged in a Russian missile attack on Kyiv overnight, according to the head of the regional administration. Of the three missiles launched by Russia, Ukraine's air defence systems destroyed two over

the Kyiv region, Ukrainian Air Force Commander Mykola Oleshchuk said on the Telegram messaging app. Falling debris injured two people who did not require hospitalisation, Ruslan Kravchenko, head of the Kyiv region's administration, said on Telegram. He added that six multistorey residential buildings, more than 20 private houses, as well as a gas station and a pharmacy were damaged. Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces destroyed aerial drone facilities in the southern Russian region of Krasnodar, its navy reported on Telegram.Satellite images confirmed the destruction of storage depots, training facilities and control points for drones in the region, which lies to the east of the Crimean Peninsula, it said, publishing photos to provide evidence. On Sunday, Russian authorities said people were killed in Ukrainian attacks. Three people, including two children, were killed in a Ukrainian missile attack on the Russian-controlled Sevastopol, Russian-installed officials said, adding that about 100 people suffered shrapnel wounds of varying severity.

Russia's defence ministry said Washington and Kyiv bore "responsibility for a deliberate missile strike on peaceful residents", which it said used US-supplied ATACMS missiles The ministry said four of the five ATACMS missiles used in the attack were shot down by air defence systems and the ammunition of a fifth detonated in mid-air. It added that "all flight missions for US ATACMS are entered by US specialists based on the US's own satellite reconnaissance data". "Such actions will not be left without a response," the ministry warned. In the Belgorod region, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram, that one person was killed and three wounded after Ukrainian drones hit the Russian town of Graivoron. At least 30 drones were destroved over Russia's western region of Bryansk, which borders Ukraine, Governor Alexander Bogomaz said on Telegram. No damage was reported. Russia's air defence systems also destroyed drones over the Smolensk region, Vasily Anokhin, governor of the region in Russia's west. said on Telegram.-Agencies



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