



# Islamabad POST

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**Borrel: Gaza situation 'incommensurable' amid Israeli attacks**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Pak economy hinges on stability**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Usman discusses Babar's future as Pakistan captain**

Detailed News On Page-06

## Reserved seats case

# CJP Isa says PTI 'committed suicide' by merging with SIC

Those holding press conferences are pardoned, others targeted; everybody knows facts: Justice Minallah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa wondered on Monday why Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) "committed suicide" when it decided to merge with the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) following the February 8 elections. The CJP's remarks came during a hearing of the petition filed by the SIC, which is an ally of the PTI, against the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) verdict denying reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies. A full court 13-member bench, headed by CJP Isa, also comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan. "Why did the independent candidates leave PTI when it is a political party? Why did you commit suicide by joining another party which goes against your arguments?" asked the chief justice. The CJP said that had the independent candidates stayed with the PTI, there would have been no problem today. Following the today's proceeding, the Supreme Court said PTI leader Kanwal Shuzab's counsel Salman Akram Raja and SIC counsel Faisal Siddiqui have completed their arguments in the case. CJP Isa directed the counsels of other respondents to keep their arguments concise as the court will not allow more time as the counsels for PPP, ECP and the Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) will present their arguments in the next hearing. The top court adjourned the hearing of the case till tomorrow (Tuesday). The PTI-backed independent candidates who emerged victorious in the February 8 elections had joined the SIC in a bid to claim seats reserved for minority and women. However, this did not help the party as the election commission did not allocate reserved

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## IHC suspends ECP's order of tribunal change

Issued show cause notice on contempt of court to Anjum Aqeel

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) order to change election tribunals hearing Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders cases of electoral rigging. IHC's Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition filed by Ali Bukhari and others challenging election tribunals change. PML-N leaders Anjum Aqeel, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and Khurram approached the ECP to transfer tribunal judge hearing reviews in Islamabad's three constituencies. They noted in the application they fear they will not receive justice due to perceived bias and undue haste shown by the tribunal. The petitioners argued that the tribunal's actions compromised their right to a fair trial, a fundamental right protected under Article 4 of the Constitution. They stressed that every Pakistani was entitled to a fair trial. ECP bench, led by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja,

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presents a souvenir to Chairman Gates Foundation Bill Gates. - DNA

## UAE envoy stresses gender equality in diplomacy

Ambassador Al-Zaabi expresses pride in women's diplomatic achievements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, the Ambassador of UAE in Islamabad, on the occasion of the International Women's Day in Diplomacy, expressed deep appreciation and pride in the important role that women play in the diplomatic field, emphasizing the embodiment of the common values and principles that the UAE believes to continue its efforts for empowering women and consolidating their role in all fields, including the diplomatic field, to ensure achieving gender equality

## Bill Gates calls on Prime Minister

# Shehbaz vows to completely eradicate polio from country

The PM deeply appreciated Gates Foundation's valuable support for Govt's initiatives to digitize the economy. A digitized eco-system of the entire government structure will result in enhanced revenues

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received Mr. Bill Gates, the chair of the Gates Foundation in the Prime Minister's House today. The visit was undertaken at the invitation of the Prime Minister that he extended during his meeting with Mr. Gates in Riyadh on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum. Welcoming Mr. Gates on his visit to Pakistan, the Prime Minister updated him about the government's efforts to achieve economic stability and key advances in digital financial services, increased health coverage, climate change adaptation and efforts to eradicate Polio. The Prime Minister deeply appreciated Gates Foundation's valuable support for Government's initiatives to digitize the economy.

Continued on Page 06

## PTI berates PPP, PML-N to approve anti-people budget

Nation knows mandate thieves have nothing to do with public welfare

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Spokesperson excoriated the PPP and PML-N for an 'Muk-Muka' to get the anti-people budget approved after a brief failed staged drama of pretending battle before the masses to gain public sympathies by making mockery of democracy and the constitution.

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### President appoints 3 judges to SC

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa to administer oath of three newly appointed judges

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari approved on Monday the appointment of three new judges to the Supreme Court, following the issuance of a notification by the Federal Ministry of Law. The newly appointed justices are Justice Malik Shahzad (Chief Justice of Lahore High Court), Justice Shahid Bilal (Judge, Lahore High Court), and Justice Aqeel Abbasi (Chief Justice Sindh High Court). In a parallel development, Justice Shujaat Ali Khan, a seasoned jurist from the Lahore High Court, has been appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, as confirmed by an official notification.

### 'Missing AJK citizen is held by military'

Missing AJK citizen case: IHC asks petitioner to move relevant forum

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday heard the case of missing AJK citizen Khawaja Khurshed Ahmad. The legal director of Defence Ministry appeared before the court. The additional attorney general informed the court that Khawaja Khurshed Ahmad was in military custody on charges of espionage upon which Justice Kayani expressed satisfaction. The court instructed the applicant's lawyer to move relevant forum according to law.

## Fazlur Rehman warns

# Military operation will only weaken country

"Shehbaz Sharif is not the prime minister, he is just sitting on the throne," says JUI-F chief

DNA

QUETTA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has termed the incumbent government's newly launched anti-terrorism operation, Azm-e-Istehkam, as an "instability operation" which will further weaken the country. The government on Saturday launched a military operation to root out the menace of militancy from the country in the wake of rising incidents of terrorism nationwide. However, the move was jointly rejected by the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) former ally the JUI-F and archrival Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Addressing a press conference in Quetta on Monday, Fazl said the state had almost no writ in the country. "Our history is about fighting against slavery. Did we achieve Pakistan to be the slaves of generals?" he asked. Fazl, the former federal minister, said that the armed militant groups were openly controlling areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Continued on Page 06

## 'Only gave us overview' Bajwa, Faiz settled matters with TTP: Asif

Defence minister says around 5,000-6,000 TTP fighters were given shelter, amnesty during PTI rule

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif Monday revealed that former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and ex-Inter Services Intelligence director general Faiz Hamid settled matters with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and only gave a brief overview to them on the matter.

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## Hajj death toll exceeds 1,300

Official statements and reports from diplomats suggest that cause of death in most cases was heat-related

AGENCIES

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said Sunday that the death toll of Hajj pilgrims has climbed past 1,300 as they performed the pilgrimage in extreme heat and most of the deceased did not have official permits. "Regrettably, the number of mortalities

Continued on Page 06

# KP CM Gandapur says want to meet ISI chief, army chief

"There was no mention of any kind of [military] operation in last apex committee meeting," claims KP chief executive

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: After Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) signaled to hold dialogues on multiple occasions to end political stability, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur expressed wishes to hold a meeting with the incumbent Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief. CM Gandapur, speaking to journalists in Rawalpindi after meeting incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan in Adiala Jail on Monday, said that the former prime minister has always offered dialogues. He expressed sorrow that nobody responded to Khan's call for talks, adding that dialogues were not held with the institutions or the federal government so far. Reiterating the PTI's conditions for political talks, the KP chief executive said that terms and conditions would be unchanged for the dialogues. He detailed that the former ruling party sought restoration of its stolen mandate and

Continued on Page 06

## Nawaz's meeting with Bajwa PA speaker warns Zubair of consequences

Dismissing former PML-N leader's claim, PA speaker says Zubair told a lie about Nawaz's meeting with Bajwa

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: On levelling allegations of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's meeting with former chief of army staff General (retired) Qamar Javed Bajwa ahead of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's ouster, Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Ahmad on Monday warned legal action could be taken against ex-Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohammad Zubair. Addressing media in

Continued on Page 06

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Training of Pakistanis by Huawei to start next month: Shaza

Minister for IT Shaza Fatima said that the present govt is taking effective steps to promote Information and Communications Technology in the country

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Monday said that the training of young Pakistanis in information technology and artificial intelligence, with assistance from Huawei, will begin next month.

being given training in information technology. She said that the youth make up 70 percent of the country's population and the government is determined to equip them with IT training so they can secure jobs.

The minister said that during the last government, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had distributed 100,000 laptops among the youth of the country. She recalled that as Chief Minister, Shehbaz Sharif had established E-Rozgar centers and E-libraries for the youth.



ISLAMABAD : Delegation of technology company ZTE called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja.—DNA

Kundi lauds Federal Ombudsman for grievance resolution

DNA

PESHAWAR : Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Monday acknowledged the important role of Federal Ombudsman Office in resolution of public grievances.

The Governor expressed these views during a meeting with Mushtaq Ahmad Jadoon, regional head of Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He highlighted the ongoing efforts taken on the directives of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi to quickly address public complaints against federal ministries and divisions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Another 66 meters disconnected on gas theft

DNA

LAHORE : The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has cut off another 66 connections during its on going crackdown against gas pilferers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, imposing Rs1.8 million fines.

According to a spokesman for the SNGPL, Lahore and Sheikhpura regional teams severed 10 connections on illegal use of gas and imposed a fine of Rs 0.9 million on pilferers.

Business leaders call for tax reform and privatization

President FPCCI said that 30% tax will be imposed on the money kept in the bank by non-filers

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD : President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Atif Ikram Sheikh, while talking about the budget anomalies, has said that 30% tax will be imposed on the money kept in the bank by non-filers.

He highlighted the ongoing efforts taken on the directives of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi to quickly address public complaints against federal ministries and divisions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

caretaker minister Gohar Ijaz said that the solution to the country's problems is not with the IMF, but with the businessmen and industrialists. Banks should first deduct 30% on the non-filer's money, then withdraw the money from the bank.

Over 300,000 tourists flock to Kaghan valley during Eid holidays

KAGHAN: During the Eid al-Adha holidays, Kaghan Valley witnessed an impressive influx of more than 300,000 tourists, arriving with 53,220 vehicles, including a mix of small and large cars, and 16,540 motorcycles.

measures were taken to ensure facilities and guidance for the large number of visitors. This included active involvement from KDA personnel, alongside traffic and tourism police, to manage traffic flow and maintain cleanliness across the valley.

di, Jheel Saif-ul-Malook, Lulusar Lake, and Lalazar. Efforts were also made to preserve the environmental integrity of the valley during Eid celebrations, ensuring safe disposal of sacrificial remains to prevent pollution.

Leave of senior doctors banned at LGH

LAHORE : Amiruddin Medical College Principal Prof Dr Muhammad Al-Fareed Zafar has put a ban on the leave of senior doctors till further orders to ensure timely provision of medical facilities to patients coming in Lahore General Hospital while orders have also been issued to cancel the summer vacations of professors.

KP government to encourage transporters in tourism sector

Advisor Tourism also gave licenses to transporters for quality and cheap group tours of different hill stations and serene places of the province

PESHAWAR : Adviser to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism and Culture, Zahid Chanzeb has invited the private sector to take an overwhelming part in the promotion of the tourism sector in the province.

FAPUASA delegation urges higher education funding increase

ISLAMABAD : A delegation of FAPUASA Pakistan led by the central President: Dr Amjad Abbas Magsi, including General Secretary: Dr. Muhammad Uzair, Vice President: Dr Mazhar Iqbal, President Balochistan Chapter: Dr Kaleem Ullah Bareach, President Islamabad Chapter: Dr Muhammad Iqbal Jatoi, Central Information Secretary: Dr Ahtisham Ali and Dr Aqeel Bukhari.

Court Notice

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KP govt committed to development of southern districts

Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal has said the provincial government will take all possible measures to remove a sense of deprivation among people of the southern districts

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR : Minister for Agriculture Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Major (Retd) Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal has said the provincial government will take all possible measures to remove a sense of deprivation among people of the southern districts.

the Indus River via Shakardara and providing canals from the Kurram Tangi Dam and other southern districts would be conducted, resulting in agricultural revolution to the area.

sources. He added that the chief minister had increased the royalty fund for Karak's oil and gas from 10 percent to 15 percent.

on mega projects that generate revenue for the district. The provincial minister also criticized the decision to give MOL Company 10 percent control.

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### JUNE

June 02/Italy  
National/Independence Day

June 04/Finland  
Armed Forces Day

June 06/Sweden  
National Day

June 10/Portugal  
Portugal Day (National Day)

June 10/Jordan  
Arab Revolution & Army Day

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

June 12/Philippines  
Independence Day

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

June 13/Zambia  
Armed Forces Day

June 17/Iceland  
National Day

June 18/Seychells  
National Day

June 25/Croatia  
National Day

June 25/Mozambique  
National Day

June 26/Azerbaijan  
Army Day

## Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



## Emergency

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



## Enquiry

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



## Hospitals

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



## Departments

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

## Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# 'All Pakistan Chambers' Presidents' conclave' starts

The event aims to discuss important issues, share ideas and collaborate on initiatives that promote economic growth and development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry launches its 2 day 'All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conclave' today, uniting federal ministers, 70 plus chambers Presidents, ambassadors, diplomats, industry, business leaders, educationists and media persons. The programme also includes presentations on 'Tax policies and outcomes', 'Budget and response on tax reforms', investment climate for sustainable industrial development, 'regional trade landscape, challenges and opportunities'. In a statement issued here on Monday, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that it is at the credit of the ICCI that it took the initiative to organize first APCPC in 2020 to bring Presidents of all Chambers of Commerce & Industry at one platform to discuss the key issues of business community and put forward proposals to the government for resolving them and now it is once again all set to convene the second APCPC on June 25, 26, 2024. He said the event aims to discuss



important issues, share ideas and collaborate on initiatives that promote economic growth and development. The conclave will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, providing a platform for business leaders to engage with each other and with policy-

makers. He said that at the moment, the economy of the country is facing multiple challenges, which have slowed down the business activities, therefore, the ICCI felt the need to bring the leadership of the entire business community at one place and give comprehensive

as well as workable proposals to the government for the revival of business and economic activities. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari added that on the occasion, the concerned federal ministers would also take the business community into confidence about the government's measures to promote ease

of doing business in the country. He expressed optimism that APCPC would prove instrumental in building more confidence between the government and the business community to put the economy of Pakistan on the path of sustainable economic growth.

## Italy to launch initiative to educate out-of-school children in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, The Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Marilina Armellini has taken initiative to educate out-of-school children in Pakistan through Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI). Education remains a distant dream for many children in rural areas of Pakistan. Therefore, she took up the initiative to highlight the benefits of enrollment and education through radio broadcast. The initiative will also help in sharing practical information on sustainable development practices for schools. The ambassador disclosed that a groundbreaking IRI initiative was set to unfold next month, poised to redefine access to learning for millions of out-of-school children. Italy, in collaboration with local partners and supported by UNESCO, will launch a pioneering "Radio Education" programme to bridge educational gaps and empower underprivileged communities across Pakistan. Pakistan faces stark challenges with a 62% literacy rate and significant disparities in educational access. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent "Education Emergency" pledges a comprehensive effort to integrate millions of out-of-school children into the educational fold. This initiative underscores a pivotal moment in Pakistan's quest for inclusive education and economic progress. Marilina responding to a question, underscored the pivotal roles of government, teachers, and parents in fostering a robust educational ecosystem. Italy, with its rich educational heritage, she said, supported Pakistan through UNESCO-backed projects like radio education in remote areas. The project not only to promote learning but also empower communities to embrace sustainable practices, enhancing resilience against environmental challenges, she added. Beyond education, Italy and Pakistan explore economic synergies. With burgeoning trade ties and shared interests in agriculture, energy, and tourism, both nations seek to capitalize on their respective strengths.

## De-dollarization begins in Gwadar Free Zones

ISLAMABAD: In a defining moment, de-dollarization has kicked off in Gwadar free zones in the backdrop of the final decision enshrined in the federal budget 2024-25 which allows all companies in the Gwadar Free Zones to exercise their trade transactions in Pakistani currency instead of the US dollars. Under the amended SRO.805 (I)/ 2024 Customs Rules 2001, conditions of dollar transactions between the Gwadar Free Zone and the tariff area (Pakistan's markets and industries that work out of the jurisdiction



of Gwadar Free Zone) have been stricken down. Now Gwadar Free Zone and the tariff area will do business in Pakistani currency. This impetus will protect trades of both sides from the fluctuations of the dollar. An official of Gwadar North Free Zone company "Agven Private Limited" told

Gwadar Pro that as per new procedural changes, modules of an e-custom clearance system "Web Based One Custom" (WebOC) are being modified to make things happen. In the coming days, he said, a high-level meeting between Gwadar Port Authority, Pakistan Custom, FBR and other stakeholders will take steps for further cohesive mechanism to realize required modalities. "It seems to be breath of fresh air for millions of Pakistani traders doing their businesses in tariff areas because with the new development.—DNA

## Cricket: an obsession and a frustration

TANVEER HUSSAIN



In the current busy era where the whole society is busy with the economic race, people need to take time for their physical and mental health as well. Sports are very beneficial as they teach us discipline, punctuality, patience, teamwork and dedication. One of the objectives of attracting young people to sports is to keep them away from unhealthy activities like drugs and divert their attention towards healthy activities. Countries around the world work to attract young people to sports. Big tournaments are organized at the international level in which not only the players but also the fans enjoy to the fullest. People celebrate the wins of their favorite team and players and get sad when

they lose. Pakistan and India are mainly cricket loving countries. His love for cricket is almost obsessive. Especially during the match between Pakistan and India, the people of both sides suffer from mental stress. Media also creates hype. People postponed their work schedules and sit in front of the TV to watch the Pakistan vs India match live. In many cities there are arrangements to show live matches on big screens. That time it seems that the entire subcontinent is sitting in front of the TV screen. People's heartbeat quickens with every ball and every boundary. As the match enters the deciding stage, people start getting emotional. Frustration and anger begin to mount as the match enters in the deciding phase. The supporters of the winning team get jubilant and the supporters of losing team became angry. People start shouting slogans from both sides, sometimes a fight starts. Unfortunately in the subcontinent, instead of considering sports as a game, people consider it a battle of right and wrong. They

want to see their team win at any cost. Defeat for their team is unacceptable for them. If his team loses in a big tournament, instead of showing sportsmanship, he starts blaming his own team players. People accuse players and team management of match fixing. Over-emotional people also break TVs. There have been instances in the past that after losing a match, angry mobs attacked the houses of the players and pelted stones. An attitude can never be sports friendly. Due to this attitude of the public the players are always mentally scared, which also affects their performance. Many teams participate in any tournament. It is not possible for all teams to win. Obviously, one of these teams will be the winner. Winning is certainly a source of happiness, but losing is also part of the game. The requirement of sportsman spirit is to avoid derision of the opposing team in case of victory and accept it with open heart in case of defeat. This is the true spirit of the game.

## Birth anniversary of Sultan Rahi observed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Birth anniversary of renowned film actor Sultan Rahi was observed on Monday. Born on June 24, 1938, Sultan Rahi began his film career in 1959 as a guest actor in the film 'Baghi'. He rose to tremendous stardom with the release of the film 'Maula Jatt' in 1979. During his career, he acted in more than 800 Punjabi and Urdu-language movies and was also named in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most prolific actor. Sultan Rahi earned two Nigar Awards for his work in 'Babul' (1971) and 'Basheera' (1972). Sultan Rahi was shot dead near Gujranwala on January 9, 1996.

## AIOU celebrates Golden Jubilee

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has completed 50 years of its educational journey (1974 to 2024). According to the AIOU, Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, had decided to celebrate the Golden Jubilee by organizing 24 events throughout the year (January to December 2024). In this regard, seminars, conferences organized by various departments, alumni ceremony, education expo and Islamabad, Punjab and KPK chapter of convocations were held. Convocation of Balochistan and Sindh chapters is in the pipeline. A two-day International Conference on Modern Trends in Chemistry was held on February 14 and 15, a two-day International Conference on Research and Practices in Education on February 28 and 29, while a three-day International Conference on Ijtihad Bil Maqasid was held on May 22-24, 2024. The 37th annual international conference of Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) will be held on October 15-17, in which more than 100 vice-chancellors, rectors, professors and around 250 national-level education experts and researchers of open universities of Asian countries will present papers. The 2nd International Conference on Cultural Dialogue is being held on 2nd and 3rd July 2024. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that till now more than 50 lac students have been graduated from AIOU and there is hardly a household in Pakistan that doesn't have a student from Open University. On the Golden Jubilee of the AIOU, Dr. Nasir Mahmood has expressed determination that we will play an active role in bringing the out-of-school children into the educational network.—DNA

## Pakistani mangoes arrive in China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese consumers are able to enjoy the sweet taste of Pakistani mangoes, as 800 cartons of the prized fruit arrived in China, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. This shipment, weighing over 3 tons (3,200 kilograms), marks the latest collaboration between Zhitong Batic Ltd in Guangzhou, China and MERA P C Solutions in Pakistan. The mangoes, renowned as the "King of Fruits" in Pakistan, are available for purchase through various Chinese e-commerce platforms, including JD.com's Pakistan Pavilion, Douyin shops, and WeChat accounts. This is the first batch of mangoes imported by Zhitong Batic company this year. They hit the shelves in China at a price of 168 yuan per carton, inclusive of express delivery. Each carton contains mangoes with a net weight of 4 to 4.2 kilograms. Cindy Chen, regional director of the company, explained that they had carefully selected two varieties, Sindhri and Chauns, which are widely considered the tastiest in Pakistan. "Pakistan boasts over 300 mango varieties. We partner with premium mango orchards, providing guidance on variety selection, cultivation techniques, harvesting, and packaging," said Chen. "Pakistani mangoes are grown naturally, using traditional methods and naturally fermented fertilizers without artificial growth enhancers or bagging. This ensures a pure mango flavor that Chinese consumers love." To maintain the unique taste of Pakistani mangoes while ensuring smooth logistics, a rigorous process is followed from orchards to consumers. Mangoes are harvested, heat-treated and packed before being transported by cold chain to Pakistani airports for air shipment to China. Domestic delivery in China is then handled by SF Express, ensuring freshness and quality. The company once faced challenges in preserving the freshness of mangoes during transportation. These issues were addressed through various trials, including proper packaging, employment of air cushions and specialized preservation methods.



RAWALPINDI: Miss Irena Gancheva, Republic of Bulgaria's Ambassador to Pakistan, receives a warm welcome at Murree Brewery from CEO Isphanyar Bhandara. During her visit, she was given a comprehensive tour of the facility and presented with souvenirs to commemorate the occasion.—DNA

JUNE 2024

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## Briefs

**Excise deptt brings vehicle registration, essential services to Fatima Jinnah park**

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Excise Department will be setting up a mobile facility at Fatima Jinnah park in the federal capital on Monday, in a bid to make essential services more accessible. This initiative is part of the ICT Doorstep initiative, said the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory Administration. He said that from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., excise staff would be stationed at the park's parking lot of Bolan Gate to assist residents with various civic needs. Residents of the surrounding areas could visit the park to take advantage of these services through a dedicated van, he added. This mobile unit aimed to simplify the process for obtaining fuel permits, whether for domestic or commercial use, and to facilitate seamless motor vehicle registration. The on-ground service would make these processes quick and straightforward. He said that the initiative was designed to streamline vehicle-related procedures such as registration, transfer, and token tax payment. Beyond these, the mobile facilitation center will offer additional services including the issuance of domicile certificates, birth certificates, power of attorney documents, international driving permits, and fuel permits for both domestic and commercial purposes. By bringing these services directly to the community, the ICT aimed to ease the public's access to essential civic facilities and reduce the need for multiple trips to government offices.

**High level industrial delegation leaves for Turkmenistan**

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation led by Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday embarked on a three-day official visit to Turkmenistan. The delegation, comprising senior officers from the Ministry of Industries and National Food Security is also accompanying the Federal Minister. The delegation will engage in discussions on bilateral trade, economic relations, industrial and agricultural cooperation with Turkmenistan while cooperation in the energy sector will also discuss. During the visit, the delegation is scheduled to meet with President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov and the national leader of Turkmenistan and chairman of the People's Council Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

## MNAs underline need for fair distribution of resources

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The parliamentarians on Monday underlined on taking measures for the fair distribution of resources, to bring foreign direct investment and also provide education of the youth for sustainable economic growth in the budget 2024. They also stressed the need for reviewing the 7th National Finance Commission (NFC) Award and fair distribution of resources among the provinces, which will not only make the federation stronger, but also the country's economy achieves the sustainable development goals. The lawmakers also emphasized for providing more resources for the agriculture sector, which is the backbone of the country's economy and also stressed for increasing the role of youth in the country's economy. Participating in the

# Ahsan inaugurates 49th INSC on Physics

The summer college is being organized every year by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) since 1976, aiming at transferring and sharing scientific knowledge among the scientific community

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday inaugurated 49th International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs, marking a significant milestone in government's efforts to promote excellence in emerging technologies and facilitate international collaboration in scientific research. The summer college is being organized every year by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) since 1976, aiming at transferring and sharing scientific knowledge among the scientific community. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said INSCs have established a tradition of stimulating scientific activities, particularly in the field of Physics, often called the "bedrock of modern science." He said, Physics plays a foundational

role in our understanding of the natural world and underpins many technological advancements. He said, the unwavering commitment of PAEC to host the Nathiagali Summer Colleges for the past 49 years was truly commendable. The minister also acknowledged the pivotal role played by PAEC in the scientific and technological advancements of Pakistan, including energy production, agriculture, medicine, and industry. He said, over the decades, the PAEC has made significant strides in nuclear research and development, achieving remarkable milestones that have contributed to the socio-economic progress of our country. According to recent data, the PAEC generates approximately 8.2% of Pakistan's total electricity, playing a crucial role in addressing country's energy needs. In addition to its contributions to energy and healthcare, the PAEC has actively supported research and education in nuclear science and technology, fostering

a new generation of scientists and engineers equipped to tackle the challenges of the 21st century. By investing in human capital and infrastructure, the commission has laid the foundation for sustainable development and innovation in Pakistan. He said, while recognizing the transformative power of quantum science, the government has taken proactive steps to support the development of quantum technologies in Pakistan, adding that through strategic partnerships with leading research institutions, universities, and industry stakeholders, the government is investing in quantum research and innovation initiatives. These projects aim to leverage Pakistan's scientific expertise and technological capabilities to advance the frontiers of quantum science, computing and engineering. In addition to supporting research and development efforts, the government is also investing in human capital development

in the field of quantum science and technology. Through scholarships, training programs, and capacity-building initiatives, we are nurturing the next generation of quantum scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs who will lead Pakistan's efforts in this exciting and rapidly evolving field. Talking about Artificial Intelligence (AI), the minister said, the government has established National Centers of Excellence in key universities nationwide, fostering innovation in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Big Data, Cloud Computing, Quantum Computing, Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Additive Manufacturing, and Mathematics. He said, AI has great potential and could contribute up to \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030, adding cybersecurity was becoming increasingly critical, with the global cybersecurity market projected to reach \$345.4 billion by 2026. The minister said, Pakistan re-

mains committed to deepening and expanding its collaboration with CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. He said, the government envisions broader cooperation in areas such as particle physics, advanced materials research, and big data analytics. By participating in CERN's cutting-edge experiments and projects, Pakistani scientists and engineers can gain invaluable experience and knowledge. Additionally, the government aims to develop joint research programs and academic exchanges, facilitating the flow of ideas and fostering innovation, he said. This collaboration will not only enhance our scientific capabilities but also create opportunities for our young scientists to contribute to groundbreaking research, he added. Among others, the event was attended by Chairman PAEC, Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar, foreign faculty members, scientists, engineers and scholars.

## DPM Dar lauds Pakistani women's contributions in diplomacy

ISLAMABAD: As the world observes the International Day of Women in Diplomacy on Monday, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar appreciated the services and contributions of Pakistani women in the field of diplomacy. At the UNGA's 76th Session, the United Nations General Assembly by consensus declared the 24th of June each year to be the International Day of Women in Diplomacy. The deputy prime minister wrote on his X timeline that throughout the country's history, Pakistani women had made tremendous contributions in the field of diplomacy. "Stalwarts like Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan, Madam Shaista Ikramullah, Mohartama Benazir Bhutto and many others broke barriers and set the path for hundreds of women diplomats who continue to represent Pakistan on the international stage with grace and dignity," he remarked. The deputy prime minister applauded the women diplomats and thanked them for their services and contributions.—APP

## WIPO to launch mentorship program on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD: The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) will launch its mentorship programme on Wednesday (June 26) for copyright management organizations in Pakistan. The programme would be launched at a two day event scheduled on June 26 and 27 in Lahore, according to press release issued by IPO Pakistan. The event will launch in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO Pakistan), the Japan Copyright Office (JCO), and the Agency for Cultural Affairs Government of Japan. The launching event is expected to bring together local and international experts to share best practices, knowledge, and experiences in copyright management, fostering a robust and sustainable copyright ecosystem in Pakistan. The mentorship program aims at enhancing the capacity of copyright management organizations in Pakistan, promoting the protection and utilization of intellectual property rights in the country.—APP

## Finance minister meets with the delegation of PBC



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan Business Council (PBC) led by Chairman PBC Mr. Shabbir Diwan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division today. Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Mr.

Ali Pervez Malik, Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana also attended the meeting. The delegation from the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) appreciated the ongoing efforts of government and discussed the Federal Budget

2024-25 with the Finance Minister. They also presented specific suggestions and tax proposals for consideration. Federal Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb acknowledged and thanked the PBC for their insights. He assured that their recommendations are being

noted and will be considered in the finalization of the budget to whatever extent possible. The Minister also highlighted the FBR's ongoing efforts aimed at broadening the tax base and bringing retailers in tax net.—DNA

## Pakistan's regional exports increase 20% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 20.61 per cent in the first eleven months of the financial year (2023-24) as compared to the corresponding months of last year. "The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$4043.371 million, which is 14.09 per cent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$28,678.265 million during July-May (2023-24)," State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighbouring, leaving behind other countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Pakistan carried out its border trade with the farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives. Pakistan's exports to China witnessed an increase of 35.61 per cent to \$2,553.481 million in eleven months of this year from \$1,889.195 million last year while exports to Afghanistan also witnessed an increase of 6.12 per cent from \$478.614 million to \$507.935 million. The country's exports to Bangladesh decreased by 14.56 per cent to \$605.744 million this year from \$709.050 whereas exports to Sri Lanka rose by 36.68 per cent to \$361.690 million from \$264.608. The exports to India increased to \$3.552 million from \$0.769 million in the previous year. Exports to Nepal decreased by 7.83 per cent to \$2.552 million from 2.769 million while to Maldives increased by 8.99 per cent to \$8.419 million from 7.724 million, it added. On the other hand, the imports from seven regional countries were recorded at \$12,454.030 million during the period under review as compared to \$9,344.623 million during last year, showing an increase of 33.27 per cent. The imports from China during July-May 2023-24 were recorded at \$12,148.884 million against the \$9,039.079 million during July-May 2022-23, showing an increase of 56.33 per cent during the period. Among other countries, imports from India are worth \$189.075 million against the imports of \$173.499 million, an increase of 8.97 per cent while imports from Afghanistan decreased by 33.56 per cent from \$15.277 million to \$10.150 million.—DNA

## Chinese auto magnate to sell EVs in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is gearing up to enter a new era in automotive technology following the announcement of a partnership between HUB Power Company Limited and BYD (Build Your Dreams), a Chinese auto magnate, which signifies the introduction of electric vehicles (EVs) into the Pakistani market. HUB Power Company Limited, through its subsidiary HUB Power Holdings Limited, has finalized plans to collaborate with BYD for local production of EVs. The news comes as the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is seeking to attract investment into the country to boost its forex reserves. The partnership includes arrangements for acquiring land and essential infrastructure in Pakistan to facilitate smooth production processes, all of which showing HUB Power's dedication to harnessing expertise and resources in conjunction with BYD's technological pro-

gress to impulse innovation in the automotive sector, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. According to a statement from HUB Power, there are potentially huge economic advantages and abundant employment opportunities to be tapped in local electric vehicles production. Pakistan, like many other developing countries, faces challenges related to air pollution and rising greenhouse gas emissions. This endeavor is anticipated not only meet the needs of the local auto market, but also make an indispensable contribution to Pakistan's sustainable development goals by curbing carbon emissions and promoting clean energy solutions, as well as consistent with global efforts to combat climate change. BYD surpassed Tesla last year to become the world's largest electric vehicle manufacturer, showcasing its prowess in the field.—APP

## General Practice

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## A land of milkshakes and money

When, earlier this month, the Conservative chairman was imposed by the national party as its candidate in the safe seat of Basildon and Billericay, one Cabinet minister told reporters that the decision had gone down with local supporters "like a bucket of cold sick". Meanwhile, the leader of the Scottish Conservatives announced he was planning to stand for election in a constituency whose MP had been barred from standing on the grounds of ill health. One reporter at his press conference observed: "It looks like you've sacked a sick man who wanted to stay as a candidate and put yourself in there. Does that not look quite callous?" Within a few days, the politician was forced to quit his role as leader of the Conservative Party north of the border. This was hardly the first Tory misstep in a campaign which has at times seemed like it's been scripted by a malicious master of farce. He'd chosen to leave this high profile international event, and by doing so to alienate so many of his party's grassroots supporters, in order to take part in interviews back home defending his claims about Labour's tax policies. The D-Day gaffe was described by the BBC's political editor as an "extraordinary own goal". It was an opportunity which the nationalistic Reform UK was quick to exploit. A fortnight into the campaign, opinion polls were showing the Conservatives under pressure from a resurgent Reform party after the surprise return to frontline politics of the notoriously bombastic Nigel Farage as that party's leader. Mr. Farage's popularity among his diehard fans didn't even appear to have been dented by a rocky start to his campaign, whose first day had included a series of increasingly ill-tempered broadcast interviews and a member of the public throwing a banana milkshake in his face. Of course, that didn't stop him laying into Mr. Sunak for his unpatriotic conduct, during his first appearance of this campaign in a live TV debate. More worrying for the Prime Minister, his decision to leave the beaches of Normandy was also condemned as "completely wrong" by the Cabinet colleague he'd chosen to represent him at that debate. The following week, Rishi Sunak was still being quizzed by reporters as to whether he'd resign. This was surely an unprecedented question for reputable journalists to ask a serving premier in the middle of a general election campaign. What further absurdities might unfold? What might he be asked next? "Mr. Sunak, are you a CIA spy?" "Prime Minister, are you a homicidal robot built by Elon Musk and controlled by AI?" "Are you a Martian space-warrior just fallen from the sky?" As of writing, we have no conclusive evidence to support any of those suggestions. But, given the ways in which insanities have piled upon insanities over the past few weeks of British politics, it would take a brave commentator to dare rule anything out. Faced with this unremitting onslaught, Robinson's victim froze like a deer caught in the headlights of a juggernaut. In short, Rishi was increasingly looking like political roadkill. The following morning, one of his senior Cabinet members suggested that people should vote Conservative, not in any hope of his party being in a position to implement its manifesto promises, but in order that a few remaining Tory MPs would be able to hold to account a Labour government sustained in parliament by what he called a "supermajority".



## The peace deal that never was

Several weeks ago, the Biden administration insisted that it had obtained a "ceasefire proposal" backed by "Israel" to end the war on Gaza. The White House took no time to hammer forward this narrative, getting both the media and allies alike to back it. Soon, a resolution was passed at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) affirming calls for a ceasefire, which the US had otherwise vetoed previously so many times in its unconditional backing of Tel Aviv. The idea of this proposal, as mentioned in a previous article, was to "box" Benjamin Netanyahu in, who had never in fact agreed to the idea, by trying to set the political paradigm around him, as opposed to directly relying on him, to thus make him resigned to it. It did not take long for this deal to lose momentum and fade away. Now, it's worth questioning if it's ever going to be implemented. Within that time, Minister Benny Gantz, described as a "centrist", withdrew from Netanyahu's coalition government. That changes the balance of power, leaving Netanyahu more contingent upon far-right hardliners who are fundamentally opposed to a ceasefire. Moreover, Netanyahu has subsequently dissolved the war cabinet, a political move that is not tailored toward actually ending the war but amassing more power for himself. To put it bluntly, Netanyahu has no political incentive to end it. First, the proposal that Israel "withdraws all troops from Gaza" and therefore the ceasefire "returns to the pre-October 7 status quo" is deemed unacceptable. Benjamin Netanyahu placed all stakes in this war on destroying Hamas and building a "new security regime" in the Gaza Strip, which we should understand as de-facto military occupation in all names. For a ceasefire to be accepted, which amounts to a "reset", in political terms, this amounts to a "defeat" for him and the ultimate end of his political career. His government fundamentally rejects the "two-state" solution and therefore is happy to bring Gaza under its sphere of control, especially amid the wide publicization that settlement activity would resume afterward. Benjamin Netanyahu sees his only route to "political survival" as changing the status quo in "Israel's" favor. History shows us that when sovereign military control over a territory is secured, it is never relinquished unless major political concessions go with it. Hence, if "Israel" will not de-occupy the West Bank in defiance of international law and condemnation, why would it de-occupy Gaza? It will bring the Strip under similar control and incrementally squeeze it. Second, the United States is not prepared to take any serious actions to force Netanyahu to the negotiating table, and any supposed "measures" against "Israel" throughout the course of this war have been bluster at best. For example, any talk about "blocking aid" to the entity is largely symbolic, for as reported back in May: "The Biden administration has told key lawmakers it plans to move forward on a new \$1 billion sale of arms and ammunition to Israel, three congressional aides say." Similarly, Netanyahu, several days ago, told the press that "Secretary [of State Antony] Blinken assured me that the administration is working day and night to remove these bottlenecks. I certainly hope that's the case."

## China's hardline stance intensifies Taiwan conflict

Qamar Bashir



The issuance of judicial guidelines signifies a hardening stance on Taiwan's independence movement which included allowing for trials in absentia underscoring China's determination to deter any steps towards Taiwanese independence by defining legal repercussions more clearly and harshly. For Taiwan and its separatists, these guidelines represent an escalation in the legal and political pressure from Beijing. They signal that China is prepared to take

In a stunning and perhaps desperate move, China has issued judicial guidelines on imposing criminal punishment on diehard "Taiwan independence" separatists for organizing, plotting, or carrying out schemes of "de jure independence," or seeking independence from China in collusion with any foreign government, overseas institution, organization, or individual, and has set severe punishments. The issuance of judicial guidelines signifies a hardening stance on Taiwan's independence movement which included allowing for trials in absentia underscoring China's determination to deter any steps towards Taiwanese independence by defining legal repercussions more clearly and harshly. For Taiwan and its separatists, these guidelines represent an escalation in the legal and political pressure from Beijing. They signal that China is prepared to take more aggressive legal action against those advocating for Taiwan's independence, potentially increasing risks for Taiwanese leaders and activists. The threat of harsher penalties and trials in absentia could also create a chilling effect on pro-independence activities and rhetoric within Taiwan. For the United States and Western countries, this development is likely to be seen as a challenge to their support for Taiwan's autonomy. It could complicate diplomatic relations and necessitate stronger statements or actions in defense of Taiwan. The guidelines might also impact U.S. and Western citizens or organizations interacting with Taiwan, as they could be perceived as colluding with separatists under China's broadened definitions. Countries supporting the "One China" policy, like Pakistan, might find themselves in a more delicate position. While they recognize Beijing's sovereignty over Taiwan, these nations must balance their diplomatic relations with both China and other countries supporting Taiwan. The guidelines could pressure these countries to publicly reiterate their commitment to the "One China" policy and distance themselves from any perceived support for Taiwanese independence to avoid political or economic repercussions from China. This move is an obvious reaction to the unjust consistent and outright support of the United States of America and the West to the Taiwan separatists diplomatically and equipping them for violent struggle. The United States and its Western allies support Taiwan separatists through diplomatic, economic, defense, and advocacy measures. Diplomatically, the U.S. and Western countries maintain unofficial relations with Taiwan through trade offices and cultural

exchanges, with high-level visits such as U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit in 2022. They advocate for Taiwan's participation in international organizations like the World Health Assembly. Economically, the U.S. and Taiwan have agreements like the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) and collaborate in critical industries such as semiconductors, where Taiwan's TSMC plays a key role. Financial support includes investments in tech startups and infrastructure projects. Defense and security measures include significant arms sales, such as the \$2.2 billion sale in 2019, which included Abrams tanks and Stinger missiles, and military training and advisory support. The Taiwan Relations Act commits the U.S. to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself, exemplified by regular naval patrols in the Taiwan Strait. Advocacy efforts focus on promoting Taiwan's democracy and human rights, with public statements and support for Taiwanese civil society organizations. Educational and cultural exchanges, such as the Fulbright Scholarship, enhance ties and mutual understanding. These comprehensive measures help Taiwan resist Chinese pressure and maintain its de facto independence. They are helping Taiwan separatists to employ diverse strategies domestically and internationally. Domestically, they influence public opinion and policy through democratic elections and legislative actions, while also promoting a distinct Taiwanese culture and identity. Internationally, they engage in informal diplomacy, seek participation in global organizations, and strengthen security ties, particularly with the United States, to bolster their defense capabilities. Additionally, Taiwan focuses on economic measures like trade diversification and technological advancements to reduce reliance on China and increase its global standing. Despite their efforts, Taiwan separatists face significant challenges from China's diplomatic, economic, and military pressure aimed at isolating Taiwan and discouraging its independence. Internal divisions within Taiwan also complicate the independence movement, as opinions vary on the issue. Moreover, the international community's adherence to the "One China" policy limits Taiwan's formal recognition as a sovereign state. Nonetheless, the movement persists in its pursuit of greater international support and recognition, striving to maintain Taiwan's democratic values and autonomy. China's new judicial guidelines targeting Taiwan separatists will likely provoke strong defiance from Taiwanese independence advocates, who

may increase their activism despite the risk of harsher penalties and trials in absentia. The United States and Western allies are expected to condemn the move, reaffirm support for Taiwan, and potentially enhance diplomatic, economic, and military ties with the island. This escalation could strain U.S.-China and China-West relations, leading to reduced trade, economic sanctions, and heightened military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Consequently, regional tensions may rise, polarizing alliances and destabilizing global economic and security dynamics. China's new judicial guidelines against Taiwan separatists will directly pressure countries supporting the One China policy to reaffirm their commitment, potentially leading to diplomatic rewards or repercussions from China. These countries may have to align their international positions more closely with Beijing, limiting their engagement with Taiwan. Indirectly, heightened regional tensions could destabilize the Asia-Pacific, impacting global supply chains and creating economic uncertainty. These nations might also face challenges balancing their ties with China and Western countries supporting Taiwan, while domestic public opinion could shift, pressuring governments to address human rights concerns more transparently. China aims to reinforce its sovereignty claims over Taiwan and deter moves toward independence by imposing harsh penalties on separatists, thereby intimidating pro-independence activities and discouraging foreign support. To control the fallout, China will engage in diplomatic efforts to reassure and strengthen bilateral ties with countries supporting the One China policy through trade deals, investment agreements, and strategic partnerships. Additionally, China will offer economic incentives, such as increased trade and participation in the Belt and Road Initiative, conduct military exercises to demonstrate its readiness, and use public diplomacy to justify its policies. Internally, China will enhance security measures to monitor dissent and implement laws to further criminalize support for Taiwanese independence, aiming to maintain regional stability and international support while solidifying its territorial claims. —

**The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President**

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## A paradigm shift: Building a progressive Pakistan through objectives resolution 1949 and resistive economics

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer  
Dr. Muhammad Asim

The special session organized for the Book "A Paradigm Shift. Building a Progressive Pakistan through Objectives Resolution 1949 and Resistive Economics" that demonstrated not only Dr. Muhammad Asim's deep understanding about the historical and economic contexts but also his visionary perspective on Pakistan's future. Dr. Muhammad Asim's eloquence and intellectual rigor captivated

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer's insightful address at the special session organized by the Pak-Iran Intellectual Forum in Islamabad was nothing short of extraordinary. The special session organized for the Book "A Paradigm Shift. Building a Progressive Pakistan through Objectives Resolution 1949 and Resistive Economics" that demonstrated not only Dr. Muhammad Asim's deep understanding about the historical and economic contexts but also his visionary perspective on Pakistan's future. Dr. Muhammad Asim's eloquence and intellectual rigor captivated the audience, offering fresh and thought-provoking interpretations that underscored the significance of the Objectives Resolution of 1949 as a cornerstone for progressive development. His contributions are invaluable in fostering a deeper understanding of resistive economics and their potential to transform Pakistan into a more resilient and prosperous nation. His passion and commitment to these ideals truly inspire and resonate with the aspirations of many.

Dr. Asim should be recognized as "an academic equivalent to Ibrahim Raisi" for Pakistan, being the first to pioneer work on the concept of a resistive economy within the country. In his previous book "Romanticizing Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan: A Region through the Lens of Resistive Economy", he not only presented a detailed feasibility report for establishing a joint administrative market at the tri-borderland between Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan but also meticulously assesses. Such an initiative could

challenge the dominance of US unipolarity and West-inclined international financial institutions, ultimately undermining Western socio-cultural and economic hegemony. Additionally, Dr. Asim astutely highlights Afghanistan's rational approach to seeking sustainable development since August 15, 2021, and Iran's similar path since 1979, attributing this progress to the implementation of resistive economic mechanisms. He draws attention to the pivotal role of current Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi, who designed such mechanisms during the Iranian Cultural Revolution, leading Iran to its current sustainable stage.

Conversely, Dr. Asim underscores the detrimental impact of irrationality within Pakistan's power nexus, particularly within the military and bureaucratic spheres, which poses a significant hurdle to the country's socio-political and economic development. By adhering to colonial legacies and prioritizing personal interests over national and regional concerns, these sectors have perpetuated policies that align with Western interests, neglecting the broader welfare of Pakistan or US. Despite the exposure of these flawed policies, particularly evident after the ousting of Imran Khan from government, Dr. Asim asserts that entrenched practices persist. Drawing on the insights of Craig Murray, former British ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Asim illustrates how the CIA launched a regime change operation in Pakistan with the assistance of COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa. This operation was prompted by Pakistan's refusal to provide stations or bases to

US troops post-Afghanistan withdrawal, adoption of de-dollarized barter trade through cabinet ratification on February 24, 2022, neutrality in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, adherence to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's policy on Palestine, and rejection of COAS-backed US-sponsored initiatives regarding Israel and Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Asim's book precisely examines how Pakistan's current administrative, constitutional and political system acts as a significant impediment to its political development. He highlights that while the Objectives Resolution of 1949 remains a preamble to the constitution, its principles often disregarded in the drafting process. Through a detailed analysis of this resolution, Dr. Asim reveals its alignment with the themes of the Charter of Medina and the prerequisites for implication of resistive economic mechanism(s) in any third world country like Pakistan. He advocates for the adoption of a new social contract or constitution based on these principles, presenting 12 articles derived from the 12 clauses of the Objectives Resolution. These articles, further elaborated through specific clauses, founded on the Charter of Medina, resistive economic mechanisms and 20 essential points essential for national building and socio-economic growth. In my personal judgement, Dr. Asim's proposed constitutional draft extends beyond Pakistan's borders, offering a transformative framework applicable to other third-world countries grappling with corruption and authoritarianism.



## Briefs

## Asian Jr Individual Squash C'ship from Tuesday

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) is set to host the 31st Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship from June 25 to 29, here at the Mushaf Squash Complex. In a press conference here at a local hotel on Monday, Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) General Secretary Air Commodore (R) Amir Nawaz along with Former World Champion Qamar Zaman and Group Captain Irfan Asghar announced that the Asian Junior Boys and Girls Individual Squash Championship 2024 will be held in collaboration with the Asian Squash Federation.

The championship will feature 12 countries, including Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, and Sri Lanka, with a total of 107 men players, 84 women players, 36 officials, and 44 parents participating.

## CJP Isa says PTI 'committed..'

FROM PAGE 01  
seats to the SIC, citing its failure to submit its list of candidates. The party had then approached the PHC on the said issue wherein the court upheld the electoral body's decision. In April, SIC chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza, along with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly speaker, moved the SC seeking setting aside of the PHC verdict and the allocation of 67 women and 11 minority seats in the assemblies. On May 6, a three-member SC bench headed by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, including Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah, suspended the PHC verdict.

## IHC suspends ECP's...

FROM PAGE 01  
approved the PML-N leaders' petition to transfer the cases to another tribunal. However, the PTI-backed independent candidates then moved the IHC against the ECP's decision of tribunal change, with the court initially barring the new tribunals from hearing the cases. IHC's Aamer Farooq inquired the additional attorney general how he would defend this ordinance and why this ordinance was passed over the night. Justice Aamer remarked "This law has been taken from Britain, have you ever seen an ordinance passed there? Abolish the parliament and run the govt through ordinances."

## KP CM Gandapur says want...

FROM PAGE 01  
the formation of a probe commission on the May 9 riots. "I want to meet the army chief and the DG ISI," CM Gandapur said, adding that he met the top military personalities at different events, clarifying that there was no one-on-one meeting held between them. Criticising the federal government on the newly launched anti-terrorism operation - Azm-e-Istehkam, he claimed that there was no mention of any kind of [military] operation in the last apex committee meeting.

## Military operation will only...

FROM PAGE 01  
"They [government] has announced the operation, Azm-e-Istehkam. It is rather a destabilising operation which would further weaken the country," he added. The veteran politician asked why the country was being "undermined". "Decisions would be made by unformed individuals wherever they are present," the JUI-F chief said in a veiled jibe at Saturday's meeting of the Central Apex Committee on the NAP.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) General Secretary Air Commodore (R) Amir Nawaz along with Former World Champion Qamar Zaman announced that the Asian Junior Boys and Girls Individual Squash Championship 2024 will be held in collaboration with the Asian Squash Federation. - DNA

## SA knock out WI to qualify for semi-final of T20 WC

Proteas became the second team to qualify for the semi-final from Group 2 after England

SPORTS DESK

BARBADOS: South Africa beat West Indies by three wickets (DLS method) on Monday in a thrilling contest at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, North Sound, Antigua. South Africa became the second team to qualify for the semi-final from Group 2 of Super 8 after England. Chasing a revised target of 123 runs in 17 overs, since the match was affected by rain, the Proteas reached home in 16.1 overs for the loss of seven wickets. Marco Jansen played a crucial unbeaten cameo of 21 runs in 14 balls to take his side over the line. He smashed a six on the first ball of the final over when his side needed five runs to win. Tristan Stubbs (29 off 27) and Heinrich Klaasen (22 off 10) also chipped in with important contributions. South Africa were 77-3 at one stage but the Windies picked up quick wickets to crawl back in the game. However, the late strikes weren't enough to keep the co-hosts in the tournament. Roston Chase was the standout bowler for the home side with figures of 3-12 in four overs. South Africa have now won seven

matches in a row during the ongoing event and make it to the semi-finals in the T20 World Cup for the first time since 2014. Earlier, West Indies were restricted to 135-8 in 20 overs after South Africa won the toss and decided to bowl first during a crucial match of the ongoing T20 World



Cup 2024 Super 8. However, the target was reduced to 123 in 17 overs after rain interrupted the match when South Africa were 15-2 in two overs. South African spinners, Aiden Markram, Tabraiz Shamsi and Keshav Maharaj, kept the Windies batters in check as they conceded only 79 runs in

12 overs at an economy rate of 6.58 while also picking up five wickets.

Shamsi was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 3-27 in four overs. "I am sweating, and I was not even out there. Quite nervy out there but that has been the theme this World Cup. We have been finding ways to win and tonight was another one of those," Shamsi said after bagging the Player of the Match award. "The people out there, our supporters, would probably like bigger wins. But things like this, it keeps us in check. We have been able to overcome such [pressure] moments and that keeps us in good stead," he added. Chase, who was dropped on 11 and 14, was the top scorer for Windies with 52 runs in 42 balls.

**Teams: West Indies (Playing XI):** Kyle Mayers, Shai Hope, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Roston Chase, Rovman Powell (c), Sherfane Rutherford, Andre Russell, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Obed McCoy. **South Africa (Playing XI):** Reeza Hendricks, Quinton de Kock (wk), Aiden Markram (c), Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje, Tabraiz Shamsi.

## Naqvi decides to improve quality of domestic cricket

THE standard of coaching will also be increased for domestic cricket and a "master" coach will be appointed to train the coaches in domestic circle Lahore: The chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Mohsin Naqvi, has decided to improve the quality of domestic cricket while also approving the plan to promote it as well. Naqvi, who was elected Chairman PCB unopposed, is determined to improve the quality of domestic cricket as it is essential to compete at the level of modern-day cricket. A three-hour-long meeting took place at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore which was presided by Naqvi. PCB Chief Operating Officer (COO) Salman Naseer, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Javed Murtaza, Selection Committee Analyst Bilal Afzal, Directors International Cricket Usman Wahla and other concerned officials attended the meeting. "Quality domestic cricket will be promoted at all levels and tournaments will be organised with consistency from club to national level," said Naqvi during the meeting. "The best coaches will train new talent to improve their skills and the players will be promoted further on the basis of performance, fitness and merit. "The promotion of quality domestic cricket will help in closing the gap with international cricket." The standard of coaching will also be increased for domestic cricket and a "master" coach will be appointed to train the coaches in domestic circle. To make their way to the national team, the players will have to participate in domestic cricket. "The players will get selected only on the basis of fitness and merit, and there will not be a little compromise on these things," Naqvi added. "We would have to work on an urgent basis to introduce new talent [to the world]. - DNA

## Amy Yang wins Women's PGA C'ship

LOS ANGELES: South Korea's Amy Yang captured her long-awaited first major title on Sunday, hanging on late for a three-stroke victory at the Women's PGA Championship in her 75th major start. Yang fired a level-par 72 to stand on seven-under 281 after 72 holes at Sahalee Country Club in Sammamish, Washington. And despite some late struggles, that was enough to claim the \$1.56 million top prize with compatriot Ko Jin-young, Japan's Miyu Yamashita and American Lilia Vu sharing second on 284. "I'm at a loss for words right now," Yang said. "All four rounds it was tough out there, but I did my best." World number 25 Yang, who had 21 career top-10 major finishes without a victory, won her first major in her 17th LPGA Tour season at age 34. - Agencies

## Khawaja discusses Babar's future as Pakistan captain

SYDNEY: Australia's Test batter Usman Khawaja on Monday opened up about Babar Azam leading Pakistan team in the future after the T20 World Cup 2024 debacle. Pakistan failed to qualify for the Super 8 of the event which has led to criticism over Azam's captaincy skills. However, Khawaja backed Azam, who is the skipper in white-ball cricket, to lead the Pakistan team as he feels comfortable doing it. "It's Babar Azam's decision to captain, if he can, he should," Khawaja said at an event in Melbourne on Monday. Khawaja admitted that Pakistan has a lot of talent but pointed out that lack of stability is hurting the Men in Green. "Pakistan cricket team has a lot of talent. Expectations are high in Pakistan, the game is tough and only one team can win," he said. "When I look from the outside, changes are constant in the Pakistan cricket. Selection committee, staff and players keep changing. Such a situation is difficult because stability is very important. When there is no stability, it is difficult for players to perform. Pakistan cricket team never sees stability," he added. It is worth mentioning that Pakistan lost to the USA and India in their first two matches of the tournament despite having the games in their grasp. After their back-to-back losses, the Green Shirts' chances of making it to the Super 8 became less and they

were dependent on the USA losing to Ireland. However, the match between the USA and Ireland was called off due to rain in Florida and both teams were awarded a point, which ended Pakistan's journey in the World Cup. Pakistan's next assignment is the two-match Test series against Bangladesh at home in August. Pakistan's schedule for remainder of 2024 August: Two-match Test series against Bangladesh at home as part of World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 October: Three-match Test series against England at home as part of World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 November 4-18: Travel to Australia to play three ODIs and three T20s November 20 - December 5: Travel to Zimbabwe to play three ODIs and three T20s December 10 - January 03, 2025: Travel to South Africa to play three T20s, three ODIs and two Tests. - Agencies



## Germany draw 1-1 with Switzerland to win Euro group

Striker Niclas Fuellkrug strikes late as Germany draw with Switzerland to seal top spot in Group A and maintain their momentum going into the last-16 of Euro 2024

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

FRANKFURT : They all jumped for the ball in a frantic late push for the goal that would save Germany from its first loss at the European Championship, against an impressive Switzerland team. Defender Nico Schlotterbeck leaped up, next to the even more imposing center-back Antonio Rudiger, who reached highest of all. In front of them both was substitute Niclas Fullkrug. The German trio was circled by three Swiss opponents trying to protect a 1-0 lead two minutes into stoppage time. Six pairs of feet off the ground in unison, straining to be the one to head the ball. It was Fullkrug who won the contest, guiding the ball crossed from another substitute David Raum back across Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer into the top corner of the net. The match ended 1-1. "We risked a lot in this phase because we could have conceded a second goal," Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann said about throwing his defenders into attack. "Who doesn't dare to risk, doesn't get to draw." Germany had already advanced to the round of 16 before kickoff Sunday, but a draw felt like a win in the circumstances and kept the momentum of impressive wins against Scotland and Hungary. "When you see how the Germans celebrated their goal that

## Hungary knock Scotland out of Euros 2024

STUTTGART : Kevin Csoboth scored in the 10th minute of added time as Hungary snatched a 1-0 win over Scotland to stay in the hunt for a place in the last 16 of Euro 2024. A sickening collision led to Hungary striker Barnabas Varga being stretched off in front of his visibly shocked team-mates in the second half, but Csoboth's late winner kept them alive in the tournament. It was a bitter end to Scotland's bid to reach the knockout phase of a major tournament for the first time as they were caught out pressing for a goal of their own right at the death. Germany finished top of Group A after a 1-1 draw with Switzerland, who will go through as runners-up. Hungary must rely on other results if they are to advance as one of the best third-placed sides. Scotland came last with just a point as their wait for a first European Championship win since 1996 goes on. Coach Steve Clarke made one enforced change for Scotland as Scott McKenna replaced Kieran Tierney, who was stretched off with a hamstring injury in the 1-1 draw with Switzerland. English-born Callum Styles got the nod in Hungary's midfield, coming in after shaking off an injury, with Endre Botka also making his first appearance of the tournament on the right side of a back three. John McGinn revealed the team skipped their pre-match nap as thousands of Scotland supporters gathered outside the hotel, belting out songs in anticipation of what they hoped was a historic night. Hungary arrived at the Euros with increased expectations after a 14-match unbeaten run between November 2022 and March of this year. They also beat England twice in the last UEFA Nations League, as well as Germany away. But back-to-back defeats had punctured confidence and left Marco Rossi's side needing to beat Scotland to keep alive their hopes of reaching the knockout rounds. Scotland goalkeeper Angus Gunn shovelled away a dipping drive from Bendeguz Bolla that bounced awkwardly in front of him, with Styles and then Willi Orban booked for cleaning out McGinn in a first half full of endeavour but limited in genuine chances. - Agencies

says everything," said Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka, named player of the match. Switzerland impressed while protecting a 28th-minute goal from Dan Ndoye's clever volleyed shot, and chasing a bigger lead. A second goal was denied by a marginal off-side ruling against Ruben Vargas and a fine save by Manuel Neuer from Xhaka's shot. The point for each team ensured Germany finished top and Switzerland second in Group A. Hungary took third place in the standings with an even later stoppage-time goal to beat Scotland 1-0 in Stuttgart. Germany now goes to Dortmund for a round of 16 game Saturday against the runner-up in Group C. That opponent can be any of the four teams - England, Slovenia, Denmark or Serbia - playing their final round of Group C games on Tuesday. Nagelsmann acknowledged Germany's opponent might not like having two fewer days of rest, though added: "We have to prepare for four teams, they only have to prepare for one team." Switzerland heads to the Olympic Stadium in Berlin to open the round of 16 on Saturday against the runner-up in Group B, likely Italy or Croatia. They meet Monday in their decisive group game. Coach Murat Yakin suggested Switzerland had earned the right to make a higher-ranked opponent concerned about his unbeaten team. "I think we have a certain standing which we worked hard for.

**T20**  
ICC MEN'S T20  
WORLD CUP  
WEST INDIES & USA 2024  
Tuesday June 25  
Afghanistan vs  
Bangladesh  
Arnos Vale Stadium  
(5:30pm)

## PA speaker warns...

FROM PAGE 01  
Lahore, Ahmad said he did not expect Zubair to issue such a statement. He alleged that the former Sindh governor had said an unfounded thing, upon which he could face legal consequences. Talking with a TV channel, Zubair, who recently quit the PML-N, mentioned about the PTI government's ouster from power in 2022. The politico claimed Nawaz met Bajwa in London, before the vote of no confidence was moved against the then prime minister Imran Khan.

## Bajwa, Faiz...

FROM PAGE 01  
"They [former generals] painted a picture as if all was good in Swat," Asif said while speaking to a private news channel. The defence minister said that the politicians, most notably Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar, had raised questions in the relevant briefing but were not allowed to speak much. The minister's remarks come after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government, in light of increased terror incidents in recent months, announced launching a fresh anti-terror operation across the country titled "Azm-e-Istehkam".

## PTI berates PPP...

FROM PAGE 01  
However, he said that Pakistani nation was cognizant of the fact that these mandate thieves had equally contributed to the economic devastation and financial carnage that had beset the country at present. PTI Spokesperson stated that both the parties had a long history of conveniently setting aside their differences to perpetuate their self-serving agendas in total disregard of any concern for the welfare of the people, democracy and constitution.

## Hajj death toll exceeds 1,300

FROM PAGE 01  
reached 1,301, with 83% being unauthorised to perform Hajj and having walked long distances under direct sunlight, without adequate shelter or comfort," the official Saudi news agency reported. The deceased pilgrims belonged to more than 10 countries, ranging from the United States to Indonesia, and some governments are still updating their figures.

## Shehbaz vows to... completely eradicate...

FROM PAGE 01  
A digitized eco-system of the entire government structure will result in enhanced revenues that will help improve governance and the Government would be able to spend more on public welfare schemes, he added.

**EURO2024 GERMANY**  
Tuesday 25th June 2024  
Albania vs Spain,  
Merkur Spiel  
Arena (12:00am)  
Croatia vs Italy,  
Red Bull Arena  
(12:00am)



## Briefs

## Heavy rains in China leave 4 dead

BEIJING : Mountain floods in central China have killed four people and left one other missing, state media reported Monday, with torrential downpours expected to continue across much of the country in the coming days. Record rainfall of 337.8 millimetres (13.3 inches) early Saturday morning at a town in hilly Hunan province led to "severe waterlogging", state news agency Xinhua reported. "As of Monday morning, four have been killed, with another missing," The report came after state media said Sunday that heavy rains elsewhere in the province caused a landslide that ripped through village homes, killing eight people. Continuous heavy rain is forecast until Thursday in several provinces across central, eastern and southern China, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) said Monday. It also issued a red alert - its highest-level warning - that "extremely heavy rains" could occur in parts of Anhui, Jiangxi and Zhejiang provinces until 2 pm (6 am GMT) on Tuesday. Such areas could see 250-270 mm of rainfall, the NMC said.

Following days of persistent rain in Huangshan, a popular tourist city in eastern Anhui province, more than 54,000 people had been evacuated by mid-afternoon on Sunday, state news agency Xinhua reported. The current round of heavy downpours in the area began on June 18, Xinhua said, adding that dozens of attractions had been closed. China has been experiencing extreme weather conditions and unusually high temperatures in recent months. Scientists say climate change driven by greenhouse gas emissions makes extreme weather events more frequent and intense.—DNA

## Morocco contains massive fire near Tangier

RABAT : Morocco extinguished a massive fire on Sunday that spanned 12 hectares of land near the city of Tangier. The civil protection units contained the raging inferno near the town of Al-Jadid, through the use of three large water tanker trucks. While the fire did not result in any casualties, it caused extensive damage to trees and vegetation due to strong winds and high temperatures. The National Agency for Water and Forests had earlier issued a warning about the risk of wildfires to residents near forests in 10 provinces. The North African country faces annual wildfires that affect forests covering about 12% of the country's land area. For the sixth consecutive year, the nation is experiencing drought, posing risks to the agricultural sector, a crucial part of the national GDP.—APP

## Apple holds talks with Meta over AI

WASHINGTON: Apple is talking to major rival Meta about integrating the Facebook parent company's generative AI into its products, as it tries to catch up with rivals on artificial intelligence, the Wall Street Journal reported Sunday. The report comes after Apple also struck a deal with OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, to help equip its Apple Intelligence suite of new AI features for its coveted products. For months, pressure has been on Apple to persuade doubters on its AI strategy, after Microsoft and Google rolled out products in rapid-fire succession. It has developed its own, smaller artificial intelligence but said that it will turn to others such as OpenAI to boost its in-house offering. According to the Journal, which cited sources close to the matter, Meta has held discussions with Apple over integrating its own generative AI model into Apple Intelligence.

Apple senior vice president of software engineering Craig Federighi said in early June that Apple also wanted to integrate capabilities from Google's generative AI system, Gemini, into its devices.—Agencies

## Gaza situation 'Incommensurable' amid Israeli attacks: Josep

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell expresses concerns over risk of spillover of conflict

## WEB DESK

ANKARA: The situation in Gaza, where Israel has continued its military offensive since last October, has become "incommensurable," the EU foreign policy chief said on Monday. Josep Borrell, at the doorstep of the EU's foreign affairs council meeting in Brussels, deplored the death of over 100 Palestinians in the latest Israeli attacks over the weekend, which he described as "one of the bloodiest days." He reiterated support for the cease-fire backed by US President Joe Biden, but said it may not be implemented due to a "lack of will from both sides." "But we will continue supporting this kind of ideas, because we need desperately a cease-fire that could allow humanitarian help to enter into Gaza, otherwise, the tragedy will be incommensurable."

## Germany's FM calls for cease-fire in Gaza

BERLIN : German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Monday called for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, and warned that a further escalation in the Middle East would be a "catastrophe" for all the people in the region. Speaking to reporters during an EU meeting in Luxembourg, Baerbock said she will be heading to Israel later in the day to discuss diplomatic efforts for a cease-fire in Gaza, and ways to increase humanitarian aid for Palestinians. "We're thinking of the hostages, the images from Gaza, they are heartbreaking. That's why it's definitely not an option for us, and our partners, to bury our heads in the sand now, we need this cease-fire," Baerbock said, and underlined that more should be done to end the suffering of Palestinian civilians. "It is absolutely clear that Israel can only live in safety if Palestinians live in safety, and Palestinians can only live in safety if Israel is secure," she said. Baerbock called on the Palestinian Hamas group to release all the Israeli captives and accept the cease-fire proposal backed by US President Joe Biden last month. She underlined that a cease-fire in Gaza is "more urgently needed than ever before" amid the latest developments in the region, and growing tensions between Israel and the Lebanese Hezbollah group.—APP

Well, it is already incommensurable," Borrell said. He reiterated that the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the blockaded enclave has become "impossible." Israel has killed more than 37,500 Palestinians, most of them women and children, in Gaza since the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas incursion. Vast tracts of the territory lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water, and medicine. Borrell also explained that there was a risk of spillover in Lebanon, and said: "I am more worried, much more worried." Israel and Hezbollah have been engaged in border fighting since the start of the Gaza conflict. The tensions have recently escalated, with both sides saying they are ready to go to war. Belgium's Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib said, for her part, that the EU must take all the measures to force the parties to stop

hostilities. "We absolutely must progress on a peace process, and on talks that must lead to the implementation of the two-state solution," Lahbib stressed. War in Ukraine Borrell emphasized that while many countries gathered in Switzerland to discuss diplomatic solutions to the war in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin's "answer" was to travel to North Korea and "everywhere where he can get arms," since he is "clearly preparing for a long war." The bloc's foreign policy chief also said they must increase the support for Ukraine. "We have these revenues coming from the frozen assets, and we have to look for a way in order to use them, avoiding any kind of blockage," he explained, and added that the first tranche would be paid next week, and the second "some months later."

## Lazzarini advocates against disbanding Palestinian agency

## NEWS DESK

GENEVA: The head of the United Nations Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) on Monday called on partners to fight back against efforts by Israel to have the organization disbanded as it provides humanitarian assistance to Gaza and across the region. "Israel has long been critical of the agency's mandate. But it now seeks to end UNRWA's operations, dismissing the agency's status as a United Nations entity supported by an overwhelming majority of member states," UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said at a meeting of the agency's advisory commission in Geneva. "If we do not push back, other UN entities and international organizations will be next, further undermining our multilateral system." The Israeli diplomatic mission in Geneva had no immediate comment. Lazzarini

said the agency, which has provided essential aid to Gazans throughout Israel's offensive, was "staggering under the weight of relentless attacks."

"In Gaza, the agency has



paid a terrible price: 193 UNRWA personnel have been killed," he said. "More than 180 installations have been damaged or destroyed, killing at least 500 people seeking United Nations protection...Our premises have been used for military purposes by Israel, Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups." Lazzarini said the agency was being subjected to a "concerted effort" to dismantle it, including through

legislative initiatives threatening to evict the agency from its compound and labelling UNRWA as a terrorist organization. Several countries halted their funding to UNRWA following accusations by Israel that some of the agency's staff were involved in the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel that triggered the Gaza war. Most donors have since resumed their funding. Lazzarini said that UNRWA still lacked the necessary resources to fulfil its mandate. "The agency's ability to operate beyond August will depend on member states disburse planned funds and providing new contributions to the core budget," he said. Established in 1949 following the first Arab-Israeli war, UNRWA provides services including schooling, primary health care and humanitarian aid in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

## Turkey wildfire toll reaches 15 amid faulty wires

DIYARBAKIR :The death toll from a massive wildfire that ripped through Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast last week has risen to 15, hospital sources said on Monday with experts pointing to faulty wiring as a possible cause. The blaze, which broke out on Thursday between the cities of Diyarbakir and Mardin, killed 12 people outright and left five more fighting for their lives. Three of those succumbed to their injuries on Sunday, the Anadolu state news agency said. Hospital sources confirmed the toll on Monday, saying two people remained in intensive care. Hundreds of animals also perished in the blaze that roared across the dry landscape. The government said "stubble burning" was the cause but the Diyarbakir branch of the Chambers of Turkish Architects and Engineers (TMMOB) ruled that out and pointed to faulty electric cables as the likely trigger. "The fire could have been caused by the power cables," it said in a report released late on Sunday.—APP

## Kenya's Ruto offers talks to protesters on tax bill

NAIROBI : Protests against Kenya's proposed high taxes, which continued across the country for the sixth consecutive day, forced President William Ruto on Sunday to express his readiness to engage in dialogue with demonstrators led by a youth group. Ruto hailed the youth for speaking out on political issues that affect them while attending a church service in Nyahururu, central Kenya. The president said, "Our young people have stepped forward to engage in the affairs of their country. They have done a democratic duty to stand and be recognized, and I want to tell you that we are going to have a conversation with you to identify your concerns and work together as a nation." Kenyan youth, particularly those from Generation Z, have been leading protests against the proposed Finance Bill 2024 through digital platforms known as "Occupy Parliament," as well as demonstrations, the largest of which took place in all major cities and towns across the country on Tuesday. Anadolu contacted some of their vocal Generation Z members to respond to the president's offer of negotiations, which they declined due to fear of repercussions, as several youth leaders have been arrested in the last six days in various cities. The protests are primarily driven by concerns over proposed tax hikes and economic policies that many believe disproportionately affect the younger population. Once dismissed as "keyboard warriors," dozens of young Kenyans marched around the Central Business District (CBD) in Nairobi on Sunday, carrying placards to express their opposition to the proposed taxes. The protest was witnessed across the East African country where pockets of demonstrations were held. Youth have been actively disrupting events attended by members of parliament who voted to support the controversial bill. Thousands of Kenyans have taken to the streets since Tuesday to demand that the controversial bill be withdrawn. The demonstrations were mostly peaceful, but there were reports of police using tear gas and water cannons to disperse crowds, resulting in casualties and arrests. Two people were shot dead by police, and more than 200 were injured, with human rights organizations expressing concern about law enforcement's use of force and calling for an investigation into alleged violations.—DNA

## UAE to partner with UN to aid Sudan, S.Sudan

GENEVA : The United Arab Emirates has signed an agreement with the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to contribute \$25 million in emergency food assistance to those affected by the crisis in Sudan and South Sudan, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) has reported. The assistance will be provided to those directly affected by the crisis, including refugees, internally displaced people and returnees impacted by the war, the agency said on Sunday. Since mid-April 2023, the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been engaged in a war that has resulted in nearly 15,000 deaths and around 8.5 million displaced persons and refugees, according to the United Nations. The agreement was signed on behalf of the UAE by Sultan al Shamsi, the assistant minister for international development affairs, and by Matthew Nims, executive director of the WFP's Washington office. According to the agency, some 17.7 million people in Sudan and 7.1 million in South Sudan are facing acute food insecurity because of the war in Sudan. To help alleviate this crisis, the UAE has committed a total of \$25 million in aid: \$20 million for Sudan and \$5 million for South Sudan, the agency said. On Wednesday, the WFP said that "as Sudan's crisis drags on, the fallout is growing in neighbouring countries," adding that "of the more than two million war-displaced people now living outside Sudan's borders, more than half are in Chad and South Sudan, countries already grappling with soaring hunger of their own." In 2011, South Sudan separated from Sudan through a popular referendum.—DNA



JURONG : High Commissioner-designate Rabia shafiq held an intro meeting with Pakistan's honorary investment counsellor Abdul Lateef Siddiqui.—DNA

## Zelenskiy orders state guard purge amid assassination plots

Zelenskiy dismissed Morozov's predecessor Serhiy Rud in May, two days after the SBU detained agency employees who it said worked for Russia's Federal Security Service

## FOREIGN DESK

KYIV : President Volodymyr Zelenskiy told the new chief of Ukraine's state guard service to clear its ranks of people discrediting it after two of its officers were accused of plotting to assassinate senior officials. The state security service (SBU) said last month that it had caught two guard service colonels accused of cooperating with Russia to plot the assassination of Zelenskiy and other officials, including military intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov. The guard service provides security for various government officials. Introducing Colonel Oleksiy Morozov to the staff on Monday, Zelenskiy said his main task was to ensure that only those who see their future tied with Ukraine join the agency - his first comments since the agents were arrested.

"And, of course, the agency must be cleared of anyone who chooses not Ukraine for themselves or discredits the state guard service," he said on Telegram. Zelenskiy dismissed Morozov's predecessor Serhiy Rud in May, two days after the SBU detained agency employees who it said worked for Russia's Federal Security Service and leaked classified information. There was no comment from Moscow. Meanwhile, Ukraine is closer to EU dreamer after decade of war A veteran of Ukraine's 2014 revolution who is now fighting Russian forces, Yehor Sobolev knows the price of Kyiv's decade-long drive to join the European Union as well as anyone. Having backed tough reforms as a lawmaker after the pro-democracy uprising 10 years ago, he says he will look on proudly from the front as formal accession talks open on Tuesday. "We Ukrainians know how to fulfil

our dreams," said the 47-year-old deputy commander of a special army unit. The launch of talks, though largely ceremonial, is an important step for a nation that has spilled blood and pushed through the reforms required in its pursuit of EU membership. "Ukraine is returning to Europe, where it has belonged for centuries, as a full-fledged member of the European community," President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Friday. Kyiv filed its request to join the EU days after Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. It sees membership as validation of its fight to embrace European values. It now faces a lengthy path to accession, and needs to overhaul a bureaucracy still riddled with vestiges of Soviet days. The task will be complicated by the war with Russia that has no end in sight, with Ukrainian towns and cities under constant threat

of Russian air strikes that have killed many civilians as well as soldiers, forced millions from their homes and damaged critical and energy infrastructure. In many ways, Sobolev's story is a picture of Ukraine's trajectory over the past decade. He was a prominent figure in the Maidan revolution that toppled a Russia-backed leader after protests triggered by him breaking a promise to develop closer ties with the EU. Sobolev later worked on legislation that formed the foundation of Ukraine's anti-corruption infrastructure, central to securing financial aid and backing for Kyiv's integration with the EU. He also co-authored a law aimed at erasing traces of Ukraine's Soviet legacy and Russian influence by paving the way for the renaming of thousands of streets, towns and cities, and the removal of monuments. In 2021, Sobolev donned a uniform and rose from a rank-and-file Ukrainian soldier

to officer, as Russia broadened a war that Kyiv says began in 2014 after Moscow seized the Crimea peninsula and fueled an insurgency in the east. "The top corrupt officials that we dealt with on the Maidan are the same kinds of leaders of the 'Russian world' like (President Vladimir) Putin," he said. So for me it's one war." LONG ROAD AHEAD The accession talks are expected to start at a ministerial meeting in Luxembourg on Tuesday, days before Hungary, which has closer ties to Russia than other member states, takes over the EU's six-month rotating presidency. Ukraine cleared initial hurdles to accession in December by showing progress in fighting corruption and rebuilding its judiciary, among other areas the EU considers fundamental. Now it must map out a more detailed plan to achieve lasting results that will be measured by a range of benchmarks.

## Gunmen attack in Nigeria leaves 7 dead

ABUJA : Gunmen have attacked a village in northwestern Nigeria, killing at least seven people and abducting more than 100 others, residents and police said. The attack took place in Nigeria's northwestern Katsina state on Saturday night, residents and police said. According to residents, gunmen on motorbikes arrived in Maidabino village in the Damusa local government area of Katsina, and began firing sporadically, forcing residents to flee. Hassan Aliyu, one of the residents, told Reuters by phone that the attack took residents by surprise and dozens of women and children were confirmed missing. "They killed seven people, including burning two children," he said, adding, "They spent more than six hours destroying our properties." Auwalu Ismail, another resident, said the gunmen first blocked all roads leading to the village before the attack. "They burned down our shops, vehicles, and took away our livestock. They also kidnapped my wife and more than 100 women and children," he said. State police spokesperson Abubakar Aliyu Sadiq confirmed the attack and the seven deaths. But he refrained from commenting on the news of missing people, saying investigations are underway. "The remaining men who did not flee are living in fear ... and waiting to hear news about their abducted loved ones," Muhammad Sani, whose sister was kidnapped, said. Nigeria's northwest and central regions have seen the largest mass abductions for ransoms in recent years.—Agencies

## Heavy rainfall and floods displace thousands in Assam

NEW DELHI : Thousands of people have been displaced in India's north-eastern state of Assam and at least 37 people have died in heavy rain, floods and landslides in the last two months, officials said. Although rains have decreased in the last two days and improved the flood situation marginally, at least 200,000 people were affected in 11 state districts due to rain-related incidents, a release from the state's disaster management authority said on Monday. More than 12,000 people have been displaced from their homes in the state. Authorities said they expected another wave of floods in July, with the Kushiara River, a trans-boundary river between India and Bangladesh flowing above the danger mark in several places. India's north-east and neighbouring Bangladesh have been ravaged by floods in the last two months, leaving millions stranded, with weather authorities predicting that the situation could worsen. The situation in Bangladesh had also improved as water levels of various rivers had receded and upstream water from India had reduced, officials said.—DNA

## Flying fish spotted on Marmara Sea coast

LONDON : Fish coming from the ocean reach the waters by crossing the Çanakkale Strait through the Aegean and Mediterranean. Most recently, flying fish were caught by fishermen off the Marmara Islands. Taking flight Kenan Balç, local fisherman and founder of the Turkish Marine Life Museum, noted that flying fish had not been seen in the Marmara Sea for years. Pointing out that flying fish can stay in the air for a long time, he said: "I want to warn our citizens and young people. Different and poisonous fish species are now found in our seas." "We should be careful when entering the sea. Let's not touch fish species we don't know. Among these fish, there are also spiny and poisonous ones. I warn everyone to be cautious about this," he added. Museum of Marine Life The flying fish caught in the Marmara Sea will be added to the Turkish Marine Life Museum. "Flying fish was one of the few species not in the museum," Balç said. "The flying fish has now been added to the museum, which has over 3,000 sea creatures. All the fish in our museum were caught in Turkish territorial waters."—APP



## Briefs

### Bahrain, Iran agree on resuming ties

LONDON: Bahrain and Iran agreed on Sunday to start talks aimed at resuming political relations between the two countries, Bahrain News Agency reported. A joint statement was released after a meeting that brought together Bahrain's minister of foreign affairs Abdullatif Al-Zayani and Iran's acting foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani in Tehran. According to the statement carried by BNA, the discussions were held "within the framework of the historical fraternal relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the ties of religion, neighborhood, common history and mutual interests between them." - Agencies

### West's unilateralism is crumbling: Iran

#### FOREIGN DESK

Tehran: Iran's interim president Mohammad Mokhber says the era of unilateralism is coming to an end and a new multilateral order is emerging in the world. Mokhber made the remarks in a statement to the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) ministerial meeting, which was read out by Iran's interim foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani in Tehran on Monday.

He said the "power of new Asia and strengthening of economic and technological foundations in this continent" have played an important role in putting an end to the era of unilateralism. "The world is in a period of historical transition to a new international order and the emergence of a multipolar world."

This irreversible path is heavily influenced by emerging Asian powers," he added. Mokhber emphasized that the benefits and useful outcomes of multilateralism are evident in regional unions and organizations. "We believe that under the existing circumstances in the international system, Asia can shape a new model based on justice, human dignity, dialogue, friendship and multilateralism in the field of changeable global relations," he added. The interim Iranian president said multilateralism will pave the way for benefiting from the opportunity to participate in multilateral arrangements, which are formed as a result of unity against unilateralism. Iran believes that Asia can create positive changes in global relations and play a leading role in forging international convergence, he added.

### Activist Sarim Burney hospitalised

KARACHI: Human rights activist and philanthropist, Sarim Burney, arrested in a case involving child trafficking and document forgery, was transferred to a hospital from court lockup due to health issues. Meanwhile, FIA has submitted an interim charge sheet in the case. It was reported that Burney had smuggled over 20 newborns in the past year under the guise of adopting them. The bail hearing for Burney took place in the court of the Additional District and Session Judge East, presided over by a link judge in the absence of the assigned judge. The defense lawyers filed a request to transfer Sarim Burney from Landhi Jail to Central Jail, which was approved by the court. However, the court adjourned the hearing on the bail application to June 26 at the defence's request. Defence lawyer Amir Nawaz Warrach informed that Sarim Burney was transferred to the hospital due to his deteriorating health while in court lockup. The FIA has submitted an interim charge sheet, alleging that the accused attempted to smuggle children to the USA by falsely declaring them orphans. - Agencies

# President for rehabilitation of surrendered Kacha criminals

The President further emphasised the need to improve the road, health, and education infrastructure of the Kacha Areas on a priority basis to improve the socio-economic condition of the people



NAZIR SIYAL

SUKKUR: President Asif Ali Zardari has said that criminals of Kacha Area in Sindh, except hardened criminals, willing to surrender to the state should be gradually brought into the mainstream and rehabilitated to make them responsible and productive citizens of the country. He called for taking stern action against hardcore criminals involved in heinous crimes. The President further emphasised the need to improve the road, health, and education infrastructure of the Kacha Areas on a priority basis to improve the socio-economic condition of the people. He advised that

a Qaumi Jirga, comprising of tribal chiefs, should be convened to engage and negotiate with the local population to bring normalcy, prevent crimes, de-weaponize and improve the security situation in the Area. The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting on the security/law and order situation in Sindh, at Sukkur, on Monday. Federal Minister for Interior, Mr Mohsin Raza Naqvi, MNA Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Speaker Sindh Assembly Syed Waqar Qadir Shah, Senior Minister Mr Sharjeel Inam Memon, Minister Planning and Development Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Minister Home, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Mr Zia ul Hassan Lanjar,

Additional Chief Secretary Sindh Mr Muhammad Iqbal Memon, IG Sindh Mr Ghulam Nabi Memon, DG Ranger Sindh Major General Azhar Waqas, GOC 16 Div Major General Aamer Amin, and senior officials of the federal and provincial governments attended the meeting. The President was briefed about the law-and-order situation in Sindh and the implementation status of the directions given during the last meeting held on 1st May 2024. He was apprised that the crimes and violence in Sindh, especially in Karachi and Kacha Areas, had witnessed a declining trend due to the effective strategy adopted by the police and Rangers. IG Police said that dacoit activities had been considerably

reduced and no highways-related crime had been reported in the past two months. It was highlighted that targeted operations and installation of smart cameras had helped control crimes and identify and arrest criminals and their abettors. DG Rangers told the meeting that 133 joint operations had been conducted by the Sindh Police and the Rangers which led to the arrest of hundreds of dacoits and criminals. He stated that additional check posts had also been established in various parts of Kacha to control crime. The meeting was further informed that, on the directions of the President, the campaign against drug pedlars was intensified and, in this regard, 308 drug suppliers had been arrested, besides installing smart cameras to monitor the entry points of the province. During the meeting, the President said that the Government of Sindh should focus on raising a police force along modern lines to effectively meet the security challenges and requirements of the province. He underlined the need to strengthen the capacity of the Sindh Police by providing them modern equipment and weapons, adequate human resources, and logistics. He said that police officials should be incentivized enabling them to committedly discharge their duties. "We also need to encourage women to join Sindh Police", he added. He stated that the welfare of the families and children of martyrs of Sindh Police should be ensured. The President directed to expedite the upgradation of Sakrand Police Commando School as well as the provision of land for the establishment of Cadet College for Police. He added that selected students of the Cadet College would be educated and trained to join the Sindh Police. The President appreciated the performance of the Sindh Government, Police and Rangers in controlling crime and improving the security situation of the province.

### ATC dismisses PTI lawyer's pre-arrest bail

#### COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's anti-terrorism court (ATC) has dismissed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer's pre-arrest bail petition in Khawar Maneka attack case. Islamabad ATC's judge Tahir Abbas Sipra heard the filed petition for pre-arrest bail in Khawar Maneka attack case. The court has dismissed the PTI lawyer Fatehullah Barki's bail plea meanwhile, the court has granted the bail of other PTI lawyers. Riasat Hussain Azad advocate, Masroof advocate and other lawyers representing the petitioners appeared before the court. While, Usman Riaz Gul and others accused in the case also appeared before the court. It is pertinent to note that PTI lawyers including Usman Riaz Gul, Fatehullah Barki and Zahid Bashir Dar have filed bail petitions in the Khawar Maneka attack case. Mirza Asim Baig, Ansar Mehmood Kiyani and Saeed Khan were also included in the accused in the case. It is worth noting that PTI lawyers assaulted Khawar Maneka in the court premises when he appeared for nikkah during iddat case hearing.

### NDMA warns of heavy rain, flooding in July

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a forecast for heavy rains in various parts of Pakistan throughout July, warning of potential flooding due to heavy downpours, glacier melt, and urban drainage overflow. According to NDMA officials, the local administration has been directed to take necessary precautionary measures to mitigate the impact of the anticipated weather conditions. The NDMA's forecast indicates significant rainfall across multiple regions, with specific warnings for potential flooding and landslides. In the Malakand and Hazara divisions, heavy rains are expected during the last week of July. These regions are likely to experience significant precipitation, prompting concerns over flooding and water management. For the first and second weeks of July, Lahore, Sargodha, and Faisalabad are forecast to receive 15mm to 50mm of rain.

## ANP also opposes 'Azm-e-Istehkam' operation

#### SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Awami National Party (ANP) voiced on Monday its opposition to the Azm-e-Istehkam, declaring the operation unacceptable under any circumstances.

Yesterday, Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) also declared their refusal to support any military operation, demanding that military leadership take Parliament into confidence first. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Karim Kundi

visited the ANP's Bacha Khan Center in Peshawar, where he met with the party's top leadership to discuss security and political matters. During a media briefing, ANP leader Mian Iftikhar stated that the roots of terrorism lie in Punjab, expressing serious reservations about the decision to launch Operation Istehkam Pakistan. Mian emphasized that the ANP has conveyed its concerns to the governor. He criticized the operation as a unilateral decision, noting a lack of trust in both negotiations and military actions among the people. He questioned whose directive General Faiz initiated negotiations and how 40,000 terrorists infiltrated the country. Following this, Iftikhar called for both national and provincial assemblies to be taken into confidence regarding the operation. The ANP leader announced that the party would convene an All Parties Conference (APC) to discuss Operation Istehkam Pakistan in detail. Opposing the operation yesterday, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar emphasised, "Any military operation must involve parliamentary consent. Parliament is supreme under the Constitution."

## Pakistan's economy hinges on stability: Mushahid Hussain

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed on Monday said that political stability and security are vital for boosting economy of this country. Improved security conditions and political stability are crucial for attracting foreign investment in this part of the region, he said while talking to a private news channel. In the past, our security operations, like Zarb-e-Azb, Radd-ul-Fasaad and Rah-e-Nijat had been successful due to political support of the governments, he said adding that Azm-e-Istehkam could achieve the results if the political parties and stakeholders fully cooperate with the incumbent government. Replying to a question about the achievement of the last operations, he said that in the Army Public School (APS) tragic incident, the then prime minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif, called a meeting of all political parties to formulate a National Action Plan (NAP) to launch the action against the miscreants and terrorists, he added. After the NAP implementation and political support, the valiant Pak Jawans, law enforcement agencies, security institutions and civil organizations had made tremendous success in war against terrorism, he said.

## Gaza emergency services chief killed

GAZA: The Palestinian health ministry has said that Hani al-Jafarawi, director of its ambulance and emergency services in Gaza, was martyred last night following an Israeli airstrike on al-Daraj Clinic in Gaza City. In a statement on Monday, the health ministry mourned Jafarawi, saying he and his fellow ambulance workers were an exemplary model of steadfastness, determination and sacrifice and performed their humanitarian role to the fullest in evacuating casualties around the clock despite Israeli attacks. The health ministry in Gaza said it would continue to assume its medical and humanitarian duty despite the systematic Israeli targeting and direct killing of its cadres, pointing out that the Israeli occupation army had killed 500 health personnel so far and kidnaped more than 310 others. The health ministry appealed to the international community and UN and human rights institutions to work on ending the Israeli aggression against Gaza and protecting its health system and workers. Civil defense and medical crews recovered last night the bodies of two martyrs, including Jafarawi, and a number of wounded civilians after an Israeli warplane bombed al-Daraj Clinic in Gaza City. Meanwhile, The Hamas Movement has affirmed that the Israeli occupation army's bombing of the UNRWA headquarters in Gaza City today is a double crime against the Palestinian people and UN institutions. "The criminal occupation army's claim that the headquarters is used for military purposes is a blatant lie concealing the true intents of this fascist government

towards UNRWA," Hamas said in a statement on Monday. Hamas accused the Israeli army of carrying out an artillery attack near the Red Cross headquarters in Rafah yesterday, claiming the lives of over 20 displaced civilians. The Movement affirmed that the Israeli army's persistence in targeting civilian objects reflects insistence on committing genocidal crimes, destroying all aspects of life in Gaza and flouting international calls for a halt to its military aggression. It called on the international community and the UN to condemn such serious crimes and take action to hold Israeli leaders accountable for the genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. In a related context, UNRWA said on Sunday that the ongoing Israeli military operations in Gaza Strip have prevented some 39,000 high school students from taking their final exams, describing the educational process in Gaza as "horrific and sad." As the war drags on for over eight months, more than 500,000 Palestinian students have also been forced to leave schools, according to UNRWA director of planning Sam Rose. UNRWA runs 300 schools in the Gaza Strip, but two thirds were destroyed by the Israeli army. The ones that have survived Israeli attacks now serve as temporary shelters for displaced families - a situation that prevents the agency from initiating educational activities. According to UNRWA last Friday, over 76 percent of Gaza schools need rebuilding or large-scale repairs to become functional again.

## Russia blames US for Crimea deaths and vows response

Russia's defence ministry said the missiles used by Ukraine were US-supplied ATACMS missiles, and claimed they were programmed by US specialists

#### NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russia has blamed the US and vowed "consequences" for a Ukrainian missile strike on Sevastopol in occupied Crimea on Sunday, which officials say killed four people - including two children. Around 150 more were injured in the attack as missile debris fell on a beach nearby. Russia's defence ministry said the missiles used by Ukraine were US-supplied ATACMS missiles, and claimed they were programmed by US specialists. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the strike "barbaric" and accused the US of "killing Russian children". He pointed towards comments by President Vladimir Putin, who recently vowed to target countries supplying weapons to Ukraine. Moscow said Sunday's deaths and injuries were caused by falling debris, after its air defences in Crimea intercepted five missiles loaded with cluster warheads launched by Ukrainian forces. Footage carried on Russian state TV showed chaos on the beach in the

Uchkuyevka area, as people ran from the falling debris and some injured people were carried away on sun loungers. Russia's defence ministry claimed on Sunday that all ATACMS missiles are programmed by US specialists and guided by American satellites. The US has been supplying ATACMS missiles to Ukraine for over a year. The system allows Ukrainian forces to strike targets up to 300km (186 miles) away, according to manufacturer Lockheed Martin. Moscow illegally annexed Crimea in 2014 and just a handful of countries recognise the peninsula as Russian territory. It therefore does not fall under the US demands that Ukraine refrain from using Washington-supplied weapons to strike Russian territory. But Mr Peskov told reporters in Moscow on Monday that the "involvement of the United States, the direct involvement, as a result of which Russian civilians are killed, cannot be without consequences". "Time will tell what these will be," he added. The Russian foreign ministry summoned the US Ambassador Lynne Tracy on Monday, before issuing a statement accusing the US of involvement in an "atrocious" and vowing it would "not go unpunished". Moscow has repeatedly threatened to target countries supplying weapons to Ukraine, claiming that they are legitimate military targets. "We see very well who is behind this," Mr Peskov told reporters on Monday. "[Mr Putin] just last week talked about who is aiming these absolutely technologically complex missiles at targets, who is providing these launches. These are not Ukrainians." Earlier this month, Mr Putin renewed the threat during a meeting with international news agencies.

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