



Islamabad POST

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'Gaza's humanitarian catastrophe is seriously undermining int'l law

Detailed News On Page-07

Fazl reiterates demand for fresh election

Detailed News On Page-08



Aaqib warns SL ahead of Nepal clash

Detailed News On Page-06



Pak Digital Authority approved Cabinet expansion after budget: PM High-level Chinese delegation to soon visit Pakistan, says Prime Minister

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday principally approved the Digital Nation Pakistan Act 2024 providing for the establishment of the National Digital Commission and Pakistan Digital Authority besides ensuring digitization of national economy and paperless governance. The cabinet which met under the chair of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, asked the law ministry to carry out the required review of the Act, which also aimed at digitizing the services sector in accordance with international standards. Under the Act, the National Digital Commission would act as a policymaking organisation, to be headed by the prime minister and comprising federal and provincial members. Moreover, a Pakistan Digital Authority would be established to achieve the objectives of Digital Pakistan. Being a corporate entity, the Authority would have financial and administrative autonomy. The Federal cabinet is also being expanded after the budget. In this regard Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with President Zardari and discussed possible expansion in the Cabinet. The PML N is under huge pressure even from within to take PPP also on board. The PM while speaking during the cabinet meeting said, that B2B meetings were held between the businessmen and investors of Pakistan and China at the Pakistan-China Business Forum in Shenzhen. Prime Minister Shehbaz said the government would send around 1,000 youngsters to China for professional training in innovations and technology in the agriculture sector. Moreover, Huawei would also annually train 200,000 Pakistani youngsters in different fields of information technology, he added. The federal cabinet approved the appointment of members of the National School for Public Policy from both the public and private education sectors. On the recommendation of the human rights ministry, a cabinet committee was constituted to initiate the appointment of a member from Islamabad in the National Commission for Human Rights. The meeting principally approved The Arbitration Bill 2024 and relevant consultation with the provinces under Article 144 of

Continued on Page 06

Economic survey 2023-24

Country runs on taxes, not charity: Fin Min

"There are no sacred cows, everyone will have to contribute to economy," says Aurangzeb while presenting economic survey

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said Tuesday that nations run on taxes, not charity as Pakistan recorded a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 2.38%, up from the envisaged target of 2%. "There are no sacred cows, everyone will have to contribute to this economy. Because schools, hospitals, and universities can run through philanthropy, but not countries, they run on taxes," he told journalists. FinMin Aurangzeb's remarks came as he unveiled the Economic Survey 2023-24, a pre-budget document containing the details of macro economic indicators during the outgoing fiscal year. For the incoming year, he said the government would manage the policies in the same pattern that it did in the outgoing year, as there would be rollovers and borrowing from commercial banks. "[...] we are entering the year, on the external financial side, on a much stronger note than we were at the beginning of the last year. Repayments will not be a

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DAY OF RUSSIA CELEBRATED



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Mussadaq Masood Malik, Ambassador of the Russian Federation Albert Khorev, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov and others cutting cake to celebrate the Day of Russia. DNA

11 terrorists in Lakki Marwat IBO

Troops effectively engage terrorists' location and bust multiple terrorist hideouts

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: At least 11 terrorists, involved in the martyrdom of seven army men, have been killed during an intelligence-based operation in the Lakki Marwat district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Tuesday. In a statement, the military's media wing said that the IBO was carried out in response to the recent Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion that claimed the lives of seven brave soldiers to bring the perpetrators of the heinous act to justice. The martyred soldiers included Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas and

Continued on Page 06

Barrister Gohar says Imran Khan gives green signal for talks with govt

PTI founder says avenues of dialogue should be opened, says PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar said Tuesday party's founder Imran Khan has given a green signal for talks with the government. "We told the PTI founder that dialogue is necessary, as the distance is widening. He agreed with us [on this]," said Gohar, when speaking with journalists outside the Adiala jail. According to Gohar, Khan wants the avenues of dialogue to be opened. He told journalists that Khan is ready to forgive what has happened to him for reconciliation. "PTI founder has said many times that 'I am ready to forgive what happened to me'," said the PTI chairman. When asked if the negotiations will take place at the behest of the Supreme Court's advice, Barrister Gohar said: "The option given by the

Continued on Page 06

Imran Khan lashes out at Naqvi over 'surgery' remarks

Ex-PM alleges efforts are being made to silence him and cover up election rigging

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Monday called for action against Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, urging him to 'undergo surgery'

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan beat Canada in T20 WC match

Pak scales 107 runs target while 7 wickets to spare

NEW YORK: Pakistan defeated Canada by 7 wickets in its third match in the T20 World Cup. Pakistan needed 107 runs to emerge victorious in the must-win T20 World Cup 2024 clash against Canada being played at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, on Tuesday. Pakistan chased the target while seven wickets still in hand. Mohammad Rizwan scored half century. Youngster Saim Ayub replaced skipper Babar Azam as the opener alongside Mohammad Rizwan as the Men in Green began the run chase. Earlier, Babar had decided to bowl first after winning the toss in the 22nd match of the mega-tournament, which is also a do-or-die match for the national side. Pakistan squad drew first blood against the opponents as Mohammad Amir bowled Canadian opener Navneet Dhaliwal (4) out in the third over. The bowlers picked up wickets quickly after the first dismissal, as Shaheen Shah Afridi, who couldn't take his first over wicket, made progress when Pragat Singh (2) was caught and bowled in the fifth over. -DNA

India wants to solve issues with Pakistan

On ties with China, Jaishankar said India will focus on finding solutions to the border issues

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar on Tuesday said his country wanted to "find a solution to the issue of years-old cross-border terrorism" with Pakistan. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in on Sunday for a record-equaling third term at a grand

Continued on Page 06

Gaza aid conference

Pak calls for arms embargo on Israel

At least 37,164 Palestinians have been killed and 84,832 have been injured in the Israeli military offensive on Gaza since Oct. 7

NEWS DESK

AMMAN: Pakistan has proposed to prepare a comprehensive plan for the reconstruction of Gaza and expressed its readiness to be partner in the reconstruction of the educational institutions in Gaza. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar forwarded this proposal, while addressing the High-Level Conference on Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza in Jordan today.

PICTURE ON PAGE 6

He said we must work to implement the two state solutions which has been endorsed by the Security Council resolution. He said we strongly oppose any demographic or territorial change in Gaza. The Minister said it is time to secure the immediate admission of the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations, which will ensure the irreversibility of the two-State solution,

Continued on Page 06

Hamas accepts UN ceasefire resolution

But the Palestinian resistance group, which is locked in fierce fighting with Israeli military in Gaza, insisted its demands be met

AGENCIES

CAIRO: Hamas accepts a UN Security Council ceasefire resolution and is ready to negotiate over the details, senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters on Tuesday, adding that it was up to Washington to ensure that Israel abides by it. Hamas accepts the UN security council resolution in regard to the ceasefire, withdrawal of Israeli troops and swap of hostages for detainees held by Israel, he said.

Continued on Page 06

President, PM discuss public relief in Budget

President Zardari emphasised that the interests of the low income and middle class should be protected in the annual budget



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday met with President Asif Ali Zardari where they discussed the

country's overall economic situation with a particular focus on extending relief to the people in the upcoming annual budget 2024-25. Federal Minister for Planning and

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Sarim Burney's bail petition rejected

'More evidence is to be collected against the suspect'

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: A local Court on Tuesday rejected the bail petition of a social worker Sarim Burney in the human trafficking case. The Judicial Magistrate (East) Khaliq u Zaman after hearing arguments of both sides, rejected the bail plea of the social worker who runs Sarim Burney Welfare Trust International, a non-profitable entity. During the hearing of the case, the FIA's prosecutor told the court that more evidence is to be collected against the suspect. "If the suspect is granted bail, it may affect the investigation," the FIA counsel said.

Government announces Eid holidays

Govt has approved a three-day holiday on the occasion of Eid ul Adha

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Division has sent a summary on Tuesday to the Prime Minister's Secretariat proposing the Eidul Adha holidays. Sources say that the federal government has approved a three-day holiday on the occasion of Eidul Adha from June 17 to 19. PM Shehbaz Sharif has approved the summary forwarded by the Cabinet Division, they say. Pakistan will celebrate Eid ul Adha on June 17 after the Zil Hajj moon was sighted on June 7. Eidul Adha, also known as the Feast of Sacrifice, is one of two Eid festivals celebrated by the Muslim faithful to commemorate Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to God.

JUNE 2024

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Pak, Sri Lanka discuss enhanced defence coop

During the discussion both highlighted the longstanding friendly relationship between two countries and paid attention to enhancing defence cooperation

ISLAMABAD : The High Commissioner of the Sri Lanka to Pakistan H.E. Admiral Ravindra C. Wijegunaratne paid a courtesy call on Defence Secretary of Pakistan Lt Gen (Retired) Hamood uz Zaman Khan

HI (M) on 11 June 2024. Lt Gen Hamood uz Zaman Khan HI (M) warmly received the Sri Lankan envoy upon his arrival at the Ministry of Defence in Rawalpindi. During the discussion both highlighted the longstanding friendly relationship between two countries and paid attention to enhancing defence cooperation,

training opportunities including matters discussed at the last Defence Dialogues held at Colombo on January 2024. Defence Attache of the Sri Lanka High Commission Brigadier Kaminda Silva and additional secretaries from the Ministry of Defence Pakistan were also present at the occasion.



ISLAMABAD : Australian High Commissioner H.E. Neil Hawkins called on PM's Coordinator on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam at her office.—DNA

Pak-Australia agreed to collaborate on water security

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : PM's Coordinator on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination met with Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins here on Tuesday and discussed range of bilateral issues of mutual interest including COP-29, water security, forest fires, climate resilience community, GLOFIII and Climate Change Authority. Both sides agreed to closely collaborate on water security and agriculture. The Australian side would provide technical assistance to Pakistan for water security management, a news release said. The PM's Coordinator underscored, water security is Pakistan's most critical development challenge and sustainable management of water is indispensable for sustainable development. Keeping the significance of water in view, she is working on GLOFIII project in Pakistan which will at one hand reduce the risks of floods in northern areas while on the other hand provide huge reservoirs of water to be used by water scarce districts, she added. H.E. Neil Hawkins while reiterating his resolve of close collaboration with Pakistan, stated that the Australian Government's main focus in Pakistan was to work on climate change and gender.

Pakistan faces significant challenge of forced labour

In 2023, over 860,000 Pakistanis embarked on journeys abroad in search of employment opportunities, marking the highest number recorded since 2015

ABID RAZA

LAHORE : Pakistan faces a significant challenge of forced labour, with over 3 million people affected, placing the country among those with the highest numbers globally. According to the latest data from the International Labour Organization (ILO), global profits from forced labor amount to approximately \$236 billion, with Europe being the top beneficiary. In 2023, over 860,000 Pakistanis embarked on journeys abroad in search of employment opportunities, marking the highest number recorded since 2015. The majority went to Gulf countries, with Saudi Arabia being the largest destination for migrant workers from Pakistan. In 2022, migrant Pakistanis sent about \$30 billion in remittances, constituting 10 percent of Pakistan's total GDP. These issues were discussed at a two-day training workshop

for journalists on forced labor and fair recruitment, organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the US Department of Labour (US-DOL). The workshop held, at a local hotel in Lahore, under the auspices of the BRIDGE project, an initiative focused on eliminating forced labor and promoting fair labour practices. The training is aimed to equip journalists with the knowledge and skills to report effectively on forced labor and fair recruitment issues, highlighting the vital role of media in covering these topics. In his opening remarks, National Project Coordinator for the ILO, Faisal Iqbal, emphasized the aim and role of "The Bridge Project" and the importance of accurate reporting on forced labor. He outlined key indicators of forced labor, including abuse of authority, deception, movement restrictions, isolation, physical and sexual violence, wage retention, debt bondage, abusive working and living conditions, and excessive overtime. Faisal provided an overview of forced labor and fair recruitment, detailing the ILO's Bridge Project, its areas of intervention, and the roles of key actors in addressing forced labor in Pakistan. Faisal also highlighted the prevalence of child and forced labor in brick kilns and mines, calling on civil society to play its part in combating these issues. Senior journalist and trainer Aoun Sahi underscored the media's role in reporting on forced labor. He discussed the importance of understanding the story, common terminology, and the roles of various stakeholders, including trade unions, civil society, academia, and the media, in promoting fair recruitment. The media shapes public opinion and influences perceptions, prioritizing certain issues and shaping public opinion through framing.

Court Notice

In the court of Muhammad Naeem Watoo Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Misbah Asghar. Versus Fazal ur Raheem etc. Notice to: Fazal ul Raheem S/o. Muhammad Yaqoob Khan (Muhammad Asghar) R/o. House No. B-17/916 Mohallah Faiz Abad Gujrat. Presently Residing Ghazni (Afghanistan) Suit for Declaration with consequential relief Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 21-06-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

In the court of Medum Nabila Zaheer Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Muhammad Sadeeq Late etc. Versus Nida Khalid etc. Notice to: 6D- Muhammad Yousaf, 6E Muhammad Shukat, 6F Muhammad Asjad, 6H Muhammad Amjid Sons Ghulam Rasool Late cast Jtt Warraich R/o. Kulachoor Tehsil & District Gujrat. Suit for Permanent Injection Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 14-07-2024, otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Modern tech, practices vital for crop protection

PESHAWAR : The speakers at an awareness seminar here at University of Agriculture Peshawar, on Tuesday stressed on use of cutting-edge-agricultural technology and modern practices to safeguard crops against seasonal impacts and diseases. They suggested that the gardeners should take precautions to protect fruiting plants from severe weather effects and various diseases while farmers should periodically contact agronomists to avoid damage to crops. The Department of Plant Pathology at the university held a seminar titled "Cryptic Endoparasitic Nematode Species Associated With Citrus, Tomato, Cucumber and Their Management Through a Novel Systematic Nemat-

icide Vaniva 450 SC". Dr Ishrat Naz who had completed two research projects, "Citrus Nematode Control" and "Detection of Seedborne and Soilborne Pathogens Associated with Wheat Crop Across Different Divisions of Pakistan," funded by Syngenta Pakistan Limited said on the occasion that the projects focused on controlling nematodes affecting various crops and raised awareness about the management of these pests among farmers. She highlighted the introduction of a new nematocide, Vaniva 450 SC, by her and said that dual-action systemic product has proven efficacy against nematodes and pathogenic fungi in soil and plant roots without adverse effects on crop yield or soil microflora. Dr

Ishrat Naz's research and field trials demonstrated its effectiveness in lemon orchards and tomato and cucumber fields, enhancing crop productivity without compromising soil health. Speaking on the occasion the Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Jahan Bakht praised Dr Ishrat Naz's dedication and emphasized the importance of adopting modern agricultural technologies and practices to increase the crop and fruits' productions. Syngenta chief Muhammad Tauseef Ul Haq appreciated the dedication and devotion of the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Agriculture Peshawar and Dr Syed Sartaj Alam of Mycology, Dr Ishrat Naz of Nematology and Dr Asad Ali of Virology.

Senate Chairman, British envoy discuss bilateral ties

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani highlighted the importance of increasing partnership between the two countries in the fields of health, education, and technology

DNA

ISLAMABAD : British High Commissioner Jane Marriot called on Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in Islamabad today. The discussions covered wide range of issues of mutual interest, including bilateral relations, trade, investment, and parliamentary cooperation. The British High Commissioner congratulated Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on his election

as Chairman Senate and extended her best wishes for his tenure. Welcoming the British High Commissioner, the Chairman Senate emphasized the longstanding cordial relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. He further expressed gratitude for Britain's support during challenging times and its various welfare initiatives. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani highlighted the importance of increasing partnership between the

two countries in the fields of health, education, and technology. Highlighting the significance of parliamentary cooperation, the Chairman Senate observed that collaboration at international fora reflects that both countries attach high importance to their mutual relations. The Chairman Senate emphasized the significance of people to people contacts and called for augmenting ties in educational and cultural exchanges. He also

underscored the need for enhanced exchanges at parliamentary level. The British High Commissioner acknowledged the significant role of the Pakistani diaspora in England in cementing relations between the two countries. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani extended his good wishes to the High Commissioner and expressed admiration for her appreciation of Pakistan's hospitality and socio-cultural diversity.

Minister for expanding e-learning 'POHA' programme

Education Minister said that program had fully digitized the attendance of students and teachers, online classes, and the entire teaching process

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR : Provincial Minister for Education Faisal Khan Tarakai has lauded the Elementary and Secondary Education Foundation's e-learning programme-"POHA", directing the officials concerned to expand it to all districts of the province. He said that Participatory Online and Home Learning Alternative (POHA) programme had been made in line with requirements of the modern age and yielding concrete results. Chairing the review meeting of the Elementary and Secondary Education Foundation, the minister

directed the Foundation's officials to expand this program to all districts and introduce further reforms in the system to provide more facilities to students. He said that program had fully digitized the attendance of students and teachers, online classes, and the entire teaching process. successfully meeting the requirements of the modern age. He said it had provided the students with access to online lectures besides putting the examination system online. The meeting was attended by Managing Director Ata-ur-Rehman, Deputy Managing Director Javed Iqbal, Deputy Director of E-Govern-

ance Noor Sher Afridi, and other officials. He emphasized the need for offline teaching facilities in areas where internet access was unavailable to ensure the continuity of education for them besides establishing 'Poha' centers in each district. During the meeting, the Minister was informed that the Foundation has a total of 276,900 students and 3,576 centers, with 5,705 teaching staff. Under the Education Support Program, 7,191 students have enrolled in 55 partner schools. Under the New School Programme, partner schools were provided fees of Rs10,000 per student at the primary

level, Rs1,500 at the middle level, Rs2,500 at the high level, and Rs 3,500 at the higher secondary level. Moreover, the education minister appreciated the foundation's enrollment campaign, stating that their top priority was to provide free quality education to students. He directed that practical steps be taken for out of school students in the settled districts and that a comprehensive proposal be presented at the next meeting. He said that issues related to teachers' salaries are being resolved, and arrears would be released as soon as possible.

First Shipment of Cherry from Pak reached China

By leveraging these specialized reefers, NLC aims to empower orchard owners in Gilgit-Baltistan to secure a fair share in the lucrative Chinese market

GILGIT : The National Logistics Corporation (NLC) has commenced the transportation of cherries to China, successfully delivering the first cargo truck carrying cherries to the neighboring country, the NLC announced. To ensure the cherries' freshness throughout the journey, specialized refrigerated containers were used. "The first truck of NLC carrying 6 tons of cherries

successfully reached China via the Khunjerab Pass, and another truck is scheduled to depart from Gilgit-Baltistan next week," stated the NLC. The truck took just three days to complete the journey, Gwadar Pro reported. The NLC has been instrumental in assisting its local partner in establishing an international-standard processing plant. This facility meets global quarantine standards and is fully equipped to

process, sort, and package high-quality cherries. Following the successful delivery of the initial consignment, NLC plans to undertake regular shipments of cherries to several Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Huizhou. By leveraging these specialized reefers, NLC aims to empower orchard owners in Gilgit-Baltistan to secure a fair share in the lucrative Chinese market.—APP

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY, ISLAMABAD
PREQUALIFICATION OF STN, NTN REGISTERED FIRMS
This office intends to invites sealed technical bids from the companies/ firms who have established their state of the art workshops in Islamabad with dexterous manpower, for repair/ maintenance in the object code A13101-Machinery & Equipment, A13301-Office Building A03955-Computer Stationery & A13201-Furniture & Fixture for the financial year 2024-25.(Extendable)
1. Interested firms/ companies/ workshop should submit their profile for pre-qualification latest by 28-06-2024 till 10:30 PM.
2. Interested firms may obtain terms and condition from the undersigned office.
3. All the sealed profile/ technical bids for pre-qualification will be opened in this office in the presence of representative of the participating firms on 28 June, 2024 till 11:30 PM.
4. Office of the Deputy Commissioner, ICT Islamabad has the right to accept or reject any or all bids prior to acceptance as per PPRA's Rules 2004.
(MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH MAHMOOD) ADDL. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (G) / NAZARAT OFFICER ICT, ISLAMABAD

کورت نوٹس
بجاءت جناب عمران اکرم صاحب سول جج
راولپنڈی ریفرمی اسٹراٹجی بائٹ وراثت نامہ
مشافقی تین سہ ماہی ولد ملہ نظام حیدر خان ساکن
مکان نمبر 9 3 محلہ شکرئی ویلازہ، چنگلہ سکیم
3 راولپنڈی نام خواجہ انیس اشیتار نام خواجہ
انیس امیر شاہ صاحب سول جج بالا نام خواجہ انیس کی
قبیل عام طریقے سے ممکن ہے سول جج راولپنڈی
کوڈ ریفرمی اسٹراٹجی بائٹ نامہ کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی
کو کوئی طرز اعتراض ہو تو وہ
مورخہ 12.06.2024 کو اساتذہ کرام کو
پڑھ لیکھ کار حاضر عدالت آئے بصورت دیگر
یکٹریفکڈ روڈی میں لائے جانے کی اور کوئی طرز
قبیل قبول نہ ہوگا۔ بجاءت ہر عدالت

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

Water filtration plant in Super Market inaugurated

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that he is in contact with Chairman CDA to determine new routes of the public transport which will not only be beneficial for the public but will greatly help to connect all the markets of the city

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the water filtration plant of supermarket was dysfunctional for the last three years and when we initiated the task of installation of new water filtration plants in different markets of Islamabad, we also made it functional that's why today the traders as well as the residents of F-6 are deriving its benefit, adding that very soon a huge water cooler will also be installed alongside the plant. He said this while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the water filtration plant organized by the Traders Welfare Association Super market. He added that we are serving the community sincerely and devotedly which will continue even after the completion of my tenure as President ICCI. He went on to say that those who are propagating that after September 30, I shall be nowhere must know that this noble cause will continue successively. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari further said that he is in contact with Chairman CDA to determine new routes of the public transport which will not only be beneficial for the public but will greatly help to connect all the markets of the city. President TWA Super Market Shahzad Shabbir Abbasi pledged unwavering support to



Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for the cause of the community by saying that the respect and honour bestowed to traders community in the era of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari is really praiseworthy. President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran Ajmal Baloch said that provision of clean drinking water to masses is of significant importance and the financier will surely be rewarded by Allah Almighty. President Blue Area

TWA, Raja Hassan Akhtar while emphasizing trader's unity, re-affirmed community's support to ICCI by saying that initial work for the installation of a water filtration plant in Blue area has also been commenced. In his address Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari while describing the Supermarket as the pride of Pakistan said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry will leave no stone

turned to further enhance its business friendly atmosphere by up gradation of all the necessary facilities including the parking lot, security, cleanliness etc. General Secretary TWA I-8 markaz Zahid Qureshi expressed gratitude to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for the gift of CCTV cameras for the I-8 markaz which has greatly contributed in curbing the crimes by saying that the patronage being provided to the traders of Islamabad by ICCI is a

unique and commendable. General Secretary, Jinnah Super market, Abdur Rehman Siddiqui spoke at length about the ongoing welfare projects for the betterment of the community. President Jinnah Super market Asad Aziz, Group leader Blue Area Yousuf Rajput, Raja Fayyaz Gul, Chaudhry Nasir Mahmood, and Khalid Chaudhry, Imtiaz Abbasi, Malik Shabbir, Shaikh Abdul Waheed and others were also present.

Eliminating child labour essential: NA speaker

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday said that eliminating child labour is a key to ensure the bright future of children. "Children are the future of this country and no one can be allowed to deprive them of their potential, dignity and rights. Parliament of Pakistan is committed to eradicate child labour," the speaker said in a message on 'World Day Against Child Labour'. The Speaker said that child labour is a serious social challenge and it is hurting the physical, mental and emotional growth of millions of children globally, who are unfortunately involved in the child labour. He further, emphasized the need for enhanced investment in education, social protection programs, and child protective services said a news release. He also stressed the importance of raising awareness about the issue and engaging civil society, parents, children, and the larger public to eliminate child labour along with all its forms once and for all. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq commended the efforts of all stakeholders working tirelessly to combat child labour and to promote children's rights. He urged all stakeholders to continue their efforts and work in consensus to eradicate child labour. On this occasion, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Mir Gulam Mustafa Shah said that child labour is a serious social issue that needs to be addressed urgently. —APP

SC orders closures of all eateries in national park

The chief justice observed that there is no military-owned land; the land belongs to the government of Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the closure of all the eateries in the Margalla Hills National Park (MHPN) including Monal Restaurant in Islamabad. The directives came in response to a March 11 court order in which it had sought the complete record of the land ownership of the restaurant. A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, heard the petitions filed by Monal Restaurant, es-

tablished in the Margalla Hills, as well as the Wildlife Department.

Earlier on March 8, the apex court ordered the de-sealing of the eatery after suspending the Islamabad High Court (IHC) verdict. The court had asked the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to furnish original records about the 8,600 acres of the MHPN land. The additional attorney general had informed the court that the Military Estate Office claims the land as military-owned. However, the chief justice observed that there is no military-owned land; the

land belongs to the government of Pakistan. He said that a simple question has been asked whether it is owned by the CDA or by someone else. During the hearing, the top court summoned the CDA chairman on an immediate basis while rejecting the report submitted by the regulator. CJP Isa said that the court had sought the details of Monal and other restaurants from the CDA. At this, a CDA lawyer said that they have provided a report which contains all the details of all constructions in Margalla Hills National Park. The CJP said that a sports club, Pak-China Friendship Centre

and Arts Council National Monument are also included in the CDA report. "Is this the CDA's honesty?" questioned the chief justice, asking whether the SC building also falls under the jurisdiction of the national park. The lawyer said that he would have to look at the map to answer this question. "The world knows how many restaurants there are besides Monal except the CDA," CJP Isa remarked, questioning whether the CDA's office is also located in the national park. He questioned how many times the Margalla Hills have caught fire, to this, the CDA

chairman said 21 times this season. The Supreme Court then also directed all other restaurants in the National Park including Monal to relocate within the three-month period. In its remarks, the court said that its aim is to ensure the protection of the National Park. It added that apart from National Park, the unnecessary notices issued to all other restaurants are terminated. The court said that it is only focusing on the National Park. "All the leases granted to restaurants located in National Park are declared null and void," said the court.

IFA destroys 2000 liter contaminated milk in G-11

She urged the community to support efforts against food adulteration to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) on Tuesday launched a major crackdown in the G-11 area of the Federal Capital, targeting the sale of low quality milk. In an operation, the IFA destroyed 2000 liter contaminated milk being sold to the people of the area. Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of IFA, Dr Tahira Siddique said that the teams inspected various vehicles and shops to ensure compliance with health standards. During the raid, officials tested 15,000 liters of milk. Disturbingly, 2,000 liters were found contaminated and substandard. The IFA team also imposed fine to the milk selling shops. Dr. Tahira Siddique, emphasized the importance of public health and stated that any negligence in this area would not be tolerated. She reiterated the IFA's dedication to fostering a healthy environment for the citizens of the federal capital. She urged the community to support efforts against food adulteration to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents. —APP

RCB offers a 10% discount on tax deposit in June

He also thanked the bank administration for their full support, and also requested that the citizens might not face any problem in depositing their dues

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board announced a 10% tax rebate. Tax bills including property and other taxes have been distributed among the payers by the RCB officials. According to the details, the 10% discount on the payment of T-tax and other taxes can be availed by depositing the taxes by 30th June 2024. The Secretary RCB Rasheed Saqib informed that the tax vouchers were also available in RCB offices in case anyone didn't receive. He urged the public to fulfill their national duty and enjoy the advantage of the opportunity so that they could be provided better facilities on the part of RCB. He informed that the National Bank Booth placed in the RCB branch would remain open on Saturdays 22nd and 29th June 2024 from 9:00am to 12:30 pm. He also thanked the bank administration for their full support, and also requested that the citizens might not face any problem in depositing their dues. He also said that the revenue staff would be present in the offices for proper guidance. —



ISLAMABAD: A person bathing under tanker during scorching hot weather at Zia Masjid. APP

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Briefs

Pre Hajj operation successfully completed

ISLAMABAD: The pre-Hajj operation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was successfully completed on Monday night with the last flight departing from Karachi to Jeddah. PIA spokesperson informed that 35,030 Hajj pilgrims were sent to Hijaz through 171 flights. He said that through these flights, about 19,500 pilgrims under the government scheme, 14,900 private scheme, and 630 Khudam-ul-Hujaj left for Medina and Jeddah. PIA's pre-Hajj operation began on May 9 and continued till June 11, the spokesperson added. Pre-hajj flights departed directly from Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Sialkot, and Peshawar, the spokesperson said. He said that pilgrims from Sukkur and Quetta traveled to Jeddah via Karachi. Out of the 171 flights, 126 departed shortly before time while 45 flights were delayed due to bad weather and operational reasons, the spokesman added. He said that the Chief Executive Officer of PIA congratulated the relevant teams for completing the pre-Hajj operation. He said the post-Hajj operation of PIA will start on June 20 and will continue till July 21, 2024.—APP

IRSA releases 295,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 295,100 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 197,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1452.71 feet and was 54.71 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 72,100 cusecs and 140,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1186.05 feet, which was 136.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 40,700 cusecs and 70,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu, and Sukkur was recorded as 178,000, 150,800, 118,700, and 69,500 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 51,800 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 5,000 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

Governor Punjab honors Dubai-based Pakistani journalist

ISLAMABAD: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan presented the Best Journalist Award to Syed Mudassar Khushnood, a prominent Pakistani journalist based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), at a prestigious ceremony organized by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Gulf and the Middle East in Dubai. On this occasion, PPP Gulf and Middle East President Mian Munir Hans praised Syed Mudassar Khushnood, emphasizing that he is recognized as the number one journalist in the United Arab Emirates, particularly in Dubai. His extraordinary services have brought immense pride to Pakistani journalists in the UAE. The award, presented personally by the Governor of Punjab, recognizes Syed Mudassar Khushnood's role as an important bridge between the UAE and Pakistan. Syed Mudassar Khushnood has been honored with numerous awards in the past, cementing his reputation as the best journalist in the UAE, including the region. Syed Mudassar Khushnood is the first Pakistani journalist in the UAE to receive a 10-year golden visa and the highest immigration award from the UAE government. His services in promoting the positive image of Pakistan and serving the Pakistani community in the Emirates have been widely recognized. Speaking at the event, PPP Middle East and Gulf President Mian Munir Hans reiterated that Syed Mudassar Khushnood is ranked first among the top ten journalists in the UAE.—APP

ISSI hosts launch of Faruqui's book titled "Dear Mr. Jinnah"

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted Mr. Salman Faruqui's illustrious career and his valuable contributions

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: ISSI hosted the launch ceremony of Mr. Salman Faruqui's book, "Dear Mr. Jinnah: 70 Years In The Life Of A Pakistani Civil Servant." The memoir "Dear Mr. Jinnah" blends Mr. Faruqui's personal reminiscences with first-hand accounts of developments in Pakistan in different domains from 1947 to 2017. During his long and distinguished career, Mr. Salman Faruqui served in top civil service positions, including as Federal Secretary, Ambassador At Large, Secretary General to the President, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, and Federal Ombudsman. The discussants and reviewers for the book launch included: Senator Mushahid Hussain; Mrs. Ameena Saiyid, Managing Director Lightstone Publishers; eminent civil servants Mr. Shakil Durrani and Mr. Ejaz Rahim; former Senator Farhatullah Babar; and prominent journalist Ms. Nasim Zehra. In his welcome remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted Mr. Salman Faruqui's illustrious career and his valuable contributions. In his view, three aspects stood out about Mr. Salman Faruqui: his immense professional competence,



humility, and wisdom. These attributes were remarkable features for a person whose career had seen tremendous heights and who had spent much time in close proximity to absolute power. In his reckoning, there were many lessons for others

in Mr. Faruqui's life and career. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood added that Mr. Faruqui's letter to the father of the nation (contained in the book) is extraordinary in many respects, as it underscores his unshakable belief in the Quaid's vision

of a democratic and progressive Pakistan. He pointed out that the book is neither a history of Pakistan nor a book of revelations about power politics by an insider. Rather, as aptly described by the author himself, it is a "memoir of governance con-

ducted at the edge of a precipice" and the account is rendered, in author's own reckoning, with "clinical objectivity." He stressed that the author is not a prophet of doom, but a messenger of hope. He expressed the hope that most people, particularly the youth, would benefit from the experience and wisdom encapsulated in the book. Mrs. Ameena Saiyid described "Dear Mr. Jinnah" as an outstanding and gripping memoir that showcases the author's triumphs, struggles, and successes, as well as fascinating anecdotes. Mrs. Saiyid advised that the book is particularly relevant for two groups: students and Pakistanis who struggle to make ends meet. She concluded by proposing that the duty on paper be reduced or waived, making books more accessible and readable for a wider audience. Senator Mushahid Hussain commenced his remarks by crediting Mrs. Ameena Saiyid for promoting a strong culture of writing and reading, of which Mr. Salman Faruqui's book represents an esteemed example. Senator Mushahid Hussain termed Mr. Faruqui as a "doer, who delivers," someone who served with great distinction throughout his long career in public service.

Govt to begin crackdown on sale of smuggled fuel

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Explosives has decided to eradicate the menace of mushrooming illegal fuel sale points through a nationwide operation. These sale points sell smuggled fuel without any safety precautions and fear of the law, posing a grave threat to the lives and property of the masses, said DG of the Explosives Department Abdul Ali Khan. Talking to a delegation of the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA), he said that these nozzles are now openly operating on every street and neighborhood in all the small and large towns and even in major cities across Pakistan. Dozens of such shops and cabins catch fire frequently and have killed many. The growing number of nozzles installed in shops and roadside cabins has endangered legal business. Abdul Ali Khan added that these legal businesses pay billions in taxes and employ hundreds of thousands of people. He stated that Deputy Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners, District Commissioners, District Police Officers, DSPs, and SHOs will have the legal authority and responsibility to take action. DG made it clear that non-compliant officers will have to face the consequences as per already stated and very clear law. Later, PPDA leaders Hassan Shah, Nadeem Aziz Khan, Amjad Shinwari, and others met with Chairman OGRA and DG Petroleum, who assured all-out cooperation in eliminating the menace.

BMP suggests significant cut in monetary policy rate

He stressed the urgent need for the government to freeze both domestic and foreign borrowing and to devise a comprehensive strategy to showcase Pakistan's economic potential to international investors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has urged the central bank to implement a substantial reduction in the monetary policy rate, terming the current meager reduction in key policy rate as very depressing disappointing for the trade and industry. Addressing a delegation of various trade and industrial associations, FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar emphasized that the State Bank's stringent monetary policy has adversely affected the national economy for several years. The FPCCI former president said that the slash in discount rate announced on Monday was not enough to compete the regional countries, since the businessmen, was expecting a huge reduction in the monetary policy rate in line with the neighboring countries in view of decline in inflation, which has come down to almost 11 percent in May 2024. He advocated for the policy rate to be reduced to a single-digit figure to alleviate the financial burden on the business community and stimulate economic activity. Anjum Nisar highlighted that the tight monetary policy, combined with the government's significant domestic borrowing, has left minimal room for

business growth. He stressed the urgent need for the government to freeze both domestic and foreign borrowing and to devise a comprehensive strategy to showcase Pakistan's economic potential to international investors. "The current low levels of domestic investment have sent negative signals to potential foreign investors," Anjum Nisar said. "If the government is serious about achieving an economic turnaround, it must take immediate steps to address these issues." He proposed a 300-500 basis points reduction in the policy rate, potentially bringing it down to 15 percent, a level last seen several years ago. This anticipated cut is supported by several favorable economic indicators, including a significant decline in inflation rates. On the external front, the current account deficit has improved remarkably, narrowing by 95 percent to \$202 million in the first ten months of this fiscal year. This reduction has contributed to the stability of the rupee against the US dollar. The IMF, in its recent country report, acknowledged these positive developments but emphasized the need to maintain a tight monetary policy for continued stability. However, the IMF suggested that this stance could be reassessed if inflation continues to decrease and the foreign exchange market remains stable. Anjum Nisar also pointed

out a decline in yields for government securities in both primary and secondary markets since the last monetary policy announcement in April 2024. In the primary market, yields across various tenors have decreased, with reductions of 0.6 percent in 3-month yields, 0.38 percent in 6-month yields, and 0.80 percent in 12-month yields. Similar trends have been observed in the secondary market. He lamented that the cost of production has surged to its highest level in years due to the depreciation of the rupee against the dollar and record-high interest rates, leading to a slowdown in economic growth. Nisar called for a considerable reduction in the key policy rate to provide the private sector with access to low-cost borrowing. He recommended that the SBP should target core inflation; non-food non-energy; for operational guidance. The SBP needs to strip out volatile changes in particular prices to distinguish inflation from temporary fluctuations in inflation. Efforts need to be made to control price manipulation and hoardings in liaison with the respective federal and provincial government departments. An active and efficient Competitive Commission of Pakistan and effective price control mechanisms also need to play their due role. He said that SBP should focus on core inflation rather than general inflation on an immediate basis as these exclude the most volatile components of the basket.

The government must ensure the effectiveness of price control measures through vigilant actions against hoarding and malpractices. He explained that despite the progressive and major hikes in the policy rates from 9.75 percent to 22 percent over a period of 22 quarters in 2022 and 2023, general inflation remained stubbornly-high and didn't respond to the policy rate. He stressed that despite the successful completion of IMF Standby Agreement and 22 percent policy rate, Pakistan remains overwhelmed with issues of dwindling exports and economic instability. This phenomenon well-establishes the fact that the government needs to employ other policy tools to tame the economic volatility. He was of the view that although the inflation has drastically come down to slightly above 11 percent, after touching 38 percent but the ease in inflation was not because of SBP's tight monetary policy stance. "The government risks missing its annual growth targets in major sectors unless it takes decisive action to lower energy prices for local industries, ease the cost of production, and resolve the liquidity crunch through timely refunds," Anjum Nisar warned. He also advocated for improved ease of doing business, a consistent energy tariff policy, and a relaxed import policy for industrial raw materials to promote industrialization and enhance exports.

WB approves additional USD 01b for Dasu Project

LAHORE: In a significant development regarding much-needed financing to generate clean, green and economically affordable hydel electricity in Pakistan, the World Bank (WB) had approved additional financing to the tune of US \$ 01 billion for Dasu Hydropower Project, being constructed by WAPDA on River Indus. This was the single largest financial facility provided by the World Bank for a project in Pakistan. This facility comprises of concessional financing through the World Bank arms of IDA and IBRD. Approval to this effect was accorded by the World Bank in its meeting, according to WAPDA spokesman here on Tuesday. This additional financing by the World Bank, reflects the trust the Bank reposes in WAPDA's financial strength and professional expertise for successful implementation of mega projects in Water and Hydropower sectors. It was important to note that the World Bank was already providing financial support of US\$ 588 million and a partial credit guarantee of US\$ 460 million for construction of Dasu Hydropower Project. At present, WAPDA was constructing eight mega projects worth US\$ 26 billion to add 9.7 million-acre feet (MAF) to the water storage and double its hydel generation capacity from 9,500 to 20,000 megawatt (MW) during the next five years. WAPDA had devised an innovative financial strategy for construction of these projects with less reliance on the national exchequer by exploiting its own financial strength. Dasu was one of these under-construction projects. The 4320 MW-Dasu Hydropower Project was being constructed on River Indus, upstream of Dasu Town in Upper Kohistan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The Project was planned to be completed in two stages - each stage having a generation capacity of 2160 MW. At present, WAPDA is constructing Stage-I of the Project. Subsequent to the successful diversion of River Indus last year, construction work was continuing simultaneously on key sites of the Project. Stage-I of Dasu Hydropower Project will start electricity generation in 2026. It will contribute 12 billion units per annum to the National Grid. The Stage-II will also provide another 9 billion units to the system every year.—DNA

ANF recovers 57 kg drugs in three operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting three operations across the country managed to recover 57 kg drugs and arrested two accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He said that 6.2 kg ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Australia from the DHL office in Sialkot. 3 kg intoxicated tablets were recovered from a passenger going to Saudi Arabia at Lahore Airport. 48 kg hashish was recovered from an accused arrested on GT Road Peshawar. Cases have been registered against the accused and further investigations are under process.—APP

Saudi Electricity Company unveils details of its investments

ISLAMABAD: The Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) has issued a press release informing of its important projects and investments in Makkah, Madinah, and other holy sites for the 1445 AH Hajj season, which aim to improve the electricity network and provide a stable and reliable power supply for pilgrims and residents, boost the quality of service and ensure the comfort of pilgrims during Hajj. One of the main projects is automating the distribution networks at the holy sites by linking smart stations to the fiber-optic network. This project costs SAR200 million and involves extensive groundwork and concrete closures, covering distances of 335 km and 312 km, respectively. Over 2,400 stations have been connected to the fiber-optic network, boosting the efficiency and sustainability of the electrical network in densely populated areas, and reducing emergency response times to fractions of a second. This ensures a seamless experience for pilgrims, stakeholders, and all

other beneficiaries. Another important project involves expanding the electrical networks, improving existing stations, and integrating mobile stations into the current network. Furthermore, a gantry station was launched on May 1, 2024, at a cost of over SAR2 million. It connects the aerial transport network with the ground network and aims to connect the 380 kV mobile station to the network. The goal is to enhance the stability of the electrical network and ensure efficient energy delivery to key areas at the holy sites. SEC has also connected 110 kV mobile stations with an investment of SAR60 million. Operational since May 31, 2024, this project covers a network exceeding 4 km, with a total station capacity of 147 MVA, improving power distribution and meeting the increased demand during Hajj, thus preventing outages that could affect the comfort and safety of pilgrims. According to the release, further investments include projects,

worth over SAR166 million, for subscriber connections in the central area of Makkah and the holy sites. Projects to enhance medium- and low-voltage networks cost more than SAR36 million, while network replacement and the automation of distribution stations in these areas cost SAR46 million. Additionally, a project to connect subscribers in pilgrim housing areas, costing over SAR6 million, has been implemented, along with several specialized distribution projects to improve electricity distribution, ensuring a stable and reliable service for pilgrims. Regarding facility development at the holy sites, SEC has set up 22 launch centers in Ararat, at a total cost of over SAR25 million. Six launch centers in Mina and Muzdalifah have also been established, costing more than SAR9 million. These centers ensure prompt and efficient response from technical teams to address any issues that may arise. Additionally, a building adjacent to the operations and control

center, costing over SAR18 million, and eight buildings for stationed staff accommodation at transformer stations, costing more than SAR8 million, have been constructed. In Madinah, projects include enhancing medium-voltage networks in the central area for SAR14 million; they extend over 22 km and include three stations. Low-voltage network improvements, costing SAR21 million, have added 35 km of new networks with a total capacity of 56 MVA across 20 stations. These projects will strengthen the electrical infrastructure and provide reliable service for residents and visitors in Madinah. "These initiatives are part of SEC's ongoing national efforts to develop and improve electrical infrastructure at the holy sites, which experience high density during the Hajj season. The goal is to provide sustainable and efficient electrical services to ensure the comfort and safety of pilgrims and visitors while enriching their overall experience," the release read.—APP

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Makkah, without the pilgrims of Gaza

Labbayk, we are oppressed... Labbayk, we are distressed... Labbayk, we are weary... With these words, the tongue of the people of Gaza chants at the beginning of the Hajj season, from which the residents of the Gaza Strip are deprived due to the Israeli war of genocide and the closure of the crossings. Nine months ago, Israel launched a devastating war and a campaign of genocide that the whole world witnessed live, resulting in more than 120,000 martyrs and wounded, and massive destruction that reduced most of the buildings of the Strip to rubble. Um Tariq Abu Al-Ata (62 years old) and her husband were supposed to perform the Hajj pilgrimage this year, but the genocidal war was an obstacle and a hindrance between them and the Sacred House of Allah. Um Tariq speaks with tears in her eyes, "I have always dreamed of visiting the Sacred House of Allah, and I was counting the days until this moment, but the criminal war was an obstacle and deprived us of the journey of a lifetime." She continues in an interview with the Palestinian Information Center that the occupation deprived her not only of visiting the Sacred House of Allah, but also of her eldest son Tariq, who died with his wife and six children on the first of last March. In burning words written by Mahmoud Al-Sabou', he reflected a deep wound within him, saying, "The caravans of pilgrims went to the Sacred House of Allah, but the pilgrims of Gaza have performed Hajj to their Lord early in the white shrouds of martyrdom." He adds through his Facebook account, "The Muslims will perform Hajj to the House of Allah, seeking forgiveness, and the souls of the martyrs have performed Hajj to the Lord of the House, complaining of the bitterness of abandonment." For the first time in years, the guests of Allah the Merciful will stand on the pure Arafat plain, without the pilgrims of the Gaza Strip. Mahmoud Al-Ghazawi expresses his pain, saying, "The Palestinians are flocking to the Noble Makkah for the first time without the pilgrims of Gaza." The deprivation of the Gazans from Hajj reopens the wounds of Omar Abu Al-Abid, who recalls the journey of the Gazans last year for Hajj, and their deprivation of it this year due to the aggression. But Omar comforts himself in a post, saying, "It is true that our hearts are broken, and our souls are thirsty, and nothing can comfort them except seeing the Noble Kaaba, and prostrating before it in a long prostration, which removes the burdens of worries from our burdened backs, but our solace is that what we are in of patience and affliction, which is one of the greatest acts of worship." He hopes that Allah will bestow the reward of Hajj and Umrah on the people of Gaza. This year, the deprivation is not limited to the obligation of Hajj for the people of the Gaza Strip, but the Israeli occupation forces prevent the entry of sacrificial animals into the besieged Gaza Strip, thus depriving them of performing the ritual of slaughter on the blessed Eid al-Adha. Um Anas sends a message through Facebook to the pilgrims, "Convey my greetings to the honorable Kaaba and go to the grave of our Prophet Muhammad, may the best prayers and peace be upon him, and tell him that Gaza of Hashemites is being destroyed, and Sudan is being destroyed, and Arabism has died, and the rulers have done injustice. Tell him that Gaza is steadfast and that the people of Palestine are on the covenant, and their blood is flowing in the streets in support of the Al-Aqsa Mosque."



Nazism is coming back

Last week, a significant number of world leaders, mostly European, and with them US President Joe Biden, came together on the northern coast of France to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the historic Normandy landings. As history books have taught us, these landings marked the beginning of the end of World War II in Europe and was considered a knockout blow to Nazism and fascism in the West. That, of course, was what had been aspired to and deserves to be celebrated annually. However, the irony is that this year, the celebrations coincided with the EU parliamentary elections at a time when a climate of Nazism, fascism, and forms of ethnic, religious, and isolationist fanaticism are taking back "the reins" of the political initiative in many European countries. This bitter and unsettling fact cannot be addressed with good intentions and desperate diplomatic efforts. They are no longer sufficient for containing its repercussions and the messages it sends to the entire world. In a nutshell, Nazism and fascism, which the Allied forces had expelled, have returned through the ballot box. Statements that had been considered racism that could be prosecuted for defamation have now become "honorable." They are expressed boastfully by the fanatical racist who openly calls for the expulsion of "foreigners" and threaten Muslims and Africans with deportation to their countries of origin. The extremist discourse goes as far as drowning refugee boats that threaten Europe's "cultural purity" and "national identity." The isolated incidents that have emerged on the European political map in recent decades have now become the "dominant trend" among forces competing with traditional ruling parties that are out of touch and in decline, as well as figures who have lost credibility because of their compromises, deals, and scandals. It is also noteworthy that the decline of traditional parties and their downfall is no longer limited to moderate left-wing parties like the socialists in France, Italy, and elsewhere. Conservative and moderate right-wing parties are also in peril. The dismal end of the Soviet experiment - with the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the Berlin Wall - demoralized leftist forces and broke their spirit across Europe and in large parts of the Third World. However, the US unipolarity, which led some, like Francis Fukuyama, to speak of the "end of history" in favor of Western capitalism, quickly engendered its own contradictions and opposition. The Ukrainian crisis in Europe has reopened the wounds of the past with unprecedented severity. Before that, we witnessed the disintegration of several Slavic entities: Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia were divided (alongside, of course, the Soviet Union). This gave rise to the "dilemma" of defining identities and the problems of "economic migration" from the east of the continent to the west, while Europe's major players were working towards achieving the dream of "unity," which today seems more threatened than ever. It is worth noting that the "East-West conflict" (socialism versus capitalism) directly facilitated African and Asian countries' path to independence. However, "unipolar" interests - before China entered the fray - combined with population growth, poor financial and economic management, and tribal and religious conflicts, some of which turned into open civil wars, fueled asylum and migration. The alternative in Russia and several countries in the eastern bloc was populist or conservative Christian. In the West, the effective alternative to confront the wave of asylum and migration was religious and populist (and in its extreme cases, racist).

Europe's rightward lurch offers China a mixed bag

James David Spellman

At the same time, it should see more opportunities for bilateral deals with European Union member states rather than the pan-EU responses to trade, security and economic conflicts that have dogged China-EU relations in recent years. Provisional results at the time of writing indicate that the centrist European People's Party had secured 186 seats, up 10 from 2019

Europe could be turning to the right, according to evidence from European Parliament elections held over the weekend to determine which political forces will guide the European Union over the next five years. Beijing can expect tougher times in Brussels. At the same time, it should see more opportunities for bilateral deals with European Union member states rather than the pan-EU responses to trade, security and economic conflicts that have dogged China-EU relations in recent years. Provisional results at the time of writing indicate that the centrist European People's Party had secured 186 seats, up 10 from 2019, thereby controlling about one-quarter of the parliament. The left-leaning Socialists and Democrats were at 135, a roughly 19 per cent share. The Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) had added four seats to reach 73. Renew Europe, a pro-European liberal party, and the Greens appear to have suffered the heaviest losses. Renew had lost 23 seats according to the provisional results, falling from 102 to 79, with the Greens losing 18 seats to hold 53. The centre-left will still prevail if its coalition holds firm, as it has since direct elections for the European Parliament began in 1979. However, the right and far-right now control 131 seats between the ECR and the Identity and Democracy parties. They are likely to be joined by 15 lawmakers from Alternative for Germany, 11 from Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's Fidesz party, six from Poland's Confederation party and three from Bulgaria's pro-Kremlin Revival party. This bloc would be the second-largest force in the parliament if they stick together despite their many fissures and rivalries. All 720 seats in the legislature were up for election. No single group earned the 361 seats needed for a majority, requiring coalitions that shift allegiances depending on the issues. Right-wing parties seized on anxiety throughout Europe over inflation, discontent among farmers and the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. The continent's

economic outlook, poverty, public health, climate change and the future of Europe were also likely on voters' minds. In France, provisional results indicated that the far-right National Rally had won 30 of France's 81 seats in the European legislature, raising its share of the vote by 10 per cent from the 2019 election. Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist Renew coalition managed just 13 seats and 15 per cent of the vote. Socialists, Greens, liberals and conservatives lost seats to far-right parties led by Orban, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Geert Wilders in the Netherlands. Alternative for Germany has taken second place in the country's election behind the Christian Democrats, which won 29 seats, according to the provisional results. Right and far-right parties are likely to insist these results give them the momentum to change their national governments later this year. In response to his heavy defeat, Macron dissolved the French legislature and gambled his party's future on a snap election. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and his Social Democrats have finished in third place, their worst result ever. Belgian Prime Minister Alexander de Croo resigned after his liberal Open VLD party performed poorly in federal and regional elections. Preliminary figures suggest voter turnout across the continent was 50.8 per cent, almost identical to 50.7 per cent turnout in 2019. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen faces a difficult task in securing a second five-year term as the coalition supporting her has eroded while her opposition has gained strength. Her victory in 2019 was a narrow one, clearing the minimum threshold needed by just nine votes, and other pro-Europe mainstream officials who dominate EU institutions will also face challenges. With right-leaning parties in the ascendant, expect Brussels to defer

more to member states. It is also likely to be less aggressive in asserting pan-European approaches in domestic matters and foreign affairs as Euroscepticism has a stronger voice. Like the United States, Europe is aware of the difficulties arising from being heavily dependent on China. Brussels has sought to protect technologies it fears would enable China to leapfrog into dominance. The European Union was China's second-largest trading partner last year, accounting for 13.2 per cent of China's total trade. While Europe's right-leaning parties see China as an important trade partner, they also consider it a fierce competitor and tenacious rival. Emmanuel Macron thanks Xi Jinping for 'commitment' not to sell arms to Russia. The European right tends to be more sceptical of economic integration and of deeper cooperation leading to political and economic liberalisation within China. There is a greater appetite for "de-risking" Europe's relationship with China, a notion von der Leyen helped popularise but has struggled to create consensus on as some EU members and business leaders have expressed concern over access to China being curtailed through Beijing's retaliation. As a result, member states could be more willing to enter into bilateral arrangements with China to improve trade and create a buffer against economic uncertainty. At the same time, conservative governments in Europe will find it hard to balance their priorities for economic growth against their fears of China's long-term ambitions. Increasing fragmentation in Europe between Brussels and member states offers China more opportunities to drive a wedge between Europe and the US. Fears that former US president Donald Trump could return to the White House have led some in Europe to push for greater self-sufficiency. Europe's rightward tilt will accelerate these trends, with both benefits and costs for China.

An Analysis of Pakistan's Economic Growth Trends

Maryam Wakeel



This neglect is evident in the agricultural growth rate, which was half that of the population growth rate. Contributing factors to this slow growth included water shortages and the impacts of partition, such as the water dispute with India and fluctuating rainfall and floods in the 1950s. Between 1947 and 1952, Pakistan's average GDP growth was 3%, but the outbreak of the Korean War in 1952 boosted demand for goods, increasing GDP growth to 9%. Despite a global recession following the Korean War, Pakistan's economy remained resilient due to its position as the sole exporter of jute at the time. The sustained high growth rate

At the time of independence, Pakistan's economy was predominantly agrarian, contributing over 50% to the GDP, with minimal industrial presence. The lack of essential infrastructure further undermined Pakistan's economic sovereignty. The government's focus on industrial development led to the neglect of agriculture in the early years. This neglect is evident in the agricultural growth rate, which was half that of the population growth rate. Contributing factors to this slow growth included water shortages and the impacts of partition, such as the water dispute with India and fluctuating rainfall and floods in the 1950s. Between 1947 and 1952, Pakistan's average GDP growth was 3%, but the outbreak of the Korean War in 1952 boosted demand for goods, increasing GDP growth to 9%. Despite a global recession following the Korean War, Pakistan's economy remained resilient due to its position as the sole exporter of jute at the time. The sustained high growth rate in the industrial sector during this period was achieved through deliberate policies that encouraged private industry investment and attracted substantial foreign aid. Import substitution and excessive protectionism also played crucial roles in maintaining the high growth rate in this sector. The second decade of Pakistan's history was characterized by the dictatorial regime of Field Marshal Ayub Khan. The 1960s were marked by robust economic performance. The Second Five Year Plan (1960-1965) aimed for a GDP growth of 20% over five years, exceeding the modest target of 15% set in the First Five Year Plan. The Third Plan (1965-1970) was formulated with great optimism, setting an annual growth target of 6.5%. The early years of the decade saw substantial growth in large-scale manufacturing, with an average annual increase of 16.9% between 1960 and 1965. However, the GDP growth rate declined to 3.1% in the latter half of the 1960s due to the war with India, though it subsequently recovered to 9.8% by 1970. Bhutto initiated several socialist economic reforms aimed at stimulating Pakistan's economic growth. A key component of these reforms was the process of nationalization. Initially, the policy targeted large firms, and within two years, all private banks, small manufacturing units, and colleges were nationalized without compensation to their former owners. Although intended to uplift the poor, these reforms quickly proved counterproductive. The inefficiency and incompetence of the nationalized institutions in the subsequent years demonstrated that nationalization was not in the national interest. Bhutto introduced land reforms aimed at enhancing the social and economic status of rural populations, over 80% of whom were directly involved in agriculture. Bhutto also announced a Labor Policy in February 1972, designed to elevate labor dignity, establish mechanisms for striking, promote labor-employer adjudication in labor courts, and extend material benefits to workers. This policy provided

some relief through increased wages and welfare measures, including minimum wage hikes, injury compensation, old age benefits, and free education and medical facilities. During Zia-ul-Haq's regime, the economic growth rate averaged 6.6% annually. There was a significant increase in remittances, although this did not translate into a higher rate of savings and investments. Agricultural growth, while improved compared to previous years, remained relatively low. The manufacturing sector, however, experienced substantial growth, averaging 9% per year. This growth was driven by extensive public sector investments initiated during Bhutto's era, the introduction of a flexible exchange rate policy, increased export rebates, and assurances against future nationalization. Special industrial zones were established to attract private investment, and regular currency adjustments positively impacted trade. Despite these advancements, the national debt burden increased significantly, with interest payments rising from 1.9% of GDP in 1976 to 4.9% in 1987, primarily due to high-cost domestic borrowing. As part of his Islamization policy, Zia introduced an Islamic economic system, which included the establishment of the zakat institution and interest-free banking. However, these reforms did not yield significant economic benefits. The absence of an integrated economic and political framework has increasingly exposed Pakistan to the influence of international actors. Repeated agreements with international monetary institutions have plunged Pakistan into significant debt, compromising its economic sovereignty. Successive governments have depended heavily on borrowing from domestic and international sources, often neglecting the long-term economic consequences. Analysts are divided on Musharraf's tenure; some praise his liberal policies, while others criticize their short-sightedness. During Musharraf's rule, the economy experienced robust growth, with an average GDP growth rate of 5.3%. His liberal economic policies attracted substantial foreign direct investment (FDI), restoring investor confidence and spurring growth across various sectors. However, his import-led growth strategy created an economic bubble. The surge in imports, particularly in the telecommunications and automotive sectors, strained the supply side of the economy. This issue was exacerbated by inadequate electricity supply, leading to an energy crisis that persists today. The resultant inflation eroded economic gains and reduced purchasing power, eventually bursting the economic bubble and causing significant economic decline. Under the PPP government, Pakistan faced severe economic challenges necessitating difficult decisions at both the micro and macro levels. These decisions, including a macroeconomic stabilization program developed in consultation with the IMF, led to notable achievements. Inflation was halved by 2009, the fiscal deficit was reduced to 4.3% of GDP, the current account balance improved to 5.3% of GDP, and foreign exchange reserves surpassed \$13 billion.

These improvements were largely due to cuts in oil subsidies and development spending. The sudden drop in GDP growth exacerbated the situation, and the low tax-to-GDP ratio posed a significant threat to future growth. Rising public debt further strained revenue as interest payments increased. A temporary tax policy introduced through a Presidential ordinance aimed to generate additional revenue of Rs. 53 billion by the end of the 2010-11 fiscal years. Measures included the withdrawal of sales tax exemptions on agricultural inputs, an increase in special excise duty rates on non-essential items, and significant growth in direct and indirect tax collections. Throughout this period, the agriculture sector's share of GDP fluctuated, while national savings and public investment as a percentage of GDP showed mixed trends. In fiscal year 2010-11, national savings were 13.2%, dropping to 10.7% the following year. Public investment increased slightly from 2.9% of GDP to 3.0% in 2011-12. As of 2024, the country grapples with significant economic hurdles, including high inflation, a burgeoning debt crisis and political instability that impacts investor confidence. The agricultural sector remains a cornerstone, contributing substantially to GDP and employment, yet it faces productivity issues due to outdated practices and climate change effects. The industrial sector, particularly textiles, continues to be vital for exports, though it is hampered by energy shortages and infrastructural deficiencies. On a positive note, Pakistan's burgeoning IT sector shows promise, driven by a young, tech-savvy population and increasing digital connectivity. Remittances from the Pakistani diaspora also play a crucial role in bolstering the economy. Despite these challenges, strategic reforms, improved governance, and international partnerships hold the potential to steer Pakistan towards a more stable and prosperous economic future. Pakistan's contemporary economy is marked by a mix of significant challenges and emerging opportunities. Addressing structural issues, improving governance, and leveraging its strategic location and youthful population can pave the way for sustainable economic growth. Continued focus on reforms, technological integration and infrastructure development are essential for Pakistan to unlock its full economic potential. At the end I thank to Dr. Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer who dedicates his time to guide students, driven by a genuine passion for enhancing their writing skills and helping them complete assignments. His expertise is particularly prominent in ideology and Constitution of Pakistan where he enlightens students about the captivating history of Pakistan. Dr. Zaheer truly embodies the essence of an inspiring educator and leaving an indelible mark on all his students.

—The writer is Student BS Media Communication Studies University of Okara maryamwakeel40@gmail.com

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Cabinet expansion after budget..

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the constitution, and the signing of an MoU between the National Accountability Bureau and Sri Lanka's Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption to promote co-operation against bribery and illegal flow of money. The federal cabinet endorsed the decisions of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises taken on May 13 and 20, 2024, the Economic Coordination Committee's decisions of May 23 and 27, 2024, and those of the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases made on June 5.

Country runs on taxes, not...

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major issue in the next year," he said. The finance minister noted that he had held meetings with foreign commercial banks recently as he noted that Pakistan's talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were going well. "Once the Fund programme is in place, I don't see external financing as a big challenge," the finance minister said as Pakistan's import covers remains above two months, a comfortable position compared to the previous year. "Pakistan rupee depreciated by 29% and the foreign exchange reserves went down to two weeks of import cover in fiscal year 2022-23 that is where we started off," said the finance minister at the start of his press conference. The finance minister said the country started off its journey to undertake reforms under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz.

Pakistan urges UN for ceasefire...

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the only option for durable peace and security in the Holy Land. Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, held a meeting with the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, on the sidelines of the high-level conference on "Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza," being held in Jordan. The Deputy Prime Minister lauded the UN Secretary General's initiative to jointly hold the conference along with Jordan and Egypt at a time when the people of Palestine are in dire need of international support and urgent humanitarian assistance. He also commended the leadership and proactive role of the Secretary-General in raising concern at the situation in Gaza on the international stage.

Hamis accepts...

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"The US administration is facing a real test to carry out its commitments in compelling the occupation to immediately end the war in an implementation of the UN Security Council resolution," Abu Zuhri said. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had "reaffirmed his commitment" to a Gaza ceasefire proposal during their meeting in Jerusalem. "I met with Prime Minister Netanyahu last night and he reaffirmed his commitment to the proposal," Blinken said, adding that Hamas's welcoming of a UN vote on the US-drafted ceasefire resolution was a "hopeful" sign.

President, PM discuss..

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Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal also attended the meeting, according to a President House press release. President Zardari emphasised that the interests of the low income and middle class should be protected in the annual budget. He also assured the prime minister of his support for the national development and achievement of fiscal targets.

US, India defeats

Prominent players likely to be sacked upon return

PCB Chairman announces sweeping overhaul of cricket management

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has announced a sweeping overhaul of the cricket management structure in the aftermath of Pakistan's crushing defeats by America and India in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024. This major 'surgery' will be conducted following an emergency meeting scheduled to take place at the PCB upon his arrival in Lahore today. The unprecedented move comes after mounting criticism over the team's performance, with fans and experts alike calling for accountability and significant changes within the PCB. Now, it has been decided to make substantial changes, including the likelihood of sending coaches, selectors, and prominent players packing.

In the emergency meeting, Naqvi will issue instructions to make bold moves for some critical decisions. He is also likely to undertake a comprehensive review and seek immediate reports from the team management. The functioning of the selection committee will also come under scrutiny, with Naqvi emphasizing the need for transparency and accountability. Sources within the PCB have indicated that major



decisions are expected within a week of the team's return to Pakistan. Key figures in the management, including the captain, coach, and senior players, will be required to provide explanations within three days. Their responses will be critical in determining their future roles within the team. "If the answers to the questions are not satisfactory, there is a strong possibility that the captain could be removed," the sources revealed. Naqvi is expected to personally question the players about alleged differences within the team, aiming to address any internal conflicts that may have contributed to the poor performance. On June 10, PCB Chairman Naqvi had an informal conversation with journalists after the team's shocking defeat at the hand of India. "Today's defeat was disappointing in every respect. It seemed that the cricket team would be fine with a small surgery, but after today's very poor performance, I am convinced that major surgery is needed." "Pakistani cricket is currently at its lowest level of performance," Naqvi continued. "Our biggest challenge is to improve the performance of the team. The nation will soon see a big change. We have to prepare the team for the Champions Trophy. The time has come to give a chance to talent sitting outside. We want to make the Pakistani cricket team one of the best in the world."

T20WC: Aaqib Javed warns SL ahead of Nepal clash

London : Sri Lanka will be facing Nepal on Wednesday (June 12) at the Central Broward Regional Park. In order to stay in the T20 World Cup, it is essential for Sri Lanka to win this match against Nepal. Following their defeats against Bangladesh and South Africa, the Lions would look to win this match with a good score. Recently, Sri Lanka faced a defeat against Bangladesh on Saturday (June 8) by two wickets. All the teams in Group D have not managed to score more than Sri Lanka's 124 runs. Moreover, in the face-off between South Africa and Bangladesh, the Proteas scored 113 while Bangladesh made 109 runs and were defeated by 4 runs. Followed by South Africa (106) against Netherlands (103) on Saturday (June 8) and between Netherlands (109) and Nepal (106) on Tuesday (June 4).

"Now people are realising how unpredictable the pitches are," stated Sri Lanka fast bowling coach Aaqib Javed ahead of their game against Nepal. "We were the first ones who'd gone through this process. Because I mean, look, as a player, you cannot expect anything like that, which we played the

first time in New York on a new pitch. Now the people are realising what total to place, and what they're expecting when they're choosing even a small total. "Even though the Dallas pitch we played was I think one of the best in the country to bat on, still these new conditions are surprising, not just us, but many teams. The batters especially, they've gone through a lot. This is not the normal behaviour of the pitches and the conditions. So, I think now the teams will change their strategies, and there will be a little bit of change in the homework as well."

Despite losing two games against South Africa and Bangladesh, Sri Lanka is still in game with a chance of qualifying for the next stage. Nevertheless, the team need to win the forthcoming match against Nepal. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan coach believes that the team is not playing up to the mark from the scratch. "The beauty of this World Cup is that you cannot take easy to anything. We have seen some outstanding results from the associate teams. I think honestly if you look at the pitch, you have to be very careful, especially as

a batter. How to adapt, what to leave out, and I think the best plan is to go out there and assess the situation and conditions. "If you ask me, what happened in New York, nobody knew what was going to be the wicket behaviour. [Score of] 77 was never enough. Even in the second game, we could have scored 150 to 160 because if you look at the batting card, we scored like 24 in the last six overs, we didn't capitalise." On the other hand, the coach is satisfied with the team's performance in bowling, they did their best to defend a low score of 77 against South Africa. "I'm really happy and enjoying the role as a bowling coach because this is one of the bowling sides which can challenge anyone. The ideal combo for any international team. You have the best leg-spinner in the world, you have a mystery bowler, and you have slingers which is very unique and very effective in T20 cricket. "It's not easy all the time to defend the low totals, but so far, I think it's good to see the captain leading from the front and you can see that energy in the field as well. And still, I think we have very good bowling options. I'm really satisfied so far."

Salman identifies problems with Iftikhar Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Former captain Salman Butt identified problems with Pakistan's middle-order batter Iftikhar Ahmed as he has struggled to perform in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 which is being held in the United States and West Indies. Iftikhar has so far represented Pakistan in 66 T20s and batted in 55 innings where he only has 998 runs with a 24.34 average and a 129.10 strike rate. In the T20 World Cup, he only scored 23 runs in two matches. Butt, while talking on YouTube, stated that Iftikhar's reflexes are not that great because of his age and you have to be super fit to play at an extremely high at that age. "Iftikhar, I don't know maybe there is definitely something to do with the reflexes because at his age, you have to be super fit or otherwise your movements, they get slow. He is not a very young chap, he is quite an experienced player," Butt said. "He has been playing cricket for a long time, he has played domestic for so long. He made his debut for Pakistan in 2016 and it is 2024 now. So maybe his fitness and time, as he has spent a lot of time [playing cricket], things have gone slower for him and there are very limited options." Butt then added that Iftikhar played his entire domestic career as a middle-order but now he comes to bat when there are only three to four overs left. The former opener also revealed that the way Iftikhar bats, his options are very limited which bowlers easily identify. "He was a proper batsman who used to play at middle-order but now he comes to bat when there are just three to four overs left and he only has one movement, he goes deep into the crease and wants to hit every shot on the leg side or maybe straight," he added. - DNA

Azam Khan, Saim retained by Guyana Amazon Warriors

LONDON : Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batter Azam Khan and opener Saim Ayub have been retained by Guyana Amazon Warriors for the upcoming 2024 season. The duo was part of the Warriors last year which won the title for the first time in history. Two more overseas stars, Dwaine Pretorius and Imran Tahir of South Africa, have also been retained. They will be joined by Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz who was part of their squad in 2022. The Warriors have three more spots to fill in their squad and this will be done at the draft in July. Guyana Amazon Warriors squad list: Imran Tahir, Shimron Hetmyer, Saim Ayub, Shai Hope, Romario Shepherd, Azam Khan, Gudakesh Motie, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Kevin Sinclair, Dwaine Pretorius, Keemo Paul, Shamar Joseph, Kevlon Anderson, Junior Sinclair On June 10, three Pakistani players Mohammad Amir, Fakhar Zaman and Imad Wasim were signed by the new CPL side Antigua & Barbuda Falcons. Amir, Imad and Fakhar are currently representing the Pakistan cricket team in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2024 which is being held in the United States and West Indies. The new franchise in CPL T20 replaced Jamaica Tallawahs after the team was disbanded by the owner citing unsustainable to run as a reason. CPL T20 2024 complete schedule August 29: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons v St Kitts & Nevis Patriots @ Sir Vivian Richards Stadium= August 30: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons v Guyana Amazon Warriors @ Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, August 31: St Kitts & Nevis Patriots v Trinbago Knight Riders @ Warner Park Sporting Complex= September 1: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons v Barbados Royals @ Sir Vivian Richards Stadium St Kitts & Nevis Patriots v Saint Lucia Kings @ Warner Park Sporting Complex September 3: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons v Saint Lucia Kings @ Sir Vivian Richards Stadium September 4: St Kitts & Nevis Patriots v Guyana Amazon Warriors @ Warner Park Sporting Complex September 5: Antigua & Barbuda Falcons v Trinbago Knight Riders @ Sir Vivian Richards Stadium September 6: St Kitts & Nevis Patriots v Barbados Royals @ Warner Park Sporting Complex September 7: Saint Lucia Kings v Guyana Amazon Warriors @ Daren Sammy Cricket Ground September 8: St Kitts & Nevis Patriots v Antigua & Barbuda Falcons @ Warner Park Sporting Complex. - Agencies

Defending champion Keely through to 800m final

LONDON: Defending champion Keely Hodgkinson cruised through the fastest-ever women's 800m semi-final in European Athletics Championships history to secure her spot in Wednesday evening's final in Rome. The two-time world and Tokyo Olympic silver medal winner clocked one minute 58.07 seconds to go through as fastest qualifier, but teammates Erin Wallace and Alex Bell both missed out on places in the final. "This is way too early for me and less than 24 hours since the last race," said Hodgkinson, 22. "I felt good - I think today I wanted to be a bit more where I was comfortable with on the pace. "A couple of the girls were saying thank you afterwards because they got PBs." The British quartet of Asha Philip, Amy Hunt, Dina Asher-Smith and Desiree Henry comfortably advanced to the women's 4x100m relay final but the men's team of CJ Ujah, Jona Efoloko, Richard Kilty and individual bronze medallist Romell Glave were eighth and last in their heat and will miss final. - Agencies



JORDAN : Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar meets with UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the high-level conference on Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza. - DNA

Azhar Mahmood acknowledges team's 'low morale'

Pakistan team's assistant coach Azhar Mahmood said that after two defeats, everyone is quite disheartened. Losing against India is more disappointing than a defeat against the US

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Following back-to-back T20 World Cup 2024 losses against the United States and arch-rivals India, Pakistan team's assistant coach Azhar Mahmood has acknowledged the national side's low morale in the ongoing mega event. "After two defeats, everyone is quite disheartened. Losing against India is more disappointing than a defeat against the US," said the assistant coach while speaking at a pre-match press conference ahead of today's must-win match against Canada. Mahmood's remarks come after the Babar Azam-led side was defeated by the US who secured a five-run victory in the Super Over. This setback was followed by a disappointing loss against India where the Green Shirts failed to chase down a modest 120-run target and lost by six runs. Following the loss against India, the Green Shirts are now heavily dependent on not



just winning their next two games - against Ireland and Canada - but also the US to lose their next two against India and Ireland. Even if Pakistan win their next matches, they would still need to have a better net run rate than the US to secure a place in the Super Eight stage. Elaborating on how the players are doing, Mahmood said: "At the moment, everyone's morale in the team is down, it's necessary to lift it as we can still bounce back and we won't lose hope until it's over." He further blamed the national side's batters for poor shot selection for defeat against India. "Our shot selection wasn't right, which led to a run rate of 10. We were playing well until the 15th over. We lost as a team and can't blame individuals," he maintained. It is to be noted that the Men in Green will play an important match against Canada at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York today as their T20 World Cup journey stands on thin ice. The team needs to win both of their upcoming high-stakes group matches to stay in the tournament. Additionally, their World Cup chances are tied to the United States losing both of their matches against India and Ireland.

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP WEST INDIES & USA 2024
Tuesday June 12
Sri Lanka vs Nepal
Lauderhill, Florida (4.30am)
Australia vs Namibia
North Sound, Antigua (5.30am)
USA vs India
Long Island, New York (7.30pm)

Imran Khan gives green signal for...

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SC is also under consideration." However, he emphasised that it is PTI's "own decision" to negotiate. "PTI founder did not write any letter to the SC for negotiation. PTI will also respond to its negotiation option." Gohar maintained the party will begin its negotiations after talking to Pashunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai. He said there is an alliance with Achakzai and other parties, that his party will take them into confidence. "Negotiations can also be held at the alliance level. PTI can also initiate itself," said the party's chief, reiterating that there is no option but negotiation.

Imran Khan lashes out at Naqvi..

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after he failed to conduct fair elections. He was responding to Naqvi's remarks made a day earlier, in which he indicated that significant changes would take place in the national team following the six-run defeat to India in the T20 World Cup 2024. The PCB chief remarked that a "major surgery" is now necessary. "Initially, I believed a minor surgery would suffice, but after this poor performance, it's clear that a major overhaul is needed. The nation will soon witness substantial changes," Naqvi said. In an informal conversation with journalists at Adiala Jail's courtroom today, Khan criticised the authorities, highlighting ongoing security issues. "Our soldiers are being martyred, and robberies are occurring in Islamabad, yet they do not care," Khan remarked.

11 terrorists in Lakki Marwat...

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Subedar Major Muhammad Nazir. During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which eleven terrorists were successfully neutralised while multiple terrorist hideouts were also busted. A sanitisation operation is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area as the security forces are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country, it concluded. Last month, security forces conducted a series of intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in KP province from May 26 to 27 and neutralised 23 terrorists.

India wants to solve...

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ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president's palace in New Delhi, attended by leaders of seven regional countries, underlining the government's "neighbourhood first" policy. But relations and problems with China and Pakistan were different, Jaishankar told reporters, after assuming charge for a second straight term. "With Pakistan, we would want to find a solution to the issue of years-old cross-border terrorism. That cannot be the policy of a good neighbour," Jaishankar said. On ties with China, Jaishankar said India will focus on finding solutions to the border issues with China that have long strained ties between the neighbouring countries. "With regards to China there are still some issues at the border and our focus will be on how to solve them," he said.

Briefs

UK's Sunak to unveil tax-cutting manifesto

LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will promise voters "financial security" and tax cuts when he unveils his Conservative party manifesto on Tuesday, following a disastrous week that even led to rumors he might quit. "We Conservatives have a plan to give you financial security," he will say, according to extracts of his speech released in advance. "We will enable working people to keep more of the money you earn because you have earned it and have the right to choose what to spend it on," the speech added. Polls have predicted for many months that Sunak will lead the Conservatives to a shattering defeat to the main opposition Labour party in the July 4 general election. His uphill battle was last week made even harder after right-wing populist firebrand Nigel Farage announced he was running to become an MP, and the prime minister drew universal criticism for leaving D-Day commemoration events early. When asked by journalists if rumors of him resigning were true, Sunak told broadcasters: "No, of course not. I'm energised about the vision that we're putting forward for the country." He is now trying to get his campaign back on track by focusing on tax cuts. —APP

Musk threatens to ban Apple devices

WASHINGTON: Tech billionaire Elon Musk vowed to ban the use of Apple devices at his companies after the iPhone maker announced a partnership with OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT. Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX and owner of social media platform X, voiced his concerns about potential security violations in a post on X. "That is an unacceptable security violation," Musk stated, adding a strict policy for visitors: "And visitors will have to check their Apple devices at the door, where they will be stored in a Faraday cage." The controversy stems from Apple's recent announcement of a partnership with OpenAI, which includes introducing AI features across Apple's apps and operating platforms. Apple has emphasized that AI privacy was a core component in their development, utilizing a blend of on-device processing and cloud computing to ensure user security.

However, Musk criticized Apple's approach, suggesting a lack of originality and questioning the security assurances provided through their partnership with OpenAI. "It's patently absurd that Apple isn't smart enough to make their own AI, yet is somehow capable of ensuring that OpenAI will protect your security & privacy!" Musk expressed his skepticism. This clash comes on the heels of Musk's lawsuit against OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman earlier in March. Musk accused them of deviating from the organization's founding mission of developing AI to benefit humanity, rather than for profit. In response, Musk has established his own startup, xAI, aimed at creating an alternative to ChatGPT, which recently achieved a valuation of \$24 billion after securing \$6 billion in its latest funding round.—Agencies

49 die after boat capsizes off Yemen

LONDON: At least 49 people from the Horn of Africa have died after their boat capsized off the coast of Yemen, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Survivors have told rescuers that the vessel, carrying 260 migrants, sank on Monday in strong winds. The search continues for 140 people who are still missing. The IOM said it was providing aid to 71 survivors, eight of whom were referred to hospital. Local authorities in Rudum, east of Aden, said that those on board were migrants, mostly from Ethiopia, who use Yemen as a transit point to reach Gulf states.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb presenting a copy of Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023-2024 to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif prior to its official launch.—DNA

Gaza catastrophes is undermining int'l law

Spain's PM said that the situation in Gaza "is more critical now than ever" and that Spain will support increasing aid flows into the besieged region

NEWS DESK

OVIEDO: The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza "is seriously undermining international law, the multilateral system, and the rules-based order," Spain's prime minister said Tuesday. Speaking at the Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza conference in Jordan, Pedro Sanchez called on both Israel and Hamas to "act in a responsible manner." "Seize the opportunity for peace," he said, referring to the US ceasefire resolution that on Monday won the support of the UN Security Council, which he applauded. "We must increase the pressure for a cease-fire," Sanchez added. In recent weeks, the Spanish government has not only recognized Palestinian statehood but also announced that it will join South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the International Court



of Justice (ICJ). Speaking on Tuesday, Sanchez defended the decision to join the ICJ case by saying its provisional measures to stop the Rafah offensive and allow unhindered access of international aid are legally binding. However, he said, "it is evident they are not being respected." "International law must prevail," said Sanchez. He added that the situation in Gaza "is more critical

now than ever" and that Spain will support increasing aid flows into the besieged region. He said that in 2023, Spain tripled its aid to Palestine to 50 million (\$53.6 million) and announced an additional 16 million for 2024. As part of his proposal to effectively get more humanitarian aid to Palestine, he said that development aid should also support the Palestinian Authority and ultimately, a two-state solution. "Today, I stand in front of you convinced that our people expect from us that we all collectively advance toward concrete results and actions to stop the suffering in Gaza and build a better future of peace in the Middle East," he added. According to Jordan, Egypt, and the UN - the conference organizers - the goal of the high-level meeting is to reach a consensus on practical measures to meet the immediate needs on the ground in Gaza. Representatives from dozens of

nations around the world are taking part and are set to hold a joint press conference at the end of the day. Meanwhile, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi called on Tuesday for "immediate steps" to stop the ongoing Israeli onslaught on the Gaza Strip. "The unprecedented humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip is a direct responsibility of the Israeli occupation," Sisi said in a speech at an emergency aid conference for the Gaza Strip, hosted by Jordan. He called for "immediate, effective, and serious steps" to halt the war in Gaza and release the hostages and detainees. The Egyptian leader also demanded the implementation of international resolutions "to stop the offensive in Gaza, compel Israel to stop using starvation tactics against Palestinians, and end the siege on Gaza." The humanitarian aid conference, dubbed "Call for Action: Urgent Human-

itarian Response for Gaza", is organized by Jordan, Egypt and the UN. Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7 attack by Hamas despite a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire. Nearly 37,200 Palestinians have since been killed in Gaza, most of them women and children, and more than 84,800 others injured, according to local health authorities. Eight months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lay in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered Tel Aviv to immediately halt its operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.

ICC urgently investigates Darfur's Al Fasher war crimes

DUBAI: The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor is urgently investigating allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Darfur city of Al Fasher which has become a new front between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). In a video statement released on Tuesday, prosecutor Karim Khan said the ICC has an active investigation into possible atrocity crimes being committed at present in Darfur. "I am extremely concerned about allegations of widespread international crimes being committed in Al Fasher and its surrounding areas, as we speak," Khan said, adding that his office was investigating those allegations "with urgency". His investigators had seen credible allegations of what looked like ethnically-motivated attacks against the civilian population, widespread use of rape and attacks against hospitals, he added. Khan called for anyone with possible evidence, video or audio material to submit it to his office. Al Fasher, in the Darfur region of northwestern Sudan, is home to more than 1.8 million residents and displaced people and is the latest front in a war between the Sudanese army and the RSF, which began in April 2023. The ICC can prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and, in some cases, the crime of aggression if committed on the territory of one of the court's 124 member states or by nationals of ICC members. It can also have jurisdiction through a referral by the United Nations Security Council, as happened with Darfur in 2005. In January this year, the ICC prosecutor told the UN Security Council he believed war crimes were being committed in Darfur by government troops and the RSF in El Geneina.—APP



ABU DHABI: Dr. Abdelouhab Zaid, Secretary General, Khalifa International Award for Date Palm & Agriculture Innovation met Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Envoy to United Arab Emirates at Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi.—DNA

Mexico's president pushes for judicial reform

Mexico's president-elect Claudia Sheinbaum has promised wide consultations with stakeholders in the judiciary ahead of the reforms

WEB DESK

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's president-elect has promised to push forward with constitutional and judicial reforms. Claudia Sheinbaum, the country's first female president, promised wide consultations on the reforms, signalling her determination to proceed despite concerns that have produced market volatility and hit the peso hard. In her first news conference since being elected on June 2, Sheinbaum left a meeting

with outgoing president and close ally Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to tell reporters that she remains steadfast on her promise of a constitutional overhaul. "These are reforms that can be approved among the first reforms," she said, noting that one of the first moves planned would see appointed Supreme Court judges replaced with popularly elected officials. Some lower courts will also be affected and key regulatory agencies could be eliminated. Critics have warned that the reforms would fundamentally alter the balance of

power in Mexico. During her news conference, however, Sheinbaum promised wide consultation with stakeholders within the judicial system. "In the case of the judicial reform, (discussion) should be through the bar association, professors of law, the ministers and magistrates themselves," she said. Some of the planned measures featured in a slew of constitutional reforms proposed by Lopez Obrador in February that would also eliminate key regulatory agencies. US politics, Canada's multiculturalism, South America's geopolitical rise—

we bring you the stories that matter. The president-elect's coalition has secured the two-thirds supermajority in the lower house required to pass the reforms. It fell just short in the Senate but could earn extra votes through negotiations. The 61-year-old Sheinbaum will take office on October 1, but the Congress is expected to convene at the start of September. This would potentially give Lopez Obrador a window of a month to push through reforms before handing over the baton. The outgoing president still enjoys an approval rating of more than 60 percent, but

could not run again due to Mexico's presidential term limits that allow only one term in office. Sheinbaum, a former mayor of Mexico City, said that she does not expect the judicial overhaul to affect financial markets. However, the peso weakened by nearly 2 percent to about 18.55 per United States dollar in international trading as she was speaking. The Mexican currency is down by about 8 percent since the June 2 elections that Sheinbaum and her party won in a landslide, while the main stock index has fallen nearly 4 percent.

Nigeria gunmen kill 26, kidnap dozens

ABUJA: Gunmen from criminal gangs killed 26 people, including four policemen, and kidnapped dozens more in a raid on a northwestern Nigerian village, the latest in a spate of attacks, police and a local official said. Katsina is one of several states in northwestern and central Nigeria terrorised by heavily armed gangs, who carry out mass abductions for ransom as well as burning and looting homes. The gangs, who maintain camps in a huge forest straddling Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger states, have also undertaken large-scale kidnappings of students from schools in recent years. The criminals - referred to as bandits by locals - entered Gidan Boka village in Kankara district at around 2100 GMT on Sunday on motorcycles, shooting and abducting residents. "Bandits attacked Gidan Boka village on Sunday, killing 26 people and abducting dozens of residents, mostly women and children," Anas Isa, political administrator of Kankara district, told AFP. "Those killed included policemen and local vigilantes who confronted the bandits," he said without giving their number. Isa said his office was still working to ascertain the number of people kidnapped. Police in Katsina confirmed the attack in a statement late on Monday. "The armed bandits attacked Gidan Boka village, killing 15 people and injuring two others," the police statement said.—APP

Haiti PM condemns killing of police officers

PORT-AU-PRINCE: Haiti's new prime minister condemned the gang-related killings of three police officers in a patrol ambush in the capital, controlled by gang leader Jimmy "Barbecue" Cherizier. Armed men under Cherizier ambushed a patrol from the police's anti-gang unit in Delmas 18 on Sunday, setting the vehicle on fire, according to police reports. Two officers died at the scene, and while two were evacuated by reinforcements, one succumbed to injuries at the hospital. Prime Minister Garry Conille, who was sworn in this month and has yet to install his cabinet after succeeding Ariel Henry, promised state aid for the victims' families. "This barbaric act is a direct attack on the security and stability of the nation," Conille said in a video address. "I send heartfelt condolences to the families of these officers who are gone along with their colleagues and friends." Conille's statement followed a brief hospitalization on Saturday for what his office described as "a slight illness." The police union, SYNAPPO-HA, called for more than just words, demanding the return of the victims' bodies.—APP

Canada faces scourge of rising car thefts

MONTREAL: Montreal-area resident Zachary Sicilian discovered recently that his car had simply disappeared - likely in one of a rash of vehicle thefts in Canada. The crime trend, which the Insurance Bureau of Canada has dubbed a "national crisis," has seen stolen vehicles shipped through the busy Port of Montreal to overseas car lots for sale. Sicilian told AFP there was no trace of a break-in at the scene, so he thinks thieves probably used a device that intercepts and copies the frequency of electronic key fobs used to open a car's doors and start the engine, and just drove away with it. "The advent of technology to start cars (has) provided a level of comfort for users and drivers of vehicles, but it also provided an avenue for organized crime groups to steal vehicles," Ontario Provincial Police detective Scott Wade told AFP. Thousands of vehicles have been stolen in major cities in Quebec and Ontario - the nation's two most populous provinces - over the past several months. Most of them end up in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. A few have been found by police or intrepid owners using tracking sensors embedded in their cars or trucks.—APP

Briefs

Fazl reiterates demand for fresh election

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has reiterated his demand for a fresh election. "In the current circumstances, there is no solution other than fresh elections," he said. He added: "We are not the persons who resign from the assemblies. We are the people who play our part in assemblies." Asked if a PDM-like alliance with the PTI is in the making, he said: "Let's wait and see. He went on to say: "For PTI, it is a ceasefire from our side. We are not talking about the past." "Everyone from the PTI comes out of jail and claims Khan Sahib said this. "Something will be clear till Imran comes out of jail Fazl rubbished the report of sending any query, saying this was a YouTuber's mischievousness.

IHC allows electronic media for court reporting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court on Tuesday allowed electronic media for court reporting in light of Supreme Court's ruling. Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamir Farooq heard the petitions of court reporters and journalist organizations against PEMRA notification banning court reporting in electronic media.

The application of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) against the PEMRA notification was also heard together. High Court Bar President Riasat Ali Azad and Adil Aziz Qazi appeared in the court on behalf of the petitioners. Chief Justice Amir Farooq said the electronic media could report according to guidelines given in the Supreme Court decision. Riasat Ali Azad said now court could adjourn hearing of the case as per its will. Later, the Islamabad High Court accepted the adjournment request by PEMRA and put off the hearing.

Pak Navy crew completes training at Turkey

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The training of the crew of PNS BABUR, the new ship of Pakistan Navy, has been completed in Gölcük Naval Base, Turkey. The first-of-its-kind training was jointly organized by Turkish Naval Forces and Pakistan Navy. The purpose of the training was to train the ship's crew for various naval operations and to further strengthen mutual relations between the two navies. During the training, Commander Gölcük Naval Base, Commanding Officer Istanbul Naval Shipyard visited PNS Babur. Top officials of the Turkish Naval Forces appreciated the operational and training standards of the Pakistan Navy. PNS Babur paid homage to the Turkish Martyrs while passing in front of the First World War at Çanakkale Martyrs' Memorial.

Ex-PA secretary gets bail

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has granted bail to former Punjab Assembly secretary Muhammad Khan Bhatti in the case of alleged illegal recruitment in the provincial Assembly. Muhammad Khan Bhatti's bail application in the case of alleged illegal recruitment in the Punjab Assembly was approved by Justice Sultan Tanveer Ahmed of the LHC. Muhammad Khan Bhatti in his bail plea stated that he was nominated in the case despite the fact that no evidence was available against him. He pleaded with the court to grant him the benefit of bail. Earlier, NAB had arrested former principal secretary Bhatti in corruption case.

National Day of Portugal

Relations with Pakistan based on trust: envoy

Ambassador of Portugal Fredrico Silva says Portugal supported the recent election of Pakistan to a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council



ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal Fredrico Silva has said Portugal supported the recent election of Pakistan to a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for the period 2025/26. "I also would like to remind that Portugal is candidate to the equivalent position for the biennium 2026/27. We consistently support the indispensable role of the United Nations, including its Secretary-General, the Portuguese António Guterres". The ambassador expressed these views on the occasion of the National Day of Portugal, celebrated at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Riaz Husain Pirzada, Federal Minister for Housing, Minister Maritime Affairs Qaisar Ahmed Sheik, Director General ISPR Lt. General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry also attended the event. The ambassador said, the bilateral relations between Portugal and Pakistan are long and well established, friendly and based on trust and cooperation. "Since my arrival to Pakistan, February last

year, I have been able to travel extensively inside this big and fascinating country, visiting, among other places, Lahore and Karachi, Faisalabad and Peshawar, Nowshera and Abbotabad, Murrey and Taxila, Chilas and Gilgit-Baltistan". In 1949, Portugal established an Embassy in Karachi, what was followed in 1954 by the opening of the Embassy of Pakistan in Lisbon. Political bilateral consultations were held last year in Lisbon. A new round is expected to take place in Islamabad in the medium term. As of today, the main areas of bilateral interaction, both at official and civil society levels, include Renewable Energy and Water Management, Education and Culture, Tourism and Agriculture, Blue Economy and Green Technologies, Trade and Investments. On Ukraine, he said, it has to be clearly reminded that sovereignty and territorial integrity are the cornerstone of international order. Russia's unjustified war against Ukraine creates a very dangerous precedent for the rest of the world; it must be stopped. Talking about Palestine issue, the ambassador said, Portugal strongly condemned the



ongoing Israeli offensive in Raffah and is gravely concerned with the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation. "We also maintain our longstanding position of respect for the jurisdiction, independence and impartiality of the International Criminal Court". He said, Portugal considered the recognition of the Palestinian State as an important step, with the underlying concern of choosing the best timing and context, to maximize its effect and send a positive political message to both parties. Giving a historical background, he said, Portugal is one of the oldest nation states on Earth. Today we celebrate 885 years of existence, since 1139. We have indeed a long history as the western most country in Europe, facing the Atlantic Ocean on our maritime mainland coast and around the Archipelagos of Madeira and Azores. The Portuguese were the first to sail south down the Atlantic Ocean, the first Europeans to pass the Equator, to circumnavigate the African continent and to sail into Asia. In 1498 with Vasco da Gama, the Portu-

guese were the first to reach the Indian subcontinent by sea from Europe, and to reach Ceylon and Sumatra, Java and Thailand, Malaca and Timor, and so on. They were also the first Europeans to reach and trade with both Japan and China by sea, and the first ones to view Australia. In the Americas the Portuguese reached Brazil, he added. "In 1974, with the Carnation Revolution, Portugal began an era of democracy, decolonization and development and this opened the path for a reinvigorated Portugal, that became a EU state member in 1985. Today, Portugal is consistently considered one of the most safe and secure countries in the world, benefitting from good levels of economic and social development, he added. Touching upon the Day of LUIS DE CAMOES the Ambassador said, "We also celebrate on 10th June, Luis Vaz de Camões, poet and writer, author of "The Lusíads", the major Portuguese national epic. 10th June was the day, in 1580, Camões, Luis Vaz de Camoes, died. And that is why, in an original manner, 10th of June is the National Day of Portugal.

Macron rules out resigning 'whatever the result' of snap polls

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron ruled out resigning, whatever the result of snap elections he called to combat the rise of the far-right National Rally (RN), in an interview published on Tuesday. "It is not the RN that writes the constitution, nor the spirit of it," he told Figaro Magazine when asked what he would do if the RN won the legislative elections on June 30 and July 7 and called for his resignation. "The institutions are clear, the place of the president is clear, and it is also clear whatever the result," he added. He said he was prepared to again debate the RN's Marine Le Pen, against whom he ran in the second round of the last two presidential elections. "Of course! I'm ready to wear our colours and defend our project," he told the magazine on Monday afternoon. Macron scoffed at a question about whether he was "crazy" to dissolve parliament and call for elections at such short notice. "I am thinking only of France. It was the right decision, in the interest of the country," he said. "And I say to the French: 'Don't be scared, go and vote.'" - Agencies

Four Israeli soldiers killed in south Gaza

GAZA: The Israeli military said on Tuesday that four soldiers had been killed in fighting in southern Gaza the previous day, more than eight months into its war against Hamas fighters. The soldiers were "killed in fighting in south Gaza" on Monday, the military said in a statement, without elaborating on the circumstances of their deaths. Israeli public broadcaster Kan said that the soldiers were killed in an explosion in a building in Gaza's far-southern city of Rafah. On Monday evening, Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, said its fighters had "booby-trapped" a building in the Shabura refugee camp in Rafah. "The Qassam mujahideen were able to detonate a booby-trapped house inside which a Zionist force was holed up ... leaving members of the (Israeli) force dead and wounded," the group said in a statement. The Times of Israel reported that seven soldiers were also wounded in the blast, five of them seriously. - Agencies

One is clear. PTI won't get any NRO: Kundi

Says it isn't even a political party, holding talks just wastage of time

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said he would perform his duties according to law and constitution, adding, "One thing is very much clear. There won't be any NRO for the PTI." The statement about NRO comes with reference to PTI founding chairman Imran Khan who is in prison following his sentencing in multiple cases and booking in many others as well as his party's involvement in May 9 events. Earlier on Monday, it was reported that Imran, who is known for his aggressive approach as reflected by the May 9 violence and the stance taken afterwards, may write a letter to the Supreme Court which should, according to him, convey his desire for talks to the relevant circles. But Kundi told reporters on Tuesday that the PTI wasn't even a political party and holding talks with the grouping would be a wastage of time. Blasting the provincial government over rise in terrorism and poor performance, he warned that Chief Minister Ali Amin

Gandapur was losing control of the province and mentioned that not a single meeting of the [Provincial] Apex Committee had so far been convened. One could only laugh at the statements issued by Gandapur, the governor remarked and said that he didn't think Gandapur could attack Islamabad. Responding to various questions, he was commenting on the repeated threats hurled by Gandapur that he would lead a march towards the federal capital if their demands are not met. According to Kundi, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister is passing such comments only to protect "his job" and they too would be saddened if Kundi becomes unemployed. "I know how to protect the Governor's House [Peshawar] constitutionally," said Kundi and added that he had a complete understanding of his constitutional powers, the governor said. He said Gandapur could visit any place in Pakistan, but the law and order situation was worsening day by day in the province, with people going missing and moving in convoys in his home district of Dera Ismail Khan. "At least address the state of affairs in your own district," remarked Kundi who also hails from Dera Ismail Khan.

IHC irked by change in Tribunal

PTI counsel Advocate Shoab Shaheen argued that the Election Tribunal had given time to the PML-N MNAs for a response

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court's (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq expressed his anger over the change of the Election Tribunal in Islamabad. The court heard PTI's petition against the ongoing proceedings related to the Election Amendment Ordinance and the change of tribunal in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). PTI counsel Advocate Shoab Shaheen argued that the

Election Tribunal had given time to the PML-N MNAs for a response, adding no reply was given. Justice Aamer inquired "Why the tribunal has been changed. The government explain to me that this amendment was abolished years ago, and now they have brought it through an ordinance. How can the acting president issue an ordinance? What was the emergency that the ordinance came overnight? Let the system remain a system." Shaheen stated that he would challenge the ECP's decision and requested the court to restore the seats on the application pending before the court and to what has happened to date. Advocate Ali Bukhari remarked, "Today we have gone back to the position of February 8." The CJ remarked "The tribunals were formed after consultation with me, I suggested the names and you gave the approval, then what was the need to change the judges of the tribunal? The request to change judge also comes to us, we do not ask for records, and you have to be accountable. We respected that ECP is a constitutional body, that is why we gave two days time." "Has the notification of the new judge been issued?" Justice Aamer inquired further asking if the tribunal made was only for Islamabad.

Ukraine seeks air defence boost to protect battered energy grid

The Ukrainian leader asks for help in repelling air attacks, warning Russia has destroyed half of Ukraine's power production capacity

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called on allies to increase their air defence support to Ukraine to help protect his country's energy infrastructure. Speaking on Tuesday at a conference in Germany on the reconstruction of Ukraine, Zelenskyy said that Russia has destroyed half of his country's electricity-generating capacity. Another seven Patriot missile systems, as well as other aerial defences, are needed to allow the military to shield Ukraine's urban centres from the storm of missiles, he claimed. The two-day Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin marks the start of a week of intense diplomacy for the Ukrainian president, which will also see him travel to the Group of Seven (G7) summit featuring his country's leading Western allies,

and a peace summit in Switzerland. The German hosts say it is bringing together 2,000 people from national and local politics, business and other areas, arguing that the task of supporting Ukraine's recovery is too big for govts alone. Sustained Russian attacks on Ukraine's power grid in recent weeks have forced energy companies to institute nationwide rolling blackouts. Zelenskyy told the conference that, in the coming month, Ukraine needs equipment to repair heating and electricity plants that are currently out of action. "This will allow us to respond to the situation here and now," he said. Overall, nine gigawatts of electricity generating capacity have been destroyed - including 80 percent of thermal power and one-third of hydroelectric power - while the peak consumption in Ukraine last winter was 18 gigawatts, Zelenskyy noted. Energy, he said, continues to be "one of [Russian President Vladimir] Putin's main targets". The Kremlin said on Tuesday that attacks on energy facilities are justified as they are partly aimed at disrupting electricity supplies to military facilities. Amnesty International has called the attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure a war crime. Adding his support to the call for increased air defence support, Ihor Terekhov, the mayor of Kharkiv, said on Tuesday that the ability of Ukrainian forces to launch air attacks inside Russia has helped reduce the number of attacks on his embattled city following weeks of heavy bombardment.

Asylum seekers won't be issued passports anymore

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has directed his ministry to stop issuing passports to Pakistanis seeking asylum abroad. The move is believed to be aimed at bolstering national security and safety. The decision comes as part of efforts to curb the unauthorized migration of Pakistani citizens under the guise of asylum-seeking. According to sources, individuals seeking asylum abroad for any reason will be ineligible to obtain a Pakistani passport. Furthermore, the Interior Ministry has clarified that passports of individuals already seeking asylum abroad will neither be canceled nor renewed. This decision underscores the government's commitment to maintaining strict control over passport issuance processes to safeguard national interests.



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