

Indonesian envoy stresses economic ties with Pakistan

Ambassador of Indonesia commended the efforts of KP-BOIT in creating a conducive environment for foreign investment and assured continuous cooperation in realizing shared goals

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Rahmat Hindarta Kusuma has reiterated the commitment of Indonesia to strengthening economic ties with Pakistan and especially with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said this during his visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KP-BOIT) here Friday. Director Business Facilitation KP-BOIT, Iqbal Sarwar gave him a detailed presentation about Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's vision, mission and role of KP-BOIT and potential sectors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for joint collaboration. He invited the business community of Indonesia to invest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and utilize the easy access for export to Afghanistan, Central Asia and People's Republic of China. He also invited the Ambassador

of Indonesian Business Community to attend KP-BOIT's International Investment and Trade Expo, Islamabad scheduled in September this year. The Ambassador of Indonesia commended the efforts of KP-BOIT in creating a conducive environment for foreign investment and assured continuous cooperation in realizing shared goals. He shared information about Indonesian market and its development through a detailed documentary and presentation showcasing their strong and stable economy and infrastructure in the world. He also invited the business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through KP-BOIT to attend 39th Trade Expo-Indonesia scheduled in October 2024. In his address, Vice Chairman of KP-BOIT, Engineer Said Mahmood highlighted the strategic advantages of investing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly mentioning its rich

natural resources, skilled workforce and investor-friendly policies. He expressed gratitude to the Ambassador of Indonesia, for his visit and looked forward to a fruitful partnership that will benefit both countries. The Vice Chairman said that the visit would not only strengthen business ties but also foster a deeper understanding of the culture and historic connections that exist between Indonesia and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said that KP-BOIT was looking forward to continued partnership with Indonesia to drive economic development and create new opportunities for businesses. Earlier, on arrival at the KP-BOIT, the Ambassador of Indonesia, Rahmat Hindarta Kusuma, Engineer Said Mahmood presented him a bouquet, traditional turban of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and a souvenir on behalf of the Board.

WB Mission commends BISP for achieving CRISP targets

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank (WB)/Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Implementation Support Mission for the Crisis Resilient Social Protection (CRISP) project highlighted the successful achievement of all targets related to the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP). The mission, which visited the BISP office on Friday, was led by

Senior Social Protection Specialist Amjad Zafar Khan. The mission included key participants such as Melis U. Guven (Lead Economist/Co-Task Team Leader) and Zaineb Majoka (Economist), among others. During the wrap-up meeting with Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Senator Rubina Khalid and Secretary BISP Amer Ali Ahmad, the mission presented its findings for the period Jan-June 2024. Amjad

Zafar Khan highlighted the successful achievement of all targets related to various initiatives including innovations to the Social Registry, Biometric Payment Systems, Hybrid Social Protection Schemes, Health and Nutrition Improvements, and School Enrollment Incentives. He remarked that all targets were met satisfactorily and are on track. Chairperson Rubina Khalid expressed gratitude to the World Bank mission for their support and as-

essment of BISP's performance. She stressed the importance of creating awareness about new initiatives among beneficiaries and extending outreach at the Union Council level for better communication and mobilization. Melis U. Guven also praised BISP's Hybrid Social Protection Scheme, noting that Benazir Income Support Programme has emerged as a role model for other developing countries implementing social protection programs.

More tours to be arranged for orphan children

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister on Tourism, Culture, Archaeology and Museum Zahid Chanezh said on Friday that more tour trips and training sessions would be arranged for orphan and street children to provide them an opportunity to participate in recreational and healthy activities. "The leadership camp and other healthy activities are providing the best opportunity to these children to learn more about ecotourism, hone their innate capabilities and become useful part of society and face the present-day challenges effectively," he said in a release issued here Friday. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPC-TA) and the Akhlat Foundation (AKF) arranged a five-day tour and leadership camp for the orphan children to the scenic spots in Swat Valley. The children visited Kalam, Matalan Valley, Mahodband Lake, Shahi Ground, Usho Fort and other scenic spots and also held a leadership camp there. The children also collected a cleanliness drive and launched plastic and other trash to keep the site clean and neat and also promote sustainable tourism and a sense of cleanliness among the visitors and tourists. The event provided orientation to the children about future prospects and effective ways to seize new opportunities.—APP

Japan provides sewerage machinery for Multan

100km long sewerage network, 1,000km water supply lines decayed

MULTAN: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has offered help to improve the sewerage services in Multan with sustainable sanitation. A team of experts from JICA called on WASA Managing Director Chaudhary Muhammad Danish and assured him of providing complete training to run the machinery provided by Japan to enhance the sewerage services in the city. The officials of JICA, a development and aid implementing agency of Japan for technical cooperation in projects, pledged to

extend every possible cooperation for repairing the old equipment for cleaning sewerage lines and relocating reusable equipment to where it is needed the most. The MD said WASA was facing a challenge due to the decay of the sewerage and water supply systems in Multan city. "It is very important to replace the old lines to deal with these challenges," he maintained. He said there had been many incidents of pollution of water supply in different areas of the city almost every day

in the past. He said the more than 100km long sewerage network with approximately 1,000km of water supply lines were decayed and there was an urgent need for mega projects of replacement of water supply lines. He praised the cooperation of the Japanese agency in the project of supplying modern machinery to the Multan WASA. He expressed hope that the modern machinery offered by Japan would lead to improved delivery of public services in parts of the city.—APP

Minister Irrigation reviews arrangements for Muharram

BAHAWALPUR: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Muhammad Kazim Ali Pirzada presided over a meeting held in the committee room of the Commissioner's Office. The meeting reviewed the steps taken regarding the arrangements for Muharram Majalis and processions in the Bahawalpur Division. The Provincial Minister emphasized ensuring full-proof security arrangements for Muharram processions and gatherings in different locations. It was directed to ensure the cleanliness of routes for processions and Majalis and the availability of other facilities. Various officials including Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Nadeem Chatha, Regional Police Officer Rai Babar Saeed, Additional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, DPOs, and officers from relevant departments were present at the meeting. The Commissioner Bahawalpur Division mentioned the importance of cleanliness and better arrangements of Muharram procession routes, along with the active participation of officers and staff from various departments. The meeting was informed that all arrangements for 1409 Majalis and 514 processions in Bahawalpur Division are complete. Moreover, during the Ashura Muharram, over 17,000 police personnel will perform their duties, and from the 7th to 10th of Muharram, army and rangers companies will also be assigned security duty. Earlier, Deputy Commissioners and District Police Officers from Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, and Rahim Yar Khan gave a briefing regarding security arrangements and other matters for Muharram.—APP

Police Vigilant in Muharram Security Duties: IGP

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said on Friday that during the heavy rain in various areas of the province including the provincial capital, the Punjab police diligently performed Muharram security duties, played an active role in relief activities and ensured protection of life and property of citizens. He said all supervisory officers personally monitored the relief activities in the rain-affected areas in their districts. He said Punjab Police were in constant contact with the Provin-

cial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), district administration, rescue organisations regarding rescue and relief activities. Details of the damage caused by the rain was also being monitored from the control rooms of the Punjab Police. He directed the DPOs, DPs to review the rescue and relief activities in the field themselves. The police provided full support to the PDMA and other institutions in draining out water from rain-affected roads including Lahore. Meanwhile, Under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Punjab Police have intensified the crackdown to arrest the dangerous

criminals involved in the serious crimes. In the continuation of which, in the first half of this year, more than 118,000 dangerous criminals, such as proclaimed offenders, court absconders and target offenders involved in serious crimes have been arrested across the province including Lahore. According to spokesman of Punjab Police, in January to June this year, more than 65,000 proclaimed offenders involved in serious crimes were arrested, including 9,515 of A category and 55,652 of B category. In the ongoing crackdown against court absconders, more than 36 thousand absconders were arrested, including

2623 of A category and 3385 of B category, targeting the operations of the police teams, 17725 target offenders (habitual criminals) were also arrested, including 7194 target offenders of A category and 10531 target offenders of B category. Similarly 50 proclaimed offenders wanted in serious crimes were arrested and extradited from foreign countries and transferred to Pakistan. IGP Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar commended the police teams for their good performance and directed them to perform their duties more diligently. IG Punjab directed that the cases should be completed quickly with effective investigation.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja in a meeting with President Qatar Science and Technology Park Dr. Jack Lau.—DNA

KP Governor visits Chinese embassy

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday visited the embassy of People's Republic of China at Islamabad where he was warmly welcomed by the Chinese ambassador, Jiang Ziaodong. The Governor while praising the role of China in progress and development of Pakistan said that extension of CPEC route from Di Khan to Balochistan was of paramount importance, which would help achieve the desired objectives. The Governor said Di Khan was the first nearest station to the capital and the new international airport near it under CPEC would help bring far reaching positive results. He underlined the need for establishment of a new economic zone near the CPEC route that would help enhance trade and business activities in the region. The Governor said that 34 universities of KP are ready to present.—APP

Minister calls for addressing concerns of Afghan refugees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for States & Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Engr Amir Muqam on Friday emphasized Pakistan's enduring friendship and cooperative spirit with Afghanistan, particularly in addressing the concerns of Afghan refugees. The minister in a meeting with Afghanistan's Charge d'Affaires Sardar Ahmed Khan Sha-

keeb called for strengthening bilateral ties. Muqam said that Pakistan has extended the stay of Proof of Registration (POR) card holders for one year, recognizing the ongoing humanitarian situation. "People of both brotherly countries have sacrificed a lot, and the restoration of peace is crucial for their well-being," Muqam stated. He urged Afghanistan to pursue long-term solutions


for its citizens residing in Pakistan, focusing on their return and integration. Charge d'Affaires Sardar Ahmed Khan Shaheeb expressed profound gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for their hospitality towards Afghan refugees over the past four decades. He appreciated the extension of the POR card validity, acknowledging it as a critical support for Afghan nationals in Pakistan.

BIEK transitioning to paperless system

KARACHI: A facilitation centre is being set up at the Board of Intermediate Education Karachi (BIEK) office to streamline operations and transition to a paperless system, said the board's chairman Syed Zafiqur Ali Shah on Thursday. "Students will now fill out a single form containing their

roll number, year, ID card number, and father's name, along with a college recommendation letter," Shah told The Express Tribune in an interview. "This simplified process replaces multiple forms and paperwork. Documents will be generated automatically through an integrated IT system."

This initiative, according to Shah, eliminates the need for five separate forms, each costing Rs100, resulting in savings of around Rs40 million annually. Student verification, previously conducted at the board office, will now utilize MADRA verification services for a nominal fee of Rs10.—APP



PAKISTAN NAVY

MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES

NOTICE OF TENDER

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF FIRMS/CONTRACTORS REF. NO 6900/CC-327,363,419,423,425,CL-279,275,283 & CK/EE

1. Applications alongwith all credentials are invited by the HQ DW&E (Navy), Sector E-8, Naval Complex, Islamabad for pre-qualification of firms/contractors and issue of tenders against the following works in the light of Clause-13, 15 and 16 of PPRA

S/No	Description of Work
A	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICER MESS AT KARACHI
B	CONSTRUCTION OF COOK HOUSE AND DINING HALL AT KARACHI
C	INSTALLATION OF FIRE FIGHTING/FIRE HYDRANT AT KARACHI
D	CONSTRUCTION OF DINING HALL AT GWADAR
E	EXTENSION OF ADMIN BLOCK AT KARACHI
F	CONSTRUCTION OF STORE BLOCK AT KARACHI
G	CONSTRUCTION OF GUARD ROOM AT KARACHI
H	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AT GWADAR
I	CONSTRUCTION/PROVISION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AT KARACHI
2. Firms/contractors who are enlisted with MES in category 'A' & 'B' OR other Govt department, having experience of this type of works, may only apply.
3. Applicants must provide Company's Profile containing the following information and documents, otherwise will not be considered for prequalification/issue of tenders;
 - a. Description of similar nature of works in hand and completed during last five years. The information must contain name of sponsoring agency, cost of works and performance report from the sponsoring agency
 - b. List of enrolled manpower including engineers with valid PEC number.
 - c. Details of tools, plants and machinery held.
 - d. Bank statement of last two years.
 - e. NTN, FBR, PEC, MES Registration Certificate.
4. Firms/contractors not registered with Pakistan Engineering Council or renew their registration upto 30th June 2025 will not be considered for issuance of tender documents.
5. Applications will be scrutinized and tenders will be issued to the prequalified firms/contractors only. Prequalified firms will deposit bid security equal to 2% of quoted bid cost in the favour of DW&E (Navy) Islamabad with the tender documents (Clause 25 of PPRA Procurement Code 4th Edition). This amount is refundable to the unsuccessful bidders.
6. The tenders are required to be received in HQ DW&E (Navy) Sector E8, Naval Complex, Islamabad by 11:30 hours on 05 August 2024 and will be opened on the same date at 12:00 hours.
7. Received bids will be evaluated in light of bid evaluation criteria formulated by HQ DW&E(N). The lowest evaluated responsive bid will be identified & accepted.
8. The Accepting Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the applications in the light of para-33 of PPRA rules-2004. Incomplete application shall not be entertained.

PD 10 312 24

National Days and Armed Forces Days

- JULY
July 01/Japan Self Defence Day
July 01/Singapore Armed Forces Day
July 01 / Canada National Day
July 01/Somalia Independence Day
July 04/USA Independence Day
July 05/Algeria Independence Day
July 09/Argentine Independence Day
July 09/Mongolia Revolution Day
July 14/France National Day
July 15/Brunei Sultan's Birthday
July 21/Belgium National Day
July 20/TRNC Independence Day
July 23/Egypt National Day
July 26/Cuba National Day
July 26/Liberia National Day
July 30/Morocco National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

- Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051-2826121
Mona.....0334-5421212
Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

- Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad.....1122 & 112
Emergency Ambulance.....1122
Rescue Services.....4451122
Motorway Police.....9286974
Motorway Police.....9278601-20
Women Police Stations
Islamabad.....92225486
Rawalpindi.....927601-20

Enquiry

- Ethi Ambulance.....315
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9286974
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange.....9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....555489
CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
CMH.....9221334-43
Cant Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218306-09
Shifa International 4603666

Departments

- CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-4
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Contention Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Mr. XU Hangtian, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China called on Federal Minister, Rana Tameer Hussain-DNA

Girls grab top positions in SSC Part-I examination

In the Science group, Zebadia Naseeb from Army Public School, EME College Campus, Rawalpindi secured first position with 1087 marks while Hijab Fatima from Global School System, Rawalpindi Cantt obtained second position with 1085 marks.

ISLAMABAD: Maintaining the previous trends, girls bagged majority of the top positions in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Part-I 1st Annual Examination 2024 as per the declaration of the result by the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) on Friday. In the Science group, Zebadia Naseeb from Army Public School, EME College Campus, Rawalpindi secured first position with 1087 marks while Hijab Fatima from Global School System, Rawalpindi Cantt obtained second position with 1085 marks. The third position as shared by Mossadiq Shahbaz of Army Public School, Gatra Campus, Rawalpindi and Fatima Wajid from Fujai Foundation Model School, Morgah Campus, Rawalpindi with 1084 marks. In Humanities group, Aqsa Farooq from Future Foundation School, Rawalpindi Cantt secured first position, Onazia Jalli from DHA Senior School for Girls, Lahore Cantt secured second position and Muhammad Anas from Institute of Islamic Sciences, Islamabad got third position with 1014 marks. The result was announced during a ceremony held at a local college with Federal Secretary for Education and Professional Training, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani as a chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Secretary emphasized on equipping students with the latest technology to compete in this digital world. He said that the present government is taking concrete steps to elevate the standard of education in the public school, making these students as productive citizens. He highlighted the steps being taken to improve the infrastructure in these institutions to create more friendly and supportive environment for the students. He said that the institutions have been engaged to introduce multiple learning activities for the students as these are crucial for the intellectual growth of the students. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman, FBISE, Syed Junaid Akhlaq briefed the participants about the salient features of the examination and also advised the students to work hard in their future endeavors for the betterment of the country. The chairman FBISE, informed that the board is taking concrete steps to transform the examination system through digitalization. As per the SSC-II result notification, a total of 112689 regular candidates appeared in the exam out of which 104899 could pass against the 7852 private candidates out of the total 14173 who appeared in the exams, with pass percentage of 88.20. In Science group, 101735 regular candidates were appeared in the exam out of which 94394 could pass the exam against 10505 candidates out of total 11925 appeared in the Humanities group. Among the ex-private candidates of Science group, 8150 candidates were appeared in the exam out of which 1785 could pass the exam. While in Humanities group, 2900 candidates appeared in the exam out of which 683 could pass the exam. The results cards of regular candidates are being dispatched to their respective institutions and those of Ex/Private candidates within the country are being sent to the addresses given by them in their admission forms and those of overseas candidates are being sent to heads of institutions from where they appeared. This year, 43 unfair means cases were reported in SSC Part-I and 56 in Part-II. All the cases have been decided by adopting a judicious procedure and allowing personal hearings to all the concerned.

All set to observe 'Kashmir Martyrs Day'

ISLAMABAD: All is set to observe 94th 'Kashmir Martyrs Day' at both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and rest of the world on Saturday to pay tributes to the martyrs of Jammu & Kashmir especially those 22 valiant sons of the soil who rendered supreme sacrifices of their precious lives 94 years on July 13 in 1931 in front of Central Jail Srinagar raising mutiny against the despotic Dogra maharajah rule. The historic day is considered to be the foundation stone of the Kashmiris struggle for liberation of the motherland from the clutches of the cruel Hindu Dogra regime. The tragic day is the milestone in the history of Kashmiris struggle for freedom of the motherland from dogra and later ongoing long Indian forced and unlawful occupation for last 77 years. It was revolt against atrocities on July 13, 1931 when people rose against the autocratic Dogra rule and protested against the prosecution of sympathizer of Kashmiri freedom struggle, Abdul Qadeer Khan Ghazi. The people of Jammu & Kashmir e people living at both sides of LoC and rest of the world observe the Kashmir Martyrs Day on July 13 every year with the renewal of the pledge to continue the grand mission of the Kashmiri martyrs through perpetuating the freedom struggle, with full vigor, for the achievement of the birth right of self determination and for the liberation of illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir from the tyrannical Indian rule. Special prayer meetings, symposiums will be the hallmark of the day across Azad Jammu & Kashmir as well as at various places in the stric-torion IOJK and rest of the world. According to a historian following 24 Kashmiri muslim entered shahadat on 13th July 1931 raising mutiny against then despotic dogra maharajah rule during trial of Qadeer inside the Central Jail Srinagar which including Niaz Ali Shora, Akbar Dar, Ghulam Ahmad Rather, Usman Misgar, Ghulam Ahmad Bhat, Ghulam M Hadrat, Ghulam Nabi Kahwal, Ghulam Ahmad Nagesh, Ghulam Rasool Durra, Amereed-Din Makay, Subhan Malazy, Ghulam Qadir Khan, Ramzan Choka, Ghulam Mohammad Sofi, Nasir-ud-Din, Amereed-Din Jandagura, Mohammad Subhan Khan, Mohammad Sultan Khan, Abdul Salam, Ghulam Mohammad Teji, Fakker Ali, Ghulam Ahmad Dar, Mughli and Abdullah Almagar. In AJK, it will be the state holiday on Saturday to facilitate the people to participate in the events of the day from all over the liberated territory. In IOJK, a complete shuter down strike will be observed against the forced and illegal Indian occupation of bulk part of the Jammu Kashmir State, said a report reaching here on Friday from across the line of control. Despite heavy restrictions imposed by the Indian occupying forces to commemorate the day across IOJK, Kashmiri Muslims will visit the graveyards of the Shahada (martyrs) in Srinagar and other places to offer Iteba- besides holding special prayer meetings for the upholding of the status of the martyrs in heaven. In the liberated territory of AJK, people from all walks of life will hold special prayer meetings besides staging rallies and seminars to pay tributes to Kashmiri martyrs in all district and tehsil headquarters across the liberated territory to mark the day July 13 - Kashmir Martyrs Day is also a message for Indians every year that if the people of Kashmir did not bow down their heads before the tyranny of Dogra rule.-DNA

Mohsin Naqvi visits Imam Bargah



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Marazi Asna Ashri Imam Bargah in G-6, Islamabad last night and reviewed the security arrangements for the upcoming Muharram processions. He met with participants and inquired about the arrangements. The participants expressed satisfaction over the security measures and arrangements. Interior Minister said that the police and administration are on high alert to ensure peace and security during Muharram. He directed the Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Muhammad Ali Rindhawi and IG Islamabad Police, Ali Nasir Rizvi, to take necessary steps to ensure the security of the processions. He said that a control room has been set up and CCTV cameras are being used to monitor the situation. Interior Minister was accompanied by Chairman CIA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Rindhawi, IG Islamabad Police, Ali Nasir Rizvi, DIG Ali Raza, and other relevant.

IRSA releases 290,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 290,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 337,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1521.70 feet and was 123.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 178,000 cusecs and 135,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1193.60 feet, which was 145.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 31,500 cusecs and 27,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Tamsa, Guldna and Sukkur was recorded as 187,700, 180,100, 147,200 and 75,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Chenab at Marala-AFP, a total of 69,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 26,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.-AFP

AIOU organises Open House 2024

ISLAMABAD: Department of Computer Science, Allama Iqbal Open University on Friday organized the 'Open House 2024,' where final year BS (Computer Science) students showcased their projects addressing societal needs. A total of 77 students participated, presenting 27 projects. These included a gas leakage detection project, a rural e-commerce platform, a system for cleaning and protecting wheat from pests, a battery-powered modern wheat harvesting machine, a PC watch tower, and a 3D drawing tutor, among others. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Professor Dr. Haja Ahmed. On this occasion, Dr. Haja inspected all the projects, and the students gave presentations and demonstrated their projects. Dr. Haja stated that all these projects were useful and aligned with today's societal needs. She mentioned that the students' projects demonstrated that they possessed ample talent.

ANF recovers 27 kg drugs in 5 operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 5 operations managed to recover 27 kg drugs and arrested 8 accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed that 600 grams ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Australia at a courier office in Islamabad. 20.4 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle intercepted near the bastand in Rawalpindi and 4 accused were arrested during the operation.-AFP



WWW.HOUSEOF LALA.COM

Briefs

IESCO calls for adopting precautionary measures

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has asked power consumers to adopt precautionary measures during the rainy season as little negligence can cause fatal accidents. "As the incessant rains continue in the entire IESCO's Regions, the risk of electrical accidents becomes more prominent," IESCO Chief Director Operation Muhammad Aslam Khan told here Friday. The IESCO requested esteemed customers to take necessary precautions to ensure their safety during rainfall and keep proper and safe distance from electrical installations like transformers, electric wires, poles, and meters during the rain. Never touch electrical appliances with wet hands when your body is wet. He said to prevent personal and property damage from short circuits, ensure old and faulty wiring is repaired. Do not keep electrical appliances on standby position, avoid ironing clothes hand-dry, use rope instead of metal wire to hang clothes, and do not use metal wires for drying clothes. Never touch broken electrical wires. Never tie animals to electric poles or under transformers, he said. Additionally, line staff must adhere to all safety equipment and precautionary measures during their work. IESCO helpline number 118 and complaint & monitoring cell numbers 0519252933, and 0519252934 are available 24/7 for complaints registration. In case of a broken electric wire anywhere do not touch it but immediately inform the concerned IESCO office. Meanwhile, in view of the monsoon rains, IESCO field formations have also been put on high alert. Power continuity and timely fault and tripping clearance will be ensured. Additional transformers, meters, cables, and other materials have been provided to the field formations.—APP

Several feeders of IESCO tripped due to wind storm

ISLAMABAD: Several feeders of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) in various areas tripped due to severe wind storm on Friday morning. The affected feeders were in Bahara Khau, Westridge, Morgah, Saghari, Kalyan, Chakra, Jail Park, Walayat Colony, City Housing Society, Range Road, Shauwa, Shamsabad, Jhang, Qaid-e-Azam Hospital, A Block Kashmir Road, F-11, Koral etc, and IESCO operations teams were in the field to restore the power supply at the earliest besides addressing individual complaints, he said. The consumers could lodge their complaints at helpline number 118. The IESCO requested for temporary inconvenience to the consumers due to bad weather.—APP

ICT admin imposes ban on entry some Ulema

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to maintain peace and security during Muharram, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has issued a one-month ban on the entry of some Ulema known for their sectarian and fiery speeches. According to a notification issued here, the district administration, following the District Intelligence Committee's recommendation, has prohibited the entry of 17 Ulema into the city. This measure aims to prevent any potential unrest during the Muharram observance. Among those banned are Allama Tabir Ashraf, Maulana Muhammad Yusuf, Maulana Abdul Khaliq Rahmani, and Allama Aurangzeb Farooq. The list also includes Maulana Yusuf Rishi Mirza, Peer Irfan Al-Meshadi, Dr. Asif Ashraf Jaleel, and Zakir Muhammad Hanif Qureshi. Other Ulema included in the ban are Allama Jafarqat, Zakir Shaukat Raza Shaukat, Zakir Asif Khan Ahs, Zakir Anwar Ali Naqvi, Allama Allama Kamel Mehdii.—APP

PM directs preparing action plan for PASSCO's privatization

Federal cabinet members including Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Attaullah Tarar, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officers attended the meeting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to prepare an action plan for the privatisation of the Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO). The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters related to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research and PASSCO, also instructed to carry out the restructuring of the Wheat Board. He said the restructuring of WB should include representatives of farmers, Land Information Management System and PASSCO. The prime minister called for taking effective measures to enhance the yield of wheat and other crops. He asked the relevant authorities to formulate an alternate strategy for wheat procurement by the federal government and hold consultation with the provincial governments and also those of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu



and Kashmir, as well as relevant departments. The participants of the meeting were briefed about the WBs and restructuring of the Wheat Board, and also on increasing the crop yield as well as reforms in the PASSCO. Federal cabinet members including Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Rana Tanveer Hussain, Attaullah Tarar, and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzeb Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Pakistani officials of Gwadar Airport get professional training in China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani officials of new Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) are under professional training in China. Gwadar Pro reported on Friday: As skilled manpower is a key prerequisite for the operation NGIA, 20 Pakistani officials of the Airport have embarked on their "Professional Training Courses" in China. Under the Training Program, China Airport Construction

Group will transfer technical and hands-on knowledge to Pakistani staff to run airport operation independently. This is the first of its-kind human resource training courses aiming to hone the technical, administrative and managerial expertise of the staff of NGIA. NGIA consists of 32 components such as a state-of-the-art runway, aprons, a terminal, along with civil, technical, electrical and communication infrastructure and allied facilities.

The Pakistani staff of the airport is receiving professional training courses from Chinese officials who installed and activated the entire airport system. An official of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority said Gwadar Pro that the Government of Pakistan did not bear any cost for the training as all the expenses incurred have been executed under China Aid. He said that most of the officials from the Civil Aviation

Authority in the section of operation, management, security, engineering & mechanical work have been joining the courses in groups. The first phase of NGIA spreads across an area of 4,300 acres and will welcome the entire load of national and international passengers. In the second phase, it will be equipped to handle cargo. After completion, it will be the biggest airport in Pakistan.

Three years of inflation has left the masses miserable

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Friday that the inflation has been going on for three years. He said the masses in deep trouble. He said that no government has been able to reduce inflation in the last three years. A few months ago, there was some reduction in inflation. Still, inflation is being increased again due to the increase in electricity and gas tariffs and taxes. Mian Zahid Hussain said that inflation is damaging the economy while the high cost of living frustrates and angers people. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that for the first time in the country's history, the state of inflation has been going on for three years and will continue. He added that little has been done to combat inflation, and the rulers are trying to appease the people through promises and statistics. The business leader said that people are currently having problems paying electricity bills. At the same time, their condition will worsen from next month due to additional tax deductions in salaries, an increase in electricity rates, a hike in fixed payments and overbilling. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the people are bearing the brunt of the politicians' wrong policies and the bureaucracy's incompetence, and the masses are made to pay for all kinds of corruption in the energy sector. The quality of life of the people continues to be destroyed in the name of economic stability. He observed that businesses are closing, unemployment is rampant, and public outcry is rising. There is a strong possibility of a drastic increase in the country's crime rate before the people's patience is exhausted. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the current policies are making millions of people mentally ill, and the unemployment of the people can take any direction at any time, which will be difficult for the state to deal with. If the situation gets out of control, it may become difficult to control the people, even through repressive measures. Those running the country should make decisions according to the ground realities. Otherwise, he warned that their grip would weaken, and anarchy would spread in the country. Even now, if the fire of rising inflation is not extinguished, it can burn everything, he said, adding that Negra has approved the imposition and increase of food charges from and has also approved an increase of 184% in fixed charges for households and other consumers. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that food charges have been increased by 200 rupees for household consumers for using 300 to 400 units per month, 400 rupees for using 400 to 500 units of electricity per month.—DNA

Pak population to hit over 400 million mark in 2092

Between 1998 and 2017, Pakistan's average population growth rate was 2.40%, the report said. For a population of over 220 million, this is a growth of about 5.28 million people per year

ISLAMABAD: A key UN report has placed Pakistan, whose current population is over 245 million, in the group of countries whose population is expected to increase through 2054 and could potentially peak in the second half of the century or later. According to the current projections in the UN's World Population Prospects 2024 report, Pakistan will reach its peak population of 404.68 million people. It said that Pakistan's population is expected to surpass that of Indonesia in 2048 when it will reach 331.29 million. Between 1998 and 2017, Pakistan's average population growth rate was 2.40%, the report said. For a population of over 220 million, this is a growth of about 5.28 million people per year. Pakistan is also one of the highest birth rates of 22 births per 1,000 people, it was pointed out. "Very few women use any type of birth control in Pakistan, and the surging population can put too much pressure on water and sanitation systems, result in millions of unem-

ployed people, and overwhelm health and education systems." Since the year 1947, when the country became a sovereign state, the population of Pakistan has increased significantly, particularly because more and more people felt comfortable moving their families and businesses to the area, the report said. Compared to the other countries in the region, the demographic landscape is evolving, with rapid population growth in some places and rapid ageing in others, making reliable population data "more important than ever", said the UN sexual and reproductive health agency (UNFPA), heralding the report which is published to coincide with World Population Day. The report "must be used to reach and respond to the needs of those who have been left behind," the agency added. Marking the international day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said it was key to accurately count everyone "because everyone counts.—APP

nearly 8.2 billion by mid-2024 and is expected to grow by another two billion over the next 60 years, peaking at around 10.3 billion in the mid-2080s. It will then fall to around 10.2 billion, which is 700 million lower than expected a decade ago. That's just one of the key findings revealed in the report published by the UN Thursday. However, changes in global population are uncertain and the demographic landscape is evolving, with rapid population growth in some places and rapid ageing in others, making reliable population data "more important than ever", said the UN sexual and reproductive health agency (UNFPA), heralding the report which is published to coincide with World Population Day. The report "must be used to reach and respond to the needs of those who have been left behind," the agency added. Marking the international day, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said it was key to accurately count everyone "because everyone counts.—APP

NDMA's rain alert cautions

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)'s National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) on Friday anticipated that rainfall was expected in various parts of the country over the next 3 days. The NEOC alert underscored, "If rainfall exceeds 50-60 mm, it may lead to urban/flood flooding in local nullahs and river tributaries. Likely exposed urban areas include Guprumal, Lahore, Sialkot and Rawalpindi whereas Gulliyat, Kashmir, Kohistan, Mansehra, and Murree are prone to landslides and flash flooding. The NDMA has advised PDMA and Local Administration to closely monitor the situation and take appropriate measures to safeguard the population at risk. The public is advised to take preparatory actions including maintaining household drainage systems, avoiding water logging. Report any blocked drains or potential hazards to local authorities promptly. People are advised to take caution while travelling in landslide-prone areas. Communications at risk are also advised to follow instructions from local authorities. The public is urged to download NDMA's 'Pak NDMA Disaster Alert' mobile app for timely disaster alerts, guidelines, and precautionary measures.—APP

WWF-Pakistan mulls over climate change integration

ISLAMABAD: The World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF-Pakistan) on Friday organised a workshop on integration of Climate Change into Policies and Actions at the Pakistan Accordment, a workshop organised by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment Planning. In his welcome note, Executive Director General Environment & Climate Change, Ministry of Climate Change, Irfan Tariq shared a comprehensive overview of the critical need of documents like the current National Communication that is being prepared, he further noted that timely submission of these com-

munications is essential for effectively tracking progress, assessing the impact of climate policies, and fulfilling international obligations under agreements such as UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, a news release said. Head of Ministry of Climate Change and Environment Planning, Nazim Butt briefed the participants on the preparatory work underway for the TNC and shared key highlights in the draft chapter indicating climate-sensitive sectors and the need for targeted policies and actionable plans. The scheduled interactive working group sessions with experts and participants culminated in the formulation of strategic pathways on policy development, implementation

and monitoring that is cognizant of climate change issues and related needs. In his closing remarks, Muhammad Arif Goher a prominent climate change expert and Director Global Climate Change Impact Studies Centre (GCCIS), Ministry of Climate Change and Environment Planning highlighted that robust national climate change communications are essential for aligning national efforts with global climate goals. He stressed that transparency in these communications is vital for building trust and accountability among all stakeholders, including the international community, government bodies, and the public. "Transparency in climate change commu-

nications allows us to track progress accurately, identify gaps, and implement corrective measures in a timely manner," he said. Goher also underscored the importance of policy coherence in driving effective climate actions. He pointed out that aligning policies across different sectors can significantly enhance the impact of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. He congratulated the organisers for conducting the workshop successfully and involving key stakeholders. The one-day event was attended by members from relevant govt bodies, non-governmental and community-based organisations (NGOs and CBOs respectively), academia, and think-tanks.—APP

Sino-Pak cooperation to further unlock potential in geosciences & mining

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sino and Pakistan will soon conduct a research on geochemical anomalies identified in previous surveys in Pakistan, to reach full potential behind these anomalies both academically and economically. This was revealed by Dr. Sajjad Ahmed, Director General, Geological Survey of Pakistan on the lately concluded International Conference on "Cooperation between the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Countries in Geosciences and Mining Investments. The conference was also dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-SCO Geosciences Cooperation Research Center. China Economic Net reported on Friday. Since its establishment, the center has signed more than 40 cooperation agreements and MoUs and implemented more than 50 collaborative projects with 13 SCO countries, represented by Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan on Eurasian resources and environment, and earth system sciences. "Over the past decade, the China-SCO Geosciences Cooperation Research Center has made significant progress in advancing the understanding of earth sciences, promoting cooperation, and sustainable exploration of mineral resources. The enduring friendship between China and Pakistan is the cornerstone of our cooperation efforts in this field. Pakistani Prime Minister further emphasized the importance of bilateral cooperation in this area during his visit to China." Dr. Sajjad Ahmed said. Based on the joint statement between China and Pakistan released during Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China in June, mining is an important breakthrough area for industrial cooperation between the two nations. Both sides agreed to strengthen long-term planning for mining cooperation, promote the implementation of the Agreement to Strengthen Mining and Industrial Cooperation under the CPFC Framework collectively, and conduct geological survey, joint geology and minerals research and talent training, etc. Moreover, Chinese companies are encouraged to invest in the mining industry of Pakistan, and strengthen the planning of mining industrial parks, including downstream mineral processing.—APP

NOW OPEN AT BHERA SERVICE AREA (NORTH)

WIDE VARIETY OF LIVE FOOD STATIONS
OFFERING QUICK SERVICE & CONVENIENCE

75+ ITEMS BELOW RS. 250 PER HEAD

50+ MEAL DEALS BELOW RS. 550 PER HEAD

TIMINGS: 12PM TO 12AM DAILY
CONTACT US: 0308 2108000 / 0309 2108000

Monal Fusion/Service Area/Bhera/North/Heald
UAN: 05111177779

Islamabad

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 / Issue: 201
Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960
Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

Living in a tent in Gaza?

Across vast agricultural lands and along the coast in central and southern Gaza, tens of thousands of tents have become shelters for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced by the ongoing, bloody war for the tenth consecutive month. Once a symbol of the Nakba (catastrophe) and displacement for more than seven decades, the tent has now become a dream for thousands of displaced families in Gaza, despite the harsh living conditions it imposes. What is it like to live in a tent? This question might seem devoid of emotion and disconnected from the harsh realities of life in Gaza amid the Israeli genocide, which has taken many Palestinian lives but has failed to break their will and determination to cling to their land. However, this question is crucial to understanding the extent of the Palestinian tragedy and resilience. The Palestinian Information Center (PIC) interviewed several displaced individuals living in tents to narrate part of the story of a people subjected to ethnic cleansing, where even their children raise victory signs amid the rubble. After obtaining a tent, the second challenge is finding a place to set it up, currently limited to areas in Khan Yunis and Deir al-Balah. Khalid Al-Masri stated that he had to move his tent several times to be close to water sources or air. Al-Masri added, "Today, there are camps consisting of a group of tents overseen by associations or initiatives that strive to provide some aid, ensure water access, and establish shared bathrooms. Other tents are set up randomly on agricultural land and near destroyed homes." Living in tents involves takes of pain and suffering, varying according to the family's resources, number of members, tent location, and the supervising entity. A small family with a tent in an area receiving aid can adapt better and suffer less compared to an extended family with a small tent in an area lacking services. With the scorching summer heat, living in a tent among hundreds of others in Gaza feels like living in hell, described Anani Hamdan, highlighting her suffering. Hamdan told the PIC that she was forced to live in a tent set up on a piece of land, with her four children, mother-in-law, and disabled sister-in-law. After enduring harsh tent life for months, engineer Mohammed Muneer wrote about its meaning, "To burn while sitting inside, to suffocate with no air or cooling means. It's like a greenhouse during the day." He wrote on Facebook, "A tent means living on the ground, separated only by fabric, coexisting with all earth's insects as you are now their guest." Traditional activities become complicated, like taking a nap or a bath, walking comfortably, sitting peacefully, feeling safe, or sleeping without back pain from the hard ground, all dreams now out of reach. "A tent means no privacy, speaking in whispers inside your tent while your neighbor hears you. With tents set up on sand and agricultural land, it means living with all types of insects, with nearly no hygiene standards." Sama Hassan wrote, "A tent means having no wall to lean on, no private life." She added, "Displacement means not living in safety or stability. As a woman and mother, I experienced displacement from Gaza to its north for false safety until missiles hit our area. We fled to southern Gaza during the first Friday of the war and stayed in Khan Yunis for two months, then moved to Rafah when Khan Yunis was invaded in early December 2023." Hassan continued, "With each relocation, I lost a thread of my privacy, becoming more displaced and homeless like thousands in Gaza."



Developing nations and climate complacency

Last year was the hottest summer on record and, while this summer is not over yet, it feels like it will break last year's record. My air conditioning bill has gone up because the nights are hotter. In May, India experienced a record heatwave with temperatures nearing 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). As I flew into Mongolia's capital (Ulaanbaatar) this week, I was made aware that the country had experienced a nearly 2.3-degree increase in average temperature in the past 80 years, double the global average. The warming climate is affecting Mongolia with a decline in precipitation causing drought, desertification of soil, and erosion for a country of about 4 million people that accounted cumulatively for only 0.04 per cent of global carbon emissions in 2022. Mongolia is suffering from global warming through external factors rather than internal ones. The current drought – a period of extreme weather that prevents livestock from accessing pastures – is estimated to have killed 5.2 million heads of livestock, or more than 8 per cent of the country's total. One might think there would be some form of global insurance or assistance for small countries that suffer the effects of climate change through no fault of their own. Multilateral agencies such as the World Bank or Asian Development Bank (ADB) are trying their best, but according to the International Budget Partnership, the primary constraint holding back Mongolia from meeting its UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is budgetary concerns. More than a quarter of the country's people live below the poverty line, and the government needs external aid to deal with climate change. In June, the United Nations estimated that 15 of last year, only 19 per cent of the SDGs to deal with global poverty and climate change by 2030 had been met. The annual investment gap for developing countries to meet their SDGs has been estimated as up to US\$4 trillion, but official development aid to developing countries was only US\$223 billion in 2023. Rich nations pledged in 2009 that they would contribute US\$100 billion for developing countries to deal with climate change, but that pledge remains unfulfilled. The Mongolian government launched the Billion Tree Fund in 2022 to try to increase the country's forest coverage, which was only about 9 per cent in 2021 compared to the 72 per cent considered grazing and agriculture. The fund would help to slow desertification, capture carbon, retain water and conserve biodiversity. Each country is experiencing climate change in different ways, and those with poorer populations tend to bear the brunt of natural disasters. Since the richer countries were responsible for most of the carbon emissions, they would naturally be expected to bear the weight to fund others' path to net zero. Not so. I was with a crowd of central bankers who insisted they should not be directly involved in funding climate action because it was not in their mandate. They feared that moving out of their mandate to deliver price stability, financial stability and full employment would hurt their independence. Few were willing to say that central banks might be independent from their government but not from the people and society.

Pakistan's approach for stable economy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The fact that China has now become Pakistan's largest bilateral creditor is a cause for concern not only for the US but also for Pakistan itself. The US is suspicious of China's use of loans to expand its influence in South Asia, and Pakistani policymakers seem wary of risking everything on one endeavor. Trying to improve its relationship with the US without undermining the growing

Pakistan's less than four-month-old government is taking a two-pronged approach to stabilizing the country's longtroubled economy. It is engaged in diplomatic negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to secure a loan of at least \$6 billion to boost its external debt servicing capacity. At the same time, Islamabad is trying to shore up its economy and deal with the long-standing threat of bankruptcy with the help of its Gulf allies, especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, through external financing. The US used to be the most important source of foreign direct investment (FDI) and bilateral aid to Pakistan. However, over the past decade, China has increased its investment in the country, mainly in the form of loans rather than grants. Beijing stepped in to meet Islamabad's energy and infrastructure needs at a time when Pakistan was facing a decline in US and multilateral support. The fact that China has now become Pakistan's largest bilateral creditor has caused concern not only for the US but also for Pakistan itself. The US is suspicious of China's use of loans to expand its influence in South Asia, and Pakistani policymakers seem wary of risking everything on one endeavor. Trying to improve its relationship with the US without undermining the growing relationship with China is a tough balancing act not only for Pakistan but also for many other countries in this era of increasing power competition.

The fifth-largest source of petroleum exports. Both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have long been important for Pakistani workers. An estimated 2.6 million Pakistanis live in Saudi Arabia and another 1.7 million in the UAE. Saudi Arabia is also the largest source of remittances for Pakistan, followed by the United Arab Emirates. The fact that a member of the Sharif family is once again in the prime ministry improves Pakistan's chances of strengthening its ties with the Gulf States. The Sharif family managed to form a coalition government in March after the February elections, despite the popularity of ousted and imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan. The Sharifs have longstanding ties with the Saudis and Emiratis. In addition to helping the Nawaz Sharif-led coalition government move forward and confront US sanctions after its nuclear tests, Saudi Arabia also provided personal aid to the Sharif family. After General Pervez Musharraf overthrew and arrested Nawaz Sharif, the Saudis welcomed him to their country, release and sheltered him and many of his family members from 2000 to 2007. Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif has already visited Saudi Arabia twice after becoming the Prime Minister. He also went on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates in early May. Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif's visit to Saudi Arabia prompted a delegation of several Saudi companies to visit Pakistan in early May, including those in information technology, renewable energy and construction. About \$5 billion worth of investment opportunities can be found in various sectors. A \$5 billion edible oil joint venture is also being speculated. Although these projects promise a lot, the actual extent of Saudi investment in Pakistan will be confirmed if the funds begin to flow. Despite several announcements about Saudi plans to invest in a \$10 billion refinery in the deep-sea port city of Gwadar, there is little evidence to indicate that the plan will be implemented. Despite positive economic indicators such as reduced inflation and increased foreign investments, Pakistan faces challenges in achieving sustainable growth amidst a high debt-to-GDP ratio and substantial debt servicing costs. The country aims to attract more foreign investment, particularly through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Despite administrative hurdles and security concerns, like China and the United States before them, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates see their economic investments in Pakistan as tools to achieve foreign policy goals. Both countries are emerging as key players in the multipolar world system, part of a

group of middle powers that are becoming increasingly assertive globally. They use their financial power to leverage advantages in strategically important regions such as South Asia. Nuclear powers like India and China are also looking to expand their ties with the UAE and Saudi Arabia to diversify their investor base and reduce vulnerability to great power machinations. India, with its huge market and rapidly growing economy, is an attractive partner for foreign investors. Meanwhile, the Pakistani establishment and ruling elite continue to leverage their strategic and personal ties with the Gulf States to attract investment. The Sharif government has expressed a preference for co-investment from Gulf companies rather than acquiring additional loans, aiming to strengthen the country's economy and put it on a more sustainable footing. Investors from the Gulf States appear to be interested in higher yield, lower risk returns rather than long-term investments in Pakistan. Potential investors from Saudi Arabia and the UAE could provide the government with much-needed revenue. Pakistan has established a Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to promote FDI and increase investor confidence. The SIFC was created after the fall of Imran Khan's government in June 2023, when the military establishment began consolidating its already significant influence in the country's political economy. While the Prime Minister chairs this high-level committee, the actual front-line representation is provided by federal and provincial ministers and relevant bureaucrats. The military justifies its involvement in the council, as it did with the earlier Special Authority to Accelerate Chinese Investment in Pakistan, on the basis that it needs to ensure years of economic and political stability. The military's direct intervention in economic affairs is troubling to many who are unhappy with Pakistan's prevailing hybrid government model, which consists of post-colonial, unrepresentative and authoritarian institutions. These institutions, along with the elites, rule over marginalized people who depend on their patronage. Unfortunately, decades of US aid and technical advice to Pakistan have failed to overcome the elite's grip and have instead exacerbated it. Chinese energy and infrastructure investments in Pakistan have done little to provide much-needed microeconomic stimulus. It seems unlikely that profit-driven investment by the Gulf kingdoms will provide meaningful opportunities for ordinary Pakistanis or help stabilize the economy and maintain a shaky coalition government.

Punjab: marching towards a welfare society

Abdul Rashid Shakir

The Government also intends to not only check school drop-outs but to bring out-of-school children (OOSC) to good schools, besides introducing Early Years Education as an integral part of school education. Punjab 'Hunarmand' Merit Scholarship Program is another key intervention of the government for the promotion of higher education in the province, especially in remote areas.

dent's and rationalization of teachers in schools, outsourcing of some 6000 non-performing schools in Phase-I, reconstruction of more than 500 dysfunctional schools, teacher training, curriculum development, accountability of teachers and continuous monitoring of teaching-learning outcomes in schools, besides a decision to adopt Phase-III of Pakistan National Curriculum 2023. Some of the major interventions of Punjab School Education Department under the visionary leadership of proactive Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the restructuring of school education in Punjab. A Rs 27-billion CM Punjab Nutrition Program: Free Milk Program is a milestone initiative of the Government to deal with stunting and malnutrition in primary-school children across Punjab, in order to improve their growth and learning outcomes. The Government also intends to not only check school drop-outs but to bring out-of-school children (OOSC) to good schools, besides introducing Early Years Education as an integral part of school education. Punjab 'Hunarmand' Merit Scholarship Program is another key intervention of the government for the promotion of higher education in the province, especially in remote areas. Under the Program, 100% fee of 25000 students going BS from government and 08 selected private universities will be paid by the Government. 32 Field Hospitals and 200 Clinics on Wheels are providing quality healthcare services at the doorsteps of around 6000 patients across Punjab on daily basis. Responding to the resounding success of this program, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has decided to add 500 more Clinics on Wheels in the fleet, besides extending the Program to other cities of Punjab. The provision of free medicines in health centers and hospitals, free-home delivery of 02-month medicines to cardiac, cancer, TB and hepatitis patients, re-vamping and upgradation of 2500 Basic Health Units (BHUs), 300 Rural Health Centers (RHCs), Tabed Health Centers (THCs) and Tertiary Hospitals in the province are no doubt remarkable achievements of the government to improve its healthcare sector. Supreme Court declares PTI eligible for reservation. The country's first public-sector cancer hospital, Nawaz Sharif Cancer Care Hospital Lahore, Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology Sargodha, and the provision of cardiology and cardiac surgery facilities in 08 districts of the province in Phase-I, and in all 26 districts of Punjab in Phase-II are other noteworthy initiatives of the Government to revolutionize healthcare system in Punjab. The Chief Minister's resolve to provide cancer, cardiology, pediatrics and burns treatment units in all cities in next 03 years is a commendable resolution. A plan to establish Rescue & Trauma Centers, along with ambulance service, on Motorways, and the launch of air ambulance service in the province are testament to the Government's efforts to provide reliable healthcare facilities well within time to the people in distress. Effective waste management is essential to have a clean and healthy environment. Under 'Suthra Punjab (Clean Punjab)' Program, sustainable Waste Management Companies will start operations in

all districts on Public Private Partnership basis to provide credible, end-to-end waste disposal solutions in massive scale. Rubbish will be collected from door to door and transported to landfill sites for proper disposal. Government's 'Zero Waste Mission' on the three days of Eid-ul-Azha was a successful address rehearsal of the Clean Punjab (Suthra Punjab) Program. Widespread awareness about the rising issue of plastic waste, the largest plastic waste management drive in the province, Green Punjab: Plant for Pakistan, and a decision to plant trees along both sides of roads in the province are key Government measures to ensure environment friendly and sustainable Punjab for generations to come. Rapid transportation and easy communication are very much needed for the promotion of economic activities. To achieve this end, the Government is taking various initiatives. A state-of-the-art metro rail system, a public transport system in Punjab, 700 new hybrid and E-buses for all major cities of the province are being procured. The Government is also giving 30,000 petrol and e-bikes to students on interest-free easy monthly installments, besides plans to extend this scheme to other major cities like Gujranwala and Faisalabad. On top of it all, the repair & rehabilitation of 600 major roads, and the construction of highways & motorways in the province are other remarkable initiatives of the Government to ensure ease and comfort of the commuters. Youth budget offers a great window of opportunity if we invest liberally in their education, engagement and employment (3Es). The Government is focused on providing resources to turn its youth into a valuable asset. A Rs 2-billion Program for Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif-led Punjab Government to equip youth with market-driven skills for grabbing rewarding employment opportunities. The provision of high speed Wi-Fi service for the modern tech-savvy youth at 200 points in Lahore, with a resolve to extend this service to the entire province, is another landmark initiative of the Government for skill development and promotion of IT-based services in the province. The construction of Pakistan's first IT City, Nowaz Sharif IT City Lahore, and the introduction of new education stream: Middle Tech, Matric Tech and Inter Tech in schools and colleges, along with the existing science and arts streams, are other major initiatives of the Government to enhance productivity of its youth to ensure their socio-economic development. Sports offer a constructive way of engaging youth. The Government has decided to not only rehabilitate & upgrade school grounds to provide students with healthy sports activities

but it has also decided to convert these school grounds into community sports grounds for the general public. Areas reserved in the evening. It has also decided to develop sports grounds at U-level, besides making playgrounds child-friendly, in order to afford people good facilities for healthy engagement. The first-ever Chief Minister Punjab Pink Game 2024 for the female players will be held in Lahore in May, in which around 1300 female players from 16 universities of Lahore participated. The Government has plans to start a Punjab League, featuring sports competition across Punjab in which around one million youth of the province will participate. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. It contributes 24% to country's \$375-billion GDP, and 37.4% to its 67.25 million employed labor force out of the total labor force of 71.76 million. Given its linkage with other sectors of economy, the growth of agriculture is directly proportional to economic growth, employment generation and poverty reduction in the country (Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24). It not only provides raw material for major industries like textile, leather and sugar but also accounts for 20% of the country's total exports. Punjab has a major share in Pakistan's agriculture sector as it contributes 60% to its agricultural exports. The Government of Punjab, under the proactive and vibrant leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, is rightly focused on the growth of its agriculture sector. Not only crops but all other sub-sectors like livestock, fisheries, poultry, forestry and horticulture are being developed. A Rs 40-billion Kissan Package: Chief Minister Punjab's flagship program for the growth of agriculture is the Government in this regard, under which a farmer will be given Rs 1.5 lac loan per cropping season to purchase quality inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides at subsidized rates, besides a loan at 80-ATK. The Government will pay 60% and the farmer will pay just 40% for the purchase of agriculture machinery. It will not only improve productivity of farmers but would also save them from the exploitation of middlemen. Additionally, a Rs 20-billion Green Tractor Program is another major program of the Government to facilitate farmers. Under the scheme, a farmer will pay just 30% of the price of a tractor while the remaining 70% will be paid by the Government. Projects for shrimp farming, productivity of oil seeds, and solarization of agricultural tubewells are some of the other major interventions of the Punjab Government for the development of agriculture in the province. All the above-mentioned interventions of the Punjab Government under the vibrant leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif are rightly evoking confidence and optimism in masses, which has recently reflected in a survey conducted by the Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOS), in which majority of the respondents expressed confidence in her performance. If continues uninterrupted, we have all the right reasons to believe that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Briefs Supreme Court rules party...

FROM PAGE 01 and no legal effect," it said. The top court remarked that PTI, as a political party, has a legal and constitutional right to reserved seats...

SC verdict blocked attempt...

FROM PAGE 01 the decision announced by the court today was based on truth. "It is a happy day for 25 million people, for democratic forces," he said.

Verdict not a 'conspiracy'.

FROM PAGE 01 members of the assembly may file review appeals," he added. Rana Sanaullah said that the government has great regard for the apex court and the judges.

Pakistan beat WI to qualify for WCL final

Pakistan inflict 20-run defeat on opponents who fail to chase competitive total of 199 runs

LONDON: Pakistan Champions defeated West Indies Champions by 20 in the first semi-final of the ongoing World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2024 which was played at the County Ground in Northampton on Friday.



Ashtley Nurse played a rapid knock of 36 runs on 24 balls, he looked like the man to chase the West Indies to chase but he was run out by Kamran Akmal.

of their batmen - Sharjeel Khan, Sohail Masood and Shoaib Malik - without scoring any valuable runs. The West Indies team looked on top as the ball was swinging under the clouds but a 77-run partnership between skipper Yousuf Khan and Kamran Akmal put Pakistan out of danger.

Volleyball players receives cash rewards



AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The cash prize distribution ceremony of the Pakistan senior and junior volleyball teams who won medals, and made the country proud in the Asian Volleyball Challenge (AVC) Cup and Central Asian Junior Volleyball Championship was held here at the hotel on Friday.

targeted plan for talented athletes, focusing on Olympics 2028, and convert mini stadiums into academies to foster a sports culture. Kayani said the aim is to convert the mini sports stadiums into academies and promote the culture of sports.

PCB announces new selection committees

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a new selection committee following the dismissal of Wahab Riaz and Abdul Razzaz. The new selection committee includes a quorum of four members who can vote and five other members who do not vote.

PO breaks record with 8.6 Million tickets sold

PARIS: The Paris Olympics already has one gold medal secured before it started, with 8.6 million tickets sold - a record for any Games. "It's a record held by the 1996 Atlanta Games of 8.3 million tickets, and we've already passed that total now some time ago," the 2024 Games organiser Tony Estanguet said.

Wimbledon women's final schedule confirmed

LONDON: The schedule and opponents of Wimbledon women's final have been confirmed which will take place at the Centre Court on July 13. Italy's Jasmine Paolini will take on Czech's Barbora Krejickova in the all-important final after the duo thrashed each in their respective semi-finals clash on Thursday.

Shaheen Shah Afridi could face disciplinary action

ISLAMABAD: Shaheen Shah Afridi, who became the centre of controversy for his alleged non-cooperative attitude during the T20 World Cup, may face disciplinary action resulting in his ouster from the two-match series against Bangladesh. The national selection committee comprising team coaches, Mohammad Yousaf, Asad Shafiq and a couple of support staff members are waiting for the final signal from the top on Shaheen's inclusion or else for the series in the backdrop of his non-cooperative and rude behaviour.

was just a routine affair. "We have to mention all what had happened during the World Cup campaign. It is up to the PCB chairman to decide on the matter," he said. Though one official is not in favour of dropping ace striker Shaheen from the series, the majority believes that an accountability should be introduced to avoid such cases in future.

Anderson ends England career in win over Windies

England won by an innings and 114 runs, take 1-0 lead in three-match series

LONDON: James Anderson ended his legendary international career in England's crushing victory over West Indies in the first Test at Lord's. Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, took one of the four wickets to fall on the third morning as the hosts completed a rout by an innings and 114 runs.

Alzarri Joseph held at long leg to become the first England bowler to take a five-wicket haul on Test debut since 1970, then bowled at the swiping Shamar Joseph. The stage was set for Anderson, who somehow missed the chance for the fairytale finale when he dropped a caught-and-bowled chance off Gulaksh Motie.



Spanish envoy praises Pak economic...

FROM PAGE 01 for which, along with traditional sector, agricultural and ICT sectors are also being encouraged through different policies of the government. The Spanish Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's macroeconomic stability and the Government's efforts towards the economic reform process for sustainable economic growth.

Pakistan, Azerbaijan affirm...

FROM PAGE 01 tourism, besides bringing shared economic prosperity to the region. The President welcomed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, adding that the MoUs would give a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce, tourism, minerals and minerals, science and technology, law & justice, and culture. The President highlighted that the East had the potential to lead the world towards prosperity.

Minister calls for addressing concerns...

FROM PAGE 01 the ongoing humanitarian situation. "People of both brotherly countries have sacrificed a lot, and the restoration of peace is crucial for their well-being," Mughal stated. He urged Afghanistan to pursue long-term solutions for its citizens residing in Pakistan, focusing on their return and integration.

Fazl 'accepts' decision of the Supreme Court

FROM PAGE 01 JUI-F who are directly affected by this decision will not be prevented from exercising their right to file an individual appeal. He stated that it is their right to appeal individually, but as a party, JUI-F will not file an appeal.

Advertisement for UEFA EURO 2024 Germany, Monday 15th July, Final: Spain vs England, Olympiastadion Berlin (12:00am).

Briefs

Covid still kills 1,700 a week: WHO

GENEVA: Covid-19 is still killing around 1,700 people a week around the world, the World Health Organization said Thursday, as it urged at-risk populations to keep up with their vaccinations against the disease. WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus sounded a warning on declining vaccine coverage. Despite the continued death toll, "data show that vaccine coverage has declined among health workers and people over 60, which are two of the most at-risk groups," the UN health agency's chief told a press conference. "WHO recommends that people in the highest-risk groups receive a Covid-19 vaccine within 12 months of their last dose. More than seven million Covid deaths have been reported to the WHO, though the true toll of the pandemic is thought to be far higher. Covid-19 also shed light on economic and health systems. Tedros declared an end to Covid-19 as an international public health emergency in May 2023, more than two years on from when the virus was first detected in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. The WHO has urged governments to maintain virus surveillance and sequencing, and to ensure access to affordable and reliable tests, treatments and vaccines. —APP

Sudan warring parties meet for UN ceasefire talks

Sudan's warring parties have arrived in Geneva, Switzerland, for UN-backed talks aimed at "possible local ceasefires to facilitate humanitarian aid and protect civilians," a United Nations spokesperson said. The civil war in Sudan, which erupted in April 2023, has forced almost 10 million people from their homes, sparked warnings of famine and waves of ethnically motivated violence blamed largely on the Rapid Support Forces. Talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, between the army and RSF sponsored by the United States and Saudi Arabia broke down at the end of last year. "The discussions seek to identify avenues for advancement of the identified humanitarian and protection of civilian measures through possible local ceasefires, as requested by the Security Council," a UN spokesperson said in response to Reuters' questions, noting that the talks that began on Thursday were convened by UN Envoy for Sudan Ramtane Lamamra from Algeria. The Sudanese army and RSF will negotiate via mediators in the "proximity talks" instead of meeting face to face, she said. US ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield told CBS News that US Special Envoy for Sudan Tom Perriello was also involved in the Geneva talks aimed at "how to address the humanitarian situation, how to get assistance to those in need, and how to find a political solution to bring the two parties together." —APP

Extreme heat wave hits Italy

ROME: Italy is currently grappling with an extreme heat wave originating from Africa, prompting authorities to issue a "red alert" for high temperatures in 11 cities on Friday. The severe weather condition has led to scorching heat in the capital Rome, where temperatures were recorded between 40C and 42C (104F and 107F) at noon. The Ministry of Health, which categorizes temperature risk levels into four color codes, elevated seven cities to the highest "red" category on Thursday as the heat wave continues to intensify. Among the cities is Rome, where the heat has significantly impacted daily life. Tourists visiting the historic city have been seen using umbrellas to shield themselves from the intense sun, with long queues formed at fountains as people seek relief from the oppressive heat. Notably, the Spanish Steps typically bustling with visitors, have appeared unusually empty due to the soaring temperatures. —APP

Ukraine can count on NATO for 'long haul': Jens Stoltenberg

'Today, we send a strong message of unity to Moscow that violence and intimidation do not pay,' Jens Stoltenberg tells news conference

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: NATO's secretary general said that Ukraine can count on the alliance "now and for the long haul" as its three-day leaders' summit in Washington, D.C., concluded. "Today, we send a strong message of unity to Moscow that violence and intimidation do not pay and that Ukraine can count on NATO now and for the long haul," Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference. "Allies have agreed that as Ukraine continues necessary reforms, we will support them in their irreversible path to membership," he said. It came after a bombshell report suggested the Kremlin sought to assassinate the CEO of a major German arms manufacturer, Jens Stoltenberg declined to comment on the report but acknowledged that NATO is aware of a Russian attempt to intimidate us from providing support" for Kyiv as it continues to combat a Russian invasion that has persisted well over two years. "But we see that it has, if anything, the opposite effect on

Australia pledges \$250M military aid to Ukraine

SYDNEY: Australia has pledged to give a record \$250 million in military aid to Ukraine, bringing total assistance provided to the war-torn nation to \$1.7 billion. The fresh military aid was announced by Defense Minister Richard Marles after he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Washington on the sidelines of the NATO summit. "It was a privilege to tell President Zelenskyy that Australia continues its steadfast support for Ukraine, confirming our largest single military assistance package, worth nearly \$250 million," Marles said on X. Besides Marles, the summit was attended by the leaders of Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea from the Asia-Pacific region. ATO leaders held a three-day summit of the alliance in Washington from Tuesday until Thursday. Thousands of people have died in Russia's war on Ukraine since February 2022. The United States has, including its allies in Australia, New Zealand and Japan, have backed Kyiv with aid, both military and humanitarian.—APP

NATO allies. They're actually stepping up their support for Ukraine," he told reporters during a news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "We have seen arrests across the alliance, in the United Kingdom, in Germany, in Poland, in the Baltic countries, following these hostile actions, and of course, the ongoing legal processes. And what NATO does is also to increase intelligence sharing, to

help allies to protect against these actions," added Stoltenberg. Marles reported Wednesday that U.S. and German intelligence agencies thwarted a plot to kill Armair Paperger, the CEO of German arms firm Rheinmetall, which is Germany's largest and most successful manufacturer of 155mm artillery shells, which are deemed vital in Ukraine's war against Russia. The company is set to open an armored

vehicle plant in Ukraine in the coming weeks, an effort, said one intelligence source who spoke to CNN, that is particularly troubling to Russia. The report said Moscow has been conducting a sabotage campaign throughout Europe, primarily through proxies, for more than six months. Stoltenberg maintained that allies "have the right to help and uphold Ukraine's right of self-defense." And the right of self-defense includes also the right to strike legitimate military targets on the territory of the aggressor, Russia," he added, noting that some allies have recently loosened restrictions on the use of their arms to strike targets in Russia while others "have not imposed any restrictions at all." That includes actions from the U.S., Germany and the UK—all did so to varying degrees beginning in May. "I think it's important to remember what this is. This is a war of aggression launched by Russia against a democratic, friendly neighbor, Ukraine. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, that's a blatant violation of international law," he

added. Zelenskyy urged allies to lift all remaining restrictions "if we want to win, if we want to prevail," and maintain their support for his country, saying that a Russian victory would shatter the established rules-based international order. "It is Russia that invaded our land. It's Russia that wants to take our lives. It's Russia that kills and destroys through this war against Ukraine. It wants to show what awaits other countries if we do not endure," he said. "That is why we must preserve our unity, all partners, and that is why we must transcend ourselves so that Russia does not succeed in making the world accept the notion that wars of aggression are normal." The Ukrainian president said that during the summit there were "concrete successes" agreed to for Ukraine, including announcements to contribute five Patriot air defense batteries and dozens of other systems, as well as a new security agreement. Allies are also expected to sign a new compact with Ukraine.

French PM seeks to 'guard against' extremist govt

WEB DESK

PARIS: French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal on Friday said he hoped to prevent a government with far right members being formed after an inconclusive snap election. Political parties have been scrambling to find a suitable candidate for prime minister and a workable National Assembly majority after Sunday's runoff. A broad alliance of Socialists, Communists and Greens, the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) won the most seats, with 193 in the 577-strong lower chamber. Voters from different camps joined forces in the second round to elect the far-right National Rally (RN) out of power in a "resounding" victory, according to President Emmanuel

Macron's followers to claim second place with 164 seats and leaving the far right in third at 145. Macron has rejected LFI demands that he should be tasked with forming the next government. The president, who was sworn in after a majority concerning projects and ideas in the future parliament, Renaissance deputies are to elect their new leader on Saturday. If voted in, Attal said he would rename the formation "Together for the Republic." Macron will appoint the next prime minister, who must be able to survive a no-confidence motion in parliament. There is, meanwhile, a chance that the current government remains in place until after the Paris Olympic Games which open on July 26, according to political observers.

Education is vital for country developments

UNITED NATIONS: The global crisis in education needs a "dramatic shift" to shape a more peaceful, developed, and just world. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said. The UN chief was taking part in a Special Event on Transforming Education - part of the ongoing High-Level Political Forum (HLPEF) and looking ahead of the upcoming Summit of the Future in September. The day's event was a call to action, with the UN chief calling on all countries to make a concerted effort to establish genuine learning environments that will provide learning opportunities from childhood to adult stages. "Given the stakes, the world cannot afford to short-change education," Guterres said. "But by nearly every measure, that is exactly what we are doing." The UN chief said that around 84 million children are set to remain out of school by 2030 - unless action is taken to transform education worldwide.—APP

Poland 'closely monitoring' China-Belarus military coop

WARSAW: Poland is monitoring cooperation between China and Belarus, its Foreign Ministry said on Friday, following reports that Chinese military has been undertaking joint exercises near the Polish border. "We are closely monitoring the long-term cooperation between Beijing and Minsk as a factor with a potential impact on Poland's security," the ministry said in a statement to state news agency PAP. The ministry said it "is concerned" about China's deepening military cooperation with Russia and Belarus. The Belarusian Defense Ministry said that as part of what it called "anti-terrorist" exercises, troops will practice airborne assault, river crossing and residential combat. The 13-day drill, Eagle Assault 2024, started on Monday in the Brest region, 40 miles (64 km) from Belarus' border with Ukraine. More than 100 Chinese troops are expected to remain in Belarus until July 19. China's exercises with Belarusian forces in Belarus are part of a pattern, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said at the summit in Washington this week. "This only confirms how authoritarian regimes are increasingly allying with each other, and how China is moving closer to NATO in Europe, Africa, the Arctic and elsewhere," he added. "The joint military manoeuvres of China and Belarus are not directed against any country, and the Chinese authorities hope that Poland and Belarus will solve their problems through dialogue and consultations," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian. Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko has close ties with Russia. In 2023, it allowed Russia to move some of its tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus, and has also sought close relations with China. Belarus recently joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, established in 2001 to discuss security concerns in Central Asia.

Delta issues apology for anti-Palestine post

LONDON: Atlanta-based Delta Airlines issued an apology over an anti-Palestinian message posted on its official social media account by one of its employees, a decision welcomed by the international rights organization in the U.S. Delta said in a statement that it had removed "a mistakenly posted comment on X Tuesday," but the controversial post and its reply remain on the company's replies section on the X social media platform with many users condemning its anti-Palestinian content. "On Wednesday, we removed a reply that was not in line with our values," Delta posted Thursday on X. "We strive for an environment of inclusivity & respect for all, in our communities & our planes." The original post made by a user included two photos showing Delta attendants wearing Palestinian flag pins and equating the Palestinian flag to being in line with Hamas. "Now imagine getting into a @Delta flight and seeing workers with Hamas badges in the air. What do you do?" posted @illicitates. The Delta employee replied to the post agreeing with the X user. "I hear you and I'd be terrified as well, personally," the employee posted. "Our employees reflect our culture and we do not take it lightly when our policy is not being followed. Customers responded on X condemning the anti-Palestinian post and reply, even threatening a boycott of the airline.—APP

1M children to suffer acute malnutrition in DRC

KINSHASA: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday warned that without immediate action, over 1 million children will suffer from acute malnutrition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Describing the current situation in DRC as "catastrophic," WHO's senior emergency officer Adelheid Marschang told a UN briefing in Geneva: "In the past months, DRC has faced escalating conflict and violence, leading to mass displacement, widespread disease, gender-based violence, and severe mental trauma, particularly in the eastern part of the country." Marschang noted that the country has "the highest number of people in need of humanitarian aid" in the entire world, with 25.4 million people affected. "Despite this, it remains one of the most underfunded crises," she lamented.—APP

Total Energy Uganda oil project 'devastating'

GENEVA: Production has yet to begin, but TotalEnergies' controversial East African oil project is being taking a dire environmental toll in Uganda's largest national park, a leading conservationist group said Friday. Despite opposition from environmentalists and rights activists, the French energy giant is pushing ahead with the Tilenga drilling project in Uganda and a 1,443-kilometre (897-mile) East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) to transport its output from the Park Nature Park, a biodiversity reserve and the country's largest national park. TotalEnergies, which is working with Chinese oil company CNOOC, insists it is a "responsible operator" acting "transparently on social and environmental issues" surrounding the project. But environmentalists say the project is already severely impacting wildlife and the environment. A report from the African Institute for Energy Governance (AIEGO) detailed obvious biodiversity loss.—APP

Germany 'blocking' medical treatment for Palestinian children

BERLIN: German aid organisations have accused the government of blocking much-needed medical help for severely wounded children from Gaza, where Israel has killed more than 38,000 people since last October. Around 100 medical facilities across Gaza treat children from Gaza in Germany and cover the costs, but the foreign and interior ministries have hindered their efforts citing alleged security concerns, according to public broadcaster ARD on Friday. Aid organisations such as the Cologne-based Red Cross Foundation, together with other NGOs and the German Society for Plastic Surgery, had committed to medical help for these children for months. They organised donations for flights, visa applications and the full reimbursement of hospital expenses. But ultimately the case against was stopped temporarily because the ministries did not support the entry of one accompanying adult per child. German government circles were quoted as saying that the mother or father of the wounded Palestinian children accompanying them for medical treatment could pose a "security threat" as they may support or sympathise with Hamas, the Palestinian group involved in the October 7 cross-border incursion in Israel. Reacting to this government position, Daniela Neuenhofer from the Red Cross Foundation said: "It is simply unacceptable to me why other countries can manage this and why we in Germany capitulate to someone bring in 20 children with accompanying persons for three months." She said European countries such as Italy had already taken in children from Gaza with accompanying adults. German aid organisations and hospitals still hope that their campaign to treat Palestinians children will not ultimately fail. They are said to be in talks with the ministries to see whether accompanying persons can be allowed to enter the country in exchange for medical treatment with the German authorities have been going on for several months, and the list of children who are to be evacuated has changed repeatedly. Aid organisations say some of the injured children waiting to arrive have already died.—DNA



DAKAR: Ambassador Saima Maymunah called on SALL Ahoune Minister of Communication, Telecommunication & Digitalisation. Minister SALL Ahoune highlighted opportunities for Digitalisation where Pakistan could share its expertise & collaborate with Senegal.—DNA

Sweden PM criticizes Orban's meeting with Putin

Nordic country will not be sending ministers to EU meetings led by Hungary, says Swedish premier

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson sharply criticized his Hungarian counterpart Viktor Orban during a NATO summit in Washington, D.C., on Thursday for visiting Russia earlier this month. Kristersson confirmed at a press conference that the Nordic country will not be sending ministers to meetings of the European Union led by Hungary. "Our reaction is crystal

clear. He (Orban) is in practice abusing the EU presidency and hijacking it for his own purposes," he said, referring to Orban's visit to Moscow earlier this month, where he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin. On July 1, Hungary took over the six-month rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, and on the following day, Orban traveled to Ukraine to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, followed by a trip to Rus-

sia, where he met with Putin. Since the visit, the Hungarian government has said that it only aimed to negotiate a cease-fire in the war-torn country and that the trips were a "peace mission." But Orban's visit to Moscow drew strong condemnation from European and NATO countries, with the EU's legal service telling member states Wednesday that his trip is in breach of EU treaties, according to the Financial Times newspaper. "As a chairing country, you

must be an honest broker, give the impression that you speak for other countries. I have been very clear about that. He does not speak for the EU's heads of state and government and even less for the unified EU system when he goes to Russia. All discussions about Ukraine take place with Ukraine. We have been very critical of it," Kristersson was quoted as saying by national broadcaster SVT Nyheter. Kristersson said his country agreed with several other countries not to partici-

Briefs PM directs enhanced security for Ashura

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called for enhanced security coordination with provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, especially for Ashura during Muharram-ul-Haram. PM Shehbaz issued the directives during a meeting with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi. They deliberated on the law-and-order situation throughout Muharram-ul-Haram. Additionally, they discussed the wider political landscape, interior ministry affairs, and other pertinent matters during the meeting. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist activities across the country, especially in KP and Balochistan, since the outlawed militant group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022. It is pertinent to mention here that militants have targeted Muharram processions several times, including a bomb blast that killed more than 40 people attending the main Ashura procession on Karachi's M. A. Jinnah Road in December 2009. Earlier, the federal government approved the deployment of armed forces across the country to ensure security during the month of Muharram. The move comes on the request of the authorities in Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir to deploy military to control the law and order situation. The Centre, under Article 245 of the Constitution, authorised the "deployment of army troops, paramilitary and civil armed forces troops/assets" to ensure peace.

MQM-P opposes, JC supports SC ruling

NAZIR SYIAL

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has opposed but not in Karachi, the chief justice's decision in the case of Jamiat-e-Islami (JI) supported the Supreme Court's decision declaring PTI eligible for allocation of seats reserved for women and minorities. Addressing a news conference in Karachi on Friday, MQM-P leader Mustafa Kamal said "The verdict neither reflect law nor Constitution." He said the decision granted such a relief which was not sought. "It really hurts law, justice and the Constitution," he added. JI Amir Hafiz Naeem Rahman welcomed the apex court's verdict on reserved seats. "The election commissioner should now quit and go home," he added. The JI chief maintained that the SC decision has also exposed the double standards of some parties who were occupying these seats in clear contradiction to the voters' mandate.

LHC orders immediate release of Sanam

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has ordered the government to immediately release PTI leader Sanam Javed in Gujranwala case. A two-member bench headed by Justice Asif Javed Ghalati of the LHC issued a 14-page decision. The court observed repeatedly naming the accused in the same kind of cases by the investigating officer without evidence showed malice, which exposed the deliberate attempt to defame and defeat the judicial system of the country. The LHC directed to the authorities concerned to send the copy of the verdict to IG Punjab and all deputy commissioners. The court cited the Gujranwala case against Sanam Javed was fabricated and registered on the basis of malice and is therefore discharged immediately. The court ordered immediate release of the PTI leader from jail. -DNA

Ayaz emphasizes enhancing Pakistan-Hungary relations

Hamas reported 45 air strikes in the Gaza City area, as well as in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, where Netanyahu had said the intense phase of the war was nearing its conclusion

KHAYAM ABRASI

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Sharif Ayaz Sadiq on Friday said Pakistan and Hungary enjoy a long-standing friendly relationship based on a shared commitment to global peace and sustainable development. It is crucial to further enhance these relations for mutual benefit of the people on both sides, he remarked this during a meeting with the Hungarian Ambassador to Pakistan, Bela Fazakas, who called on him at the Parliament House. Discussing the parliamentary cooperation, the Speaker emphasized regular interaction between parliaments, mainly through parliamentary friendship groups and the exchange of parliamentary delegations, in order to share and learn from each other's experiences. He also underscored the need to expand cooperation in other areas of mutual interest, including trade, investment and education. The envoy expressed gratitude to the speaker for his kind remarks and reiterated that Hungary views Pakistan as an important regional stakeholder. He also presented the invitation letter of the Hungarian speaker inviting him to lead parliamentary delegation to Hungary. The envoy also committed to actively pursue all matters focused at further strengthening of linkages in areas of mutual interest, in addition to fostering parliamentary and cultural exchanges.



60 bodies found in Gaza City after IOF withdrawal

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories: Around 60 bodies were found under the rubble of a Gaza City neighborhood, officials in the Hamas-run territory said Thursday, after Israel's military declared an end to its operation there. The surprise in fighting, bombardment and displacement in the eastern district of Shujayia came as talks were held by mediator Qatar toward a truce and hostage release deal. US President Joe Biden told reporters that his administration was "making progress" toward a ceasefire agreement as he called for an end to the Israel-Hamas war. His statement came after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded that Israel retain control of key Gaza territory along the border with Egypt - a condition that conflicts with Hamas's position that Israel must withdraw from all Gaza territory after a ceasefire. Hamas's civil defense agency said around 60 bodies had been found under the rubble in Shujayia, after some of Gaza City's heaviest combat in months. Hamas said Israel's operation there had left "more than 300 residential units and more than 100 houses destroyed." Mohammed Nairi, a Shujayia resident, said he and his family returned to the neighborhood had seen "immense destruction that defies description.

Flour millers' strike continues

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) continued their strike against the newly imposed withholding tax for the second day as hundreds of mills across the country remained closed on Friday with wheat grinding and flour supply stopped, prompting fear of a potential shortage. The federal government imposed withholding tax on different stages of the supply chain of staple food by up to 5.5% in the budget for the ongoing fiscal year which has made the product more expensive, said the PFMA leaders. Flour mills in Bohawalpur, Rahwalwagar, Jhelum, Kamalia, Sargodha and Toba Tek Singh have been shut down, stopping the supply of staple food in the cities. Speaking to a private news channel, PFMA Peshawar Division's Senior Vice Chairman Shahzad Qureshi said that the strike will continue until their demands are met. "The crushing has been stopped due to an increase in tax on flour and wheat," said Qureshi. He demanded that a ban on delivery of wheat and flour from Punjab should be lifted, adding that the provincial government should abolish check posts for wheat's delivery. Meanwhile, PFMA Chairman Asim Raza, while speaking during a News program said no tax have been imposed on the flour mills, however, the government has made them withholding agents. "We should hold and deposit the amount [in the national exchequer] that we receive from the dealers to whom we sell the commodity." -DNA

Pressure builds on Biden as news conference fails to stop rebels

WASHINGTON: Joe Biden's press conference in which he insisted he was still fit to run for US president has failed to silence critics from his own party. Three Democratic politicians joined the growing list calling on Mr Biden to drop out of the US presidential race. Calls for the 81-year-old to step aside have escalated since he stumbled through a TV debate with Republican Donald Trump last month. At an hour-long briefing taking reporters' questions on Thursday night he was more steady and fluent but there were also gaffes. He mistakenly referred to his deputy, Kamala Harris, as "Vice President Trump" when answering the first question. Two hours earlier at a Nato event he introduced Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy as "President Putin" before correcting himself. It means Mr Biden's candidacy still remains in peril, with the possibility of more defections over the next few days. Some donors including Hollywood actor George Clooney have pulled their financial support, saying he is not competent to carry out another four-year term. One Democratic fundraiser who wants Mr Biden to step down told the BBC that like-minded Biden sceptics felt the president had done OK at the news conference, but not well enough to change minds. A problem for Mr Biden going forward is that he will be under constant and intense scrutiny at every event. Any slip or mistake will be seized on as evidence that he is neither fit nor capable enough to be running for a second term. Shortly after he finished his press conference, Connecticut congressman Jim Himes posted on X praising Mr Biden's record in public service, but calling on him to step away from the campaign. The strongest candidate to confront the "threat" posed by Trump, he wrote, was no longer Joe Biden. Illinois congressman Eric Sorensen also posted on social media that Mr Biden ran in 2020 "with the purpose of getting country over party. Today I am asking him to do that again." California congressman Scott Peters was the third to speak out, saying the "stakes are high, and we are losing course." They bring the tally of Democratic politicians calling on Mr Biden to end his candidacy to 19. During the briefing, Biden insisted to reporters that he's in the race to "complete the job." "I'll slow down and can't get the job done, that's a sign I shouldn't be doing it," he said. "But there's no indication of that yet." Many of his supporters in Congress came out immediately after the news conference to echo his belief that he is the best candidate.

30-year rain record broken in Lahore

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Lahore received as high as 315 millimetres of rain on Friday, breaking a 30-year-old record and leaving the city drenched in water. Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Managing Director Muhammad Ghaffar confirmed that the fresh spell had broken a 30-year-old record as the Tajura area received 315 mm of rain. He said last year, 291 mm of rain was recorded at the city's Lalshahi Chowk, which received 170 mm rain this year. He said the WASA staff was active in the field and continuously monitoring the situation. "The water has been removed from Lalshahi Chowk and other areas are also being cleared. Soon the city will be cleared of rainwater," said WASA MD. The neighbourhoods of Pan Wali Tabab received 151 mm rain, Qanaat Chowk 132 mm, Gulsains-B-1 151 mm, Mughalpara 145 mm, Airport 86 mm, Upper Mall 130 mm, Sunambad 155 mm, Iqbal Town 152 mm, Gulberg Town 105 mm, Chowk Nakhuda 155 mm, Nishtar Town 162 mm, Jaf Road 99 mm and Farrakhabad 140 mm. It is pertinent here to mention that the Met Office has forecast more rains in the metropolis during the next 24 hours, which could further increase the level of rainwater. Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and several other areas of the province also received heavy rainfall, causing problems for the residents.

Pressure builds on Biden as news conference fails to stop rebels

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: Joe Biden's press conference in which he insisted he was still fit to run for US president has failed to silence critics from his own party. Three Democratic politicians joined the growing list calling on Mr Biden to drop out of the US presidential race. Calls for the 81-year-old to step aside have escalated since he stumbled through a TV debate with Republican Donald Trump last month. At an hour-long briefing taking reporters' questions on Thursday night he was more steady and fluent but there were also gaffes. He mistakenly referred to his deputy, Kamala Harris, as "Vice President Trump" when answering the first question. Two hours earlier at a Nato event he introduced Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy as "President Putin" before correcting himself. It means Mr Biden's candidacy still remains in peril, with the possibility of more defections over the next few days. Some donors including Hollywood actor George Clooney have pulled their financial support, saying he is not competent to carry out another four-year term. One Democratic fundraiser who wants Mr Biden to step down told the BBC that like-minded Biden sceptics felt the president had done OK at the news conference,

British MP praises Pakistan's potential, meets Bakhtawari

On the Palestine issue, he said that the future of Palestine must be decided by its people, by the stakeholders on ground and that the Palestinians have the right to return to their homes

DNA

LONDON: Newly elected British Parliamentarian Adnan Hussain has said that Pakistan is a beautiful country and has a lot of potential. He said that business and investment opportunities. He said this during a meeting with former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari in London. He said that he had been in Kharan and used to visit Pakistan for the philanthropy work and that he is proud to represent not just Blackburn but also the Pakistani community, adding that he is a Solicitor by profession. Elected from Blackburn as an independent candidate in the recently held elections Adnan Hussain termed the election as a significant milestone in which 25 Muslims were elected to the House of Commons for the first time since 1997. Among those 18 are from the Labour, four independent, two from the Conservative party and one from the Liberal Democrats. He said that

Pakistan enjoys immense potential and can become a leader just like India, adding that it also enjoys a strategic location with immense opportunities but their proper utilization is need of the hour. He further said that terrorism is badly destabilizing Pakistan and its economy but there is always a solution of every problem and we can find solution of this problem also by eliminating its root causes. On the Palestine issue, he said that the future of Palestine must be decided by its people, by the stakeholders on ground and that the Palestinians have the right to return to their homes. On his part former President ICICI and Secretary General UBG congratulated the newly elected MP by saying that his and other Pakistan origin candidates' success is a matter of pride for the entire Pakistani nation. Both Mr. Adnan Hussain and Zafar Bakhtawari discussed at length the prevailing situation in Pakistan, prospects for its progress and the terrorism monster which is badly affecting the country especially businesses and investments. Zafar Bakhtawari apprised him that entire Pakistani nation is determined to overcome the situation steadily to put the country on road to progress. Mr Zafar Bakhtawari appreciated the dedication with which



Mr. Hussain is committed to serve the community and also invited him to visit Pakistan which will be a matter of great pride for the Pakistani nation.

Four migrants die in English Channel

WEB DESK

PARIS: Four migrants have died after a boat capsized during an attempt to cross the English Channel, according to the French coastguard. Overnight, a navy patrol boat reported that migrants had fallen into the sea off the coast of Boulogne-sur-Mer in northern France. Four people found "unconscious" could not be saved, police added, while 63 were rescued. UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper described the incident as "truly awful". The coastguard said several people fell into the sea after part of their boat "deflated". The initial alert was raised at 04:30 local time (03:30 BST), with a helicopter arriving about 30 minutes later. It found several people "drifting in the water while others were still clinging to the broken rubber dingy". Fourteen people were rescued by a fishing vessel and 49 others by the French navy ship, the coastguard said. "All the shipwrecked individuals were then brought ashore in Boulogne and taken care of by the emergency services on land." Two boats, one from UK sea rescue charity RNLI and one from Border Force, were initially sent from Dover to provide support but were not required to attend the scene, the UK coastguard said. Jacques Billan, prefect of the Pas-de-Calais region, told reporters nine people were in serious condition. He said only one person on board was wearing a life jacket, while "a few others had bike tubes".

Russia passenger jet crashes near Moscow

MOSCOW: A Russian passenger plane with only one on board has crashed near Moscow, Russia's emergency services say.

It says the Sukhoi Superjet 100 went down in a forest, and all three crew members are believed to have been killed. There were no passengers on board. Russia's state-run media report that the plane went down because of a fire that followed repair works. Russia is has been developing the Sukhoi Superjet-1 regional jet for some time to replace Western-made aircraft. Heavily sanctioned over its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russia has struggled to replace its ageing aircraft fleet. In a short statement, Russia's emergency ministry said the aircraft crashed in the forested area. "There were no casualties among the population," it said. Russia's transport prosecutors are believed to be not far from the town of Kolomoia. -Agencies

Kenyans rally against IMF-imposed tax bill

NAIROBI: For weeks, Kenyans have been rallying across the country against an unpopular bill that aims to significantly increase taxes on essential goods and services while ignoring the rampant spending of corrupt politicians. The tax hikes, under the "Finance Bill 2024," is part of a structured debt repayment plan imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global lending body that reports directly to the United States. Widespread dissent, using tactics ranging from street protests to online "hacktivism," has forced Kenyan President William Ruto to withdraw the bill, but not without several protesters being killed by state forces. Repression against peaceful protesters has also resulted in mass arrests and unprecedented police brutality, particularly against protest leaders. According to conservative estimates, over 20 demonstrators have been killed and more than 200 have been arrested in the past month and the repression continues. On one hand, Ruto has urged the protests "treasonous," while on the other, he asserted that he heard the voice of Kenyans and retracted the bill in its current form. Agencies

Islamabad Post

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30



Ukraine can count on NATO for 'long haul': Stoltenberg

Detailed News On Page-07

Speaker for enhancing Pak-Hungary ties

Detailed News On Page-08

Anderson ends career in win over Windies

Detailed News On Page-06

Major win for PTI

Supreme Court rules party eligible for reserved seats

PTI to emerge as largest party in National Assembly after SC ruling on reserved seats

MAHNOOR ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a major legal victory for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the party is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. The decision has not only paved the way for the PTI's return to the parliament, which was kicked out of the February 8 polls owing to the ECP's December 2023 ruling, but has also increased the pressure on the coalition alliance by changing the composition of the National Assembly. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the SC's full bench announced the 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) order wherein it had upheld the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision denying the reserved seats to the SIC. It was supported by a majority of eight judges, comprising Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Muhammad Ali Jafar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Spsd Hassan Akbar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan. The PTI candidates did not contest the polls on a single symbol, forcing them to join hands with the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), but that could not get the party the reserved seats as the ECP ruled against them. In its decision today, the court declared that the lack or denial of an election symbol does not in any manner affect the Constitutional or legal rights of a political party to participate in an election, whether general or by, and to field candidates and that the commission is under a Constitutional duty to apply all statutory provisions accordingly. Some jurists, during the proceedings, had noted that the apex court had not ruled that the PTI could not participate in the general elections as a political party, and that the commission had misinterpreted the top court's verdict. "PTI was and is a political party, which secured general seats in the national and provincial assemblies in the general elections of 2024," read the verdict. According to the verdict, the PTI's judgment dated March 25 is set aside. "The order of the ECP dated March 1 is declared to be ultra vires to the Constitution, without lawful authority,

Continued on Page 06

Demands CEC resignation SC verdict blocked attempt to amend Constitution: PTI

"Today, we have won legal battle, now, we have to win political battle," says PTI's Salman Akram Raja

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Friday said that the ruling coalition's desire to amend the Constitution according to its wishes has been blocked by the Supreme Court ruling. The apex court, in a majority verdict, declared that the PTI is a political party and eligible for reserved seats denied by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The order has effectively deprived the government of a two-thirds majority in the Parliament, essential for amending the Constitution. While addressing the media after the Supreme Court announced its verdict, the barrister said

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev witnessing a military exhibition at the "National Aerospace Science and Technology Park". - DNA

President Zardari, Aliyev meet

Pakistan, Azerbaijan affirm commitment to expand bilateral ties

The President welcomed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, adding that the MoUs would give a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce, tourism, mines and minerals, science and technology, law & justice, and culture

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have affirmed the commitment to further expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of bilateral interest, especially energy, trade, connectivity, defence, and people-to-people linkages. This was discussed during a meeting between President Asif Ali Zardari and the visiting President of Azerbaijan, Mr Ilham Aliyev, at Awan-e-Sadr, today. Welcoming the President of Azerbaijan, the President of Pakistan said that both countries enjoyed excellent relations and had a great scope of further improving ties in various areas of mutual interest. He underlined the need for more regular engagements between the people and businessmen of Pakistan and Azerbaijan to cement bilateral ties. He highlighted the importance of Gwadar port, saying that Central Asian Countries and Azerbaijan could benefit from it for promoting regional trade, connectivity and

Continued on Page 06

Minister calls for addressing concerns of Afghan refugees

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for States & Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Engr Amir Muzam on Friday emphasized Pakistan's enduring friendship and cooperative spirit with Afghanistan, particularly in addressing the concerns of Afghan refugees. The minister in a meeting with Afghanistan's Charge d'Affaires/Sarfar Ahmad Khan Shabko called for strengthening bilateral ties. Muzam said that Pakistan has extended the stay of Proof of Registration (POR) card holders for one year, recognizing

Continued on Page 06

Foreign Minister reviews arrangements for SCO CHG

SCO comprises 10 countries including Pakistan, China, Russia, India, Iran, Belarus and 04 Central Asia States

MEHTAB PERZADA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired the first meeting of High-Level Committee on the Requirements and Arrangements for the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting to be held in Islamabad on 15-16 October 2024. The committee has been constituted in pursuance of the Prime Minister's directive to ensure hosting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting in Islamabad in a befitting manner. The committee comprises, as its members, Federal Ministers for Economic Affairs, Interior, Information and Broadcasting, and Secretaries of the Foreign Affairs, Cabinet, and Interior as well as Chairman CDA. The committee discussed the needs assess-

ment and gave directions to the concerned authorities for making efficient arrangements, in line with SCO practice, Pakistan's international standing, concomitant with Pakistan's traditional hospitality. The committee members expressed satisfaction at the ongoing preparations. The Deputy PM stressed the need for maintaining the momentum of preparations. Since becoming full member of SCO in 2017, Pakistan has been actively participating in various SCO forums. As Chair of the SCO CHG, Pakistan will be hosting the 23rd meeting of the CHG in autumn this year. CHG is the second-highest decision-making body of the SCO. It deals with socio-economic, cultural and other humanitarian cooperation issues as well as budgetary and financial matters of SCO. SCO comprises 10 countries including Pakistan, China, Russia, India, Iran, Belarus and 04 Central Asia States.

Briefs

'No danger' to govt: Tarar

Law Minister Tarar terms the verdict "interesting"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Aam Nazeer Tarar said that the Supreme Court's verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) reserved seats does not pose any threat to the incumbent coalition government. "We still have a majority of 209 members and the verdict has not been completed yet," said the minister after the top court ruled that the PTI was eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. Tarar said that he was not sure whether the government would file a revision petition challenging the verdict or not as it was the prerogative of the federal cabinet, not a minister.

SIC demands Resignation from CEC

Supreme Court expressed no confidence in Election Commission; Sahibzada Hamid Raza

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: After the Supreme Court ruling on reserved seats, SC Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza demanded the resignation from the Chief Election Commissioner. Talking to media outside the Supreme Court, Hamid Raza said that the Election Commission tried to stall the mandate but to no avail. The Supreme Court, he said, also expressed no confidence in Election Commission.

Holiday Notice

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

Extends goodwill to PTI Fazl 'accepts' decision of the Supreme Court

Maulana Fazlur Rehman says Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam will not file an appeal

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has stated that his party partially accepts the Supreme Court's decision to allocate reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Speaking to the media, Fazlur Rehman commented on the decision to grant reserved seats to the PTI, noting that constitutional and legal experts are the ones who can provide a definitive opinion on the Supreme Court's decision regarding the distribution of reserved seats by the Election Commission. "Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam partially accepts the Supreme Court's decision and expresses goodwill towards PTI. We hope that this decision will help in fostering a positive environment for negotiations to address concerns and will be beneficial in improving mutual relations between both the parties," he held. Regarding the review appeal, Fazlur Rehman mentioned that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, as a party, will not file an appeal. However, those individuals within

Continued on Page 06

Verdict not a 'conspiracy' against govt: Sana

MEHTAB PERZADA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Advisor on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanullah said that the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan's decision in the reserved seats case cannot be termed a "conspiracy" against the government. Addressing a presser in Islamabad, Rana Sanullah said that the judges are also human beings and their opinions cannot be disagreed with. The PM's advisor said the federal cabinet will decide availing the option of filing a review petition into the matter, adding that the legal team will be consulted to file a review petition in the apex court. "If the government does not file a review petition, the suspended

Continued on Page 06

Spanish envoy praises Pak economic reform efforts

Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan, H.E Ms. Jose A. de Ory called on Minister for Finance & Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Finance Minister welcomed the Ambassador and discussed the cooperation and longstanding relations between the two countries. He gave an update on some of the indicators including building up of foreign exchange reserves to USD

9.4 billion, robust performance of the stock exchange, declining trend of inflation rates with CPI inflation clocking in at 12.6% in June 2024, and increase in foreign remittances by 7.7% as compared to last year. He also highlighted the successful conclusion of the 9-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF and apprised about the government's intention to continue with the economic reform agenda under a fund supported medium term program. He emphasized the commitment of the government to achieving economic stability by increasing tax to GDP ratio through increasing tax base, as tax collection during FY 2024 increased by 30% as compared to FY 2023, and improving the tax administration through digitization, fiscal consolidation, Energy Sector reforms, SOE reforms, privatization and efforts to increase FDI. It was further emphasized that export-led growth is the agenda of the government

Continued on Page 06

CTD arrests 2 TTP terrorists in Karachi

Terrorists were in contact with TTP leadership in Afghanistan

NAZIR SYVAL

KARACHI: The Counter Terrorism Department on Friday arrested two terrorists of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). According to the CTD, both militants were linked with Gul Bahar Group of the TTP. The CTD spokesperson said that operation was conducted in Janjali Goth area where two terrorists, belonging to Waziristan named Abuzar and Yaqoob Mansoor were arrested. CTD Director General Asif Ejaz Sheikh said that the arrested terrorists were in contact with TTP leadership operating from Afghanistan through social media to collect funding for the terror outfit. According to Police, terrorists had recently come back from Afghanistan after funding operation, adding that funds had been recovered from them.

JULY 2024

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnaneews.com.pk
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad / @Editordnaneews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza, G-8 Markaz, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

