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Netherlands Prime Minister Rutte urges support for Ukraine

Detailed News On Page-07

Finance minister pledges support for IT sector

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Sabalenka withdraws from Wimbledon

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PPP demands resignation of Tessori

PPP, MQM-P clash over quota system after SHC verdict

MQM-P senior leader Dr. Farooq Sattar said that if the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) demands the resignation of Sindh governor, his party would also seek the resignation of President Asif Ali Zardari

NAZIR SYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Mutthida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Monday exchanged blows over quota system for government jobs, once again, and levelled serious allegations at each other. The exchange of harsh statements triggered by the Sindh High Court (SHC) recent verdict to declare the entire recruitment process – carried out by the PPP-led government before February 8 elections – unlawful on June 30 besides annulling all appointments in government departments and autonomous bodies. In a press conference today, MQM-P Chairman Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that locals should be recruited on Grade 1 to 15 posts and praised the SHC's ruling on the matter. Siddiqui claimed that the court gave a hope to the youth via its ruling to stop recruitment in the Sindh government departments based on "ethnicity". He blamed the ruling PPP for "dividing the masses" via the quota system. Addressing the same press conference, MQM-P's Dr Farooq Sattar said that the quota system had been introduced to recruit 60% people from rural parts and 40% from urban areas including Karachi and Hyderabad. "We failed to stop misuse of the quota system continued for 50 years as more than 80% of jobs were not given to citizens from urban parts," he added. He termed the SHC's verdict a "MQM-P's victory". He also demanded the Supreme Court to take suo-motu action over non-implementation of Article 140-A despite its ruling. Responding to MQM-P's allegations, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon slammed the former for "starting politics of hate and bias" and declared the Khalid-led

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PTI core committee backs negotiations with JUI

Decision comes amidst veiled criticism from JUI leaders towards Ali Amin Gandapur

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a recent core committee meeting of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chaired by Barrister Gohar in Islamabad, crucial decisions regarding party affairs and negotiations were deliberated. One of the key topics discussed was the resignation of Umar Ayub as General Secretary, which was met with rejection by committee members who acknowledged his dedicated service during challenging periods for the party. The meeting also addressed the upcoming negotiations with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), with the committee expressing support for engaging in talks at the committee level. This decision comes amidst veiled criticism from JUI leaders towards Ali Amin

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ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, Mr Charles Delogne, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

Pak-India exchange lists of prisoners

Two countries exchange prisoners' lists in pursuance of Consular Access Agreement of 2008 twice every year

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India on Monday exchanged lists of prisoners in each other's custody through a diplomatic channel in Islamabad and New Delhi. These lists are exchanged simultaneously, in pursuance of the Consular Access Agreement of 2008, every year on January 1 and July 1, a Foreign Office statement said. As per the statement, Pakistan handed over a list of 254 Indian or believed-to-be-Indian civilians and fishermen incarcerated in Pakistani jails,

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CPEC emerges as catalyst for investment

Govt is mindful of the challenges

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor has become a catalyst for investment and technological transfer and skill development. He was addressing a ceremony of the "China Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Development Report 2023" in Islamabad. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said that the

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Non-bailable warrants issued ATC warns of declaring CM KP, others 'absconder' over failure to appear

"I have to conclude these cases [and] it will only benefit you [if that happens]," says Judge Tahir Abbas Supra

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in the federal capital on Monday warned that it would declare Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and other suspects as "absconder" over their failure to appear before the court. The remarks were made by ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Supra during the hearing of two cases lodged against Pakistan Tehreek Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and other party leaders regarding alleged vandalism and violation of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) at Sangjani and I-9 police stations in the federal capital. During the hearing today, PTI leaders Faisal Javed Khan, Ali Nawaz Awan, Wasiq Qayyum, Aamer Kiani and other suspects appeared before the court where exemption pleas were filed by KP CM Gandapur and PTI leader Amir Mughal.

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Jl to hold sit-in on July 12 in Islamabad

BUERAU REPORT

LAHORE: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) emir Hafiz Naemur Rehman on Monday announced a protest in Islamabad for July 12 against "high taxes and exorbitant electricity tariff". The JI announced its Haq Do AwamKo (give rights to the masses) movement in a post on social media platform X, adding that Rehman would lead the rally. President Asif Ali Zardari assented to the government's tax-heavy Finance Bill 2024 for

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Briefs

ANP opposes military operation

'Not taken into confidence': ANP opposes Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: After JUI-F and PTI, ANP has also opposed the recently announced military operation to wipe out terrorism named, Operation Azm-e-Istehkam. Provincial president Mianftikhar Husain announced the party's policy during his media talk where he raised a lot of eyebrows over the details involved in the military mission and expressed reservations regarding not taken into confidence. During his talk, he also pointed out concern over the belatedly held election and a need for political stability to stem the country out of crises.

Tarar responds to Khaqan, Miftah's criticism

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar on Monday hit back at former PML-N leaders, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Miftah Ismail, following the latter's criticism of 'tax-laden' Budget 2024-25. Addressing a joint press conference, Shahid Khaqan and Miftah Ismail – who recently launched a new political party – castigated the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government for burdening the inflation-hit citizens by imposing more taxes in the Budget 2024-25. Abbasi asked the government to reduce its expenditures instead of imposing taxes on the public.

PM leaves for Tajikistan today

Kazakh envoy briefs PM on enhancing bilateral coop

Following his visit to Tajikistan, Prime Minister Sharif will travel to Astana, Kazakhstan



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Amb. Yerzhan Kistafin, for a courtesy call at the Prime Minister House today. The Prime Minister conveyed his greetings to the President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and expressed his desire to strengthen the excellent bilateral relations between

Pakistan and Kazakhstan. He said he was looking forward to his meeting with President Tokayev during his upcoming visit to Astana for the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting on 3-4 July, 2024.

While noting the positive trajectory of bilateral ties, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to enhance trade and investment, while also focusing on regional connectivity and security. The Kazakh Ambassador conveyed the greetings of the President of Kazakhstan and briefed the Prime Minister on various activities and initiatives currently in progress to expand relations between the two countries. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is set to embark on a significant diplomatic tour, beginning with an official visit to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on July 2-3, 2024, at the invitation of President Emomali Rahmon. During his stay in Dushanbe, the Prime Minister will engage in high-level discussions with President Emomali Rahmon, Chairman of Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli Mahmador Zoir Zokirzoda, and Prime Minister

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PTA pushed telecom companies to install mass surveillance apparatus

The PTA directive required telecom companies to facilitate surveillance on 2% of their customer base, potentially affecting over four million citizens simultaneously

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Last month, during hearings in a case regarding the illegal surveillance of Bushra Imran Khan, the wife of former prime minister, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) learned that the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) had mandated telecom companies to finance, import, and install a system enabling mass surveillance of citizens' data. Known as the Lawful Intercept Management System (LIMS), this system allows access to private messages, video/audio content, call records, and web browsing histories, according to court documents. In the order dated June 26, which was released over the weekend, Justice Babar Sattar of the IHC noted that LIMS was being utilised by "designated agencies" for surveillance purposes. The PTA directive required telecom companies to facilitate surveillance on 2% of their customer base, potentially affecting over four million citizens simultaneously. Justice Sattar noted that the mass surveillance lacked legal basis and was being operated without judicial or executive oversight. While LIMS allowed agencies to access SMS, call data, and encrypted data,

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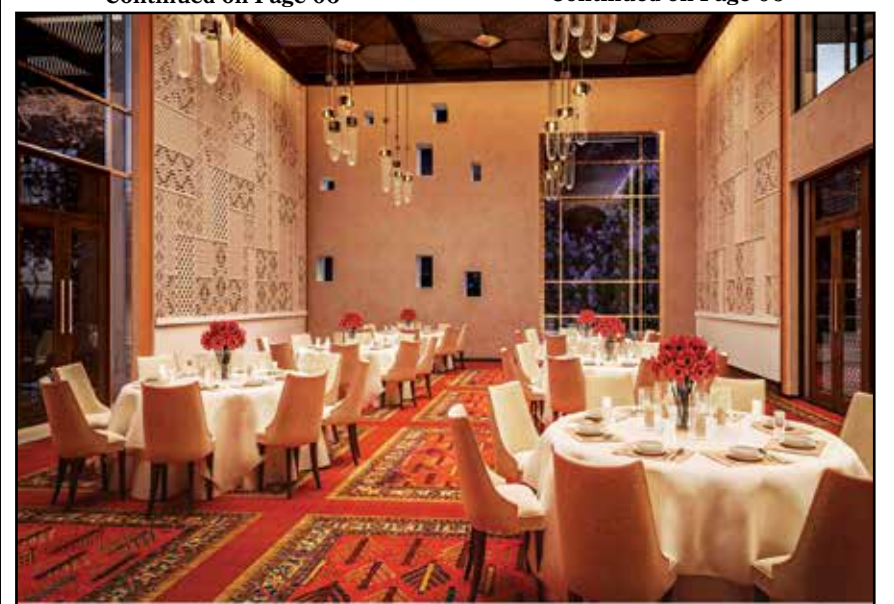
CJP: PTI itself to blame for not holding intra-party polls

Justice Ayesha inquires ECP about allocation of reserved seats to BAP and whether it held any meeting on said issue

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Ayesha Malik Monday said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is in control of the formula for the allocation of reserved seats, giving it the power to declare any candidate as independent. "The ECP can declare

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Invigorating Corporate Retreats

Coming Soon

HUNZA SERENA HOTEL

Briefs

Int'l workshop on Making STEAM Education

ISLAMABAD: Recognizing the importance of Traditional Toys, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) will hold an International Online Workshop "Making Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Education Fun with Traditional Toys" on July 11. According to the ECOSF, the workshop is being organized jointly by ECOSF in collaboration with the National Science Museum of Thailand (NSM). The teachers and students can participate in the workshop to learn the STEAM through an innovative concept of Traditional Toys. The last date to register for the workshop is July 10 while the details of the workshop can be accessed through web link: <https://www.ecosf.org/STEAM-Education-Fun>. The evolution of toys always mirrors the changes in society and technology. Traditional toys have communicated with humans and dealt with the problem of identity. They have also conveyed messages, old patterns, beliefs and some rites that are being forgotten. They have been made to show the children who to explore the role of science and technology in their life. In fact, toys from simple hand-made to digital give children a chance to explore and express their creativity and innovative skills.—APP

Railways earns over Rs 88 bln

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has achieved an unprecedented earning of over Rs 88 billion in the outgoing financial year 2023-24, despite facing a financial crisis due to floods in the monsoon season. The government had set Rs 73 billion as the revenue target of Pakistan Railways during the just concluded financial year. The department surpassed the target through the consistent efforts and hard work of the Railway workers," official sources in the Ministry told APP. They said that during the last financial year (2022-23), the department earned Rs 63 billion, a historic 40 percent increase in revenue collection during the same period of the financial year (2023-24). The sources said that out of the total revenue of Rs 47 billion was derived from passenger, Rs 28 billion from freight trains while Rs 13 billion generated from other sectors of the department. They said the department is committed to increase the revenue generation from Rs 100 billion. At present, they said that Pakistan Railways is operating around 96 passenger trains, up from the previous year when 86 trains were running. Similarly, during the previous year, on average it operated 3.75 freight trains while the number reached seven freight trains this year. To a question, they said that Pakistan Railways has beefed up preventive measures to reduce passenger train accidents. Only six minor accidents with no causality took place on the entire railway network in the country during the last three months.—APP

OGDCL successfully optimizes production

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Monday announced the successful revitalization of the Nashpa-4 well, situated within the Nashpa Development and Production Lease (D&PL) in Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. OGDCL thoroughly re-evaluated the well for the potential of the upper zone of the Lockhart formation and achieved a significant increase in the well's production capacity said a news release. The Nashpa-4 well is now producing an additional 330 barrels per day (BBL/day) of oil and 7.7 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCF/day) of gas at a wellhead flowing pressure (WHFP) of 1570 PSI. Additionally, 21 metric tons per day (MT/day) of LPG is being recovered, contributing to the country's energy supply.—APP



ISLAMABAD: People filling clean drinking water from a filtration plant at sector D-12 in the Federal Capital. — Online

Cross-subsidy to fertilizer sector to damage economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of FPC-ICI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that OGRA and the Ministry of Energy should not take controversial decisions that will harm one sector while benefiting another. He said that the decision taken to give cross-subsidy to the fertilizer sector in the heat of the budget should be withdrawn as it will have disastrous effects on employment and the economy. Talking to the

business community, the veteran business leader said important government institutions should avoid such disastrous decisions. Mian Zahid Hussain said that textiles are the most important sector of the country's economy, providing the most foreign exchange and employment after agriculture. The textile industry contributes around 65% of our national exports, 46% of industrial production, 38% of industrial employment, and 9% of the Gross National Product. The textile value chain consists of multiple industrial sub-sectors. The value chain is quite long, from cotton picking to a finished garment of the latest fashion. The end product of one sub-sector is

the raw material for the other. Each sub-sector in the value chain contributes to value addition and employment generation. Therefore, the decision to cross-subsidy the fertilizer sector at the cost of the textile sector should be reversed. The business leader said that the decision to extend the subsidy to the fertilizer sector had been made at a time when the industrial sector is forced to buy the most expensive electricity in the region, gas prices are skyrocketing, and interest rates are ruining the business. Illegal imposition of Rs 50 billion cross-subsidies to the fertilizer sector, including the accrued differential of Rs27 billion from November 2023 through March

2024 and the monthly differential of Rs3.8 billion from April 2024 through September 2024 — in ring-fenced RLNG tariffs from June 2024 onward will have a destructive impact on the economy. The decision clearly violates Articles 6 and 7 of the Ogra Ordinance 2002, which are designed to protect consumer interests and minimize economic distortions, he said. Additionally, the government, with the permission of the Petroleum Product (Petroleum Levy) Ordinance of 1961 and the Petroleum Products (Petroleum Levy) Rules of 1967, has assigned Ogra the responsibility of determining the price of RLNG. The government, via ECC deci-

sions on June 6, 2015, and June 14, 2016, has also identified pricing components and parameters of RLNG to Ogra through the DG Gas office, effectively ring-fencing RLNG prices and ensuring no additional or undue charges are made to consumers, he observed. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the government should ensure that no additional or unnecessary charges are taken from the consumers, but this is not happening. Important government institutions should bring stability through justice in all sectors of the economy. Otherwise, there will be instability among the main pillars of the economy, which is outside everyone's interest.

Govt increasing its privileges by burdening the masses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that the government is constantly increasing its perks and privileges and also escalating the burden on the masses. The back-breaking of the people continues while the interests of the elite are being nurtured, he added. Shahid Rasheed Butt said this in a statement issued here today that the current budget is directionless and not according to the ground realities; therefore, it will fail to play any role in the country's development. The budget is focused on providing undue benefits to the upper classes at the cost of masses and economy. It will make rich class

richer and more influential. Shahid Rashid Butt said that mini-budgets will continue to emerge from the womb of this budget, the target of which will be the people. He said that the budget measures will increase poverty, anxiety, and unemployment. FBR's 94% of income is spent on loans and interest payments. The country will need more loans to please politicians and cater to defense and developmental needs. This budget will cause public unrest, and many businesses will close, and production will decrease because its targets are not realistic but based on expectations and assumptions. The controversial budget will not decrease but will increase the deficit, which will cause more loans to be taken. Shahid Rashid Butt said that the government does not have any plan to in-

crease its income without increasing the burden on the poor people, nor does the budget have any economic direction. As a result of the budget, it seems difficult to impose taxes on wholesalers and retailers. At the same time, politicians stand in the way of taxing agricultural income. Farmhouses in Islamabad are being taxed, but this will never be done nationwide to please the elites. As a result of the budget measures, taxpayers will be squeezed. At the same time, tax evaders will remain insulated and continue to enjoy life. He noted that by raising taxes on imports, smugglers are being encouraged. Tax authorities can improve matters by increasing direct taxes if they want, but they are not allowed to do so. In these circumstances, looking for local or foreign investment is self-delusion.

IRSA releases 324,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 324,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 422,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1473.80 feet and was 75.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 220,400 cusecs and 145,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1184.60 feet, which was 136.60 feet higher than its dead level.—APP

Ayesha urges parents to cooperate with Polio teams

ISLAMABAD: Prime minister's focal person on polio, Ayesha Raza Farooq on Monday urged every segment of society to play a role in eradicating poliovirus from the country. Talking to a PTV news channel, she said that the anti-polio campaign began in forty-nine selected districts of the country today where more than 9.5 million children under five years of age will be administered polio vaccine drops. She also urged parents to cooperate with polio teams visiting their doorsteps. She said sixteen districts in Balochistan, eleven in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, sixteen in Sindh and six in Punjab are part of the campaign, adding that, door-to-door polio campaign will be conducted in specific Union Councils of Islamabad as well. "Government is sending polio vaccination teams to citizens' doorsteps, especially in areas where the virus is present, adding, guardians and parents of children should open their doors for these health workers who are hardworking in severe heatwave condition".—APP

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven raids across the country managed to recover 833 kg drugs and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 748 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Qatar at Bacha Khan International Airport. 400 grams ice was recovered from a parcel sent to Australia from a cargo office in Rawalpindi. 460 grams opium was recovered from Mashakhlil and 319 kg opium was recovered from an area near Pishin Road Quetta. In an operation, 41 kg ice was recovered from a container in Karachi.—APP

BOI launches new business facilitation centre

ISLAMABAD: The Director, Board of Investment (BOI) paid a visit to Deputy Commissioner (DC) office and announced the establishment of a new Business Facilitation Centre aimed at promoting business and investment in the city. The initiative marks a significant step towards making Islamabad an attractive destination for entrepreneurs, said the spokesman of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration. During a visit to the Deputy Commissioner's Office, the Director of the BOI met with various organizations to discuss the new center. The meeting included a briefing on the development and functionality of an online portal designed to support business activities. This portal aims to streamline processes and provide essential information to businesses and investors. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the commitment to offering comprehensive support to businesses, stating that all necessary facilities would be available to foster investment. The BOI's efforts to create a supportive environment for businesses were highlighted as a key factor in this initiative. The DC stressed the importance of cooperation among all district administration institutions in facilitating business operations. He assured that every department would play its part in ensuring the success of this venture. The introduction of the Business Facilitation Centre and the online portal was expected to simplify the licensing system, making it easier for entrepreneurs to start and expand their businesses in Islamabad.—APP

Pakistan earns US \$633m from travel services' export in Jul-April

The imports of the country surged by 20.77 per cent, growing from US\$ 6,912 billion last year to US\$ 8.347 billion during the months under review.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$633.198 million by providing different travel services in various countries during the ten months of the fiscal year 2023-24. This shows a decrease of 27.61 per cent as compared to the US \$874.700 million worth same services provided during the corresponding months of the last fiscal year 2022-23, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the months under review,

personal travel services also decreased by 28.08 per cent, from US \$868.020 million last year to US \$624.278 million during July-April 2023-24. Among these personal services, the exports of health-related expenditure rose by 255.59 per cent while the education-related expenditure increased by 98.97 per cent. In addition, the other personal services witnessed a decline of 30.71 per cent. Meanwhile, the exports of business services grew by

33.53 per cent, from US\$ 6.680 million to US\$ 8.920 million, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the exports of services during July-April 2023-24 were recorded at US\$ 6.441 billion against the exports of US\$ 6.366 billion in July-January 2022-23, showing an increase of 1.18 per cent. The imports of the country surged by 20.77 per cent, growing from US\$ 6,912 billion last year to US\$ 8.347 billion during the months under review.—APP

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