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Detailed News On Page-07 Detailed News On Page-07

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Sabalenka withdraws from Wimbledon

Detailed News On Page-06



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 SIYAL

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 SharjeelInamMemon slammed the former for "starting politics of hate and bias" and declared the Khalid-led

Continued on Page 06

PTI core committee backs negotiations with JUI

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

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

Continued on Page 06

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

lists of

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

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan

cerated in Pakistani jails,

CPEC emerges as catalyst for investment

Govt is mindful of

ISLAMABAD:

Pak-India exchange

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 incar-

Continued on Page 06

the challenges

MEHTAB PIRZADA

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

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

ANP opposes mily 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 MianIftikhar Hussain 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 [nforma Broadcasting Attaul 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.

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 Mahmadtoir Zoir Zokirzoda, and Prime Minister

Continued on Page 06

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, any candidate as independent. "The ECP can declare

Continued on Page 06

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

Continued on Page 06



"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, WasiqQayyum, AamerKiani and other suspects appeared before the court whereas exemption pleas were filed by KP CM Gandapur and PTI leader Amir Mughal.

JI to hold sit-in on July 12 III 1914IIIANAU

BUERAU REPORT

LAHORE: Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) emir Hafiz NaeemurRehman 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

Continued on Page 06









BISP provides unique identity to Pakistani women

Senator Rubina said that there would be no compromise on corruption or misconduct towards women beneficiaries

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid has reiterated the origins and international recognition of Benazir Income Support Programme, a visionary initiative of Shaheed Mohterma Benazir Bhutto. Addressing media representatives at the Pakistan Peoples Party Central Punjab Secretariat in Model Town, Lahore, she highlighted how Benazir Bhutto conceptualized Benazir Income Support Programme during her exile in Dubai, with President Asif Ali Zardari later bringing the program to

Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized that Benazir Income Support Programme

Secretary KA&GB chairs

meeting on August 5

events

ISLAMABAD : Secretary

Ministry of Kashmir Affairs

and Gilgit Baltistan Wa-

FAISALABAD : Faisalabad

(FDA) Director General

Muhammad Asif Chaudhry

has directed intensifying

surveillance measures for

dengue prevention and con-

trol larvae breeding in mon-

soon. He warned FDA's sur-

veillance staff that no lapses

or laxity in anti-dengue meas-

ures will be tolerated. He

directed them to ensure

standard cleanliness of FDA

City and all subsidiary offices

including FDA complex, dis-

posing of the waste material

Court Notice

placed on roofs.-APP

Authority

Development

has provided a unique identity to Pakistani women while empowering them financially. She noted, "Different political parties have attempted to change the name of the Benazir Income Support Programme in the past, reflecting intellectual dishonesty. Upon assuming the role of Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, it was President Asif Ali Zardari's clear directive that financial assistance to women beneficiaries must be delivered with complete transparency and respect." She affirmed that there would be no compromise on corruption or misconduct towards women beneficiaries. Chairperson Rubina Khalid reminded the public of BISP's helpline, 0800-26477, for complaint registration and confirmed that 8171 is the only official

Highlighting her commitment to combating fraud, she announced that BISP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information Technology (MOIT), is developing a digital payment solution to address fraudulent activities. She also stressed the importance of skill training for the families of BISP beneficiaries, enabling them to start their own businesses, contribute to the country's economy, and rise out of poverty.

Rubina Khalid also unveiled a new payment model under which BISP is engaging six banks to enhance the payment process. This model aims to reduce complaints related to POS agents. "We have established payment campsites for the disbursement of the Kafaalat stipend and have deployed our staff to ensure transparent disbursement," she added.

K-P to build 5,000 houses this year

Finance advisor says province will surpass Rs95b surplus budget target

DNA

Rs1,400 billion which had

been reduced to Rs 1,100

billion before the budget

was passed.

seem Ajmal Chaudhry on Monday chaired a high-level ISLAMABAD: Advisor to meeting to discuss and re-Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) view the overall plan being Chief Minister on Finance devised to organize events Muzammil Aslam, while on August 5, 2024, the 5th presenting the 100-day peranniversary of Indian Illegal formance of the provincial act of abolishing of special government, has said K-P status of Indian Illegally Ocwould build 5,000 houses cupied Jammu and Kashmir. this year. He said that the The meeting was attended federal budget was the by officials and focal perworst of its kind and no othsons of various ministries er budget could be as infaand departments including mous as this one. This year, Foreign Affairs, Ministry the International Monetary of Information and Broad-Fund (IMF) had set a surcasting, Islamabad Police, plus target of Rs95 billion Ministry of Information for K-P and the province Technology and Telecom, hoped to surpass the tar-Capital Development Auget, he said, adding that he thority, Ministry of Educawould request other provtion, National Heritage and inces to also show their per-Culture Division, Cantonformance. He further said ment Board, District Manthe Chief Minister and his agements representatives cabinet had not travelled of Islamabad and Rawalpinanywhere except Islamabad di and others. -APP and that all official helicon-FDA to step ters had been grounded to save money, and that, although the federal govup measures ernment was supposed to control to give K-P around Rs300 billion worth of funds, it dengue in had been announced in the budget that there would be monsoon a development allocation of

Addressing a press conference, he said the K-P government's focus had been on good governance and accountability, adding that K-P had started a project with the World Bank for education and that it was a fact that three budgets had been presented in the province within the first 100 days and these had not been mini-budgets. "On May 10, the budget of the previous government was presented. On May 24, the budget was presented before the federal budget. We had passed the budget in the first week of June," he said. Aslam further stated that K-P currently had over 300,000 tons of wheat stock. "We are going to provide solar plants to one million people. Before the Eid holidays, Rs900 million had been released to municipal corporations. K-P has also restored free treatment under the health card," he said. He claimed treatment for 258,909 individuals had been covered by the health card so far, medicines worth Rs2 billion had been distributed, and that the Chief Minister resided in Peshawar and Islamabad and did not travel abroad. He also said that, for the

tory, K-P had made it clear that the province's budget should be presented by the province itself and, therefore, K-P had passed the budget three weeks before the federal government, that it had been claimed about the province that it was bankrupt but K-P had given a surplus revenue and thus saved money, that the pension bill is increasing and K-P had saved Rs20 billion and allocated it to the pension fund, and that, to address the law and order situation, the provincial government had allocated Rs7 billion immediately upon taking office. During Ramazan, he said, K-P had provided Rs10,000 per deserving family across the province while Punjab had given Rs3,000 and Sindh had distributed Rs5,000. For programmes like 'Ehsaas Rozgar' and 'Ehsaas Hunar', he said, K-P had allocated Rs15 billion and that, for the first time in history, the government would build 5,000 houses in the province this year. "We have purchased wheat worth Rs20 billion. We have 300,000 tons of wheat stock. We are introducing a scheme and will install 2 kVA solar panels in 100,000 households", he added.

Pakistan efforts to trading system: Romina

first time in Pakistan's his-

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday said Pakistan was making efforts to benefit from the UN's carbon trading system. She made these remarks during the meeting with a 3-member delegation of the United Nations Environment Programme's Denmark Mission, led by Senior Economist, which called on Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Aalm here at the Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination. During the meeting Advisor Carbon Credit Markets, Urwah Khan at the United Nations Environment Programme briefed the PM's climate advisor Romina Khurshid Alam about car-



along with MNA Aoun Chaudhary called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.-DNA

IGP provides house to martyr's family

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar is actively ensuring the best welfare of the families of police martyrs. In continuation of this initiative, the IG Punjab provided a residential house to the family of another police officer who sacrificed his life in the line of duty. The family of Shaheed Shakeel Ahmad from Rajanpur police has been provided with a house in Mehar Fayaz Colony, tehsil Shalimar, district Lahore, as per their choice. A Punjab police spokesman said that the house, equipped with essential facilities, is worth Rs13.5 million. Due to the special efforts of IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, the Punjab government released funds for the house. Shaheed Constable Shakeel Ahmad was martyred in June last year while protecting the lives and property of citizens. He is survived by a wife, two daughters and four sons. The IG Punjab paid rich tribute to the unparalleled sacrifice of Shaheed Constable Shakeel Ahmad and said that he had bravely faced dangerous criminals without caring for his own life. Punjab police will never forget the unparalleled sacrifice of its brave soldier. Punjab police is the custodian of more than 1,600 brave martyrs and over 1,700 Ghazis, whose welfare is among the department's top priorities, he added. Meanwhile, Inspector General of Punjab Police, Dr. Usman Anwar has taken notice of the incident in Rajanpur where two people were killed due to a

27 meters cut off for gas theft

long-standing enmity. –APP

LAHORE: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNG-PL) has severed another 27 connections, during its on going crackdown against gas pilferers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, imposing Rs 1.8 million fines. According to a spokesman for the SNGPL, in Lahore and Gujranwala, the regional teams disconnected 5 connections on illegal use of gas es.-APP

BBISE announces SSC results 2024

and Secretary Muhammad

Azeem Sajdi said that in

the annual examinations

QUETTA: Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) on Monday announced the annual results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC). Abida Kakar, Controller

BBISE, along with Secretary Muhammad Azeem Sajdi, announced the results during a press conference at board office here. She said the success rate among 143,849 students was 84%. Four students from BRC Loralai secured the top three positions, while a student from Cadet College secured the third position. Abida Kakar

of 2024, a total of 143,849 students participated. Among them as many as 121,362 students passed, achieving a success percentage of 84.36. In the ninth grade, out of 67,800 students, 50,558 passed, while in the tenth grade, out of 76,049 students, 70,804 were declared successful. The success rate for the ninth grade was 74%, while for the tenth grade, it was 93%. further Thev

that Rasad Khan, son of Nematullah, from Balochistan Residential College Loralai, secured first position; Zainullah Khan, son of Nematullah Khan, secured second position while Abdul Rehman, son of Ismatullah Salam, Syed Abdul Aleem, son of Syed Nizamuddin, and Shehzad Khan, son of Gul Sher, from Cadet College Kohlu, secured the third position.

They congratulated the successful students, saying that the nation's expectations are tied to the youth, and these students will bring honor to Balochistan and Paki-

Experts stress data for effective migrant management

at a seminar on Monday underscored that data was the key to effective management of Afghan migrants on Pakistani soil. This was stated by experts who were speaking at a panel discussion organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here, a news release said. This was stated experts who were speaking at a panel discussion organized by the institute of regional studies The speakers highlighted that it was essential to have a central repository of data on Afghan migrants, including the UN Refugee Agency (UN-HCR) mandated refugees. the Afghan Citizenship Card (ACC) holders, as well as the undocumented Afghans. They underscored that currently the data was not being maintained under one roof for ready and effective utilization by the Government of Pakistan. They also called for more efficient coordination

between the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR on the matter. In his introductory remarks, President IRS Ambassador Jauhar Saleem stated that Pakistan had adopted various approaches to managing Afghan migrants and continues to strive for the best possible solution. The goal, he said, was to ensure the safe return of Afghan migrants to their homeland with respect and dignity while also ensuring the security of Pakistan's citizens. Human Rights lawyer, Syed Muaz Shah, shared that since the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan in 2021, Pakistan had seen an increase in the numbers of Afghan refugees from 1.44 million to 2.18 million. He acknowledged Pakistan's sovereignty in implementing the repatriation policy while also emphasizing the unique situation faced by Afghan refugees in the country. He added that many Afghan refugees wanted to work and settle in Pakistan

lives in the country and felt a stronger connection to Pakistan than to Afghanistan. Shah emphasized the impor-

tance of recognizing their right under international law to seek refuge and work in Pakistan. Brigadier Shozab Maieed, an international law and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) expert, noted that Pakistan had managed Afghan refugees without for eign assistance since 1996. causing significant stress on Pakistan's economy. He suggested that providing Afghan refugees with opportunities that add value to Pakistan could help mitigate the economic burden. Without such measures, he added, existing loopholes could be exploited leading to increased terrorism in the region. He advocated for statistical research to determine the contributions Afghan refugees could make to Pakistan's economy.-DNA

The Smooth Moving Connection

benefit from UN's carbon

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING and imposed fine of Rs 0.9 بعدالت جناب شنراده كامران bon market-related initiatives for their potential benefits Pakistan can gain by selling its carmillion against gas pilferers. صاحب سول جج راولینڈی خواست حضانت ماجد حسین خان بنام bon credits from different sectors including cement, oil & gas, textile and other industrial In Multan and Bahawalpur, industries, a news release said. He also assured the PM's climate aide of his organisation's 8 connections were cut off مشاياسين دختر محمه ياسين مسجات جنت دختر ماجد fullest technical and non-technical support to build up policy infrastructure and its implewhile in Sheikhupura and سين خان ساكنان مكان نمبر CB-1841 mentation for creating enabling environment for various potential sectors including Faisalabad, 4 connections گلی نمبر 24/2علامه اقبال کالونی کی جاید راد پینڈی برگاہ مقدمہ عنوان بالا میں معاطیع cement, waste, textile, oil & gas, telecom and information technology sectors to genwere disconnected while in erate and sell their carbon credits in the international carbon credit markets. Both Mardan the company discon-کی تغیل سمن کے هونی معال ہے لبذا برزر بعدا خبار sides agreed to work together to enable Pakistan's various industrial sectors to sell nected 10 connections on ac-شغدار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ اصالنا وکا لنا یا زریعیہ عثار از مورخہ ۔ 02جولائی 2024 their carbon credits in the international carbon trading markets and earn financial count of direct use of gas and benefits. "We are very much aware of the huge untapped economic potential the carillegal use of gas and amount Our Services وقت صبح 80 بج حاضر عدالت او پے ورنہ bon markets offer for Pakistan to generate carbon credits in the international carbon of Rs 1.2 million have been كاروائي حسب ضابطة مل ميں لائي جائے گ market and earn economic gains by selling the carbon credits," said the PM's climate aide booked against gas theft cas-Packing Ragami bank selects BenchMatrix for AML & Shipping 9 Freight Forwarding terrorist financing. The 9 Land, Sea & Air Freight solution provides real-time transaction monitoring, **@** Custom Clearance allowing detection of suspicious activities more ef-Relocations ficiently than manual processes. Being a proprietary Office Removals solution, RiskNucleus® AML can be tailored to the 9 Fine Art Handling specific needs of a financial institution and the regula-Project Management tory environment in which also offers a streamlined actions. We hope to lead both their assets and customit operates. Taimur Kaleem, Pet Relocation investigation process for the market with excellence ers from the growing threat CEO BenchMatrix, shared faster resolution of alerts in all our endeavors in fuof digital fraud." The AML his excitement on RiskNu-Warehousing

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Raqami Islamic Digital Bank, one of the most prominent upcoming Islamic digital banks in Pakistan, has selected BenchMatrix's proprietary solution, RiskNucleus® as its Anti-Money Laundering (AML) transaction monitoring solution. This selection will empower Raqami to leverage innovative technology and advanced automation for a more intelligent approach to financial crime detection. The Transaction Monitoring solution by BenchMatrix is a comprehensive and robust platform designed to monitor and detect financial, digital and non-financial transactions originating from suspicious locations and multiple currencies, while monitoring deviations in behavior, and transactions from new accounts. The solution



operations and products. We

have taken a momentous

stride by collaborating with

BenchMatrix for the best

security and confidentiality

of all operations and trans-

ture." Javaid Sher Ali, Head of Engineering at Raqami Islamic Digital Bank Ltd. "This partnership stated. between Ragami and Bench-Matrix will play a key role in Raqami's mission to provide seamless and secured digital financial services to its targeted customers. By investing in advanced monitoring tools, digital banks can enhance their security measures, ensure regulato-

ry compliance, and protect

suite comprising modules of Watch-list screening, Transaction monitoring, AML / CFT Risk assessment, and Governance and Reporting Tools, is a robust AML solution that helps banks comply with regulations set by the State Bank of Pakistan and international bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). RiskNucleus® AML helps banks identify and mitigate risks associated with money laundering and

cleus® becoming integral to Raqami's digital infrastructure, stating: "Pakistan has a developing digital financial sector, and BenchMatrix is focused on making it one of the most dependable and sound systems globally. With the layered security and shields provided by Bench-Matrix, we look forward to helping Raqami Bank achieve its goal of providing secure digital financial services to Pakistan's large.

Storage

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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**

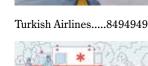
July 26/Liberia **National Day**

July 30/Morocco **National Day**

Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel....111 133 133 Marriott......051-2826121



Emergency

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



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



Hospitals

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	onal 4603666



Denartments

Departification		
CDA	9221334-43	
CDA	9208301-04	
Met Office	9250360-6	
RDA	5555864	
TMA	5770886	
Cantonment B	oard 9270151-3	

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

ICCI delegation to meet CM Punjab on industrial estate

President ICCI said that Punjab Government and PIEDMC's support for industrial estate project vital for Islamabad's business community

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Industrial Estates Development and Management Company (PIEDMC) will extend all out support to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry with regard to the establishment of its own Industrial Estate in the outskirts of the twin cities for the promotion of businesses, creation of jobs and attraction of foreign investment. This has been stated by Amina Faisal, General Manager Busi-Development PIEDMC speaking at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry during her visit and meeting with its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari here on Monday.

She said that business community is the key stakeholder of country's economy, therefore it deserves each and every facility for the cause to overcome the economic woes of the country, adding that ICCI-PIEDMC collaboration will go a long way for the economic development of the motherland.

While shedding light on some of the key initiatives of Punjab government for industrial development and ease of doing businesses in the province she said that the government is offering 10 years income tax holiday and one time exemption on all custom duties and taxes on import of industrial machinery to the investors in Special Economic Zones like Quaid -e-Azam Business Park, Rahim Yar Khan Industrial Estate, Bhalwal Industrial Estate and Vehari Industrial Estate. Ear-



President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry apprised the visiting guest about ICCI's endeavors for the much need Industrial estate to facilitate the business community of the capital city which is determined to help the government to come out of the existing economic crunch. He went on to say that very soon a ICCI delegation will hold a meeting with Chief Minister Punjab with

the Industrial Estate. He added that Punjab government and especially the PIEDMC support for the materialization of the project will be of paramount significance and will definitely prove an encouraging step for the business community of Islamabad. He also apprised her about the successful manners in which the ICCI organized the two day All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conference and she on her part highly appreciated

President ICCI for the initiative. Former President FPCCI Zubair Malik acquainted her about the problems of the business community by saying the Public-Private Partnership for the flourishment of businesses is need of the hour.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Nilla Dulla is the nearest possible place available for the Industrial estate and that if PIEDMC takes its ownership or possible support for fulfilling the plan will be a precious gift of Puniab government for the business community of Islamabad.

Former President Shaikh Tariq Sadiq also made the mention of the difficulties being faced by the community by underlining the need for the availability of the level playing field. Those among other were also present on the occasion include former SVPs, Raffat Farid, Khalid Chaudhry and Sanaullah Durrani.

activates emergencies operation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Based on predictive modelling, NDMA's National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) has been reported a significant activity from the eastern Indian side, indicating intense cloud bursts that may hit Pakistani areas. Repeated early warnings have been shared with all provinces, and moderate to heavy rainfall is likely to start over the upper catchments of all major rivers particularly Sutlej, Ravi & Chenab from July 2, 2024. NDMA has also issued an alert regarding lightning, according to which lightning is expected to strike in various cities of South and Central Punjab and Islamabad during July 5-7. This may lead to rapid rises in water levels, flash flooding events, and urban flooding in metropolitan areas. NDMA warns that the anticipated rainfall poses a significant risk of low to medium level flooding in River Sutlej, with water levels expected to reach low flood levels (approximately 50,000 cusecs) by July 5 and high flood (approximately 120,000 cusecs) by July 10, 2024. NDMA is working closely with federal and provincial departments to ensure preparedness and response to this potential emergency. The public is advised to remain vigilant and follow instructions from local authorities. NDMA advises public to stay informed and download 'Pak NDMA Disaster Alert' mobile app for timely alerts and closely monitor weather reports.—APP

FBR comfortably achieves target for the year 2023-24

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: FBR has collected Rs. 9,306 billion in Financial Year 2023-24 against the target of Rs. 9,252 billion thereby exceeding the yearly target by a significant margin of Rs. 54 billion. The revenue is expected to further increase after reconciliation of figures. The growth in revenue collection is 30% as compared to the last year. This was possible due to historic collection throughout the current financial year. It is a striking fact that FBR has added Rs. 2,142 billion during the year as compared to the last year collection of Rs. Rs. 7,164 billion and Rs. 1,183 billion in the month of June 2024 alone. The target was achieved despite the fact that the imports were further compressed from \$ 55 billion to \$ 53 billion whereby all the shortfall was to be recovered from domestic taxes. In addition to exceeding the annual target, the Tax System of Pakistan saw significant structural

est of the honorable Prime Minister and Finance Minister. This is a direct consequence of policy shift with increased focus on domestic resource mobilization, more direct taxation from the rich and affluent and facilitating businesses and exporters by prompt issuance of refunds: Under the Honorable Prime Minister's directives, the FBR disbursed refunds amounting to Rs. 469 billion during the FY 2023-24 as compared to Rs. 331 billion during the FY 2022-23 which

is 42% more than last year. · Due to focus on direct taxes of the government. the revenue collection target was achieved mainly due to growth in direct taxes which led the way by contributing 47% to the revenue collection. • The domestic taxes also improved significantly and overall, FBR collected Rs. 6,128 billion in domestic taxes and Rs. 3,178 billion in import taxes thereby depicting a growth of 37% in domes-

improvements which were despite import compression direct result of the inter- from \$ 55 billion last year to \$ 53 billion during the cur rent year. • The composition of domestic taxes in total revenue collection is 65% which used to be less than 50% two years ago. For the FY 2023-24, FBR collected income tax amounting to Rs. 4,528 billion as compared to Rs. 3,270 billion during the same period last year, depicting an increase of 38.4%. Similarly, under the head sales tax Rs. 3.098 billion was collected as compared to Rs. 2.593 billion and under the head FED Rs. 576 billion was collected as compared to Rs. 370 billion. The revenue collection under the head of Customs Duty was Rs. 1,104 billion as compared to Rs. 931 billion last year. In spite of all odds and issues faced by the organization as a whole, the officers and officials of FBR have remained dedicated and committed to their primary role i.e. achievement of the assigned revenue targets under all circum-

tic taxes and 18% in imports 'Ombudsperson playing leading role in safeguarding women's right'

Fauzia also emphasized a collaborative efforts between government agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and women empowerment in the country

laborative efforts between

government agencies, civil

society organizations and other stakeholders to pro-

mote gender equality and

in the country. Replying

to a question, she said

FOSPAH is committed to

strengthening public griev-

ance redress mechanisms

in the Ombudsman offic-

es of Pakistan and Azad

Jammu and Kashmir by

enhancing core capacities

and achieving higher levels

of professionalization in all

Ombudsman offices. To an-

other question, she asked

women

empowerment

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Fauzia Viqar, Monday said that her department was playing pivotal role for providing free of cost excess to speedy justice for women at workplace and spreading awareness for people living in remote areas. She stressed that media should create more awareness about gender harassment through talk shows and implementing laws against harassment of women at workplaces. Federal Ombudsperson for Protection of Women Against Harassment (FOS-PAH) at Workplace is an autonomous body dedicated to safeguarding the rights and dignity of women, she explained its department working. She said it was necessary to provide a

proper work environment

to women with zero toler-

ance for discrimination, the students and elders to fear and harassment. She approach the Ombudsman Office without any difficulty said that society needed to bring changes in its atin case of any irregularity titudes towards gender and harrasment or properissues to empower womty related issues. en, adding, government She also lauded the perforis commitment to ensure mance and achievements of equal access to justice and the Ombudsmen in providing expeditious and free of providing safe environment for women in society. Fauzia also emphasized a col-

cost justice to the people against administrative injustices. FOSPAH will further increase its outreach and efficiency to provide speedy justice to women in harassment and property cases at their doorsteps, she affirmed. She also highlighted FOSPAH's helpline number 03444 367 367 which is open during office hours (9 am to 5 pm) for complainants to seek information about the filing process and the complaint procedure. She said more actions are required to implement the existing laws for saving women and girls from every sort of discrimination and violence.-APP

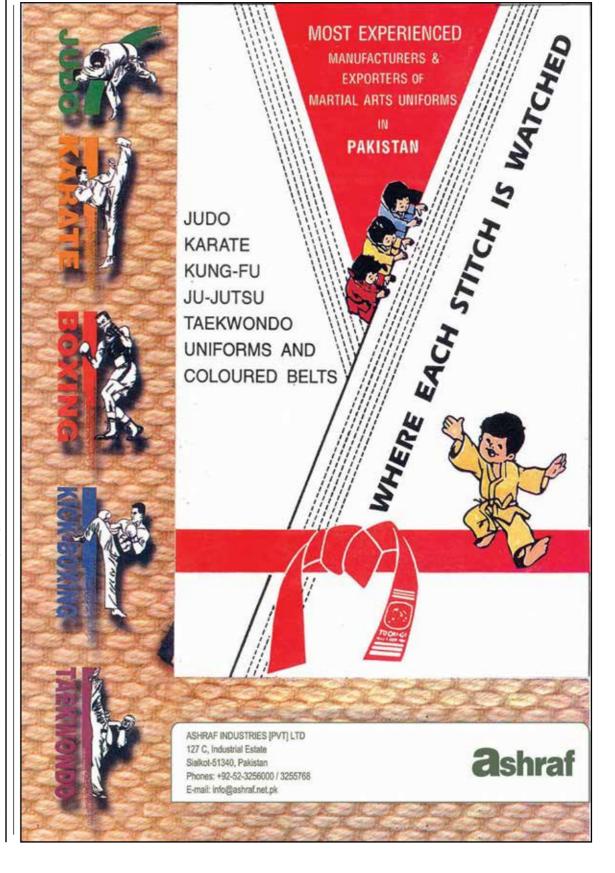
Naqvi pays tributes to martvrs

rior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has paid tribute to the bravery of FC and police personnel who foiled the terrorists' attack on Takhta Baig police checkpost in District Khyber. The Interior Minister said that the sacrifices of Shaheed FC official Shahzad and Shaheed Police official Ejaz, who laid down their lives fighting against terrorists

Bilal urges businessmen

to cooperate with govt

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yaseen has said that business segments should cooperate with the government for providing relief to people. According to official sources here on Monday, he said that facilitators of profiteers and hoarders deserved no leniency. He said that during the last 24 hours, 629 flour mills, flour dealers and retail shops had been checked. Bilal Yaseen said that 128 places had been checked in Lahore division, 64 in Faisalabad, 30 in Sahiwal, 80 in Rawalpindi division, 74 in Sargodha, 40 in Multan division, 38 in Bahawalpur, 88 in DG Khan, 42 in Gujrat and 45 in Gujranwala. He said that supply of flour was strictly monitored during Sunday holiday. A sufficient stock was available at retail shops and in wholesale markets in Lahore and other big cities of Punjab, he added. He said that due to increase of transportation of wheat in markets it helped to reduce prices. People should lodge their complaint on toll free number 080002345 against those who were illegally selling flour and 'Roti' at higher rates. The Punjab food department had imposed a fine of Rs 470,000 besides issuing warning notices to profiteers and law violators, he said.-APP



Tuesday, July 02, 2024

Briefs

Int'i workshop on`Making STEAM

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 STEAM through an innova-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 made to show the children science and technology in their life. In fact, toys from give children a chance to 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 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

OGDCL successfully optimizes production

the country during the last

three months.-APP

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

Education

students can participate in the workshop to learn the tive concept of Traditional forgotten. They have been who to explore the role of simple hand-made to digital explore and express their

CI 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

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of FPC-

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

business community, the veteran

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

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 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.

Monsoon rains to enter Islamabad, other cities this week ISLAMABAD:

General of the Department of Meteorology Mehr Sahibzada Khan Monday said that officially monsoon rains are about to enter Islamabad and other cities of the country on Monday (today), where above to normal rainfall will brought the mercury considerably down. Talking to PTV news chan-

nel, he said that the meteorological department has predicted rain at a few places in the upper parts of the country during the next 24 hours, adding, there is a possibility of rain at a few places in North East Punjab and Upper KP and weather in Islamabad and surrounding areas. He said Meteorological department had already issued the weather advisory and urging all relevant institutions to make emergency arrangements in anticipation of potential flooding and storm damage. He said the advisory warns of possible flooding in rivers located in Islamabad, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, and Kashmir, due to the expected heavy rains. Met Department has directed all concerned institutions to take emergency measures to address any adverse effects caused by the predicted weather conditions, he added. Replying to a question, he said July will witness an impressive spell of downpour during current spell of monsoon, adding, the spell of rain will also help in increasing the water levels at major reservoirs.—APP

ANF recovers 833 kg drugs in seven operations

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 kg opium was recovered from Mashakhil 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

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 backbreaking 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 development. country's 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 nomic direction. neonle 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 increase its income without increasing the burden on the poor people, nor does the budget have any eco-

target of which will be the As a result of the budget, pose 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.

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: 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

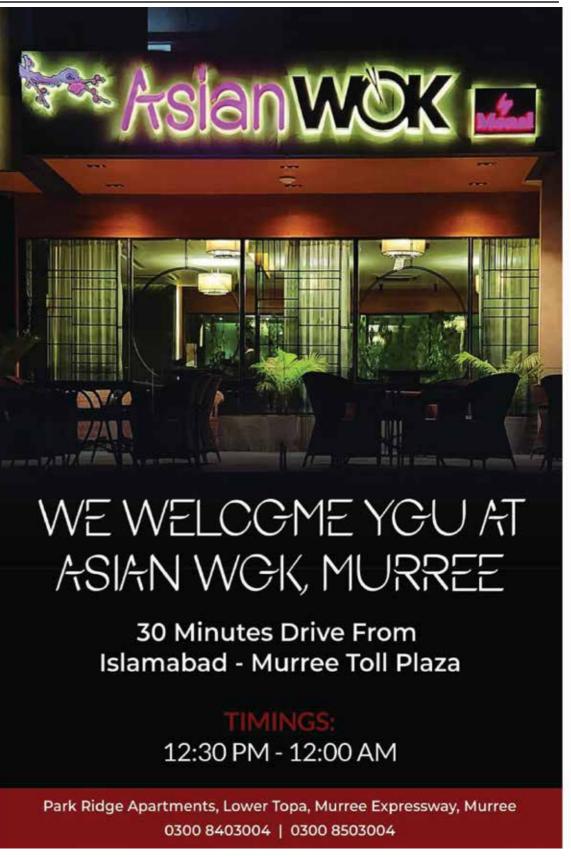
33.53 per cent, from US\$ 6.680 million to US\$ 8.920 million, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the exports of services during July-April 2023-24 were recorded at US\$ 6.441 billion against the exports of US\$ 6.366 billion in July-January 2022-23, showing an increase of 1.18 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

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 sever heatwave condition ".-APP



The case of BICOM

NHE Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre, or Bicom for short, has been in existence nearly a quarter of a century. It is dedicated to misleading the media about the Zionist entity. One of the key developments Bicom introduced was We Believe in Israel, which began as a conference called the Big Tent for Israel. It was closely coordinated with the Zionist regime and featured many speakers from the Zionist colony. Another key venture launched in 2012 is the journal Fathom, which publishes a wide range of Zionist propaganda essays including from many individuals directly sponsored by the Zionist regime, including supporters of illegal settlements such as the foreign press spokesperson of the extremist Yesha council. Bicom today is still run as a core part of the "Israel" lobby with two directors: David Green, the low profile businessman whose family runs Greenbrook industries, is reportedly a key supporter. The family made their money through tobacco in colonial India and one of Green's uncles went to become a founder of the "Israel' Occupation Forces. As if to emphasize the connection to occupied Palestine, the other director, David Cohen, gives a home address in the occupied colony, and is also a director of a charity sending money to a so-called "Israeli" organization. The most high-profile person behind Bicom is founder PojuZabludowicz, a Finnish business man who is a perennial feature of the rich list in both "Israel" and the UK. Zabludowicz is a leading figure in the Zionist firmament in the UK. He has advised the Community Security Trust, the United Jewish Israel Appeal (which is the main Zionist fundraiser), and has been a trustee of the pro-"Israel" Jewish Leadership Council (JLC).

The lobby watchdog Spinwatch produced a pathbreaking report on Bicom a decade ago, of which I was a co-author. In its 2013 report was a diagram summarizing some of the links between Bicom and the rest of the Zionist scene.

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Addressing climate issues

BNORMAL climate and frequent severe weather events have been a common experience for many people this summer. Recently, northern China has experienced prolonged high temperatures, while southern China has been hit by frequent heavy rains. Floods exceeding warning levels have occurred in 98 rivers in the Yangtze River Basin, the Xijiang River in the Pearl River Basin and the Taihu Basin, said the Ministry of Water Resources on June 30. On a global scale, since the beginning of this year, extreme weather events such as heavy rains, floods, heatwaves and droughts have frequently occurred in many places. Hurricane Beryl has intensified into a Category 3 storm and is making landfall in the Americas, while "deadly heatwaves are scorching cities across four continents." These scenes once again sound the alarm on climate issues for all of humanity. The latest Global Risks Report released by the World Economic Forum warns that in the next decade, the primary global risk will not be armed conflicts or social division but extreme weather events. For this reason, people generally hope that governments worldwide can work together to address the frequent occurrences of extreme weather globally. A survey report released by the UN Development Programme on June 20 shows that 80 percent of

Addressing climate change requires the full co-operation of the international community and both developed and developing countries need to fulfill their respective responsibilities and obligations. As early as 1992, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change enshrined the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, recognizing the historical responsibility of developed countries for their emissions. However, developed countries such as the US and Europe have failed to fulfill their commitments in actual implementation despite having shown a positive attitude in international negotiations on global climate governance. This has directly slowed down the process of global green and low-carbon transformation.

This has been regularly denounced as somehow sinister and as tarring innocent Jewish communal organizations with the brush of conspiracy. But it was clear then that the Zionist movement is closely coordinated. The JLC boasts of this in its 2017 annual report under the heading, "Celebrating Israel's Centrality in our Jewish existence". It says it will "coordinate appropriate communal responses and action" with the Board of Deputies, UJIA, the Zionist Federation, and BICOM. This demonstrates that the leadership of the UK Zionist movement co-ordinates its actions. The BoD, the JLC, and the Zionist Federation have over 250 members between them. So, this is no small boast. Over the more than two decades, BICOM has become increasingly directly linked to the Zionist regime. In addition to the fact that one of the two directors gives an address in the colony at Companies House, there are the following connections: Perhaps the clearest indication of the harms that can come from these myriad infiltrations by former BICOM associates are the examples of Luke Akehurst and Ruth Smeeth. Smeeth is a fanatical Zionist who worked at BICOM from 2005-2007, and after an interlude as a lobbyist for Nestle, joined the Zionist "antifascist" group Hope Not Hate, where she remains a director. She was a Labour MP between 2015 and 2019 and was then kicked upstairs to the Lords in 2022, taking the name Baroness Anderson.

respondents globally hope for a stronger climate action.

As the largest global economy and most advanced developed country, the US plays a crucial role in the process of global climate governance. Especially, the commitments and actions of the US not only set an example for other developed countries but also bring expectations and confidence to the international community as a whole. Unfortunately, the US is the only signatory that has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement to date, showing significant regression in its stance on addressing global climate change, which has severely undermined the confidence in international cooperation on global climate governance. Although the Biden administration announced US' return to the Paris Agreement in 2021, it is hard to hide the wobbly nature of US climate policy, especially under the highly politicalized landscape of bipartisan competition, where climate issues are not purely scientific topics but highly politicized ones. It is worth noting that the importance of climate issues ranks far lower on the US political spectrum than economic, diplomatic, or even China-related issues. The recent first televised debate among candidates for the 2024 US presidential election was a prime example.

Imran Khan's biggest dilemma

Qamar Bashir



The party needs to understand that the Supreme Court's decisions in sensitive cases concerning electoral irregularities, PTI's political status, the return of election symbols, and the restoration of special seats for women and minorities will shape PTI's future trajectory. Ironically, in the sub-judice case of allocation of special seats for women and minorities to SIC, PTI reason best known to it, neglected to participate, a flaw that Supreme Court...

T this critical juncture, the entire PTI leadership must unite and focus their undivided attention and collective energies of politicians, lawyers, and technocrats to navigate the party out of its current challenges. The visible discord among party leaders stands as perhaps the greatest threat, capable of causing irreparable harm. If the current leadership fails to acknowledge the fundamental flaws in the party's current composition, strategy, and plans-marked by a narrow representation largely dominated by lawyers, technocrats, and KP-based political activists-lack of plan to secure the release of their leaders, and neglects to open the party's doors for broader and more diverse representation, they would undermine the party's integrity. Such actions would not only betray the PTI's founding principles and the national cause it champions but also disregard the enduring hardships and sacrifices, including imprisonment, endured by its leader Imran Khan over nearly a year. This internal division came at a crucial time when unity, solidarity, and comradeship were most dearly needed to address critical and game changing challenges faced by the party. These challenges include the need for an urgent, doable and well thought Khan and other incarcerated leaders, activists, and workers and reclaim their stolen mandate. Additionally, PTI needs a coherent and highly effective strategy to defend numerous legal cases across various courts, including the Supreme Court. They must realize that the fate of the party hangs in the balance with the pending verdicts of the Supreme Court on several critical cases that hold existential value for both the party and its leadership.

The party needs to understand that the Supreme Court's decisions in sensitive cases concerning electoral irregularities, PTI's political status, the return of election symbols, and the restoration of special seats for women and minorities will shape PTI's future trajectory. Ironically, in the sub-judice case of allocation of special seats for women and minorities to SIC, PTI reason best known to it, neglected to participate, a flaw that Supreme Court judges themselves lamented with concern. PTI must realize that these cases demand the undivided attention of the party and require their collective ability to mobilize the public on a large

scale in support of their demands. This is crucial to demonstrate PTI's resilience and capability to achieve

its goals even in challenging circumstances. In this background, PTI urgently needs a wellthought-out and fully articulated political and legal vision, strategy, and action plan to present a robust defense that convinces the full bench of the Supreme Court and aids the supreme court in reaching decisions aligned precisely with the constitution and the greater good of the people and the country. It is also crucial for the party to promptly determine whether the party's cause or positions in government, party, or parliament hold greater importance. Equally critical is resolving whether political sacrifices rendered by the political leadership, lawyers or technocrates should be the sole criterion for their elevation to positions of power, or if competency and suitability for the role should be paramount considerations.

They must also decide whether to air their internal disagreements in public, or resolve their egotistical, self-aggrandizing differences in private or on the party platform. Indeed, the lawyers who stood by Imran Khan through thick and thin, keeping the party afloat while political leaders were incarcerated, in hiding, or abroad, or deserted the party, deserve commendation for their remarkable job. However, they should also recognize that their talents lie in law rather than politics. They should focus on research, seek guidance from political leadership, and develop a strong, lawful defense for cases across various judicial levels from civil court to the Supreme Court. They should willingly step aside to allow political leaders to lead the party politically and provide them with political insight while crafting defenses. Similarly, technocrats like Raoof Hassan and Hamid Khan, who may not have public followings, should continue to offer ideological guidance to the PTI founder and political leaders. They should refrain from meddling in or leading the political and legal decision-making processes where they lack competency or qualifications.

These three distinct departments-legal, ideological and political-working in harmony within their respective domains will significantly enhance the quality of the party and its decision-making processes. However, if individuals continue to dominate departments where they lack qualifications or competency, they would do a disservice to the party leader and the party itself.

At this critical juncture, with their leader facing immense hardship and nearing a year in prison for the greater cause of creating an egalitarian society and upholding the rule of law equally for all, every institution adhering to the constitution, and unlocking Pakistan's full potential, it is disheartening that he must also contend with petty and ego-driven disputes among party leaders vying for positions based solely on their endurance of jail terms and hardships, rather than their skills, education, or public service record.

The party requires political leadership deeply rooted in the public, capable of mobilizing people to exercise their democratic and constitutional rights to protest to exert pressure on the government to meet their legitimate and legal demands, including the release of Imran Khan, his wife, and other political leaders, a re-evaluation of election results based upon form 45, the return of their allegedly stolen mandate, and the restoration of PTI as a recognized party with its election symbol. This monumental task demands peace, unity, and consensus within the party at all levels, with responsibilities assigned based on suitability, capacity and ability. The political wing could be led by former President Mr. Arif Alvi, Omer Ayub, Fawad Chaud hary, Shibli Faraz, Asad Qaiser, Mohammad Ali Khan, and Shehrvar Afridi and others who have sizable and organic public followings. The legal wing should be headed by Sardar Latif Khosa, Salman Akram Raja, Gohar Ayub Khan, Sher Afzal Marwat, and others who have proven legal qualifications, expertise, experience and ability to navigate complex, intricate and sensitive legal complexities and present a credible and strong defense in favor of their plea.

The ideological wing may be led by Hamid Khan and Raoof Hassan and such other highly competent, articulate and committed intellectuals. All wings must work in harmony, enjoying equal status, importance, and value, equal excess to Imran Khan and should unanimously and collectively focus on achieving overarching objectives rather than getting bogged down in trivial issues that could distract the party from its goals.

- Former Press Secretary to the President Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC

Saudi-UAE tensions simmer over Yemen

Giorgio Cafiero

The two GCC partners support different Yemeni groups that, for all practical purposes, perpetuate the current fragmentation, explains Kechichian. Adding Riyadh and Abu Dhabi do not seem ready to put aside their differences and back a single leadership that can defeat the Houthis, maintain Yemen's unity, and invest in its reconstruction. Veena Ali-Khan, a Yemen and Persian Gulf researcher, told TRT World, "There are still rumours that the [UAE is] pushing to take control of the Aden port through Dubai Ports World. More importantly, stark divisions still exist within the anti-Houthi bloc forces, with growing animosities between the STC and Amalika forces, which are ostensibly supposed to be on the same..

IDDLE East experts have a range of opinions about the nature of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman (MBS)'s relationship with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Mohammed bin Zayed (MBZ). Some commentators maintain that the alleged rift between these two Arab leaders is so great that their countries will soon cease to be allies, while others point to a meeting between the two leaders last month in eastern Saudi Arabia as a sign that there are no serious tensions. The reality probably lies somewhere in between. While regional ties between the two states are unlikely to sever - as they had done with Qatar in 2017 - Riyadh and Abu Dhabi have different priorities, positions, and interests which have created complications. From the question of normalising relations with Israel to certain conflicts in Africa such as the Sudanese civil war, Saudi and Emirati interests do not align, so naturally some friction exists in bilateral affairs. There is also increasingly serious economic competition between these two Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states as both pursue their own development and economic diversification plans. "As the senior party between these two leaders, [MBZ] expects to be treated with deference, which is why periodic disagreements surface," explained Joseph A. Kechichian, a senior fellow at the King Faisal Centre in Riyadh, in an interview with TRT World. MBZ is a regional leader who likes to set trends and assert his influence on the international stage. Questions about how his relationship with MBS would evolve as the young and confident Saudi leader ascends and flexes his own muscles as the de facto ruler of the largest Gulf Arab monarchy have consistently fueled interesting albeit somewhat speculative debates.

"In my estimation, the best way to describe the relationship between both states at the current time is that it is a mixture of cordiality, tension, and pragmatism," Aziz Alghashian, a fellow with the Sectarianism, Proxies & De-sectarianisation project at Lancaster University, told TRT World. Tensions between MBS and MBZ do not constitute a "bitter rivalry", according to Hussein Ibish, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. Instead, he described them as part of a "contained and manageable competitive relationship" which is healthier than the "illusion of dominance and subordination" that Saudi Arabia and the UAE pushed in the post-2011 period when the fall-out from the Arab Spring turmoil and armed conflicts were fueling instability across the Arab world. "But beneath the veneer of a kind of 'no daylight' unity lurked an unresolved competitive relationship that reflects

the reality of economic, political, and even military power

in the Gulf," added Ibish, In 2021, authorities in Rivadh

started requiring foreign firms with a presence in Saudi

Arabia to have their headquarters established in the King-

dom by 2024. Although the leadership in Saudi Arabia signalled how this was part of a strategy aimed at securing real long-term commitment to the country's development, it constitutes a challenge to the UAE's position as the GCC state where most foreign companies operating in the Gulf set up headquarters. In terms of the Arabian Peninsula's security architecture. Yemen is the greatest source of contention between Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Beginning in March 2015, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi together led an Arab military coalition aimed at reversing the Houthi gains of 2014/15. But several years into that campaign the Emirati leadership recognised how disastrous it had become and shifted course. In 2019, the UAE officially withdrew its forces from Yemen and began focusing on influencing southern Yemen's landscape via surrogate non-state actors. This entailed the UAE backing various Yemeni groups such as the Southern Transitional Council (STC) while leaving Saudi Arabia to fight the Houthis in northern Yemen.

"The fact is that the UAE [and] Saudi Arabia went into Yemen in the first place with different agendas, pursuing different but overlapping wars and divergent ideological frameworks. Over time, that became more obvious than it was [in the] beginning, and it remains true now," said Ibish. There is no denying that such conflicts of interest between Saudi Arabia and the UAE vis--vis Yemen have created dvnamics on the ground which serve Houthi interests and, by extension, those of Iran. The lack of alignment between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi has been a huge factor contributing to the weakness and ineffectiveness of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC), which is the body at the helm of Yemen's internationally recognised government, when it comes to dealing with the Houthis. The UAE-sponsored STC opposes Saudi-backed elements in Yemen that believe in North-South unity. As Kechichian explained, Abu Dhabi's support for the STC, which calls for reestablishing the independent state of South Yemen that previously existed from 1967-90, has led to "serious divergences" between Saudi and Emirati foreign policies vis-vis Yemen, fueling an "ongoing stalemate in that hapless country.

The two GCC partners support different Yemeni groups that, for all practical purposes, perpetuate the current fragmentation, explains Kechichian. Adding, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi do not seem ready to put aside their differences and back a single leadership that can defeat the Houthis, maintain Yemen's unity, and invest in its reconstruction.

Veena Ali-Khan, a Yemen and Persian Gulf researcher, told TRT World, "There are still rumours that the [UAE is] pushing to take control of the Aden port through Dubai Ports World. More importantly, stark divisions still exist within the anti-Houthi bloc forces, with growing animosities between the STC and Amalika forces, which are ostensibly supposed to be on the same side. To put it bluntly, Saudi-UAE conflicting agendas in Yemen are still contributing to PLC-fragmentation." Nonetheless, until now Riyadh and Abu Dhabi have managed to prevent their conflicting interests in Yemen from fueling some all-out crisis in bilateral affairs, even if some commentators have spent years suggesting the Saudi-UAE alliance is deteriorating.

Instead, they have "proven adept at compartmentalising their rivalries-especially when the situation with their allied forces on the ground has reached a boiling point, commented Ali-Khan. The Saudi leadership would consider either a de facto or de jure return to Yemen's partition disastrous. There are various reasons, including the fact that Riyadh does not believe it could yield sufficient influence in an independent state in southern Yemen that might re-emerge in the future. However, policymakers in Riyadh may be left in a position whereby they have to make the most of secession in southern Yemen.

'I think [Saudi officials] would just have to accept it is a fait accompli, but they wouldn't like it. It's not in their interests. If they can do anything to ensure it doesn't happen, they will," commented Ibish. Other experts agree. "While hypothetical, an emergent South Yemen would pose serious challenges to Riyadh that would probably not welcome any secessionist forces on the Arabian Peninsula, something that the GCC-presumably-would not like to see either,' Kechichian told TRT World. But if such a split of Yemen, either formal or informal, occurs, Riyadh would likely react carefully in order to avoid needlessly exacerbating or complicating tensions that could further backfire against Saudi Arabia's geopolitical security interests.

"I anticipate the Saudi ruling elite will assess how an independent South Yemen affects stability on the Saudi border," said Alghashian. "For Saudi Arabia, it has become clear that it is willing to be pragmatic in who it is dealing with. With that said, I do not see the Saudis just simply sitting back and allowing the STC to purely reign in the south. Therefore, if a South Yemen state does happen, this will mean that both Yemens will be managed sphere of Saudi-UAE competition for years to come," he added.

Fierce competition and high levels of tension among GCC states have always existed. Yet, throughout history these tensions have gone further below the surface amid times of crisis in the region. This is the case today amid Israel's war on Gaza, which has expanded into the Red Sea and might possibly lead to a full-blown war in Lebanon

Within this context, it is likely MBS and MbZ, as pragmatic leaders, will mitigate and contain tensions between their countries in relation to Yemen; sidelined, but not resolved. After an eventual ceasefire in Gaza and violence in the Red Sea, southern Lebanon, and northern Israel comes under greater control, it will be important to monitor how Riyadh-Abu Dhabi tensions over Yemen's future play out.



Briefs

PPP, MQM-P clash over quota...

FROM PAGE 01 party "responsible for majority of provincial issues". Memon demanded the quota system which gives opportunities to masses living in far-flung areas of Sindh. He also asked the MQM-P leaders to refrain from politics of hatred. The minister demanded Kamran Tessori to immediately step down as Sindh governor as they don't want to see "spread of hate" in the province.

PTI core committee backs...

From Page 01 Gandapur, a matter that was reviewed during the session. PTI chairman. Barrister Gohar, is set to convey the committee's recommendations to the party's leadership in an upcoming meeting. The PTI core committee emphasized the importance of unity and strategic dialogue in navigating current political dynamics effectively. The PTI Core Committee met in Islamabad and 'devised' a mechanism to take disciplinary action against those who violate the party policy.

Kazakh envoy briefs PM on...

From Page 01 Qohir Rasulzoda. This visit aims to reinforce the ongoing high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Tajikistan, focusing on enhancing bilateral cooperation in regional connectivity, trade, people-to-people contacts, energy, and multilateral issues. Additionally, several agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) are expected to be signed in diverse areas of cooperation.

PTA pushed telecom companies..

From Page 01 it did not provide automated decryption for encrypted data. Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) dubbed the 29-page-long order issued by Justice Babar Sattar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in the Bushra Bibi audio leaks case as a major indictment against the federal government and intelligence agencies, demanding that all those responsible for this gross violation of privacy be held accountable and brought to justice.

CJP: PTI itself to blame...

From Page 01 anyone independent as per its will," Justice Malik said as a 13-member full-court SC bench heard the Sunni Ittehad Council's (SIC) plea against the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) verdict upholding the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision denying them the reserved seats. The bench, led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) QaziFaez Isa, comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice YahyaAfridi, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice ShahidWaheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan.

ATC warns of declaring CM KP...

From Page 01 Reacting to the request for exemption from appearance, Judge Supra said that it was not a valid reason to argue that one can't appear before the court because he's out of the city. "Who's responsible for the failure to appear, the suspects or the court?" the judge questioned adding that no request for exemption of appearance from anyone will be entertained. "We are issuing non-bailable warrants for all the absentee suspects," Judge Supra remarked.

Spain defeat Georgia to advance to Euro quarters

Spain will now face Germany in the quarter-finals of Euro 2024

OUR CORRESPONDENTS

DORTTMUND: Spain defeated Georgia at Euro 2024, with goals from Rodri, Fabian Ruiz, Nico Williams, and Dani Olmo, after conceding own goal. Spain will now face Germany in the quarter-finals. Despite the loss, Georgia stunned the crowd by taking the lead with their first attack just 18 minutes into the game. Rodri, Fabian Ruiz, Nico Wil-

liams and Dani Olmo all scored as Spain came from behind to beat surprise packages Georgia 4-1 at Euro 2024 on Sunday and set up a blockbuster quarter-final against hosts Germany. Robin Le Normand's own goal gave Georgia a shock lead in the 18th minute of this last-16 tie to send their noisy supporters wild in Cologne.

It was the first goal Spain had conceded at the competition but they came back to equalise six minutes before the interval courtesy of Manchester City midfielder Rodri. Ruiz then headed home in the 51st minute and Williams ran through for the third before substitute Olmo made sure of the



win as La Roja stay on track to become European champions for the fourth time. Spain now take on Germany in the last eight in Stuttgart on Friday in a repeat of the Euro 2008 final, which they won 1-0 to begin their golden era of dominance in international football. Luis de la Fuente's current team are looking to bring back the glory days and they were expect-

ed to brush Georgia aside here. They would have ultimately won by a far greater margin had they converted more of their chances, with 16-year-old winger Lamine Yamal squandering several opportunities in his attempt to become the youngest ever goal-scorer at the Euros. Georgia are ranked 74th in the world, 66 places below Spain. Willy Sagnol's team lost

twice to Spain in qualifying, going down 7-1 at home and 3-1 away. Yet they still qualified for a first major tournament and then made it to the knockout stages with a stunning 2-0 win over Portugal. Sagnol said on the eve of this match that his unfancied team had "already won the European Championship" thanks to their remarkable run, and they now go home

nership between Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Georges Mikautadze that is a danger for any opponent, and Giorgi Mamardashvili has been one of the best goalkeepers at the tournament. The move started with a fine piece of play by Kvaratskhelia, who had little room to manoeuvre on the left wing but picked out a pass for Mikautadze, who then released Otar Kakabadze on the right wing. Kakabadze's cross into the box was a horrible one for Le Normand, who had Kvaratskhelia arriving behind him and could not stop the ball rebounding off him and into the net for the eighth own goal of Euro 2024.

with their heads held high despite

They have a lively attacking part-

eventually crumbling here.

spain were now vulnerable to the counterattack, which is Georgia's strength, but the men in red continued to dominate the game and kept testing Mamardashvili. The Valencia shot-stopper made several more interventions in an increasingly wild encounter before the equaliser finally came, Rodri controlling a Williams pass at the edge of the box and stroking the ball into the corner.

9 terrorists killed in an IBO

DNA

RAWALPINDI: On 1 July 2024, nine terrorists were sent to hell by security forces in two seperate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. An intelligence based operation was conducted in general area Tira, Khyber District, where seven terrorists including HVT, Terrorist Commander Najeeb @Abdul Ur Rehman and Terrorist Commander Ishfaq @ Muavia were sent to hell by the Security Forces.

The killed terrorists were

actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area and were wanted by Law Enforcement Agencies. Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists. In another operation, conducted in Lakki Marwat District, own troops effectively engaged terrorists' location in which two more terrorists were sent to hell. Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any terrorist found in the area as the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

Kohli credits wife Anushka for World Cup triumph

NEW DELHI: Indian star batter Virat Kohli credited his wife, Anushka Sharma, for the team's victory in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, saying it wouldn't have been possible without her. The Men in Blue bagged their second World Cup trophy as they defeated South Africa in the final by seven runs. The team won their first in 2007 after beating Pakistan in the final. Taking to Instagram, Kohli, who retired from T20I after the historic win, shared a picture with Anushka celebrating the team's win. Expressing his gratitude to his wife, the star batter said: "None of this would remotely be possible without you my love. You keep me humble, grounded and you always say it how it is with absolute honesty." "I couldn't be more grateful for you. This victory is as much yours as it's mine. Thank you and I love you for being YOU," he wrote on the app.

Kohli played his last T20 cricket match on Saturday as he announced his retirement from the shorter format after sailing India to World Cup victory. "This was my last T20 World Cup, and this is what we wanted to achieve. One day you feel you can't get a run, then things happen. God is great, and I got the job done for the team on the day it mattered.

India joined England and the West Indies to win the T20 World Cup title two times as they won their first in 2007 by beating Pakistan in the final. The defeat was almost a certainty for India but Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik

Atif Butt wins

CEO 2024 Tekken

8 tournament

Atif continued his sensational form in the

grand final as he beat his opponent 3-2 to

clinch the title. CEO has its place on Tekken

World Tour as a Master Event for Tekken 8

FLORIDA: Pakistan's Atif Butt won the Tekken 8 tourna-

ment at the prestigious CEO 2024 on Sunday at Daytona

Beach in Florida. Atif beat Keisuke 2-0 in the winners

semi-final and Doujin 3-1 in the winners final. In the

grand final, Atif once again came up against Keisuke,

who had defeated Doujin 3-0 in the losers final. Atif con-

tinued his sensational form in the grand final as he beat his

opponent 3-2 to clinch the title. CEO has its place on the

Tekken World Tour as a Master Event for Tekken 8. Along-

side the legendary Arslan Ash, Atif is considered one of the

best Tekken players produced by Pakistan. Atif came in the

limelight when he won the Tekken World Tour 2022 Finals

beating top players from across the world, including Jeon

DDing from South Korea in the grand finals. - Agencies

Pandya turned the tide for Rohit Sharma's side in the 16th and 17th over. Chasing the target, the Proteas had a difficult start as they lost two wickets, Reeza Hendricks and Aiden Markram, but Quinton de Kock and Tristan Stubbs' 68-run partnership put South Africa back in the driving seat. South Africa had everything in their

hands as Heinrich Klaasen took Axar Patel to the cleaners and smashed him for 22 runs in the 15th over. The Proteas concluded their innings at 169-8 in the allocated overs. For

India, Pandya bagged three, Arshdeep and Bumrah picked two and Patel got one wicket to his name. Earlier in the first innings, Kohli topscored for the Indian team as he

Earlier in the first innings, Kohli top-scored for the Indian team as he scored 76 runs on 59 balls with the help of six fours and two sixes.

Meanwhile, Virat Kohli on Saturday once again stood up as India's man for a crisis as he led the team to a World Cup glory in his last T20 international. The star batsman smashed 76 off 59 balls to pull India out of early trouble and steer them to 176-7 in a thrilling final against South Africa in Barbados. Kohli's knock had all the makings of a classic and the 35-year-old veteran announced his retirement from India T20s after his team's seven-run win. His player of the match performance in the title clash came after he averaged just 10.7 in the tournament up to the final. Kohli, often compared to fellow cricketing great Sachin Tendulkar,

bowed out in the shortest interna-

SA women

announce

squad for

India T20Is

CAPE TOWN: All-rounder

Chloe Tryon on Monday

was named in South Africa's

squad for the T20I series in

India. Tryon has successfully

recovered from a back injury

that had kept her out of ac-

tion since April this year. Del-

mi Tucker and Nondumiso

Shangase will go back home

after the one-off Test in Chen-

nai. "She [Tryon] brings a lot

of experience to the team

and we can't wait to see her

back on the field," SA wom-

en interim head coach Dil-

lon du Preez said. "We have

our last three T20I matches

against India. - Agencies

tional format with 4,188 runs in 125 matches including one century and 38 half tons since his debut in 2010.

"This was an open secret," Kohli said on his T20 exit after the win. "It's time for the next generation to take over, some amazing players will take the team forward and keep the flag waving high." Skipper Rohit Sharma praised his champion player, saying: "No-one was in doubt about the form of Virat, on top of his game for last 15 years. Come the occasion, big players stand up." Called "King Kohli" for his prolific run-scoring, the star player has been India's batting backbone across three international formats for over a decade. Kohli and India missed out on global titles after the 2013 Champions Trophy, but made a habit of performing in key matches including a match-winning unbeaten 82 against arch-rivals Pakistan in the 2022 T20 World Cup in Melbourne. He carried Tendulkar on his shoulders after being part of the 2011 ODI World

He carried Tendulkar on his shoulders after being part of the 2011 ODI World Cup win and last year went past the batting great's all-time century record with his 50th ton in last year's 50-over showpiece at home. "Virat never played for records. They happened as he progressed," Kohli's biographer Vijay Lokapally told AFP. "His batting skills and work ethic combined to create magic. Longevity leads to milestones and that is what Virat has inherited from stalwarts like Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Sachin Tendulkar." – Agencies

Anderson set to mentor England's quicks after Test exit

LONDON: England great James Anderson will join the team's backroom staff as a fast-bowling mentor when he retires from Test cricket following next week's series opener against the West Indies at Lord's. The 41-year-old is the first seamer and only third bowler to have taken 700 Test wickets after spinners Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralitharan. Anderson, however, has decided to end his Test career after England made it clear they wanted to move on ahead of the 2025/26 Ashes. But England managing director Rob Key told reporters on Monday: "After the Lord's Test, Jimmy will continue in our set-up, and he'll help a bit more as a mentor."

Key added: "He has got so much to offer English cricket. We don't want to see that go. "When we asked him, he was keen. He is going to have a lot of options. English cricket would be very lucky if he chooses to stay in the game." Anderson is currently playing for Lancashire against Nottinghamshire in the County Championship at Southport, but his first-class future remains uncertain. "What he does with Lancashire will probably work out after the Lord's Test," said Key. England have included three uncapped players in their squad for the first two matches of a three-Test series against the West Indies, with Jamie Smith selected to keep cket ahead of both Jonny Bairstow and Ben Foak 23-year-old Smith averages over 50 in the County Championship this season and celebrated his Test call-up by making exactly 100 for Surrey against Essex on Sunday. He usually plays as a specialist batsman for Surrey with

Foakes keeping wicket for the reigning county champions. "Sometimes you're selecting people for what they're going to be as well, and where you think they can progress to," said Key. "It's very much the start for Jamie Smith. We feel he's going to be a fantastic international cricketer." Key, asked how Smith would cope with the demands of keeping wicket for 90 overs a day in a Test match when he is not a regular behind the stumps, said he had consulted several former England wicketkeepers in Chris Read, James Foster and Alec Stewart — Smith's boss at Surrey. — Agencies

pacer Anrich Nortje as the 12th man. T20

Rohit Sharma (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz

(wk), Nicholas Pooran, Suryakumar Ya-

dav, Marcus Stoinis, Hardik Pandya,

Axar Patel, Rashid Khan, Jasprit Bum-

rah, Arshdeep Singh, Fazalhaq Farooqi,

It must be noted Rohit has announced

retirement from T20Is along with vet-

eran batter Virat Kohli after historic

win. For India, this is their second T20

World Cup title win as they won their

first T20 World Cup title in 2007 (the

inaugural edition of the tournament)

defeating Pakistan in the final. This

year's T20 World Cup also ends India's

drought of trophies as they had raised

their last ICC trophy back in 2013 when

they won the Champions Trophy under

the leadership of MS Dhoni. - Agencies

World Cup Team of the Tournament

Anrich Nortje (12th man)

ICC Men's T20 World

Cup 2024 team named

JI to hold sit-in on...

From Page 01

the new fiscal year on Sunday. The government had presented the budget two weeks ago, drawing sharp criticism from opposition parties, especially the PTI, as well as coalition ally PPP. Addressing a press conference in Karachi today, Rehman spoke at length about the economic challenges faced by the citizens, stating that the JI could not see the people suffer under such a "circus". He said the government and the ruling classes were not ready to abandon their perks and privileges but had no problems pushing the nation into "a greater difficulty". Terming the budget "cruel", he said it was insufficient to fulfil the government's "greed" and alleged that it wanted to levy further taxes on the populace. Rehman said the tax burden was falling on the salaried classes while landowners and the elite were "exempted".

Pak-India exchange...

From Page 01 while India shared a list of 452 Pakistani or believed-to-be-Pakistani civilian prisoners and fishermen in Indian jails. Moreover, a list of 38 missing Pakistani defence personnel, believed to be in India's custody since the wars of 1965 and 1971, was also handed over by Pakistan. Islamabad has called for immediate release and repatriation of all Pakistani prisoners who have completed their sentence in India. A request for special consular access to various believed-to-be-Pakistani prisoners, including the physically and mentally-challenged prisoners, and for expeditious confirmation of their national status has been made, the statement added.

CPEC emerges...

FROM PAGE 01 C is a nonpartisan

CPEC is a nonpartisan agenda in Pakistan as all opposition parties support the government on it. He said the government of Pakistan is mindful of the challenges faced by the Chinese companies, and people working on various projects under CPEC and is ensuring fool proof security for the Chinese nationals. Yousaf Raza Gillani informed that the bureaucratic processes are being streamlined to expedite different projects under the second phase of CPEC.

Sabalenka withdraws from Wimbledon with shoulder injury

Sabalenka will now be replaced by Russia's lucky loser Erika Andreeva, who lost to Sonay Kartal in the qualifiers last week

SPORTS DESK

WIMBLEDON: Third seed Aryna Sabalenka withdrew from the 2024 Wimbledon just hours before her first match against American Emina Bektas due to a shoulder injury, she confirmed via her Instagram account. Sabalenka will now be replaced by Russia's lucky loser Erika Andreeva, who lost to Sonay Kartal in the qualifiers last week. "I tried everything to get myself ready but

unfortunately my shoulder is not cooperating," Sabalenka said on Instagram. "I pushed myself to the limit in practice today to try my best, but my team explained that playing would only make things much worse," she added. "This tournament means so much to me and I promise I'll be back stronger than ever next year."

Sabalenka sustained a lower back injury this year after winning the Australian Open 2024 and she also played Roland Garros with illness where she lost to 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva. During a presser on June 29, she confirmed that she is still not at her best while heading into the third Grand Slam

of this year as she retired from the Berlin Open last week due to a shoulder injury as well. Despite practising on Monday in London, the Belarusian decided to pull out of the tournament. This is the first time she is missing a Grand Slam due to an injury. Sabalenka won her maiden Grand Slam in 2023 by lifting the Australia Open and since

DUBAI: The International Cricket Coun-

cil (ICC) has recently unveiled the Team

of the Tournament for the Men's T20

World Cup 2024 and it features six play-

ers from the Indian team. Rohit Sharma

and Co managed to lift the T20 World

Cup trophy after 17 years on Saturday

after they beat South Africa by seven

Additionally, the team managed to land

six of its players on this year's Team of

the Tournament. These players include

Sharma as the side's captain, Player

of the Tournament Jasprit Bumrah,

all-rounder Hardik Pandya, Suryakumar

The team also features three Afghanistan

players: Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Rashid

Khan, and Fazalhaq Farooqi. West Indies'

Nicholas Pooran and Australia's Marcus

Stoinis complete the XI with South Africa's

Yadav, Arshdeep Singh and Axar Patel.

runs in the final in Barbados.



then, she emerged as one of the best and most consistent players in the tournaments as she reached the semi-final of the French Open and Wimbledon last year and the US Open final. Meanwhile, she began this year defending her title in Melbourne by defeating China's Qinwen Zheng in straight sets. Alcaraz starts Wimbledon title defence as Murray faces 'closure' "This tournament means so much to me and I promise I'll be back stronger than ever next year." Sabalenka, who suffered a lower back inju-

Sabalenka, who suffered a lower back injury this year and struggled with illness at the French Open during her quarter-final loss to 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva, sustained the issue during last month's Berlin Open. The Australian Open champion said on Saturday that she was still not 100% heading

into the year's third Grand Slam. Since claiming her maiden Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in 2023, the 26-year-old Sabalenka has established herself as one of the most consistent players in major tournaments. She reached the semi-finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon last year, as well as the U.S. Open final, and started 2024 by defending her Melbourne crown.

EURO2024
GERMANY
Tuesday 2nd July 2024
Portugal vs Slovenia,

Deutsche Bank Park(12:00am) Romania vs Netherlands,

Allianz Arena (9:00pm)

Briefs

One in seven Germany children at poverty risk

BERLIN: Around 2.1 mil lion children, or 14% of all German children, are at risk of poverty, the federal statistical bureau Destatis said on Monday. According to EU income and living conditions statistics, a person is considered at risk of poverty if their equalised income is less than 60% of the total population's median. In 2023, this threshold was 1,314 (\$1,414.5) net per month for a person living alone in Germany and 2,759 (\$2,979) net per month for households with two adults and two children under the age of 14, Destatis noted. The at-risk-ofpoverty rate for under-18s whose parents had a lower level of education, such as a lower secondary school leaving certificate without a vocational qualification, was 36.8% in Germany in 2023, it said. Last year, nearly one-fourth of Germany's under-18-year-olds poverty or social exclusion. According to the definition, a person is at risk of poverty or social exclusion if at least one of the following three conditions applies: their disposable income is below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, their household is affected by significant material and social deprivation or they live in a household with very low labor force participation.-APP

UN chief calls for human rights progress

PARIS: The UN's human rights chief said on Monday that there is still a "long way to go" in ensuring full respect for human rights. Volker Turk made these remarks during his opening speech to a quadrennial panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal at the 56th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. He stressed that the world of sports is "not immune" to human rights challenges, including when mega-events are organized, citing examples such as racist or sexist incidents. discrimination, abuse, violence against women, and corruption. "Against this backdrop, there has been important progress," he said, adding that not only some businesses in the sports world are aligning their practices with the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights, but also human rights poli cies and grievance mechanisms are increasingly being included in mega-sport events. "We have also seen some unprecedented actions on racism, like the sentencing in Spain of foot ball fans for racially insulting Vinicius Jr.," he said. "There is still a long way to go to ensure full respect for human rights and inclusiveness in sports.-APP

Turkish army 'neutralizes' 2 more PKK terrorists

Turkish forces have "neutralized" two PKK terrorists in northern Iraq, the Turkish National Defense Ministry announced on Monday. Turkish Armed Forces detected "neutralized" two PKK terrorists in Operation Claw-Lock region in northern Iraq, the ministry said. "Our heroic Turkish Armed Forces continue to destroy terrorism at its source with uninterrupted operations," it added. Turkish authorities use the term "neutralize" to imply the terrorists in question surrendered or were killed or captured. In its nearly 40-year terror campaign against Türkiye, the PKK - listed as a terrorist organization by Türkiye, the US, and EU has been responsible for the deaths of more than 40,000 people, including women, children, and infants. Terrorists often hide out in northern Iraq, just across the Turkish border, to plot terror attacks in Türkiye. Türkiye in 2022 launched Operation Claw-Lock to target the terror group PKK's hideouts in northern Iraq's Metina, Zap, and Avasin-Basyan regions.-APP

Ramaphosa names new cabinet as deadlock broken

National unity government formed following weeks of deadlock

Foreign Desk

PRETORIA: South Africa's president has announced the formation of a new cabinet over a month after elections stripped his African National Congress (ANC) party of its majority. President Cyril Ramaphosa named 32 ministerial positions of the government of national unity late on Sunday, following weeks of deadlock that delayed the formation of an historic governing coalition. The announcement sees 20 of the 32 posts going to the ANC. Another six will be filled by the Democratic Alliance (DA) party, with the remainder split among a crowd of smaller coalition parties. Ramasopha was forced into the unprecedented power-sharing arrangement with DA and others after his party, a dominant force in South African politics since the end of the apartheid era, lost its parliamentary majority for the first time since 1994 in elections on May 29.



Accustomed to comfortable victories of more than 60 percent, the ANC won just 40 percent of the vote in the May 29 election, as South Africans turned away from

the party amid frustration over poverty, poor services, and some of the world's highest rates of inequality and unemployment. The rival DA took the second-largest share with 21 percent. Ramaphosa said Sunday that those issues would be priorities for the new government. "We have shown that there are no problems that are too difficult or too intractable that they cannot be solved through dialogue," said Ramaphosa. It took more than a month of complex political manoeuvring, and concessions from the ANC, to piece together the government. In a nod to the DA, its leader John Steenhuisen was appointed minister of agriculture. At the same time, Ramaphosa maintained the ANC's hold on the ministry of trade and industry, a key portfolio that the DA was also seeking. The ANC's Paul Mashatile will also continue as deputy president. Steenhuisen, in a statement following the announcement, said: "We look forward to being part of a new era in

South Africa's democratic journey, and to bringing real and tangible change to the millions of citizens who voted for it.' Melanie Verwoerd, political analyst and former South African diplomat, told the Reuters news agency that the overhaul would help open up the political scene to new leaders and encourage compromise. "It is a major shake-up with very few of the old faces still in there, which is a good thing," said Verwoerd. "I think in general it's a very positive step and of course very positive that they could actually get this done."What's next?

Whether the current loose coalition of former enemies can improve on the ANC's record may depend on the extent to which they can put aside their ideological differences. The DA wants to scrap some of the ANC's black empowerment programmes, saying that they have mostly made a politically connected business elite fabulously wealthy, and scrap the minimum wage.

Dutch PM Rutte urges support for Ukraine

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte stressed the need to continue support for Ukraine, "for peace there and security here"

News Desk

THE HAGUE: Long-serving Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte urged his country to support Ukraine and international cooperation in his final address to his compatriots Sunday, as an inward-looking new government is set to take over the Netherlands in two

"It is crucial that our country is embedded in the European Union and NATO. Together we are stronger than alone. Especially now," the 57-yearold Rutte said from his office in The Hague. After leading the country for 14 years, he will take his experience with consensus-building to Brussels, where he will take over as NATO's new secretary-general later this year.

He stressed the need to continue support for Ukraine, "for peace there and security here." The new government, expected to take office on Tuesday, has pledged to maintain assistance. But far-right populist Geert Wilders, whose

party won the largest block of seats in last year's election, has expressed pro-Russia views and Kremlin backers cheered his victory at the polls. Rutte described the MH17 tragedy in 2014 as "perhaps the most drastic and emotional event" during his tenure. The passenger jet was shot down over eastern Ukraine as it traveled from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, killing all 298 passengers and crew, including 196 Dutch citizens. A Dutch court convicted two Russians and a pro-Moscow Ukrainian in 2022 of involvement in the downing of the Boeing 777. Known for cycling to meetings and his dedication to politics, Rutte highlighted his country's positive attributes. "There is no war here, you can be who you are, we are prosperous," he said in the 12-minute speech. He acknowledged that there had been low points during his tenure, scandal that wrongly labeled thousands of parents as

fraudsters. Wearing a white

France detains 2

filmmakers over sexual

abuse allegations

PARIS: French authorities Monday detained leading

arthouse film directors Benoit Jacquot and Jacques Doillon

for questioning over accusations of sexual abuse, as a re-

Their interrogation over the alleged abuse, some dating

back to the 1980s and all of which they deny, comes as

activists say cinema has too long provided cover for abuse.

An AFP journalist saw Jacquot, 77, and Doillon, 80, arrive

at a Paris police station on Monday morning accompanied

by their lawyers. Judith Godreche, a 52-year-old actor and

director, earlier this year formally accused Jacquot of rape

and Doillon of sexual assault when she was a minor, accusa-

tions both men deny. She has described Jacquot as having

had an unhealthy "hold" over her during a relationship with

him that started when she was 14, from 1986 to 1992. And

she has accused Doillon of groping her during an unplanned

sex scene in one of his films when she was 15. Several other

actors have also filed complaints against both men. Isild Le

Besco, 41, has accused Jacquot of raping her between 1998

and 2007 during a toxic relationship that started when she

was 16 and he was 52. Julia Roy, a 34-year-old actor who has

appeared in several of his films, has accused him of sexual

assault in "a context of violence and moral constraint which

lasted several years," a source close to the case said. Le

Besco has also charged Doillon made advances during work

sessions, while actor Anna Mouglalis alleged the filmmaker

forcefully kissed her in 2011. The directors' lawyers said

there had been no need to detain them in order to question

them, and stressed they should be considered innocent un-

til proven guilty. Jacquot's lawyer, Julia Minkowski, said her

client would "finally be able to express himself before the

law," slamming what she called the "unacceptable excess-

es" of media coverage on the issue.-APP

newed #MeToo reckoning rocks France's film industry.

shirt with several of the top buttons undone, Rutte said that his time in office had added some "gray hairs and wrinkles" to his appearance. NATO appointed Mark Rutte as its next secretary-general on Wednesday, putting the outgoing Dutch prime minister in charge of the world's biggest security organization at a critical time for European security as war rages in Ukraine. Meanwhile, Rutte's appointment was sealed by NATO ambassadors during a meeting at the 32-nation alliance's headquarters in Brussels. US President Joe Biden and his counterparts will formally welcome him to their table at a summit in Washington on July 9-11. The outgoing Dutch premier will take over from the current secretary general.

Norway's Jens Stoltenberg, on Oct. 1. Stoltenberg spent more than a decade at the helm. His mandate was repeatedly extended, in part to provide continuity after Russia invaded Ukraine in

Boeing says to buy subcontractor **Spirit for \$4.7** billion

Washington: US aircraft manufacturer Boeing said Monday it had reached a "definitive deal" to buy its subcontractor Spirit, which has faced scrutiny over production quality control in recent months. "The merger is an all-stock transaction at an equity value of approximately \$4.7 billion, or \$37.25 per share," the company said in a statement. Boeing disclosed in March that it was in talks to potentially reacquire Spirit, which it spun off in 2005 to lower costs. "We believe this deal is in the best interest of the flying public, our airline customers, the employees of Spirit and Boeing, our shareholders and the country more broadly," said Boeing president and CEO Dave Calhoun. He said by reintegrating Spirit, "we can fully align our commercial production systems", including safety and quality management systems, and "our workforce to the same priorities, incentives and outcomes - cen-Spirit AeroSystems builds fuselages and other significant parts for both Airbus and Boeing .-

Scientists concerned about rapid increase of bird flu

LONDON: Scientists tracking the spread of bird flu are increasingly concerned that gaps in surveillance may keep them several steps behind a new pandemic, according to Reuters interviews with more than a dozen leading disease experts. Many of them have been monitoring the new subtype of H5N1 avian flu in migratory birds since 2020. But the spread of the virus to 129 dairy herds in 12 U.S. states signals a change that could bring it closer to becoming transmissible between humans. Infections also have been found in other mammals, from alpacas to house cats. "It almost seems like a pandemic unfolding in slow motion," said Scott Hensley, a professor of microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania. "Right now, the threat is pretty low ... but that could change in a heartbeat." The earlier the warning of a jump to humans, the sooner global health officials can take steps to protect people by launching vaccine development, wide-scale testing and containment measures. Federal surveillance of U.S. dairy cows is currently limited to testing herds before they cross state lines. State testing efforts are inconsistent, while testing of people exposed to sick cattle is scant, government health officials and pandemic flu experts told Reuters. "You need to know which are the positive farms, how many of the cows are positive, how well the virus spreads, how long do these cows remain infectious, the exact transmission route," said Dutch flu virologist Ron Fouchier of the Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam. Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said surveillance for humans is "very, very limited." Marrazzo described the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's human flu surveillance network as "really a passive reporting, passive presentation mechanism." The U.S. Department of Agriculture is more proactive in testing cows, but does not make public which farms are affected, she said. Several experts said differing approaches from animal and human health agencies could hamper a quicker response. "If you were designing the system from scratch, you would have one agency," said Gigi Gronvall, a biosecurity expert at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.-DNA



Beijing: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja arrives in China to participate in Global Digital Economy Conference 2024 being held from July 2-5 in Beijing.-DNA

Egypt, EU sign 35 agreements, MoUs worth \$72.4B

Agreements, MoUs include projects in areas such as 'green hydrogen, electric vehicles, infrastructure, sustainable transportation and information and communication technology,' says Egyptian Cabinet

WEB DESK

CAIRO : Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly announced Sunday that his country has signed 35 agreements and memoranda of understanding worth 67.7 billion (\$72.4 billion) with European companies and institutions. Madbouly was speaking at the conclusion of the Egyptian-European Investment Conference in Cairo. The conference, held Saturday and Sunday, was attended by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leven. During the closing session of the gathering, which was also attended by EU Ambassador to Egypt Christian Berger, Madbouly said he hopes to hold the conference annually to "support, follow up

and activate aspects of joint cooperation," according to a statement by the Egyptian Cabinet. Describing the conference as "successful," he said its second edition will be held in 2025, without specifying an exact date.

Madbouly said "the conference witnessed the signing of 29 agreements and memoranda of understanding worth 49 billion with companies affiliated with the European Union.

He added that they signed "six agreements and memoranda of understanding worth 18.7 billion with other alliances and companies, whether European, non-EU or with companies of different nationalities but aimed at exporting to the European Union.'

The agreements included projects in areas such as "green hydrogen,

electric vehicles, infrastructure, sustainable transportation and information and communication technology," according to the statement. In his opening speech at the conference, al-Sisi noted that relations between Egypt and the EU "are witnessing positive developments in various fields of cooperation." He added that this development was crowned with the signing of a political declaration to elevate relations between the two sides to the level of a comprehensive strategic partnership

In March, the EU announced that it would provide Egypt with a financing package worth 7.4 billion between 2024 and 2027 and that total European financing for Egypt over the past four years amounted to approximately \$12.8

Meanwhile, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi affirmed on Saturday that the "relations between Egypt and the European Union are experiencing positive progress across multiple domains." This came during Sisi's address at the opening session of the investment conference between Egypt and the EU, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, with the participation of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The Egyptian president stated that "relations between Egypt and the European Union are experiencing positive progress in various areas of cooperation." "This progress culminated in the signing of a political declaration in March, elevating relations between the two

sides to the status of a strategic and comprehensive partnership," he added. "We are convening for the second time in a brief span to witness the 2024 Egypt-European Union Investment Conference.' Sisi added. Sisi viewed the conference as "initiating the first practical measures in advancing relations and underscores Egypt and the European Union's commitment to progress from promises to concrete actions." According to the Egyptian president, the strategic partnership between Egypt and the EU encompasses "six pillars, with investment being the most significant." He highlighted expectations of mobilizing approximately 5 billion (\$5.3 billion) in European investments and providing 1.8 billion in investment guarantees for the private sector.

4 dead from floods, landslides in Switzerland

BERN: At least four people are dead, and another is missing due to floods and landslides in the southern Swiss cantons of Valais and Ticino caused by heavy rains and melting snow. Police in Ticino confirmed that three people had lost their lives in a landslide in Maggia Valley while one person remains missing. The police statement also noted that a bridge in the valley had been submerged and that several people had been airlifted from a nearby campsite. Around 300 people who were in the area for a local football tournament are expected to be airlifted to safety soon. In Valais, police reported that the body of a person who had previously been reported missing had been found in the Saas-Grund area. Both cantons have reported damage to buildings and vehicles because of the severe weather conditions. Swiss Confederation President Viola Amherd took to the social media platform X to share updates on the situation, saying the storm had caused significant damage in many parts of Switzerland. "My thoughts are with those affected. The situation remains tense. Please take care of yourselves and follow the instructions of the authorities," Amherd said.-APP

Meta faces EU fine over privacy model

BRUSSELS: EU accused Facebook owner Meta on Monday of breaching the bloc's digital rules, paving the way for potential fines worth billions of euros.

The charges against the

US tech titan follow a find-

ing last week against Apple that marked the first time Brussels had levelled formal accusations under the EU's ground-breaking Digital Markets Act (DMA). The latest case focuses on Meta's new adfree subscription model for Facebook and Instagram, which has sparked multiole complaints over privacy concerns. Meta's "pay or consent" system means users have to pay to avoid data collection, or agree to share their data with Facebook and Instagram to keep using the platforms for free. "Meta has forced millions of users across EU into a binary choice: 'pay or consent'," the EU's top tech commissioner enforcer. Thierry Breton, said. The European Commission said it informed Meta of its "preliminary view" that the model the company launched last year "fails to comply" with the DMA. The findings come after a probe into Meta began in March under the DMA, which forces the world's biggest tech companies to give European users more choice online. Meta insisted its model "complies with the DMA". "We look forward to further constructive dialogue with the European Commission to bring this investigation to a close," a Meta spokesperson said. Europe's BEUC umbrella consumer rights group said the findings were "good news for consumers using Facebook and Instagram who have been presented with unfair choices on the use of their personal data since November".-APP

2 killed in landslide in central Indonesia

JAKARTA: Two people were killed and one person remained missing after a landslide in a county in the Indonesian province of East Java on Sunday, according to the country's disaster mitigation agency BNPB. The landslide occurred in Bumirejo village in the province's Blitar district at around 5 p.m. local time. A clay cliff with a height of more than 50 meters suddenly collapsed and filled a local broiler chicken farm where the owner and his three workers were working at the time. Rescuers retrieved two bodies on Sunday evening, while the body of the owner was still being searched under rubble, said BNPB spokesman Abdul Muhari on Monday. A worker was said to have managed to survive with some injuries, Muhari added.-APP



Samahar POST



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Briefs

Naqvi condemns blast in **Turbatarea**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has condemned the blast in Turbat area and expressed sorrow over the loss of precious lives, including a woman and two children. The Interior Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and said that those who play with innocent lives do not deserve to be called humans. Such cowardly acts cannot weaken the nation's resolve against terrorism. We share the grief of the families of the martyrs and will not let the sacrifices of the victims go in vain.

Lebanon army receives additional \$20 mlnfrom Qatar

BEIRUT: The Lebanese army has received an additional \$20 million from Qatar in support of Lebanese troops, Lebanon's state agency NNA said on Monday. The support comes at a crucial time, with the Israeli military and the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah trading fire across Lebanon's southern border in parallel with the Gaza war. The Lebanese army is not involved in the hostilities but one Lebanese soldier was killed by Israeli shelling in December. A security source told Reuters that the new Qatari aid was a continuation of an earlier \$60 million package announced in 2022 that was distributed in instalments to soldiers to support their salaries. The source said \$100 would be distribut ed to each soldier every month. A five-year economic meltdown has slashed the value of the Lebanese pound against the dollar, driving down most soldiers wages to less than \$100 per month. The amount is barely enough to afford a basic subscription to a generator service that could offset the 22-hour cuts in the state electricity grid. To supplement their low salaries, many troops have taken extra jobs and some have quit, raising concerns that the institution – one of few in Lebanon that can rally national pride and create unity across its fractured sectarian communities - could

Protests erupt against power bills

be fraying. - Agencies

DNA

ISLAMABAD:Protests have erupted across the country prompted by inflated electricity bills and hike in taxes with traders demanding withdrawal of an increase in the average tariff. The boiling frustration over inflated electricity bills and recent hike in taxes exploded into a countrywide protest with traders leading from the forefront. Meanwhile, PTI also joined the protests.

The traders' community staged protests in Islam-Lahore, Sukkur, Tando Allah Yar, Tulamba, Kasoor, Mailsi, Depalpur, Peshawar, Daska, Hasilpur, Liaquatpur, Haveli Lakha, and Bahawalnagar. The traders' community, led by the ICCI, staged a demonstration at the Aabpara Chowk, demanding the government to withdraw the increase in electricity tariffs and taxes.

Six die from heat stroke in Karachi

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: At least six more people died from the heat stroke in Karachi on Monday. The Sindh Health Department said deaths had been reported in Abbasi Shaheed Hospital due to the heat stroke while one citizen lost his life in Jinnah Hospital. It is worth mentioning that heat stroke has claimed 45 live during June 21 to 30 in the city.

'Israel' releases detained Al-Shifa hospital chief, 49 others

Salmiya said the regime's prison guards "broke his finger and caused his head to bleed during beatings, in which they used batons and dogs"

News Desk

GAZA CITY: The director of Gaza's al-Shifa hospital, who had been detained by Israeli forces for more than seven months, says he was put through "severe torture" during his detention in Israeli prisons. Mohammed Abu Salmiya was among more than 50 Palestinians released and returned to Gaza, according to a medical source in the besieged territory. Salmiya told a press conference on Monday that detainees "are subjected to all kinds of torture," in Israel's prisons and detention centers.

"There was almost daily torture. Cells are broken into and prisoners are beaten." "Several inmates died in interrogation centers and were deprived of food and medicine,' the hospital chief said. Salmiya said the regime's prison guards "broke his finger and caused his head to bleed during beatings, in which they used batons and dogs." According to him, the Israeli regime's medical staff at different detention facilities had also taken part "in violation of all laws." Some Palestinian detainees, he said, had limbs amputated because of poor medical care. Salmiya said there are still thousands of detainees held by the regime's forces.

According to the Gaza media office, the regime forces have kidnapped at least 5,000 Palestinians since October 2023, when the military launched its bloodiest-ever war in the besieged territory. The fate of many of them or the conditions of their detention are still unknown, said the media office.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Alice Jill Edwards, said previously that he received reports that Palestinians were being beaten, kept in cells blindfolded and handcuffed for excessive periods, deprived of sleep, and threatened with physical and sexual violence. Other reports suggest detainees have been insulted and exposed to acts of humiliation, such as being photographed and filmed in degrading poses.

The UN expert urged the regime to allow immediate access to international human rights and humanitarian observers to all the places in which Palestinians have been detained since October. Human rights groups have repeatedly raised the alarm about "unprecedented difficult conditions" in which all Palestinian detainees, including women, are being held. Around 80 female detainees are currently being held in the regime prisons. As the US-backed Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip entered day 269 on Monday, aerial and artillery strikes continued to pound and target different areas and massacre more civilians. Reporters for the Palestinian Information Center (PIC) said that the Israeli occupation army continued to bomb homes and attack citizens in different areas of Gaza during the past 24 hours. According to media sources, a girl child was martyred when an Israeli warplane bombed a car in the east of Khan Yunis. Another citizen was killed and others were injured following an Israeli artillery attack on the northern area of an-Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza. An unknown number of casualties, including martyrs, were reported in the afternoon when a warplane bombed a house belonging to the family of Abu Rouk in Khuza'a. A man and his wife were also killed when the Israeli army targeted them near the Sheikh Radwan pool in Gaza City.

Meanwhile. The head of Hamas Movement in the West Bank, ZaherJabarin, said, "We have no choice but resistance because the other option is surrender, and we will not surrender." In a televised interview, Jabarin stressed that "every occupation throughout history has been defeated," highlighting the fact that the "Israeli occupation is not more powerful than the United States, France, and Britain." He stressed that "the Israeli occupation and those who support it are deluded by believing they can defeat the Palestinian people." He underlined that the "true secret behind the resistance's victories lies in the Palestinian factions' unity," calling on the Palestinian Authority and the Fatah movement not to follow the "mirage of peace".

Jabarin stressed that "Hamas is prepared to reach an agreement that leads to a complete and comprehensive cessation of the war in the Gaza Strip," calling on "the international community to oblige Israel to stop its ongoing war crimes that run contrary to international laws and conventions."

Meanwhile, The Lebanese group says it attacked a building used by troops in the Ramot Naftali Jewish settlement with "appropriate weapons" claiming "a direct hit". Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged near-daily fire since Israel launched war on Gaza in the wake of a deadly Hamas attack on October 7. Whereas, A statement from the UK's Foreign Office slams the Israeli announcement that the settlement outposts in the occupied West Bank are to be legalised. It also condemned "further punitive measures" taken against the Palestinian Authority and called on Israel to halt settlement expansion and hold perpetrators of "extremist settler violence" accountable. "We are clear that actions by Israel to weaken the Palestinian Authority must stop. We call for longer-term measures to be put in place to ensure continued correspondent banking relations and assurance that Israel will release frozen funds without delay," it said.

Headline

inflation up at

12.6% in June

This CPI reading brings the

average inflation for FY24 to

23.4%, compared to 29.2% in FY23

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Picking up the pace at the outset of the

new fiscal year, headline inflation came in at 12.6%

year-on-year (YoY) in June compared to 11.8% in May,

according to data released by the country's feder-

al statistics agency on Monday. This increase aligns

with market and government expectations. According

to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the Con-

sumer Prices Index (CPI) based inflation increased

by 0.5% on a month-on-month basis in June. The CPI-

based inflation in May rose 11.8% from a year earlier,

the lowest reading in 30 months and below the finance

ministry's projections. The country has been beset by

inflation above 20% since May 2022. Last year in May,

inflation jumped as high as 38% as the country navigat-

ed reforms as part of an International Monetary Fund

(IMF) bailout programme. However, inflation has since

slowed down. Brokerage firm Topline Securities noted

that the reading matched their projections, so it did

not surprise them. This CPI reading brings the average

inflation for fiscal year 2023-24 to 23.4%, compared to

29.2% in fiscal year 2022-23. The Ministry of Finance,

in its Monthly Economic Update and Outlook report,

had forecast a marginally higher inflation rate for June

2024 compared to the previous month but noted it was

still lower than the same period last year.

US Supreme Court says Trump has some immunity

WASHINGTON:Judges in the US Supreme Court Thursday ruled on an appeal by former US President Donald Trump regarding his claimed immunity from prosecution over his efforts to overturn the result of the 2020 presidential election. Trump appealed after lower courts rejected his bid for protection from a federal criminal case.

The Supreme Court judges rejected the lower courts' ruling and sent the case back to them, but did not give a clear ruling on whether Trump was in fact immune from prosecution. The decision will, however, mean that a trial before the November election is now highly unlikely.

In the historic ruling, which saw a 6-3 agreement, the US top court said that former presidents have absolute immunity from prosecution for their official acts and no immunity for unofficial acts. However, the justices did not outline what separates official and unofficial acts, which is to say acts carried out in a private capacity, referring that decision instead to the lower court.- **Agencies**

Massive reshuffle in Punjab bureaucracy

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has carried out a massive reshuffle in the provincial bureaucracy, transferring 15 senior officers. According to a notification issued on Monday, Umar Farooq has been appointed as Deputy Secretary Agriculture Department while Amina Rafiq's services were handed over to DG Punjab Food Authority.

Muhammad Sajid Bashir was appointed Additional Secretary of School Education Department while Imran Hussain Ranjha ordered to report to Services Department. Muhammad Shayan Ali Jawa's services were referred to Punjab Food Authority while Lubna Nazir was appointed as Additional Secretary Specialized Health Department.

Rao Nadeem Akhtar has been appointed as Additional Secretary Food Department while Farhat Hussain Farooq was appointed as Additional Secretary of School Education Department.

Finance minister pledges support for IT sector growth

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with the Executive Committee Members of P@ sha (Pakistan IT industry Association) led by Chairman P@sha Mr. Muhammad Zohaib Khan. The Executive Committee Members of P@SHA highlighted the organization's ongoing initiatives and the need for government

support in promoting growth in IT sector. Senator Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb acknowledged the significant contributions of P@SHA and assured the association of government's support. He reiterated the commitment of the government to provide a conducive environment for the IT industry, recognizing its potential to drive economic growth and innovation in Pakistan. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to continue working together to address the challenges and harness the opportunities for the IT sector.

France's parties launch new push after far-right success

Foreign Desk

PARIS: France's political rivals barely had time to digest the results of National Rally (RN)'s election success, before they had to kick-start a new campaign for the final vote. The anti-immigration party secured one in three votes in the first round of parliamentary elections. They have now set their sights on winning an absolute majority. RN leader Jordan Bardella, who hopes to be France's next PM, appealed to voters to make a choice between a leftwing alliance he called "an existential threat to the French nation" and a party of patriots ready to leap into action. PM Gabriel Attal, who may be days from losing his job, says the stakes are clear - to stop the far right winning an absolute majority. Emmanuel Macron, who called the election and propelled France into political crisis, still has three years as president and has vowed not to resign.

But the centrist movement he founded came only third in the first round and now finds itself eclipsed by a left-wing alliance called New Popular Front, as well as the National Rally of Marine Le Pen and Jordan Bardella. Of the 577 seats in the National Assembly, RN needs 289 to form an absolute majority and put through its programme on immigration, law and order, and tax cuts. It wants to restrict social welfare to French citizens, abolish the automatic right to French citizenship - droit du sol - for people who came to France as children, and prevent 3.5 million people with dual citizenship from holding sensitive, strategic jobs.

RN and its allies already have 38 confirmed seats, won outright with more than half the local vote in Sunday's first round. The Popular Front have 32 and the Macron alliance just two, an indication of how far behind the governing party has fallen. Another 501 seats have yet to be decided and the big three party blocs have big decisions to make within the next 24 hours. Candidates who have qualified for Sunday's second round for the Macron camp or the Popular Front now have until 18:00 on Tuesday to decide whether or not to withdraw, to maximise the chances of a political rival defeating National Rally. Both the Popular Front and the Macron Ensemble camp have pleaded with voters not to vote for the far right. But tensions between the two burst out into the open on Monday, an indication of the high stakes of this election and the intensity of such a brief campaign.

Indonesia, Pakistan vow to boost civil aviation cooperation



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia received a visit paid by the CEO of Mitra Aviation Perkasa and Perkasa Flying School of Indonesia, Mr. SeptoSudiro. His visit to Pakistan aimed to strengthen the civil aviation cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan, including pilot training and pilot supplies. "As far as I know, there are currently around 25 Indonesian pilots working in various Pakistani airlines. My company is able to provide highly skilled aviation workers from Indonesia to meet the needs in Pakistan, including pilots and aircraft engineers," Mr. Septo said to the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. RahmatHindiarta and the Embassy's Economic Team.

Established in July 2013, Perkasa Flying School has an ideal training base in Indonesia located at TunggulWulung Airport of Cilacap, Central Java as well as Nusawiru Airport of Pangandaran, West Java. The training base accommodates ground and flight training. The Perkasa Flying School is one of the largest international pilot schools in Indonesia with a PSC - 141 - 017 pilot certificate and focuses on preparing pilot students who are ready to take on roles as commercial pilots.

The Company offers a solution of the pilot possible shortage in Pakistan due to the flight boom and tougher competition among airlines at the global stage. The pilot school fee in Indonesia is considered as reasonable. Moreover, considering as the largest Muslim coun-

kistani students. "Perkasa Flying School is offering a cooperation program to Pakistani airlines to train their cadet pilot in Indonesia, through innovative financial

Given its status as the largest archipelagic country in the world, Indonesia continues to improve its civil aviation sector to increasingly meet safety standards issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other relevant aviation partners. Indonesia reached the effective implementation score of 80,34 for ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program-Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP-CMA). Based on this significant achievement, the President of ICAO Council awarded Indonesia the Council

Previously on August 2016, the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) decided to put Indonesia on "Category 1" rating after significant improvement shown by the Indonesian Government on IASA Safety Audit. In addition, on June 2018, the European Commission updated the "EU Air Safety List" which cleared all airlines certified in Indonesia from the list. Prior to his visit to Islamabad to meet his counterparts from Airblue and Serene Air, he visited Karachi to meet the Director General of Pakistan Aviation Authority (PCAA), Capt. (Retd). SaifAnjum and representative of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) in Karachi. "Pakistani Airlines business should start to "Look to the

try in the world, Indonesia is definitely suitable for Pascheme up to 50:50 that will surely create greater number of reliable pilots in Pakistan," he added.

President Certificate on 17 May 2018.

East", Mr. SeptoSudiro suggested.

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