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Venezuela's Maduro says, talks to resume with United States

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

Detailed News On Page-07

Maryum's victory challenged

Detailed News On Page-08



Rizwan favours surgery in cricket team





PM meets Tajik President

Shehbaz calls for enhancing Pak-Tajik trade ties

He stressed Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan can promote trade by road and mentioned the fields of agriculture, health, education and investment where ties will be cemented

News Desk

DUSHANBE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon during his two-day visit to Tajikistan. Upon his arrival, Prime Minister Sharif was warmly welcomed by President Rahmon, emphasizing the long-standing brotherly relations between Pakistan and Tajikistan. During their meeting, discussions focused on enhancing mutual cooperation in various fields, with Prime Minister Sharif highlighting Pakistan's unlimited potential for international investment in sectors such as energy, minerals, industry, and agriculture. He invited the Tajik President to invest in Pakistan and to expand regional and social ties between the two nations. The visit began with a ceremony where Prime Minister Sharif laid a wreath at the monument of Ismail Somoni, a historic figure of Central Asia and a national hero of Tajikistan. Somoni is celebrated for his rule in the 9th and 10th centuries, which brought significant development to the region. Upon arrival at Dushanbe airport, Prime Minister Sharif was received by Tajik Prime Minister KokhirRasulzoda, Energy Minister DalerJuma, Deputy Foreign Minister FarrukhSharifzoda, Tajik Ambassador in Islamabad YousufSharifzoda, Pakistan Ambassador in Dushanbe Saeed Sarwar, and senior diplomatic officers. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said Pak-Tajik ties will take new heights Addressing a joint press conference with the Tajikistan president, he said bilateral relations will be strengthened with the signing of memorandums of

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Country

can only be

run through

politics

We should move

forward in form

of a movement:

Rana Sanaullah

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to

Prime Minister on Politi-

cal Affairs and Inter-Pro-

vincial Coordination (IPC)

Rana Sanaullah said that

the country can only be

run through politics and

political parties. Address-

ing a seminar on Tuesday,

Rana Sanaullah urged the

people to dispel the im-

pression that politics is

a negative word. "When

a person faces injustice

or inequality, we say that

politics is being done with

him," Rana Sana said. "We

all should be clear in it

that this country can only

be run through politics,'

said the veteran politician

PTI only

wants

anarchy: Awn

A conspiracy was

hatched against Pakistan by the PTI,

says the IPP leader

ADIL SHAHEEN

kam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP)

leader Awn Chaudhry said

that Pakistan Tehreek

e-Insaf (PTI) has been

exposed for running cam-

paign against the country.

Addressing a press conference in National Press

Club Islamabad on Tuesday,

the IPP leader said that a

smear campaign was run

against the armed forces

of the country. "A conspir-

acy was hatched against

Pakistan by the PTI in con-

nivance with the Jewish

lobby," said Awn Chaudhry,

who was once consid-

ered as close confidant of

PTI founder Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD:

Pakistan reminds world of duty to prevent genocide

NEW YORK: Asserting that the primary responsibility to defend vulnerable populations rests with the State itself, Pakistan has told the UN General Assembly that the concept of 'responsibility to protect', or R2P, which was used to justify some interventions, had failed to prevent genocide where it actually happened- like in the ongoing Israeli war in Gaza. Speaking in a 193-member Assembly's debate on the responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, Ambassador MunirAkram also warned that 900,000 Indian troops deployed in Indian occupied Kashmir were engaged in brutal atrocities to suppress the Kashmiris quest for freedom and self-determination. (The controversial concept of R2P rests upon

Continued on Page 06

Praises US Congress resolution

Imran alleges agency's interference in jail matters

"We have filed a petition in court questioning the presence of ISI Majors and Colonels in Adiala Jail," Khan says

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan has criticised the alleged interference of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in civilian matters. In an informal media talk inside Adiala Jail today, the incarcerated former prime minister said, "We have filed a petition in court questioning the presence of ISI Majors and Colonels in Adiala Jail." "The ISI has no authority in civil KARACHI: Former Prime Minister matters or judiciary interference. The prison superintendent is following ISI orders, lead- abolish NAB, otherwise, he warned the ing to the transfer of two officers to ensure country will remain paralysed. Talking no leniency is shown to me." Talking about to the media in Karachi, Abbasi also the results of the February general elec- criticised the justice system. He said tions, the PTI founder expressed confusion that NAB has been created to make stating, "Five months have passed since the political cases. He said that former elections, and I still do not know who won or NAB Chairman Javed Iqbal used to say lost." He also spoke about the recent resolu- that he didn't make cases without the tion by the US Congress on alleged election direction of former PM Imran Khan. irregularities in Pakistan highlighting that He said that the government's people it had passed with 85% support. "Even the said that the budget was a failure, the most powerful Israeli lobby has never man- additional tax of Rs four thousand bilaged such a resolution. The US conducted lion was a new thing in this budget,

Continued on Page 06

Abbasi demands to abolish NAB

NAB was created to make political cases: Former PM

NAZIR SIYAL

Continued on Page 06

ShahidKhaqanAbbasi demanded to

ECP misinterpreted **SC** verdict, says Justice Minallah

"ECP's own record is accepting these people as belonging to SIC," says Justice Muneeb Akhtar

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Athar Minallah said Tuesday that it is a "proven fact" that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) misinterpreted the apex court's verdict denying the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of its "bat" symbol over failure to hold valid intra-party polls. "Should the court give its validation to an unconstitutional interpretation done by a constitutional body? [...] Do you want us to revive the doctrine of necessity?" Justice ISLAMABAD: Former federal informa-Minallah remarked. His remarks came as a 13-member full-court SC bench heard the that Pakistan is facing a crisis due 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 Jus- representatives' presence in parliament tice of Pakistan (CJP) QaziFaez Isa, comprises Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice rent occupants of parliament hold their

Continued on Page 06

Political instability pushes Pakistan to economic crisis

He said the budget announced by the federal government is not public friendly

FAISAL SHEIKH

tion minister, ShibliFaraz has claimed to political instability. The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf leader, talking to the media accompanied by KanwalShauzab in Islamabad, asserted that only elected can ensure improvements. He said cur-Muneeb Akhtar, Justice YahyaAfridi, Justice seats due to Form-47, not through a Amin-ud-Din Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Man- public vote. These people lack legitimadokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, cy as public representatives, he added.

Continued on Page 06



Justice Aalia becomes first woman CJ of LHC

Justice Shafi Siddiqui nominated as new Chief Justice of Sindh High Court



Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Justice Aalia-Neelum has been nominated as the chief justice (CJ) of the Lahore High Court (LHC) in a first event of a woman judge being named for the post, sources said on Tuesday. The jurist was unanimously nominated by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) during a meeting headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan QaziFaez Isa earlier in the day. Justice Aalia is third in the seniority list of the LHC after the elevation of

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan's trade deficit rises

Increase in both exports and imports demonstrates the robust economic activities

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan's trade picture for fiscal year 2023-24 paints a mixed picture with domestic exports saw a encouraging 10.5% increase to \$30.064 billion, imports surged even faster, leading to a wider trade deficit. The country exported goods worth \$30.64 billion, reflecting a 10.5% increase in

Continued on Page 06

Rebuffing UN body's report

Imran's detention 'internal matter', says law minister

"PTI founder has all rights according to Constitution, law, and international standards," says Azam Nazeer Tarar

Ansar Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister AzamNazeerlarar issued a response to a UN report - which termed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's detention arbitrary and in violation of international law - and called the arrest and cases against him an "internal matter". "The PTI founder has all the rights according to the country's constitution and law and international standards," said the law minister in a statement issued on Tuesday. Imran has been facing a slew of charges ranging from corruption to terrorism since his removal as the premier. The PTI founder has been in jail since last August and was convicted in some cases ahead of a nationwide election earlier this year. He is also fighting dozens of other cases which are continuing. Tarar said that the former prime minister is in jail as a convicted prisoner, adding that

Continued on Page 06

After UN body's report

US asks Pakistan to respect people's basic rights

"In case of Khan, you've heard us say this before: This is internal matter for Pakistan," says State Dept spokesperson

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: After a United Nations body decried Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's detention in "politically motivated" cases, the US State Department has asked Pakistan to respect people's fundamental

Continued on Page 06

Afghan Taliban, Pakistan diplomats 'meet in Doha'

Afghan interim govt's spokesperson thanks Pakistani diplomats' hospitality, hopes for good bilateral ties

Foreign Desk

DOHA: In a fresh diplomatic engagement after Islamabad announced an operation against Afghanistan-based terrorists, an Afghan Taliban delegation headed by Afghan interim government's spokesperson ZabihullahMujahid met Pakistani diplomats on the sidelines of the Doha-III conference. Pakistan and Afghanistan enjoyed close and brotherly ties as South Asian neighbours which lately become strained due to frequent cross-border attacks largely carried out by the banned outfit – Tehreek-e-Tali-

ban Pakistan (TTP) - which, according to Pakistan's security officials, operates from the Afghan soil. The Afghan interim government's representatives are currently visiting Doha to attend talks to "discuss increasing engagement with Afghanistan and a more coordinated response to the country, including economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts". They were due to meet UN officials and over 20 envoys, including the US special representative to Afghanistan as the international community grappled with its approach to Kabul's new rulers., according to Reuters. During their visit, Pakistani Ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Aejaz hosted a dinner for the Afghan Taliban delegation at his residence in Doha which was attended by senior

Continued on Page 06

JULY 2024

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President Zardari, Bilour discuss national issues

President Zardari said that consultation and consensus among all political parties on major national issues were indispensable

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister Ghulam Ahmed Bilour met with President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday to discuss the country's overall political, security, and law and order situation. Speaking to senior leader of the Awami National Party (ANP) Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, the president emphasized the importance of collaboration among all political parties to address national issues and achieve political and economic stability.

President Zardari said that consultation and consensus among all political parties on major national issues were indispensable. Former Railways Minister Bilour congratulated President Zardari on assuming the office of the

President

FPCCI urges

govt to

reduce

expenses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President

Federation of Pakistan

nesses will be affected after

electricity and gas become

expensive. Opportunities

are running out for entre-

preneurs burdened by tax

es. The government should

reduce its expenditure and

give relief to the people and

DC vows to

provide

all facilities

to tourists

Agha Zaheer Abbas Shi-

razi on Tuesday said that

district administration was

fully committed to take

all possible measures to

facilities to the tourists

thronging to these areas.

In a statement issued

here, the DC said that

according to the vision

of Punjab Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz, practi-

cal steps are being tak-

en for the promotion of

tourism. He instructed

cerned to complete the

development works on

their stipulated time to

get desirous results and

reviewed other recrea-

tional facilities including

washrooms to be built at

Thanda Jangal entertain-

ment venue.-APP

authorities con-

the

businessmen.

ISLAMABAD:

Commissioner

President of Pakistan for the second time. Earlier on ,President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday summoned the Senate to meet on on July 4. The Senate will meet at the Parliament House on Thursday at 1700 hours, according to a President Housepress release. The president summoned the session in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Article 54 (1) of the Constitution. Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari signed the Finance Bill 2024 ap-

proving the federal budget 2024-25.

A signed copy of the Finance Bill

will also be sent to Parliament. The

new federal budget will come into

effect from July 1.On June 28, the

National Assembly passed the fed-

eral budget amid opposition protests. The National Assembly, in a session chaired by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, approved the federal budget worth Rs18.877 trillion. However, the session saw a walkout by the opposition after they were not allowed to speak on their objections during the passage of the financial bill. Despite the opposition's protest, the assembly passed the provision to increase the tax rates on international air travel tickets. From July 1. passengers travelling in economy and economy plus classes must pay an additional tax of Rs12,500 on in-

RPO visits RCCI, assure measures to protect citizens

President Saqib Rafiq said that this is the first time that the three chiefs of Rawalpindi Police have come to the Chamber of Commerce to meet the business community

ness community, which

shows their seriousness to

strengthen the interaction

and communication with

stakeholders to solve their

RPO Baber Sarfraz in

his remarks said that the

business community is

the backbone of the coun-

try's economy and further

added that the Rawalpindi

Chamber of Commerce is

playing an important role

in promoting community

policing in the society.

The Safe City project in

Rawalpindi will be fully op-

erational by the end of this

month, which will help in

more effective measures

and measures against

criminal elements, he fur-

problems.

DNA

Chamber of Commerce and RAWALPINDI: Regional Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that we request the Police Officer (RPO) Bagovernment to revise the bar Sarfaraz along with his budget, after the presentateam including City Police Officer (CPO) Khalid tion of the budget, the difficulties of the export sector Hamdani and Chief Trafhave increased. Electricity fic Officer (CTO) Taimur and gas rates have already Khan paid a visit to the increased. Not globally com-Rawalpindi Chamber of petitive, these will increase Commerce and Industry further, which will put us (RCCI) here on Tuesday. out of the competitive race President RCCI Saqib in the region. Federation Rafiq and Group Leader President Atif Ikram said RCCI Sohail Altaf and ofthat the stakeholders were fice bearers welcomed the not taken into confidence RPO and his team. Presiin the budgeting process. dent Saqib Rafiq said that As a representative of the this is the first time that business community, I apthe three chiefs of Rawalpeal to the government to pindi Police have come revisit the budget due to the excessive taxes. In the current budget, tax payers have been burdened with billions of rupees, busi-

to the Chamber of Comther added. RPO Sarfaraz associations were also presmerce to meet the busiemphasized the essential ent in the meeting. PMD, RIMES hold climate application forum

ISLAMABAD; The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), in collaboration with the Regional Integrated MultiHazard Early Warning System (RIMES) arranged a Climate Application Forum on Tuesday. This event brought together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from various sectors to discuss innovative strategies and applications for climate resilience and disaster risk reduction. The forum commenced with an insightful keynote address by Dr. Muhammad Afzaal, Chief Meteorologist, PMD, who emphasized the critical need for enhanced climate services and innovative applications to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Chief Guest Lt. Gen. (Rted.) Nadeem Ahmad, Advisor, RIMES highlighted the collaborative effort needed to tackle climate change and extreme weather events. Sahibzad Khan, Director General of PMD, said: "This forum marks a significant milestone in our efforts to integrate cutting-edge climate science with practical applications. By partnering with RIMES, we are committed to advancing our capabilities in early warning systems and fostering a culture of preparedness and resilience in the face of climate hange." Ms. Ruby Rose Policarpio, CARE Component 1 Project Director, RIMES, added, "The collaborative spirit demonstrated at this forum is a testament to the importance of international cooperation in tackling the global challenge of climate change." The forum featured a series of presentations, panel discussions, and interactive sessions focused on the latest advancements in climate science and sustainable practices. This event was supported by the World Bank and Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE). The Climate Application Forum concluded with a commitment to ongoing collaboration and the development of actionable strategies to address climate-related challenges.

Faisalabad promised 100 eco-friendly buses

FAISALABAD: The government is contemplating to run 100 environment-friendly buses in Faisalabad. The facility will be expanded to the tehsil level at a later stage. This was stated by MNA Chaudhry Shehbaz Babar while presiding over a meeting of the Faisalabad District Coordination Committee (DCC). He said the government was spending huge funds to improve the standard of living of the people by providing them basic amenities at their doorsteps. After a briefing about the inter-city bus service, the legislator said that in the first phase, 100 environment-friendly buses would start providing service in Faisalabad within the limits of the Ring Road. However, in a later phase, the facility would be expanded to the tehsil level so that the students and industrial workers could avail the service to the maximum extent. He also stressed the need of security arrangements for Muharram and said the DCC should be convened again before Ashura.-APP

initiative **DNA**

role of the business community in the economy and assured that all necessary measures would be taken to address their concerns. CPO Khalid hamdani said that addressing the problems of traders are the first priority for which Rawalpindi Police is using all resources. CTO Taimur Khan informed the participants about the measures taken to address traffic congestion in the city. Senior Vice President RCCI Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shahzad, Former Presidents, executive committee members, distinguished RCCI members, and members from various trade

ISLAMABAD: Former Federal Minister and senior leader of the Awami National Party, Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.-DNA

BISP to introduce skill training

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Tuesday said that a new skill training initiative is being launched to help members of deserving families start their own businesses and rise out of poverty. She was speaking during a visit to the BISP's Campsite at Government High School Iqbal Town in Lahore. The visit aimed to review the basic facilities provided to deserving women who come to receive the Kafaalat quarterly stipend. During her visit, Senator Rubina Khalid engaged with the women beneficiaries, listened to their concerns, and assured them of BISP's commitment to addressing their issues. She instructed the BISP staff to conduct surveys at tehsil offices to prevent overcrowding at payment centers. The BISP staff briefed the Chairperson on the current payment system. She emphasized the importance of disbursing payments to all deserving women in a fair and transparent manner. Earlier, Senator Rubina Khalid also addressed media representatives at BISP Central Zonal Office in Lahore, highlighting the impact of the programme.

She shared that 9.5 million deserving families benefit from BISP and the program's scope is being further expanded. Senator Rubina Khalid noted past efforts to change the name of the Benazir Income Support Programme but reaffirmed its commitment to honoring the legacy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. To combat fraud, BISP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information Technology, is taking significant steps, she added. The official BISP number, 8171, is the only number beneficiaries should trust. Furthermore, BISP is introducing a new payment system involving six banks to ensure

transparency. Senator Rubina Khalid reiterated BISP's mission to economically empower women, in line with the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Under the guidance of President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto, the program ensures that payments are disbursed to deserving women in a transparent and dignified

Experts discuss education crisis in Pakistan

Activist Nargis says modernising education system is crucial for state's development

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI :The state's lack of interest in promoting education is leading us nowhere but to poor educational quality in both schools and universities, said Economist Dr Kaiser Bengali. While addressing a seminar titled "improving the Education System of Pakistan," organised by the Pakistan Women's Foundation for Peace (PWFFP), Dr Bengali pointed out the double standards of the elite class that secure topnotch education for their children via the Cambridge Schooling System but fail to support educational development in Pakistan. He criticised the state of

mathematics education in Pakistan, noting that the

private sector also fails to provide a high standard of mathematics education. He emphasised that a solid foundation in mathematics is essential for producing scientists.

He highlighted the inade-

quate mathematics syllabus, which often leads to students memorising concepts without truly understanding the subject. He expressed dismay over

Pakistan's reliance on imported goods, highlighting the country's inability to manufacture simple items like stapler pins. PWFFP Chairperson, Nargis Rehman, hosted the

seminar and emphasised that modernising the education system is crucial for development. She stressed the need for

collective efforts to pro-

turning it into a business. Present on the occasion, Educationist Baela Raza Jameel highlighted the dire situation in Pakistan, where 60% of the population cannot afford the educational expenses of their children. Baela noted that the country has been with-

out an education policy

mote literacy among the

underprivileged, highlight-

ing the importance of skill

activities, and modern tech-

nology in the education sys-

tem. Nargis lamented that

cheating in exams has be-

come rampant in Pakistan.

She noted that Pakistan

trails behind its neighbour-

ing countries in develop-

ment and stated that edu-

cational institutions have

commodified education,

extracurricular

training,

Nusrat criticizes PML N govt for price hike

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Nasrat Khan has criticized the PML (N)-led government, alleging that it has turned the life of the common man into a living hell. He pointed out that due to skyrocketing prices of electricity, gas, and petroleum, the public has been pushed to the brink, with some resorting to suicide. In a statement, Nasrat Khan asserted that the government and its allies have an agenda focused solely



on corruption and exploiting the people. He further stated that it is a fact that the IMF's demands have been officially accepted in the budget announcement.

In response to a question. Nasrat Khan emphasized that the country's issues will not be resolved from the government's tenure until its departure. A PTI leader added that despite the passage of legislation in the US Congress regarding electoral fraud in the February 8 elections, the government's credibility has been severely tarnished. Nasrat Khan also mentioned that today, from Khyber to Karachi, ordinary Pakistanis stand with Imran Khan because they know he is the only leader capable of solving Pakistan's problems.













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Scholars, senior leaders of TNFJ draped a veil over the shrine of the leader, while the Mukhtar Force and Ibrahim Scouts saluted their leader.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The second anniversary of Agha Syed Hamid Ali Shah Moosavi, the spiritual leader of the Shiite world, the patronin-chief of the Supreme Shia Ulema Board and the head of Tehreek Nifaz Fiqh Jafaria, was observed with devotion and respect across the country Scholars, senior leaders of TNFJ draped a veil over the shrine of the leader, while the Mukhtar Force and Ibrahim Scouts saluted their leader. The main gathering of the anniversary, 'Pyam Aqaye Moosavi Convention', was held at the shrine of Quaid Jamia Al-Murtaza, Islamabad, in which scholars, preachers and poets

from all over the country



addressed and paid tribute to the leader for his unforgettable services to the country and the nation. On this occasion, under the leadership of the sons of Quaid Agha Muhammad Murtaza Moosavi Advocate and

Agha Ali Rooh Al Abbas Moosavi, a renewed commitment was made to ensure the protection of the unity of the Ummah and the ideology of Pakistan while remaining closed to the mission-e-willa o azza established by

Quaid Millat Jafaria Agha Moosavi. The participants also expressed their determi-

nation that the code of mourning of Agha Moosavi will be fully implemented and unity among Muslims will be promoted in month

of Muharram The Payam Moosavi convention was attended by the elders of the nation from the four provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, the followers of Agha Moosvi and the provincial officials of Tehreek Nifaz Figh Jafaria.

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......051-28261210334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	.9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	270831-5
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

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Deserving traders to get residential plots on competitive price: ICCI

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that during his election campaign he announced that he will get launched a Housing Scheme for the deserving traders to enable them to have their own accommodations in the capital and that now the time has come to fulfil this dream of the community and on the matter all the spade work has been completed with a renowned business group of the capital city which will not only provide residential plots on 25% discount but receive the payments on easy instalments

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the business community is wholeheartedly determined to serve the country by making it an economic hub and investment friendly destination and that ICCI on its part will continue to play the role of a bridge between the community and the government to foster business development.

He said this while addressing the Presidents of different Traders Welfare Associations of Islamabad who called on him at the Chamber House. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that during his election campaign he announced that he will get launched a Housing Scheme for the deserving traders to enable them to have their own accommodations in the capital and that now the time has come to fulfil this dream of the community and on the matter all the spade work has been completed with a renowned business group of the capital city which will not only provide residential plots on 25% discount but receive the payments on easy instalments.

He went on to say that alongside his work as President ICCI he is



also continuing to perform his corporate social responsibilities by installing water filtration plants, Water Coolers, setting up of free medical camps, provision of computers and laboratory equipment to educational institutions.

Former President ICCI Zafar Bakhtawari said that a viable and comprehensive strategy has been evolved to go into the forthcoming ICCI election. He underlined the need for strengthening unity the resolution of its problems on priority basis and for the availability of the level playing field for the development of the businesses. The participants by appreciating the performance of Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari as President ICCI not only reposed their confidence in him but also pledged to stand with him in all the circumstances and in all his future endeavors for the economic wellbeing of

the community. In his address

former President FPCCI Zubair

PHA

authorities

directed to

upgrade parks

of Murree

General (DG) Parks and

(PHA), Ahmad Hasan Ran-

Authority

RAWALPINDI:

Horticulture

Ahmad Malik extended congratulations to Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and his team for the successful conduct of the All Pakistan Chambers President Conference. Yousuf Rajput, Group leader Blue Area, Raja Hassan Akhtar President Blue Area, Asad Aziz President Jinnah Super Market, Raja Iavaid Igbal, President G/9 markaz, Iftikhar Abbasi, President E-11 markaz, Naeem Akhtar Awan President G-11 markaz, Kashif

Chaudhry President I-10 markaz,

Nasir Chaudhry President G-8/1, Raja Fayyaz Gul President I-8 markaz, Ahmad Khan President F-10 markaz, Wajid Ayub, Azhar Iqbal President Melody Market, Shahzad Shabbir Abbasi President F-6 markaz, President TWA Tarnol, Khalid Chaudhry General Secretary Traders Action Committee also spoke on the occasion and showed full solidarity with founder group and endorsed the unity move between City and In-

Scope of ECE project to be expanded: **Education Minister**

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD,):Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Tuesday expressed his commitment to expand the scope of the Early Childhood Education project to all parts of the country. The minister was speaking after inaugurating the Childhood Education Center (ECE) at Islamabad Model School, F-7/2. The federal minister stated "such facilities are designed to stimulate children early childhood development". Emphasizing the importance of early child education for social and intellectual development of the children during the initial years, the minister said that this project will be extended to other parts of the country. Appreciating the initiative, Secretary Ministry of Education and Professional Training, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani explained that this model is based on the pilot project being executed in urban 10 school with five ECE. He said that ECE project will be expanded to existing 50 rural and 50 urban schools with attached washrooms while the staff is being trained as well to handle these children in liaison with America Lycetuff DNK School System. The ministry believed ECE as one of the most pivotal stages of learning. The latest developments in science have shown that the first six years of a child's life are crucial when it comes to early childhood development.

UN Pakistan Resident **Coordinator** calls on Convener

ISLAMABAD: The UN Pakistan Resident Coordinator Mohamed Yahya called on the Convener Parliamentary Taskforce on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Bilal Azhar Kayani at the Parliament House. Both sides discussed the current status of implementation of SDGs in Pakistan and role of the Parliament in the attainment of these goals, said news release issued here on Tuesday. They also deliberated upon international best practices and their socio-economic compatibility in terms of the contemporary challenges faced by Pakistan. During the discussion it was stressed upon to pro-actively assist the MPs during the legislation phase and to build knowledge around the SDGs framework to support localization & implementation of 2030 Agenda more effectively. The Convener while reaffirming commitment of the Parliament to play a constructive role in accelerating the progress to achieve SDGs stated "Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs is vigorously striving for a sustainable future for all." He said Parliamentary Taskforce will complement governments effort in ensuring access to quality education, better health facilities and devising strategies to effectively tackle climate

NPO to organize Webinar

change.-APP

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar on "Excel Skills for Business Forecasting" on Wednesday (tomorrow). Forecasting refers to the practice of predicting what will happen in the future by taking into consideration events in the past and present. Basically, its a decision-making tool that helps businesses cope with the impact of the future's uncertainty by examining historical data and trends, said an NPO document shared here on Tuesday. The tool enables businesses to chart their next moves and create budgets that will hopefully cover whatever uncertainties may occur, it added. The webinar highlights fundamentals of business forecasting, business forecasting via powerful function, and fast-forecasting tools in excel.—APP

Senator Sherry proposes youth climate caucus

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday in the maiden meeting of the body proposed the forum for establishing the Youth Climate Caucus at the Senator for giving representation to the young pices in policy making and legislative oversight. The Committee with Senator Rehman in chair at single agenda item of developing a comprehensive agenda for a plan of action that is both inclusive and responsive to the country needs across all the sectors that reflect climate and environmental values as wells as challenges participated by Senator Bushra Anjum Butt, Senator Naseema Ehsan, Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, whereas Senators Dr Zarqa Suharwardy Taimour, Quratulain Marri and Taj Haider joined the meeting online. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Sherry Rehman said the Committee would propose the Upper House of the Parliament to establish the Youth Climate Caucus as the younger generation amid galloping climate crises was anguished and frustrated that needed to be harnessed positively. She said the Committee with a retrospective approach would hold two environmental public hearings for a national stock take of efforts being made to address the country's spiking up vulnerability to climate change. She informed the members that the Committee would visit the iconic Leopard Preserve Zone in the Margalla Hills National Park that is home to exotic birds, plants, mammals and reptiles species. Since, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination was signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that banned trade or captivation of nonindigenous animals to a foreign country. She commended the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) for its efforts in controlling poaching, and illegal captivation of endangered species. "A Bengal tiger was rescued by IWMB that was facing maltreatment and poor health which will be released in its natural habitat," she added. Senator Rehman called for ban on exotic species' trade and captivation in Rawalpindi and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). She urged the members to raise issues pertaining to environmental pollution and degradation in the ICT. She mentioned that Smog was the fifth season of Pakistan now, whereas the Committee would also hold public hearing in Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services and would invite all. -DNA

Surveyor General highlights NSDI's benefits

General of Pakistan, Major General Rafiq-ur-Rehman, HI (M) on Tuesday said the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) would significantly benefit sectors such as health, education, agriculture, and tourism, among

many others. Speaking at a ceremony held here at a local hotel, he highlighted that the NSDI would also aid in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including efforts to combat climate change. He noted that the NSDI is established globally for polthe participants.-APP

icy planning and developing sustainable solutions. In Pakistan, a feasibility study for establishing the NSDI has been completed by the Survey of Pakistan in collaboration with GIS Plus. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of shields to

jha has directed the authorities concerned to make all-out efforts to upgrade parks of Murree. According to a PHA spokesman, during a visit of various parks of Murree, the DG reviewed the facilities being provided to the public in terms of quality recreations. She informed, the DG instructed the officers concerned about the improvement of parks and to ensure better recreational facilities for the tourists. According to the orders of the Punjab government, the tourists and local residents were being provided with the best available facilities. The PHA is also ensuring provision of clean drinking water for the tourists in Murree, benches for sitting and better lighting arrangements. The DG during the visited inspected all the arrangements regarding lighting and sitting, drinking water and other facilities in the parks and orders were also issued to the officers to take all possible steps for improvement of the facilities, she informed. The spokesman said that the PHA on the special directives of the DG would successfully achieve the plantation target by ensuring a full-scale plantation drive in upcoming monsoon season

this year.-APP

Consistency vs unpredictable performance

TANVEER HUSSAIN



ports enthusiasts are familiar with these terms. The performance of teams in any sport is judged on the basis of these two criteria. Any team is a sustainable team if it improves its performance through hard work training and technique. When that team goes to play in the tournament, its supporters get an idea of how our team will perform. Even if that team performs a little less or more than their expectations, the fans easily accept it. On the other hand, there are

teams with unexpected

Pakistan performances. cricket team belongs to the same type. Sometimes our team beat the toughest opponents; and when they come down, they lose badly to inexperienced newcomers. The biggest downside of this kind of unpredictable performance is that people place high expectations on the team that obviously cannot be met. Then when the team comes back to lose, people express anger at the players and the management. Eventually an inquiry is held to cool the public anger, the team captain is changed and some players are dropped from the team. The same story is repeated in almost every major event. This is not a story of a few

months or years, it is our entire history. Being a nation, we are unpredictable nation. If you analyze, Pakistanis always seem to be on two extremes of success and failure. One of our scientists, Dr. Qadeer Khan makes Pakistan a nuclear

power and national defense impregnable despite the shortage of resources and opposition of the west. On the other hand, we have not been able to administer polio drops to our children for 75 years. Arfa Karim, a Pakistani student makes a world record by becoming a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) at the age of just 9 years. On the other hand, millions of our children are deprived of education. And the ability and efficiency of the educated people is that the country is going downhill day by day. One of our pilots, MM Alam, shoots down five warplanes of India in one minute, and after only 6 years, the enemy not only captures half of our country, but also takes 93,000 soldiers as prisoners of war.Instead of working with consistency and hard work, people have kept unrealistic concepts in their minds. They look for short cuts to get rich overnight instead of long hours of hard work.

Illegitimate wealth is not considered bad for getting rich quick. The terrible result of which comes in the form of corruption, adulteration, fraud, bribery and street crime. Many young people, attracted by the dazzling lights of Europe, cross the border illegally. Many of them fall victim to accidents and become food for sea creatures. These shortcuts have also had a profound effect on the psychology of people. People don't care much about the serious stuff, but the noise and false claims have millions of followers. People love noisy and sloganeering singers, scholars and leaders. It is very important to tell people about hard work and honesty to get them out of these situations. From day one, children should be made aware that there are no shortcuts to lasting success. With short cuts you may be successful temporarily but for lasting success you need hard work and dedication.



healthy and in good physical condition is at the heart of everything we do. Our aim is to establish long-term trusting relationships with our patients and their families offering them easy accessibility to health and continuity of care



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Briefs

Motorway police reunite lost boy with mother

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) reunited a 12-year-old boy with a mental disability to his family here on Tuesday. According to NHMP North Zone Muhammad spokesman Saqib, while patrolling, the motorway police found a boy near Wali interchange in distress who could not speak fluently. After getting information from the nearby areas, the NH&MP handed over the boy to his mother, who belonged to the Charsada area. The boy's mother thanked and hailed the performance of the NHMP for the recovery of his mentally disabled lost boy.-APP

Pak-China strategic partnership opens doors to vast opportunities in IT sector

of State for IT and Tele-

Minister

ISLAMABAD:

communications, Fatima Khawaja Tuesday said that the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China opens doors to unparalleled opportunities in IT sector. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serves as a cornerstone of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China, offering a multitude of opportunities for joint ventures and technology-driven initiatives as well. The integration of digital technologies into CPEC projects holds the promise of unlocking new avenues for economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development, she made the remarks while addressing opening ceremony of Global Digital Economy Conference 2024. The minister said that the strategic stan and China opens doors to unparalleled opportunities for collaboration in the IT sector. "Whether it is in the fields of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, e-commerce, or digital infrastructure, there exists immense potential for joint ventures, knowledge exchange, networking opportunities and skill development," she added. Shaza Fatima said that the vast potential of China's IT market presents a significant opportunity for foreign companies, including those from Pakistan, to expand their businesses and boost exports. The minister remarked that the partnership between Pakistan and China continues to flourish, reflecting a long-standing tradition of collaboration and mutual growth. This partnership takes a significant step forward as they convene to explore the vast potential within the Information Technology (IT) sector. -DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding national preparedness for the Monsoon.

Korean diplomat shares experiences in research

Additional Foreign Secretary for Policy Planning Ambassador Israr Ahmed emphasized the importance of science diplomacy and cooperation between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea in the domain of Science and Technology

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Korea on Science and Technology Dr. Sung-Chul Shin was the keynote speaker at a Science Diplomacy event hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 27 June 2024. The event was attended by Federal Secretary for Science and Technology Mr. Ali Tahir, Federal Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and eminent scientists from several universities. Welcoming the participants, Additional Foreign Secretary for Policy Planning Ambassador Israr Ahmed emphasized the importance of science diplomacy and cooperation between Pakistan and the Republic

of Korea in the domain of Science and Technology. In his keynote address, Dr. Shin presented the policies employed by the Republic of Korea in planning and promoting scientific research and inno-

vation. He also explained how these strategies have contributed to Korea's remarkable economic transformation, elevating the economic status country from a developing to a developed nation.



The talk was followed by a focused dialogue among scientists, researchers, and policymakers with Dr. Sung-Chul Shin. Secretary Science and Technology Mr. Ali Tahir expressed Pakistan's keen desire to enhance collaboration between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. He also underlined Pakistan's policies of promoting scientific education and research by providing opportunities, resources, and support to scientists to encourage research and innovation. Scientists and researchers from the Air University, Bahria University, COMSATS, Fatima Jinnah Women University, GIKI, Institute of Space Technology, NUST, Pakistan Institute of Engineering Sciences, QAU and UET Taxila participated in the interactive session. They presented the cutting-edge scienat their institutions. They also discussed methods to establish effective communication channels between policymakers and the scientific community to leverage science for development through collaborative efforts among universities, scholars, and students. Ambassador Shin was invited to Pakistan from 24-27 June 2024 by the invitation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote scientific exchanges between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea. During his visit to Pakistan, Ambassador Shin called on the Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi. He also visited the National Center for Physics, Quaide-Azam University and National Center for Physics, National University for Science and Technology and met with the alumni of scientific universities in the Republic of Korea.

ANF recovers 630 kg drugs in four operations

RAWALPINDI: cotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover 630 kg drugs, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 3 different operations were conducted in Balochistan, 510 kg opium and 120 kg hashish were recovered from Pasni, Pishin and Quetta. In an operation, 700 grams weed was recovered from a vehicle intercepted in Scheme 3, Rawalpindi.—APP

Railways all set to launch 'Summer Vacation Train'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan

Railways is all set to launch a 'Summer Vacation Special Train' to facilitate and accommodate the passengers Rawalpindi-Kabetween rachi from July 5 to July 30. "All the preparation to launch the train is already completed on the direction of Secretary Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. The official said that the special train (50-Dn) would commence its journey from Rawalpindi on July 5 and continue to operate on July 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, and 29. He said the departing at 12:30 pm, is scheduled to arrive at Karachi Cantt at 2:15 pm the following day. The official said that the return service (49-Up) would depart from Karachi Cantt on July 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, and 30, starting at 8:45 pm and reaching Rawalpindi at 10 pm the next day. He said this initiative aims to provide a comfortable and convenient travel option for citizens during the summer vacation period. The train would make stops at major stations including Jhelum, Lalamusa, Gujrat, Wazirabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Raiwind, Okara, Sahiwal, Khanewal, Bahawalpur, Khanpur, Rohri, and Hyderabad, he added. He said the Summer Vacation Special Train would feature two AC standard coaches, five economy class coaches, one brake van, and one power plant.-APP

Experts highlight the importance of data for effective migrant management

ISLAMABAD: Data is 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 on Monday. The speakers highlighted that it was essential to have a central repository of data on Afghan migrants, including the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) 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 as they had established their lives in the country and felt a stronger connection to Pakistan than to Afghanistan.-DNA

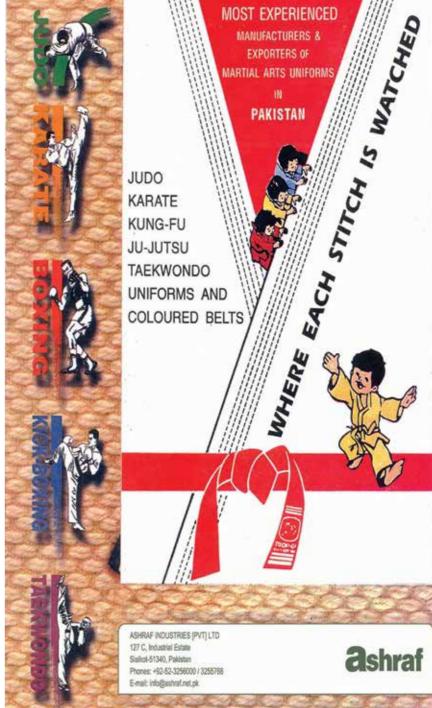
IRSA releases 320,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 320,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 454,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1470.20 feet and was 81.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 244,600 cusecs and 130,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1185.30 feet, which was 137.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 44,600 cusecs.-APP

tellectual diversity in the long term? Countries like Malaysia and Saudi Arabia have taken concrete steps to implement this vision. For instance, Malaysia's International Islamic University offers programs that relate Islamic principles to contemporary pedagogical content. Similarly, Saudi Arabia has made various efforts to develop Islamic knowledge and link it with modern scientific research. These attempts far-reaching capture trends among Muslim-majority nations aimed at establishing their intellectual and cultural identities in the global arena. Despite these actions, Islamicizing knowledge remains a controversial issue. The success of this movement largely depends on teachers and policymakers who engage in open, inclusive dialogues that focus on the diverse needs of students and the challenges they face. Beyond this, it requires scientific excellence and innovation to ensure that educational reforms do not merely replicate traditional models but push the boundaries of science and understanding forward.

PR earned record high revenue in year 2023-24

ISLAMABAD: Director General (DG) Public Relations (PR) Pakistan Railways Dr. Hassan Tahir Bukhari Tuesday said that his department had reached a record high in revenue earnings of Rs 88 billion at the end of the financial year 2023-24 and providing modern amenities to passengers where they are being facilitated with standardized toilet systems. Talking to a PTV news channel he said the PR's land-lease revenue was also being increased by Rs10bn for FY 2024-25", adding, that Pakistan Railway credited achievement to the tireless work of the employees. He said his organization determination to further increase the income to Rs 1 trillion next financial year, adding that with private partnership Pakistan Railway will get its set targets soon. He said 40% earned 40% increase in revenue as compared to previous years.—APP



Needed to balance of tradition and modernity in education In practical terms, making

SAHAR ALLAH BUX

\(\rightarrow\) he contemporary educational system is a carousel that been marked with visible developments and constant challenges. This statement likens the current educational system to a carousel, suggesting that it is constantly in motion and subject to continuous change. The educational system is evolving with notable advancements and facing ongoing challenges that require attention and adaptation. "As the global societies develop, so do their educational needs, which necessitate reforms to meet the requirements of diverse populations and dynamics of knowledge transmission. As societies around the world progress and evolve, their educational needs also change. This evolution requires reforms in the educational system to ensure that it meets the diverse needs of various populations. It also needs to address the changing ways in which knowledge transmitted and received. "In this sphere, there is an outstanding discourse in the Islamic construct of science; it is

a movement aimed at relating Islamic principles to modern educational paradigms." Within the context of these educational reforms, there is significant discussion about the Islamic construct of science. This discourse involves a movement that seeks to integrate Islamic principles with contemporary educational frameworks. It aims to relate the values and teachings of Islam to modern approaches to education and scientific inquiry. Inclusiveness, technical integration, and an emphasis on a comprehensive educational viewpoint are among the characteristics of the modern education system. Digital tools and online platforms are being adopted by schools and worldwide universities enhanced the access and efficiency in learning process. The COVID-19 pandemic has hastened this transformation, leading schools almost overnight towards distance learning programs. While this transition has opened up new opportunities for learning, it has also highlighted the wide disparities in access to technology and internet connectivity, particularly in top-growth areas.

Among these ments, the debate about Islamicizing knowledge is particularly prominent in Muslim-majority countries. This movement, which started at the end of the 20th century, attempts to harmonize modern education with Islamic values and teachings. Proponents argue that contemporary education either undermines or weakens collaboration among most Islamic scholars and spiritual leaders of the Muslim world. They believe that incorporating an Islamic perspective into education can make it more relevant and meaningful for Muslim students, fostering a sense of connectedness with their cultural and religious heritage and a sense of purpose. Critics have expressed concern about the possible dangers of such educational rigidity and vulnerability. They argue that education should remain secular, free from religious or ideological influences, so it can foster critical thinking, scientific research, and universal values. The challenge, therefore, is to find a balance that respects religious beliefs while maintaining the integrity of curricula and the global nature

of education.

science Islamic demands a reexamination of various educational subjects with an Islamic perspective in mind. For example, in science, this could mean highlighting the contributions of medieval Muslim scientists like al-Khwarizmi and Ibn Sina, whose works formed the basis for modern mathematics and medicine. In the humanities, it could mean studying Islamic philosophy and ethics alongside Westphilosophical traditions. This perspective not only strengthens the syllabus but also encourages learners to identify mutual connections between global intellectual traditions. As the contemporary educational system continues to advance, tradition and modernity, secularism and religiosity remain in constant interplay. In this context, the Islamization of science represents a significant attempt at harmonizing these seemingly antagonistic forces, offering a unique and enhanced educational vision capable of encompassing multiple truths of twenty-first-century pluralism. Can this vision create a reality that

respects the principles of

scientific freedom and in-

Reinforcing genocide

SRAELI Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is expected to address a joint session of US Congress on 24 July, and speculations about the contents of his speech have been reported in Israeli media, albeit slightly contradictory. Senior Israeli aides to Netanyahu stated that the address would address the normalization agreements between Saudi Arabia and Israel, a ceasefire centered on a deal for the hostages and "a pathway towards a Palestinian State". The latter was contradicted by Netanyahu's office, which stated that the Prime Minister "opposes a Palestinian State and will not change his position in his address to Congress". However, it was reported that Netanyahu would "offer rhetorical support for a vague process that leads toward increased Palestinian autonomy short of a State". Nothing new in the usual diplomatic jargon, but at a time when Israel is openly committing genocide in Gaza, not even "rhetorical support for a vague process" can even claim its usual pedestal in the US-Israeli narrative. By committing genocide, Netanyahu has proved without doubt his opposition to a Palestinian State. Emptying Gaza of Palestinians, on the other hand, is believable even without Netanyahu's rhetoric. The recurring internal forced displacement of Palestinians, Israel forcing Palestinians into areas which it then bombs, the enforced starvation, the mass graves, the bodies buried beneath the rubble - what part of genocide even alludes to a hypothetical autonomous Palestinian entity, let alone a State? Israel and the US have signed on a much larger complicity in their crimes against the colonized Palestinian people. To speak of normalization agreements in the past was already an aberration; the level of absurdity it has now reached requires new vocabulary. Putting genocide in the past seems to be the way forward for Israel and the US. For Palestinians, however, genocide has been ongoing since the Nakba and now openly practiced, as well as endorsed and aided by Western powers. Away from the diplomacy of might, Palestinians are living the horrors and consequences of incessant bombings and slaughters that have already created humanitarian catastrophes. Which Palestinians will have the physical and mental health required to consider politics before relieving starvation, the need for shelter, access to clean water, health and education? All of which were already scarce before the genocide? Genocide did not erupt out of nowhere in the Zionist colonial project. Palestinians repeatedly warned the international community about the various ways they were being ethnically cleansed from their towns and villages since the Nakba. But the international community was too busy protecting its twostate consensus and reinforcing political and economic divisions between Gaza and the Occupied West Bank which played directly into Israeli interests. Palestinians have perpetually been exploited as pawns in international diplomacy, to the point of genocide. Netanyahu's address to Congress is just one more step in political oblivion when it comes to the Palestinian people. Working hand in hand not only with the destruction of Palestine's historical and collective memory, oblivion now finds a better partner in genocide. While the forthcoming speech is speculated upon as to its contents, Israel gains yet more respite through diplomatic channels to massacre more Palestinians in Gaza, and perhaps get the opportunity to speak of a plan for after genocide, in which only the Zionist concept of purported peace can fester. Not a vague process at all, just a bloody one.

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Civil War in Donbass

ULY 1st marked the 10th anniversary of a brutal resumption of hostilities in the Donbass Civil War. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it passed without comment in the Western media. 10 days before the start of the war, Ukrainian resident Petro Poroshenko called for a ceasefire in Kiev's "anti-terrorist operation". Launched two months prior following vast protests, and violent clashes between Russian-speaking pro-federal activists and authorities throughout eastern Ukraine, the intended lightning strike routing of internal opposition to the Maidan government quickly became an unwinnable quagmire. Ukrainian forces were consistently beaten back by surprisingly well-organised and determined rebel forces hailing from the breakaway "People's Republics" in Donetsk and Luhansk. Resultantly, Poroshenko outlined a peace plan intended to compel the separatists to put down their arms. They refused to do so, prompting the President to order an even more brutal crackdown. This too was a counterproductive failure, with the rebels inflicting a series of embarrassing defeats on the Western-sponsored government. Kiev was ultimately forced to accept the terms of the first Minsk Accords. This agreement, like its successor, did not provide for secession or independence for the breakaway republics, but their full autonomy within Ukraine. Russia was named as a mediator, not party, in the conflict. Kiev was to resolve its dispute with rebel leaders directly. Successive Ukrainian governments consistently refused to do so, however. Instead, officials endlessly stonewalled, while pressuring Moscow to formally designate itself a party to the civil war.

No wonder - had Russia accepted, Kiev's claims that its savage assault on the civilian population of Donbass was in fact a response to invasion by its giant neighbour would've been legitimised. In turn, an all-out Western proxy war in eastern Ukraine, of the kind that erupted in February 2022, could've been precipitated. Which, it is increasingly clear, was the plan all along. ICG noted that Russian leaders were from the start publicly and privately sympathetic to Russian-speakers in Donbass. Nonetheless, they issued no "clear guidance" to businessmen, government advisers, or the domestic population on whether - and how - they would be officially supported by Moscow in their dispute with the Maidan government. Hence, many Russian irregulars, encouraged by "what they regarded as the government's tacit approval, made their way to Ukraine." It was only after the conflict started that the Russian government formalised a relationship with the Donbass rebels, although the Kremlin quickly changed tack on what they should do. ICG records how a Ukrainian fighter "began hearing calls for restraint in rebel efforts to take control of eastern Ukrainian towns and cities" in late April 2014. However, "the separatist movement in Donbass was determined to move ahead." Due to this lack of control, and repeated calls for direct intervention in the conflict from the rebels, Russia replaced the Donetsk and Lugansk rebel leadership with hand-picked figures, who took an explicitly defensive posture. But the Kremlin was ultimately "beholden" to the breakaway republics, not vice versa. It could not even reliably order the rebels to stop fighting. A Lugansk paramilitary told ICG: "What do you do with 40,000 people who believe that, once they put down their arms, they will all be shot or arrested? Of course, they are going to fight to the death.

Will election-wary Iranians choose an ethnic Turk as the next president?

Ata Şahit

This theory, also known as the Theory of Absolute Velayat-e Faqih, posits that political authority should reside with religious scholars, who are regarded as the spiritual successors of the Imams. In Imami Shi'ism, belief in the imamate is one of the tundamental pillars of faith. This belief encompasses the notion that the position of the imamate, much like prophethood, is divinely decreed and sanctioned. Hardline conservatives, on the other hand, endorse the Tafqiqi School theory. In other words, Saeed Jalili politically represents the Paydari Front and ideologically aligns with the Tafqiqi School. The Turkic ethnic group constitutes a significant portion of Iran's population

REFORMIST with Turkic roots and a hardline conservative will face off in the run-off presidential elections in Iran, with the initial round of voting failing to throw up a clear winner. Elections in the Shia-majority country were necessitated following the death of the then-incumbent president EbrahimRaisi in a helicopter crash on May 19. On July 5, Iranians will head to the polling booths to choose between reformist MasoudPezeshkian and conservative Saeed Jalili - barely a few days after the country saw a record-low turnout that didn't even reach 40 percent. With the country witnessing seismic shifts, the first question that begs an answer is: what implications do the results of the first round of voting hold for Iranian politics? Iran's political system aims to synthesise Shia interpretation of Islamic law and populism, emphasising both divine legitimacy and popular support. The component of Iran's political system is embodied in the Velayat-e Faqih interpretation of the Usuli school of Twelver Shiism. The theory of Velayat-e Faqih, articulated by Khomeini during his exile in Najaf, emerged as a cornerstone of Iran's founding principles following the 1979 revolution.

This theory catalysed a profound transformation in the political ideology of Twelver Shiism. While the term Velayat-e Faqih fundamentally denotes the juridical authority of the faqih within a political framework, it also encompasses the governance authority of the faqih, as well as his role as the head of state. In contrast, the populist component is reflected in the elections for institutions such as the presidency, parliament, and the Assembly of Experts. In Iran's revolutionary discourse, voter turnout in elections is presented as a metric of state legitimacy. Indeed, Iranian officials, including the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, utilise the election participation rate to affirm the legitimacy of the republic's political system. In a speech on June 24, Khamenei emphasised the significance of high voter turnout in the presidential elections, asserting that substantial participation would enhance the honour of Iran. However, the firstround election results indicate that Khamenei's aspiration for a high turnout has not been substantially realised. The Iranian Interior Ministry reported that the turnout rate in the first round was 39.96 percent nationwide, with capital Tehran recording one of the lowest turnout rates at 23 percent. This means that 60 percent of voters boycotted the elections, suggesting that the issue of state legitimacy in Iran persists.

The second significant outcome of the first round of the Iranian presidential elections was the elimination of moderate conservatives and the preference for a hardline candidate by the conservative base.

In the first round, Mohammad BagherGhalibaf represented the moderate conservatives, whereas Saeed Jalili represented the radical conservatives. According to the Iranian Interior Ministry's announcement of the election results, reformist candidate MasoudPezeshkian advanced to the second round with 10,415,991 votes, while the radical conservative candidate Saeed Jalili received 9,473,298 votes. Of these two political ideologies, the Front of Islamic Revolution Stability represents radical conservatism in Iranian politics. It comprises followers of Muhammad TaqiMisbahYazdi, one of Iran's most hardline Shia clerics over the past forty years. Also known as "Shia Evangelicals", its members are purportedly part of the Hojjatiyeh Community, one of the most clandestine groups in the history of the country. They have been consistently denounced by moderate conservatives and reformists as Salafist Shias and the Iranian Taliban. In Iran's revolutionary ideology, conservatives represent the Intisab (appointment) theory of the Velayat-e Faqih interpretation within the Usuli school of Twelver Shiism, while reformists advocate for the election theory of the same interpretation.

This theory, also known as the Theory of Absolute Velayat-e Faqih, posits that political authority should reside with religious scholars, who are regarded as the spiritual successors of the Imams. In Imami Shi'ism, belief in the imamate is one of the fundamental pillars of faith. This belief encompasses the notion that the position of the imamate, much like prophethood, is divinely decreed and sanctioned. Hardline conservatives, on the other hand, endorse the Tafqiqi School theory. In other words, Saeed Jalili politically represents the Paydari Front and ideologically aligns with the Tafqiqi School. The Turkic ethnic group constitutes a significant portion of Iran's population. According to the Strategic Geography of Iran, published by the Geographical Organization of the Iranian General Staff in 2014, the Persian ethnic group constitutes less than half of Iran's population. More than half of the population comprises non-Persian or non-Persian-speaking ethnic groups, with the Turkic ethnic group being the second-largest after the Persian ethnic group. During his visit to Türkiye in 2014, former Iranian foreign minister Ali Akbar Salehi stated that "40 percent of Iran's population is Turk". He highlighted that at least 30 million Turks reside in Iran, saying this demographic figure is a significant factor and can potentially enhance relations between the two countries. An analysis of the debates and campaigns in the first round of the Iranian presidential elections reveals that, for the first time, the issue of Turkic identity in Iran has prominently featured in the general elections. This prominence can be attributed largely to reformist candidate MasoudPezeshkian's Turkic heritage and his emphasis on the demands of the Turkic ethnic group. According to the first-round results, MasoudPezeshkian's focus resonated in regions with dense Turkic populations, where he secured the top position, significantly distancing himself from the runner-up.

MasoudPezeshkian's support base is not confined to

Azerbaijani Turks in northwest Iran but also includes a substantial following among the Qashqai Turks in central Iran. Sunnis form a significant portion of Iran's population. According to claims by their leaders, Sunnis comprise 20 percent of the population. This Sunni population is primarily concentrated in the northwest and northeast of Iran, particularly in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan. Iranian Sunnis allege that they face discrimination and are deprived of many basic rights and freedoms in a country where the official sect is Twelver Shiism. During campaigning, Pezeshkian consistently denounced this discrimination against Sunnis and publicly protested against their unfair treatment by the Tehran government on state television. This stance garnered attention from Iranian Sunnis, leading some Sunni activists to declare their support for Pezeshkian. This support was evident in the election results, where Pezeshkian secured first place in Sistan and Baluchestan province with 443,226 votes. In summary, Saeed Jalili led in regions with dense Persian populations, while MasoudPezeshkian prevailed in areas predominantly inhabited by minorities. On June 28, 60 percent of voters abstained from casting ballots in the elections to elect Iran's ninth president, indicating that the boycott movement has substantial social support. Conversely, over 10 million voters supported reformist candidate Pezeshkian, signalling their dissatisfaction with the status quo and the urgent need for reforms in the country. Given that every election in Iran over the past forty years has precipitated significant political shifts, the country appears to be on the brink of another major transformation. And July 5 could mark a new beginning for Iran and Iranians

Electoral turmoil in US and France threatens twilight of the West

Baria Alamuddin

The blustering Trump and stumbling Biden in the latest presidential debate did more to discredit Western democracy than Moscow, Tehran or Beijing could ever hope to - a debate so disastrous that many Biden allies are pleading for him to withdraw. If Biden were to step down he would be remembered as a leader who put his nation first: staying and losing would entail historical ignominy as a disastrous president who imperilled US democracy for his own ego. In another highly significant election contest, "reformist" candidate Masoud Pezeshkian...

VER the past few days in France I have spoken to many people who profoundly fear for the future of Western democracy. Influential cultural figures and intellectuals spoke eloquently about their trepidation over France's very identity amid the malign rise of extremes. Second-generation citizens worry that their European nationality could come under threat. Everyone I spoke to was determined to make their votes count.

President Emmanuel Macron warned that France risked being plunged into civil war if either of his "extreme" opponents won a parliamentary majority. The far-right National Rally looks set to emerge as parliament's largest party after next week's second round of high-risk snap elections called by Macron after the right's dominant performance in the European Parliament elections. The left-wing New Popular Front also looks set to perform strongly, auguring an implosion of Macron's centrist Ensemble alliance.

As one French academic put it, if Macron's snap elections gamble pays off, "he'll go down as a brilliant strategist." If not, he'll "go down in history as somebody who essentially exploded the traditional party system in France and ... took a grenade to the institutions of the Fifth Republic." Far-right leader Marine Le Pen threatened to reduce France's support for Ukraine and Macron's ability to control defense policy. While Macron has been one of Ukraine's fiercest supporters in Europe, Le Pen has a long record of flirtation with Putin. Macron accused her of being on the Kremlin's payroll. Financial markets have been spooked at outlandish economic proposals by both left and right, and the campaign has been distinguished by rabid antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and anti-immigrant incitement. Whether the outcome is far-right or far-left government, or a hung parliament, few doubt that France – a keystone state of the EU – is hurtling toward a new phase of dysfunction and polarization. Few European nations have not been rocked by extreme-right ascendancy. Populist-right leaders in Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic launched the "Patriots for Europe" parliamentary bloc, with an anti-immigrant, anti-Europe-an integration and anti-Ukraine agenda. Britain is a rare nation bucking this trend, with the election on Thursday set to deliver in a center-left majority.

Ahead of NATO's 75th anniversary summit in Washington, nervous Europeans are gazing across the Atlantic with increasing certainty that Donald Trump is returning to the presidency. Why worry? Because a Trump presidency would spell disaster for Ukraine, given his unabashed affinity for Putin. Trump's notorious ambivalence to democratic governance norms would furthermore offer succor to autocrats and fascists worldwide. We may be aghast at the Biden administration's handling of the Gaza conflict, but at least Israel has been gently pressed to allow some aid in. Is there anybody who believes that Trump would lose any sleep if Palestinians were left to starve, or were expelled from their homeland altogether?

During his first presidency Trump's worst impulses were constrained by heavy-hitting ministerial appointments, and even famously hawkish figures such as John Bolton curbed potentially disastrous policy lurches. It was Trump, before Biden, who ordered a rapid withdrawal from Afghanistan, while seeking to end other American overseas commitments. In the incoming Trump presidency, those appointed would be MAGA yes-men. NATO nations fear the alliance may not survive a further term of Trump unleashed.

The blustering Trump and stumbling Biden in the latest presidential debate did more to discredit Western democracy than Moscow, Tehran or Beijing could ever hope to — a debate so disastrous that many Biden allies are pleading for him to withdraw. If Biden were to step down he would be remembered as a leader who put his nation first: staying and losing would entail historical ignominy as a disastrous president who imperilled US democracy for his own ego. In another highly significant election contest, "re-

formist" candidate MasoudPezeshkian will go up against hardliner Saeed Jalili in the second Iranian presidential election round. Perhaps the decision has been made that an unthreatening candidate — a cardiac surgeon indeed — is less likely to put Tehran in the US's crosshairs, given the possibility of an impulsive Trump holding the nuclear trigger. The regime's escalatory language nevertheless persists, with Iran's UN mission last week warning of "an obliterating war" if Israel embarked on "military aggression" in Lebanon. "A regime that threatens destruction deserves to be destroyed," Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz retorted, in no less provocative language.

Macron has warned of the dangers for Europe of an "unreliable America" under Trump's sway; calling for a "more independent, more sovereign Europe able to defend itself and survive against all threats." However, at the moment when a new Trump presidency looks imminent, the National Rally's surge threatens to cut away Macron's powers to push for European military integration. Nearly 200 French diplomats made a public appeal that "our adversaries will view the victory of the extreme right as a weakening of France" and encouragement "to aggression against Europe." As the French cornerstone of the EU and NATO faces collapse, with Germany also grappling with economic weakness and an ascendant far right, and with Britain having already quit the EU altogether, European freedoms and democracy have scarcely ever looked in more peril. Macron warned this year: "Our Europe is mortal ... it can die, and whether it does depends entirely on our choices.

My recent days in Europe served as a reminder that, compared with the US, this is a highly educated, cosmopolitan and cultured continent, populated by sizable demographics who are well aware of the menace posed by all-pervasive xenophobic right-wing autocracy. No less than the future of the Western world is at stake as progressive and freedom loving people embark on this decisive fight to protect their cherished way of life.



Briefs

Shehbaz calls for enhancing...

From Page 01 understanding between the two countries. He stressed Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan can promote trade by road and mentioned the fields of agriculture, health, education and investment where ties will be cemented. These states have been hit by terrorism, he said adding that terrorism has cost thousands of lives and billions of dollars. He heaped praise on Tasjisktan for giving him a warm welcome.

Pakistan reminds world of...

From Page 01 three pillars: the responsibility of each State to protect its populations; the responsibility of the international community to assist States in protecting their populations; and the responsibility of the international community to protect when a State is manifestly failing to protect its populations.) Pakistan, Ambassador Akram added, urges the UN's Special Advisor on the 'Responsibility to Protect' to take cognizance of the grave situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and within India.

ECP misinterpreted SC verdict...

From Page 01 Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice ShahidWaheed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan. During the hearing today, Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman argued that independent candidates are considered to be a part of a political party if they join it. "The question is whether independent candidates can ioin the SIC under Article 51? the AGP said.

Political instability pushes...

From Page 01 He said the budget announced by the federal government is not public Criticizing the Commission of Election Pakistan (ECP), he said the commission has failed to perform its constitutional duties. He said we are worried about the case which is being dragged out. The last general elections are being criticized globally. A UN report reads it will be made a case study, he claimed. ShibliFaraz said the economy of Pakistan is deteriorating owing to the unfair elections.

Imran alleges agency's...

From Page 01 thorough research before approving this resolution" He cited reports from PIL-DAT and FAFEN confirming electoral fraud, alleging that the chief election commissioner was appointed to cover up these irregularities. "The entire country says it was a fraudulent election," Imran stated. "The world is echoing what the commissioner of Rawalpindi and former Prime Minister Kakar told Hani-fAbbasi." He claimed that retired judges are being appointed to tribunals to secure favourable decisions.

Abbasi demands...

From Page 01 and the burden would fall on the people. He said that if the government starts taxing its exports it will be difficult to do export. Abbasi said that the institutions that are harming the country should be closed. The people are being robbed, the government has not made any monetary policy. The former PM said that the government was also angry at my press conference yesterday, the government has increased its expenses by 25% by putting a burden of Rs 4000 billion on the people.

Portugal beat Slovenia on penalties to qualify for Euro

Ronaldo missed a penalty in extra time and then scored in a 3-0 shootout win

SPORTS DESK

FRANKFURT: Portugal secured its spot in the UEFA Euro Championship 2024 on Monday, July 1, after defeating Slovenia on penalties. No one does high drama in international soccer to such an operatic extent as Cristiano Ronaldo.Portugal is heading to a blockbuster quarterfinal with France at the European Championship after its star captain generated compelling viewing on center stage of the victory over Slovenia on Monday. Winning a penalty shootout 3-0 after a 0-0 game against the 57th-ranked team in world soccer might not sound much. But there were tears, lots of them, from Ronaldo; an apology in prayer-form to his fans, who responded with adulation; extravagant arm gestures of anger, frustration and exasperation; chances wasted and denied to make more tournament history; a renewed duel with an old rival goalkeeper; and ultimately redemption and victory. Ronaldo's mother was in the stadium and TV pictures showed her crying, too, after he missed his penalty. "Sometimes it's hard and difficult to score penalties," Ronaldo told Portuguese broadcaster RTP after the match, getting emotional again. "I've scored more than 200 penalties in my career. Sometimes it's a "We showed the enthusiasm that we still have to play, to have fun, to give joy to the

fans and that's it, this is our life," he said after

it was all over, close to midnight in Frankfurt.

The moment when he surely had to become

the oldest player ever to score at a Euros

finals tournament came in the first period



of extra time, the 105th minute, after missing five or six of the kind of chances he has thrived on now for 20 years at this level. Portugal had been awarded a penalty kick and Ronaldo stepped up to take what could have been the decisive goal.

Instead, Slovenia goalkeeper Jan Oblak, a long-time adversary from their time playing Spanish league soccer in Madrid, dived left to push aside the well-struck shot against a post and away to safety. Tears welled in Ronaldo's eyes and soon flowed during the break before the second period of extra time

began. Teammates consoled him, kissed his forehead and urged him to keep going. Extra time also finished 0-0 and when the penalty shootout started, Slovenia's first kick was saved by Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa. Up stepped Ronaldo, facing a massed stand of about 10,000 Portugal fans. He placed it perfectly low beyond Oblak diving to his right. Ronaldo looked apologetically to the fans and put his hands together as if in prayer. The fans responded with a bellowing and forgiving shout of "Siuuuu" - their soccer icon's trademark goal scream.

"I was certain that he had to be the first penalty taker and show us the way to victory," Portugal coach Roberto Martinez said. "Life gives you difficult moments and the way he reacted makes us very proud."

Costa answered the rest of those fans' prayers with as good a penalty shootout as any goalkeeper could have. He saved all three of Slovenia's kicks from Josip Ilicic, Jure Balkovec and Benjamin Verbič. Then he was in tears, too. "I was sad and now I'm overioved. This is what football gives you," Ronaldo said in translated comments in a post-game interview. "You cannot explain it." Portugal will face France in the quarterfinals on Friday in Hamburg, a rematch of the 2016 final that Portugal won in Paris after Ronaldo went off injured early.

"We all know that Cris is the hardest worker. I understand how frustrated he is," Costa said. "For me, it's an honor to play on the same team." The personal duel between Ronaldo and Oblak had been memorable merely in regulation time. It was an intensely frustrating first 90 minutes for Ronaldo with three free kicks, two mistimed jumps for headers and a golden chance to score with his first clear shot in open play. That was in the 89th, when he ran clear on goal with the ball passed perfectly into his stride. The left-foot shot was low and powerful but Oblak's block was better. The best of Ronaldo's free kicks was a powerful line drive right at Oblak in the 55th that the tall goalkeeper squatted to push away with strong hands. The intense drama for the Portugal superstar almost overwhelmed the troubled evening for Slovenia's emerging star.

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has granted

no-objection certificates (NOCs) to 12 cricketers, allowing

them to participate in various international leagues and

tournaments. This decision enables players to showcase

their talents globally while adhering to PCB's policies. Mys-

tery spinner Abrar Ahmed will compete in Major League

Cricket from July 4 to July 28, while Fakhar Zaman will join

the Caribbean Premier League, spanning from August 29 to

October 6. Pacer Haris Rauf is set to play in Major League

Cricket from July 5 to July 28, and Mohammad Amir will

represent County Cricket from July 4 to July 20. Additional-

ly, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Hasnain (a non-centrally

contracted player), Salman Ali Agha, and Shadab Khan will

all participate in the Lanka Premier League from July 1 to

July 21. Sharjeel Khan and Sohaib Maqsood are slated for

the World Championship of Legends, scheduled from

July 3 to July 13. Usama Mir will compete in The

28. However.

Azam Khan and

Saim Ayub could not

are part of the Guyana

coming CPL 2024.

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Imran's detention 'internal...

From Page 01 as an independent state, isting laws are enforced by the courts in Pakistan. The minister further said that the relief granted to the PTI founder in several cases is a manifestation of a transparent and fair trial judicial system. "Any demand beyond the Constitution, law, and international principles will be called discriminatory, biased and against justice," Tararemphasised. On Monday, the Geneva-based UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in an opinion said that the jailed politician should be "released immediately".

US asks **Pakistan** to respect...

From Page 01 human rights. Addressing a press briefing on Monday, Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said the US officials, whether that be Department of State Secretary Antony Blinken, Assistant Secretary Donald Lu or Ambassador Donald Blome, have consistently and privately and publicly urged Pakistan to respect the rights of its people in line with its constitution and international commitments.

Afghan Taliban, Pakistan...

From Page 01 diplomats, including Pakistan's Special Representative on Afghanistan Asif Durrani and the country's Deputy Head of Mission in Kabul Ubaid Ur Rehman-Nizamani. Durrani posted photos of the occasion on X (formerly Twitter) while welcoming and hosting the Taliban representatives where they discussed developments at the "Doha-III conference, bilateral and regional issues". The Pakistani envoy to Qatar also reacted to the recent meeting on X, saying: "Very delighted to have hosted tonight the AIG [Afghanistan interim government] and Pakistan delegations attending the Doha-III [conference].'

Justice Aalia becomes first woman

Shahzad Ahmad Khan and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan to the Supreme Court. After Justice Shahzad's elevation, Justice Shujaat Ali Khan had been appointed as the acting CJ for the high court by President Asif Ali Zardari under Article 196. Meanwhile, Justice Shafi Muhammad Siddiqui was also unanimously nominated for post of Sindh High Court (SHC) top judge. The slot was vacated after former SHC CJ Aqeel Ahmed Abbasi's elevation as a top court judge with Justice Shahzad and Justice

Pak's trade deficit rises

From Page 01

to the previous year. On the import front, Pakistan brought in goods valued at \$54.73 billion, resulting in a national trade deficit that reaching \$4.9 billion.



CJ of LHC

FROM PAGE 01 former LHC CJ Malik Shahid earlier this month.

domestic exports compared



PCB grants NOCs Rizwan favours surgery in to 12 Pakistani cricket team after WC debacle cricketers

Rizwan says Mohsin Naqvi has privilege to making decisions

DNA



Kohli should not be

compared to anyone:

Ahmed Shehzad

LAHORE: Pakistan's right-handed batter Ahmed Shehzad

spoke in favour of India's Virat Kohli saying that no one in

the world of cricket should be compared to him as he is a

legend of this generation. Kohli, 35, did not have a great T20

World Cup 2024 but stepped up in the final and played a

match-winning knock of 76 runs on 59 balls and was even-

tually named the Player of the Match. Shehzad expressed

that India would not have ended their ICC trophy drought

and won the T20 World Cup without Kohli's innings in the

final. "Virat Kohli is a legend of our generation. Every time

he stepped on the field, he played the game with the same

enthusiasm. Even in his last T20I, Virat was celebrating at

long-on and long-off whenever a wicket fell. He did not score

runs in the entire T20 World Cup, but when things are writ-

ten in your destiny, you will get them," Shehzad said during

a media talk in Dubai. The Pakistani batter then added that

Kohli stood tall on the pitch when other batters failed. He

then wished good luck to the Indian cricket team in replac-

ing Kohli before adding that the 35-year-old should not be

compared with any player. "He scored runs in the final when

nobody else stood up with the bat. India would never have

won the T20 World Cup final without Virat Kohli's innings.

He is leaving a great legacy in the T20Is. Good luck to In-

dian Cricket trying to fill his massive shoes. No one should

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan has accepted the criticism that the national team is facing after their early exit from the T20 World Cup 2024. Pakistan failed to qualify for Super 8 of the recently-concluded event after suffering defeats against India and the United States. "The criticism team is facing is justified and we deserve this since we didn't perform in accordance with expectations. Players who can't face criticism won't be able to succeed," Rizwan said while talking to media in Peshawar. Rizwan also said that Pakistan team were disappointed with their performance in the T20 World Cup.

We are disappointed with our performance in T20 World Cup. There are multiple reasons behind our losses. When a team loses, one can't say that bowling and batting is doing well," he said. The top-order batter also spoke about the surgery in Pakistan cricket which was suggested by PCB Chairman Mohsin Nagyi.

"Operations are a normal thing. When a person is ill, operation is necessary," he said. "PCB Chairman is a hard-working person. The decision about who will remain in the team and who will not is the chairman's right," Rizwan concluded. It must be noted that India won the T20 World Cup 2024 by beating South Africa in the final by seven runs on Saturday in Barbados. 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 next edition of the T20 World Cup will be held in 2026 in India and Sri Lanka.

Hundred, scheduled from July 23 to August 20, and Zaman Khan will join Major League Cricket from July 4 to July er-batsman opening batsman obtain NOCs as they Warriors for the up-Azam also recent-

Lanka Pre-

(LPL) in ad-

the PCB's poli-

NOCs to players

tion in a max-

leagues annu-

Andy Murray pulls out of Wimbledon singles



hammad Hasnain beat compatriot Ahsan Ramzan 4-3 in the final of the Asian U21 Snooker Championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday. Ramzan was the defending champion after winning the trophy in Iran last year. Earlier, Hasnain defeated Shawn Lee of Hong Kong in the last four clash. The semi-final, which consisted of best-of-seven frames, saw Akhtar emerge victorious with a score of 4-1. Hassan's victory came with scores of 54-64, 21-59, 61-15, 10-86, and 35-63 Hasnain had also defeated Ranveer Duggal of India 4-3 in the quarters. Hasnain also remained undefeated during the group stage of the tour compare Babar Azam or any other cricketer to him." - DNA | nament. - Agencies

Hasnain wins

Asian U21

Snooker

PARIS: Andy Murray withdrew from the singles competition in what will be his final Wimbledon, the 37-year-old's manage-

ment team confirmed on Tuesday. The two-time Wimbledon winner will play in the doubles with his brother Jamie. Murray was forced to undergo surgery recently to remove a spinal cyst which was compressing his nerves which affected his right leg. "Unfortunately, despite working incredibly hard on his recovery since his operation just over a week ago, Andy has taken the very difficult decision not to play the singles this year," Murray's team said. "As you can imagine, he is extremely disappointed but has confirmed that he will be playing in the doubles with Jamie and looks forward to competing at Wimbledon for the last time." He was set to lock horns with Czech Tomas Machac in

the singles on Tuesday. Murray, who in 2013 ended a 77-year wait for a British men's singles champion at Wimbledon and won the title again in 2016, had previously said he was unlikely to continue his career beyond this year and could bow out at the Olympics in Paris. The tennis competition at the Olympics begins on July 27. Following a victory over Alexei Popyrin at the Queen's Club Championships in his 1,000th tour-level singles match, Murray withdraw due to the injury while trailing 4-1 in the first set of his second-round match against Jordan Thompson. The issue was aggravated after Murray's participation in the French Open last month, leaving the former world number one in a race to be fit for Wimbledon, where he has won two of his three Grand Slam titles. Murray had revived his career after having hip-resurfacing surgery in 2019 but has struggled to make the latter stages of the leading tournaments and recently had to deal with an ankle injury sustained at the Miami Open in March. - Agencies

Babar under fire for poor captaincy during T20 WC

Former captain Shahid Afridi urges grassroots reforms, criticises leadership after dismal T20 WC Our product is weak at the

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Pa-

kistan captain Shahid Afridi

didn't mince words when discussing the Pakistan cricket team's disappointing performance in the T20 World Cup, jointly hosted by the USA and West Indies. In a recent media interaction, Afridi placed significant emphasis on the role of leadership, particularly scrutinising skipper Babar Azam's influence on the team's demeanour and results throughout the tournament. He referenced Indian captain Rohit Sharma, who recently led his team to victory over South Africa, securing their second

T20 World Cup title. "Look, the role of a leader is always very important. The body language of the leader becomes the body language of the team. The leader has to set an example. Take Rohit Sharma as an example.

Now, look at his game and his style of playing; the lower-order batsmen who come in are all confident because the captain likes to play aggressive and attacking cricket. So, I always believe that the role of the captain is very important," Afridi said. While expressing his con-

tinued support for Pakistan cricket, the former all-rounder stressed the need for reforms at the grassroots level. "I am always available for Pakistan cricket, but at the grassroots level, there is no need for me with the Pakistan team. Whatever is needed is at the grassroots level," he said. In response to questions about the team's performance, Afridi stated: "Overall, if

good, you wouldn't be ask-

ing this question. Let's see

what the chairman has said

about making major chang-

the performance had been

changes shouldn't just be superficial. The real issue lies at the grassroots level of our cricket, which many cricketers often talk about.

es to the team. I am also

waiting to see what these

changes will be, and you

are too. A positive decision

needs to be made, and the

grassroots level, and if we invest there, good players will emerge. The real changes needed are at the grassroots level.' "There is talent; it just needs a bit of grooming.

Cricket has changed now, and vou have to develop your skills. We need coaches who can change the mindset at the grassroots level. Why do players start learning everything only when they join the Pakistan team? These things should be taught at the Under-19 level, including what coaching should be, what to eat, and how to train. The Pakistan team is a place for performance," he added.

Addressing governance issues within the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the former captain advocated

I think the chairman should not even be involved in announcing the captain. All these decisions should be made by the selection committee, which should be strong enough not to change decisions based on anyone's influence," he concluded

for structural changes in

the selection and adminis-

"There should be a proper

board. I would never say

that the chief executive of

the board should be the

Prime Minister; it abso-

lutely should not be. There

should be a separate board

that makes the selections.

The chairman should have

good relationships with other boards and schedule

selection committee should

have no involvement.

trative processes.

Austria vs Turkiye Red Bull Arena (12:00am)



Briefs

Myanmar conscription exiles struggle in **Thailand**

CHIANG MAI: When My

anmar's junta announced

a conscription law to help crush a popular pro-democracy uprising, Khaing knew there was only one way to escape its clutches, and began planning her escape. Weeks later the former teacher was hidden in a smuggler's van heading into Thailand with little more than some clothes, cash and an ID card, not knowing when she would be able to return. Now scraping a living in Bangkok without papers, Khaing worries constantly about a tap on the shoulder by Thai police and deportation back to the junta. She is one of tens of thousands of young people rights groups estimate have fled Myanmar since the military introduced conscription in February to shore up its depleted ranks. The junta is battling widespread armed opposition to its 2021 coup and its soldiers are accused of bloody ramapages and using air and artillery strikes to punish civilian communities. It says it wants to enlist 5,000 people aged between 18-35 a month, but details on how they will be chosen, and where and how they will serve are vague Media reports of young men being dragged off the streets and into the army - which the mil-

Sudan's civil war 'keeps following' those who flee

itary denies - have further

added to the panic. -APP

KHARTOUM: Sudanese mother of four Hoda Ahmed has been running with her family for over a year. But every time she tries to outrun the war between Sudan's army and paramilitary forces, it catches up to her. She had only just arrived at Sinja, the capital of the southeastern state of Sennar - having already fled fighting further north when the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces on Saturday descended upon the city. Within hours, they had claimed Sinja's military base, setting up checkpoints throughout the city, while the military's fighter jets flew in overhead. As with countless times before, the fighting has sent thousands of families fleeing, including Ahmed's. "This is our fourth time fleeing, and the war keeps following us," she said over the phone through tears. The first exodus was from Khartoum, when the forces of rival generals – army

chief Abdel Fattah al Burhan and his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo - turned their guns on each other in April 2023. Nabil Ahmed (no relation to Hoda) said that he and his family "went to Wad Madani first in Al Jazira, until the RSF took it". Fourteen months into the devastating civil war, they have found themselves embarking on their third at-

tempt to find safety. Turkish forces eliminate 13 PKK/YPG

ANKARA: Türkiye has eliminated 13 members of the PKK/YPG terror group in northern Iraq and Syria, the Defense Ministry said Tuesday. "The Turkish Armed Forces eliminated 10 PKK terrorists detected in the Operation Claw and Operation Claw-Lock zones in northern Iraq and 3 PKK/YPG terrorists in northern Syria and (Operation) Olive Branch zones, the ministry said on X. The PKK - listed as a terrorist organization by Türkiye, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union - is responsible for over 40,000 civilian and security personnel deaths in Türkiye during an almost four-decadelong campaign of terror. Since the 1980s, Türkive has been carrying out operations both in the country and beyond its borders, including in Iraq and Syria, to root out the terrorist group. The crackdown escalated thanks to a stronger army and advancing defense technology, as well as the expanding work of the intelligence

Orban urges Ukraine ceasefire for peace talks

Hungarian PM Viktor Orban urged Kyiv to work towards a "quick ceasefire" in Ukraine that could pave the way for negotiations with Russia

News Desk

KYIV: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban visited Kyiv Tuesday, a day after he took over the EU's rotating presidency. A vocal critic of the EU's support for Ukraine, Orban urged President Volodymyr Zelensky to consider a ceasefire to accelerate an end to the war with Russia. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban urged Kyiv on Tuesday to work towards a "quick ceasefire" in Ukraine that could pave the way for negotiations with Russia to end more than two years of war. Orban issued the appeal standing next to President Volodymyr Zelensky during a surprise visit to Ukraine, the first by the vocal critic of Western support for Kyiv. "I asked the president to consider whether... a quick ceasefire could speed up the peace talks," the Hungarian leader told reporters with Zelensky, adding that the ceasefire he envisions would be "time-limited". Unlike many other European leaders, Orban had not visited Kviv since Russia invaded in February 2022 and has publicly hit out at Europe's financial and military aid, temporarily blocking

a 50-billion-euro (\$53-billion) aid package for weeks. The nationalist leader has also blasted the EU's move to open formal membership talks with Kyiv - though he abstained rather than vetoing it - and has been accused of maintaining warm relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Orban, in power since 2010, met with Putin in October 2023 at a regional summit in Beijing, becoming the first EU leader to do so since the start of the war. Hungary openly opposes sanctions on Russia, though has so far only sought to hold up the EU's measures, not outright block them. The Kremlin said earlier Tuesday it expected little to come of the visit but described Orban as a "tough" politician who keenly defended his country's interests. The visit to Ukraine comes the day after Hungary took over the EU's rotating presidency for the next six months, a position which gives the central European state sway over the bloc's agenda and priorities for the rest of the year. Orban said he would report on his talks with Zelensky to EU prime ministers "so that the necessary European decisions can be taken." Zelensky said the timing of



the visit, after Hungary took over EU presidency, was symbolic. "This is a clear indication of our common European priorities, of how important it is to bring a just peace to Ukraine," he said, urging European countries to maintain military support. Despite sharing a border with Ukraine, Hungarv has also taken in significantly fewer refugees than most EU

members. Orban's visit came as Russian forces killed one person and wounded seven more in the southern Kherson region, which is partially occupied. Moscow has claimed the capture of a string of villages in eastern Ukraine in recent weeks. Historic tensions elations have been frosty between Orban and Zelensky since the start of the war. After winning

re-election in April 2022, Orban said the Ukrainian leader was an 'opponent" that he had managed to defeat in the campaign. Zelensky had personally called out Orban for his lack of support to Kyiv in the days after Russia invaded a position that has only appeared to harden with the war now in its third year. In December, Zelensky sought

out the Hungarian leader at the inauguration of Argentine President Javier Milei for what he called a "frank" conversation. Videos circulated online showing the pair locked in a tense exchange, with Orban standing with his back to the wall and Zelensky in front of him. The pair were again filmed in a short, animated exchange, last week on the sidelines of an EU Council meeting in Brussels. Hungary wields outsize influence over the West's support for Ukraine given its membership of both the EU and NATO. That gives it the ability to thwart, delay, water down or outright block initiatives and funding to support Kyiv. After a phone call in May, Zelensky said: "Hungary's position is important to us when it comes to bringing peace and common regional security closer.

2023 cyclone Freddy longest on record

GENEVA: Cyclone Freddy, which crossed the entire southern Indian Ocean before wreaking devastation on southeastern Africa last vear, was the longest-lasting tropical cyclone ever recorded at 36 days, the UN confirmed Tuesday. A panel of experts has been poring over the data surrounding the storm since its remarkable journey in February and March last year. The United Nations' weather and climate agency concluded it had indeed broken the previous record. The extreme weather evaluation committee "recognised Tropical Cyclone Freddy's duration of 36.0 days at tropical storm status or higher as the new world record for the longest tropical cyclone duration", the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in a statement. Freddy therefore overtakes Tropical Cyclone John, which barrelled across the north Pacific Ocean in 1994 and held tropical storm status or higher for a combined duration of 714 hours, or 29.75 days. However, John remains the tropical storm which travelled the furthest distance, covering 13,159 kilometres (8,176.6 miles), while Freddy travelled 12,785 kilometres.–**DNA**

Eurozone inflation eases slightly

zone's annual rate of inflation cooled in June in line es, official data showed on registered in April Econoflation, which strips out voland tobacco prices and is a was unchanged at 2.9 perstreak of interest rate hikes.

in June BRUSSELS: The euro-

with analysts' expectations thanks to a slowdown in food and energy price ris-Tuesday. The European Central Bank will welcome the slowdown in inflation again but the rate has remained stubbornly above the Frankfurt-based body's two-percent target. Consumer price increases in the single currency area stood at 2.5 percent in June, down from a 2.6-percent rate in May, the EU's statistics agency said. The May reading had been higher than expected, ticking above the 2.4 percent rate mists surveyed by FactSet and Bloomberg had forecast that inflation would ease to 2.5 percent in June. Core inatile energy, food, alcohol key indicator for the bank, cent in June. Experts had expected it to cool to 2.8 percent. Inflation has slowly come down since reaching a 10.6-percent peak in October 2022 following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, which forced the ECB to launch an unprecedented The ECB cut interest rates for the first time since 2019 on June 6.-Agencies

Turkiye's summer Quran courses start with various activities

ANKARA: Summer Quran

courses have started across Türkiye, marking the beginning of religious education coupled with enriching activities for children during the school holidays. This year, the courses started on July 1, 2024, aiming not only to teach the Quran but also to impart essential religious knowledge and offer other engaging activities. During the opening ceremony of the summer Quran courses at Atakum Art Center in Samsun northern Türkiye, Presidency of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) head Ali Erbaş announced that the courses will commence across 81 provinces, 922 districts, 90,000 mosques and approximately 30,000 Quran courses. Sedide Akbulut, from Türkiye's Diyanet, highlighted that besides Quranic studies, the courses include diverse activities such as sports training, kitchen workshops, art sessions and even swimming lessons. These initiatives are designed to provide a holistic learning experience for over 2.4 million students, surpassing last year's participation numbers. "It should not be considered only as teaching the Quran. We will give basic religious information. The aims are to teach children how to perform ablution, instill the love of Allah and the prophet, to gain essential information.—APP

Talks to resume with US, says Venezuela's Maduro

WEB DESK

BOGOTA: Venezuel's government plans to resume negotiations with the US government this week, President Nicolas Maduro has announced, less than a month before a highly anticipated election. Maduro, who is seeking a third term, wants the US government to lift crippling economic sanctions that were imposed over the last decade. He characterised the dialogue as "urgent" during his weekly TV show on Monday. The Biden administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

have received the proposal during two continuous months from the United States government to rees-



tablish talks and direct dialogue," Maduro said. "After thinking about it for two months, I have accepted, and next Wednesday, talks will restart with the United States government to comply with the agreements signed in Qatar and to reestablish the terms of the urgent dialogue." Threat to reelection prospects Maduro's government had held parallel talks with the Biden administra-

Unitary Platform opposition coalition. But they were suspended as he reneged on promises, including to improve conditions ahead of the election, and his government accused the US of not fulfilling portions of agreements. Some negotiations with the US happened in Qatar. It was not immediately clear where the latest round of dialogue will take place. The July 28 election is shaping up to be the biggest challenge the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela has faced in its 25year dominance that began when the fiery Hugo Chavez

tion and with the US-backed

became president. Ten candidates, including Maduro, will be on the ballot. The only contender with a real chance of defeating the president is Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, who represents the opposition's Unitary Platform coalition. Last year, Maduro entered into an agreement with the opposition coalition to work toward improving conditions for a free and fair election. The rise of opposition leader Maria Corina Machado is also seen as a threat to his reelection prospects.

The US granted Maduro's government relief from sanctions on its state-run oil, gas and mining sectors after he entered into the agreement with the opposition. But the Biden administration ended the relief as Maduro's ruling party continued to use its control over government institutions to tilt the balance in his favour, including by blocking Machado's candidacy.

Australian politician suspended for supporting Palestinian state

Sydney: Australian ruling Labor Party Senator Fatima Payman said Monday that the prime minister's decision to indefinitely suspend her from the party's caucus had left her in "exile." Payman, who faced suspension after supporting a motion in parliament to recognize a Palestinian state, said she had lost all contact with her caucus colleagues, SBS News reported. She said she was excluded from caucus meetings, committees, internal caucus chats and whip bulletins. She has been instructed to avoid all parliamentary duties requiring a vote, including divisions, motions and matters of public interest. Payman said she believed some members were trying to intimidate her into resigning from the Senate. She said she decided to abstain from voting in the Senate for the rest of the week unless a "matter of conscience" arose. Labor factions would hold meetings on Monday ahead of Tuesday's caucus meeting, where harsher punishments, including Payman's possible expulsion, could be discussed, according to local media reports, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said last Wednesday that the ruling party had suspended Payman for supporting a motion in parliament to recognise a Palestinian state. On Monday, Albanese said Payman had "undermined" the collective position of the Labor Party. This followed her interview on Sunday in which Payman vowed to continue crossing the floor of parliament in support of Palestinian statehood. -APP

Haiti's gang violence has displaced 300,000 children

GENEVA: Gang violence in Haiti has displaced more than 300,000 children since March, the UN children's agency said Tuesday as the Caribbean country struggles to curb killings and kidnappings. Children are more than half of the nearly 580,000 people who have become homeless in the last four months. "The humanitarian catastrophe unfolding before our eyes is taking a devastating toll on children," Catherine Russell, UNICEF's executive director, said in a statement "Displaced children are in desperate need of a safe and protective environment, and increased support and funding from the international community." Gangs now control at least 80% of the capital Portau- Prince and the key roads leading in and out of it, with more than 2,500 people killed or injured across the country in the first three months of the year, according to the UN. Many children are living in makeshift shelters, including schools that are in poor hygienic conditions, placing them at risk of disease. School closures are also leading to a higher dropout rate. The agency said children in Haiti are being forced to join violent gangs to survive as they often lack access to food, health care, clean water and sanitation. Displaced children and teenagers in Haiti also face a higher risk of sexual assault, exploitation, abuse and family separation, according to UNICEF. The announcement comes days after hundreds of Kenyans arrived in Haiti to help rescue the country from the tight hold of armed gangs. The deployment received mixed reactions after a UN peacekeeping mission years ago introduced cholera in the country and was tainted with sexual allegations. On Monday, US Deputy National Security Advisor Jonathan Finer met with Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille to discuss the initial deployment of the UN-backed mission to Haiti.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Office of the Representatives of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus meets with Chairman CDA / Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa to discuss mutual cooperation and development initiatives.DNA

New Dutch PM sworn in with mission to curb asylum

Former spy chief Dick Schoof as new prime minister on Tuesday, at the head of a right-wing coalition cabinet with a mission to implement the "strictest-ever" immigration policy in the country

FOREIGN DESK

THE HUGE: Dutch King Willem-Alexander swore in former spy chief Dick Schoof as new prime minister on Tuesday, at the head of a right-wing coalition cabinet with a mission to implement the "strictest-ever" immigration policy in the country. Two hundred and twenty-three days after far-right leader Geert Wilders swept to an election victory that stunned Europe and the world, Schoof took over from Mark Rutte after 14 years in power. School presented his ministers to Willem-Alexander in the ornate "Oranjezaal" in the royal palace, who each stepped forward to swear allegiance to the king and the constitution. Wilders was forced

to shelve his own ambitions to

be prime minister to keep rocky coalition talks on track - some negotiation partners considered his anti-Muslim and eurosceptic statements too extreme to lead the nation. Instead, the four coalition partners agreed their party leaders would not be in government, compromising on Schoof, 67, who was previously running the Dutch Secret Service. Keen marathon runner Schoof will need all his stamina and experience in the halls of power in The Hague to keep the shaky coalition partners on track.

Schoof "will have a lot of work keeping ideological and personal conflicts under control", Sarah de Lange, professor of political pluralism at the University of Amsterdam, told AFP. He has vowed to implement "decisively" the coalition plans for the "strictest-ever admission policy for asylum and the most comprehensive package for getting a grip on migration". The 26-page coalition agreement, titled "Hope, courage and pride", also called to examine the idea of moving the Dutch embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Schoof has said he aims to be "a prime minister for all Dutch citizens", adding: "I am without a party. I don't see myself kowtowing to Mr Wilders". De Lange said Wilders would have plenty of work keeping his own PVV (Freedom Party) in check and Schoof would be given space. "Given his extensive experience leading government agencies, he will surely know how to defend his position," she said. "It is still an open question though, how he will respond if Wilders tries to put him under

pressure by voicing public criticism of his functioning" on X, formerly Twitter.

A new Ipsos I&O poll published on Tuesday showed confidence in the government had increased to 42 per cent from a low of 29pc in September 2022.

'Little Tower' Schoof has played a key role in crisis situations, leading the Dutch probe into the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in July 2014 over war-torn Ukraine. All 298 people on board were killed - 196 of them Dutch by a Russian-made BUK (medium-range) missile fired from territory held by pro-Russian fighters. A former Labour Party member, Schoof has won the backing of left-wing opposition leader Frans Timmermans, who nevertheless described him as "emphatically

Wilders' candidate". The Dutch lurch to the right comes as farright parties in several European countries have seen their popularity rise. In France, the farright National Rally (RN) party of Marine Le Pen won a resounding victory in the first round of parliamentary elections on Sunday. The handover brings down the curtain on 14 years of Rutte in the "little tower" prime ministerial office - a national record. Rutte, known for riding his bike to work, often crunching an apple on the way, will be the next secretary-general of the Nato alliance, based in Brussels. His term was marked by a series of scandals that brought down his government, but he remained in power, earning the nickname "Teflon Mark" for his survival skills.



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Over 100 killed in crush at **India religious** event

LUCKNOW: Nearly a hundred people died in a stampede at a Hindu religious gathering in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, with scores of others injured, a senior government official said Tuesday. "We have confirmed 97 deaths so far and are focusing on providing relief and medical aid for the victims," Chaitra V, divisional commissioner of Aligarh city in Uttar Pradesh state, told AFP.

The stampede happened in a village in Hathras district, about 200 km (125 miles) southeast of the national capital New Delhi, where authorities said a large crowd had gathered on an area of open ground in response to a call from a local religious leader. District police spokesperson Manish Chikara put the death toll at about 60 people, but said that figure may rise. Videos on social media showed bodies piled up on the ground outside a local hospital. Reuters could not immediately verify the images.

"The incident happened due to overcrowding at the time when people were trying to leave the venue," Hathras district administrator Ashish Kumar told reporters. An unidentified witness told broadcaster India Today that there was a narrow exit at the venue: "As we tried to exit towards a field, suddenly a commotion started, and we didn't know what to do." - Agencies

PTI to hold jalsa on July 6

FAISAL SHEIKH ISLAMABAD: Lashing out

at the mandate thieves for resorting to delaying tactics to issue an NOC for its jalsa scheduled for July 6 at Tarnol, PTI leadership announced that they would hold a record-breaking peaceful public gathering at the desig nated place, come what may. The party leaders vowed that they would continue their peaceful political struggle until the supremacy of the constitution and rule of law are ensured in the country. The announcement was made during a press conference by PTI senior leaders. including Shamim Naqvi, ShoaibShaheen, and PTI Islamabad President Amir Mughal, among others, here on Tuesday. They made it clear that permission or no permission, a successful and peaceful public gathering would be held with public support, with the slogan "Qaidi 804 ka Nara, AzadiHagHamara," and urged supporters and workers to join in the jalsa, "ChaloChalo, Tarnol Cha-Speaking on the occasion, Amir Mughal said that PTI had been struggling for a long time to get an NOC to hold a public gathering in Islamabad, but the administration denied permission on flimsy grounds.

Punjab CM Maryam's victory challenged

DNA

LAHORE::The Lahore High Court's Election Tribunal (ET) has directed the Election Commission of Pakistan to produce the record of Form-45 related to the Punjab Chief Minister, Maryam Nawaz. The court summoned the record as the success of the CM in the general elections has been challenged. Justice Anwar Hussain of the ET judge heard the appeal filed by Mehar Shafqat who contested against Maryam Nawaz from PP 159, Lahore. Submitting his application, the applicant claimed that the victory notification of Maryam Nawaz is contrary to the facts and should be invalidated.

During the proceedings, the CM's lawyers argued that the appeal is not admissible. In response to a query from the tribunal judge, the Election Commission lawyer said that 102 polling stations were set up in the constituency. The tribunal judge asked why Form-45, carrying the signature of the presiding officer and other candidates, was not uploaded on the website.

Briefs Palestinians forcefully displaced from Khan Younis to al-Mawasi

The war started with Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,195 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures

GAZA STRIP: Israeli occupation forces carried out fresh strikes in southern Gaza on Tuesday, forcing hundreds of Palestinians to flee after the army once again ordered the evacuation of certain densely populated areas. Witnesses reported multiple strikes in and around the city of Khan Yunis, where eight people were killed and more than 30 were wounded, according to a medical source and the Palestinian Red Crescent.

The bombardment came after a rare rocket barrage claimed by the militant group Islamic Jihad, which has fought alongside Hamas. The rockets were aimed at Israeli occupied areas near the Gaza border and were fired in retaliation for Israeli "crimes... against our Palestinian people," said the Al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of Islamic Jihad. The Israeli occupation military said about "20 projectiles were identified crossing from the area of Khan Yunis," most of which were intercepted. It reported no casualties and said artillery was "striking the sources of the fire."

This was followed on Monday by an order to evacuate Al-Qarara, BaniSuhaila and other towns in Rafah and Khan Yunis, nearly two months after an initial order to evacuate Rafah ahead of a ground offensive. Prior to Israel's ground incursion in Rafah, well over one million people had been displaced to Gaza's southernmost city.

"Fear and extreme anxiety have gripped people after the evacuation order," said BaniSuhaila resident Ahmad Najjar. "There is a large displacement of residents.'

1.9 mln now displaced in Gaza, says UN

NEW YORK: The UN humanitarian coordinator for Gaza said Tuesday that 1.9 million people were now displaced in the territory, adding she was "deeply concerned" by reports of new evacuation orders for Khan Yunis. The United Nations has estimated that up to 250,000 people are impacted by the Israeli military order for civilians to leave Al-Qarara, BaniSuhaila and other localities near the territory's second city of Khan Yunis. "Over 1 million people have been displaced once again, desperately seeking shelter and safety (and) 1.9 million people are now displaced across Gaza... I'm deeply concerned about reports of new evacuation orders issued in the area of Khan Yunis," Sigrid Kaag told the UN Security Council. "Palestinian civilians in Gaza have been plunged into an abyss of suffering. Their homes life shattered, their lives upended. The war has not merely created the most profound of humanitarian crises. It has unleashed a maelstrom of human misery." Kaag added. She said that not enough aid was reaching the wartorn strip, and that the opening of new crossings, particularly to southern Gaza, was necessary to avert a humanitarian disaster. Kaag said the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt should be re-opened, and also pleaded with the international community to do more to fund relief efforts. - Agencies

Other parts of the Gaza Strip were reeling from continued fighting nearly nine months into the devastating conflict. Witnesses and the civil defense agency reported Israeli air strikes in the southern Rafah area and in the central Nuseirat refugee camp.

And in Gaza City's Shujaiya district, where battles raged for a fifth day on Monday, witnesses reported heavy Israeli tank fire. An AFP correspondent reported Israeli helicopters firing on houses in Shujaiya, while Hamas's armed wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades, said it was continuing to fight in Shujaiya and Rafah. The Israeli military said troops "eliminated numerous terrorists" in raids in Shujaiya, where air strikes also killed "approximately 20" militants. The military also announced the death of a soldier in southern Gaza, bringing its total toll during the ground offensive to 317.

Netanyahu, who recently declared that the "intense phase" of the war was winding down, said on Sunday troops were "operating in Rafah, Shujaiya, everywhere in the Gaza Strip." "This is a difficult fight that is being waged above ground... and below ground" in tunnels. The war started with Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1.195 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli figures.

116 of whom remain in Gaza including 42 the army says are dead. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 37,900 people, also mostly civilians, according to data from the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza. Months of on-and-off talks toward a truce and hostage release deal have made little progress, with Hamas saying Saturday there was "nothing new" in a revised plan presented by US mediators. Israeli authorities released Mohammed Abu Salmiya, director of Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, along with dozens of other detainees returned Monday to Gaza for treatment, sparking anger from Netanyahu. Successive Israeli raids have reduced large parts of Al-Shifa, the territory's largest medical complex, to rub-

Speaking after his release, Abu Salmiya said he had suffered "severe torture" during his detention since November. "Detainees were subjected to physical and psychological humiliation" and "several inmates died in interrogation centers and were deprived of food and medicine," he said.

ble. Israel has accused Hamas of using

Al-Shifa and other hospitals in Gaza as a

cover for military operations, claims the

militants have rejected.

Israel's Shin Bet intelligence agency said it had decided on the release alongside the Israeli military "to free up places in detention centers." The agency said it "opposed the release of terrorists" who had taken part in attacks on Israeli civilians "so it was decided to free several Gaza detainees who represent a lesser danger." But Netanyahu said he had ordered the agency to conduct an investigation into the release and provide him with the results by Tuesday.

Bushra Bibi gets bail

in 190m pounds case

Two-member IHC bench approved

PTI founder Imran Khan's bail plea in said case in May

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court on Monday ap-

proved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran

Khan's wife and former first lady Bushra Bibi's pre-arrest

bail in the £190 million reference. The development comes

after a two-member Islamabad High Court (IHC) bench

comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq

Mehmood Jahangiri had approved Khan's bail plea in the

said case in May. The former prime minister, along with

Bushra and other PTI leaders, are facing a NAB inquiry

related to a settlement between the PTI government and

a property tycoon, which reportedly caused a loss of £190

million to the national exchequer. The couple, however,

remains behind bars due to the iddat case and is unlikely

to be freed after a district and sessions court rejected

Japnese envoy **KPS** over contributions to IT industry

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Wada Mitsuhiro has praised Komatsu Pakistan Soft (KPS) for its outstanding contributions to the Information Technology industry.

In an event arranged to celebrate the silver jubilee of Komatsu Pakistan Soft (KPS), the ambassador highlighted KPS as a key player in leveraging Pakistan's rich IT human resources to address the global demand for technology professionals. He informed about the growing recognition of Pakistan as a valuable source of IT talent, especially considering Japan's anticipated shortage of 500,000 IT professionals. He mentioned that Komatsu was established in 1921, began its international expansion in the 1950s, and now has offices in 150 coun-

tries worldwide. The Ambassador noted that in 2021, Komatsu celebrated its centenary and is now moving forward to the next 100 years. He added that Japanese human resource companies are active in Pakistan, and the Ministry of IT and Telecommunications, Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), and JICA are collaborating to establish a system that connects Pakistani IT human resources with Japanese companies.

Karachi police bust notorious gang

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Police in Gulbahar Colony, also known as Golimar, on Tuesday arrested a gang of high-tech young thieves specialising in stealing motorcycles, forging documents, and then selling them online - cleverly staying off the radar of anti-vehicle lifting agencies. According to SSP Central Zeeshan Siddiqui, the modus operandi of the motorbike lifters was a sophisticated threestage operation, which they had been successfully using to make illegal money for

"The gang members would first acquire legitimate documents for motorcycles. These documents were the foundation of their illicit trade," said Siddiqui while talking to the media.

Pak-Jordan to enhance coop



ISLAMABAD: Jordanian Ambassador, Dr. Maen Khreasat calls on Senator Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister of Economic Affairs. - DNA

Amb. Hashmi visits Xinjiang to boost economic, cultural ties

BEIJING: Pakistani Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi recently visited Urumqi and Kashgar cities of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China to boost economic, cultural ties, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. In Urumqi he participated in the opening ceremony of the 8th China-Eurasia Expo last week and held meetings with local political leadership and business enterprises. The Ambassador had also a bilateral meeting with Erkin Tuniyaz, Chairman of the people's government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The two sides reaffirmed the significance of Pakistan-China relations and Xinjiang's role as the artery connecting the two countries.

Briefing the Chairman about Pakistan's efforts to attract investment from China in 13 export-oriented sectors, Ambassador Hashmi solicited his support in encouraging Xiniiang businesses to further enhance investment and trade cooperation with Pakistan, especially in sectors such as agriculture, textiles, mining, and logistics.

During his stay in Xinjiang, the Ambassador was invited by the local authorities to make a number of speeches. Speaking at the "Open Corps" event, organized by Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC), he underlined Pakistan's strong natural and human endowments and the increased opportunities for bilateral economic cooperation. The Ambassador addressed round tables both in Urumqi and Kashgar in agriculture, textiles and logistics, with support from the local authorities. Separately, he interacted with various business enterprises individually in the 13 priority sectors identified. Ambassador Hashmi traveled all the way to the land border between Pakistan and China to hold discussions on integrated border management and arrangements for all-weather route along the Khunjerab pass. In order to further promote academic exchanges, Ambassador Hashmi visited Xinjiang Normal University and got briefed on the Urdu Language Center and

interacted with Pakistani students.

UK elections: Muslim vote decisive in 100 constituencies

Labour votes plummeted in areas with a high Muslim population including Blackburn, Bradford

MONITORING DESK

LONDON: The British-Muslim vote could play a crucial role in around 100 constituencies including in majority of swing seats around the country, new research has found. A new campaign group called "The Muslim Vote" and the rightwing "Henry Jackson Society" (HJS) have put the number of seats at 92 and 120 respectively, stating that the population is more than 10% Muslims in around 100 seats. The Henry Jackson Society's research on religious diversity in UK constituencies puts the number at 120 where Muslim vote can play a major role, especially in swing seats.

The HJS said that of the 220 most marginal seats in the general election, Islam is the largest minority religion in 129 of them (58.6%); the second largest minority religion in marginal seats is Hinduism in 23 of them (10.5%), followed by Sikhism in six marginal seats (2.7%), and Judaism in three (1.4%). The swing seats were identified by the political consultancy Electoral Calculus, which defines a marginal seat as one where the margin of victory is expected to be 10% or less. The 220 marginal seats at the general election make up a third (33.8%) of all available seats. Martin Baxter, chief executive of Electoral Calculus, said that the results of their most recent MRP poll with Savanta found that religion is a "significant factor" in how people vote. A demonstration of this came when in the local elections earlier this year, dozens of candidates around the country ran on a Gaza ticket and defeated their Labour rivals - dealing a huge blow to the Labour in areas it took for granted for decades. Labour votes plummeted in areas with a high Muslim population including Blackburn, Bradford, Pendle, Oldham, Luton, London and Manchester. If the same pattern is repeated at the July 4 elections at the hands of the Gaza candidates, the Labour support will collapse further in these areas. The Muslim Vote, a campaign group set up by grassroots Muslim organisations, to encourage Muslim voting participation has identified around 92 seats where the Muslim voters are above 10% of the total vote.

However, all agree that Muslims are a diverse group and don't vote in unison or en block. They are divided on political, ethnic and sectarian lines.

1-Bradford West (54%), 2-Birmingham Hall Green and Moseley (49%), 3-East Ham (43%), 4-Blackburn (42%), 5-Birmingham Ladywood (42%), 6-Bethnal Green and Stepney (40%), 7-Dewsbury and Batley (39%), 8-Bradford East (39%), 9-Birmingham Perry Barr (38%), 10-Ilford South (37%) 11-Birmingham Yardley (37%), 12-Birmingham Hodge Hill (33%), 13-Leicester South (31%), 14-Poplar and Limehouse (30%), 15-Oldham West (28%), 6-Manchester Rusholme (27%), 17-Stratford and Bow (27%), 18-Slough (27%), 19-Luton North (27%), 20-Ilford North (27%), 21-Luton South and South Bedfordshire (26%), 22-Rochdale (26%), 23-Barking (24%), 24-Gorton and Denton (24%), 25-Brent East (23%), 26-Leicester East (22%), 27-West Ham and Beckton (22%), 28-Queen's Park and Maida Vale (21%), 29-Walthamstow (21%), 30-Bolton South and Walkden (21%).

their pleas seeking suspension of the sentences in the quite a while now. aforesaid case. During the hearing today, the NAB presented three more witnesses who were cross-examined by the defence lawyers. So far, statements of 30 witnesses have been recorded in the case, of which, 27 have gone through cross-examination. The accountability watchdog's counsels also apprised the court that the arrest warrant for the former first lady has not been issued yet.

