



Islamabad POST

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Shabana becomes first woman Muslim Lord Chancellor in UK

Detailed News On Page-08

Restrictions not a solution to issues: Latif

Detailed News On Page-08



Southgate resigns after Euro defeat

Detailed News On Page-06



"Will consult allies"

No decision taken yet to ban PTI, says Dy PM Dar

"Whatever decision we take, it would not be above the law and the Constitution, nor politically motivated," he added

ANSAR M BHATTI/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar said Tuesday that the decision to impose a ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has not been taken yet by the federal government.

Upping the ante against the embattled Imran Khan-founded party, the federal government led by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) decided to ban the former ruling party as well as file references against the top PTI leaders founder – Imran Khan, Arif Alvi and Qasim Suri – under Article 6 (high treason) for dissolving the National Assembly in April 2022.

Dar, while addressing a press conference in Lahore today, clarified that Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar had clearly announced a day ago that the government would deliberate on the ban on the PTI and make a decision after consulting its allies. "Decision would be taken according to the law and the Constitution," the deputy premier assured. "Whatever decision we take, it would not be above the law and the Constitution, nor politically motivated," he added. It is noteworthy to mention here that Tarar blamed the former ruling party for May 9 riots, foreign funding from questionable sources, and illegal dissolution of assemblies during the no-confidence move against the former premier Khan in April 2022.

"May 9 events are unacceptable," said Dar, adding that however, national integrity should be prioritised at any cost. "Whoever is involved in the May 9 riots must face penalties. Either it's us or anyone else, if someone is working against the country, then it will be unacceptable," Dar insisted. The May 9 riots had erupted following ex-PM Khan's arrest from Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises last year in which protesters targeted government and military installations. Commenting on possibilities to initiate political dialogue, he said, "Reconciliation is possible as I have always worked for it."

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US opposes govt's plan to ban PTI

"We support democratic processes and broader principles including rule of law," says State Department spokesperson

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Hours after the well in debate issue in Pakistan, the United States on Monday expressed concerns over the PML-N-led government's surprise announcement that it is planning to impose a ban on its political rival PTI over its alleged involvement in anti-state activities. Information Minister Attaullah Tarar earlier today announced that the federal government would file a reference against then-former prime minister Imran Khan, then-president Arif Alvi and then National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri – for treason under Article 6 for dissolving the lower house of parliament in April 2022. "This is a fact and on the record that the PTI has been involved in anti-state activities. And, to this end, the government and its allies have decided to initiate legal proceedings to ban the PTI under Article 17 of the Constitution which empowers the federal government to ban any such a party,"

Continued on Page 06



LAHORE: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar laying floral wreath during the 981st annual ghusal of the shrine of Al-Shaikh Al-Syed Ali Bin Usman Al-Hajveri popularly known as Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh. – APP

Warns of mass movement

PTI rejects cruel rise in POL prices, demands rollback

PTI Spokesperson pointed out that the non-representatives government used the fuel and power as key tools for state extortion instead of taking some solid and tangible steps to improve the country's rotten tax system

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) strongly rejected the unbearable and ruthless surge in prices of the petroleum products, which would further compound the miseries of inflation-weary and poverty-stricken masses, demanding that the mandate thief government immediately withdraw the cruel hike. PTI Spokesperson stated that the mandate thief government had proved to be the most anti-people, incompetent and merciless government in history of the country, as it was taking every step to make public lives miserable. He contended that the expensive fuel and electricity made people's lives a hell, besides ruining the fast-growing economy. PTI Spokesperson pointed out that

Continued on Page 06

IMF deal boosts Pakistan's funding prospects: Moody's

IMF deal comes with conditions including broadening of tax base, energy tariffs hike among others, says rating agency

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Moody's Ratings has said that although the new International Monetary Fund (IMF) deal boosts funding prospects for financially-challenged Pakistan, the strict enforcement of

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Fazl blames military interference for instability

Says operation will increase unrest across the country, particularly in K-P

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam chief Fazlur Rehman has stated that one of the major reasons for instability in the country is the interference of military institutions. Speaking at the JUI's provincial council session on Tuesday, Fazlur circles should understand that their interference in politics is detrimental to the country. He pointed out that the results of the 2018 and 2024 elections have exposed widespread interference by institutions.

Trump picks Vance as VP

The Milwaukee gathering erupted into cheers as Trump announced Vance as his VP pick

FOREIGN DESK

MILWAUKEE: Donald Trump won the formal nomination Monday as the Republican presidential candidate and picked a right-wing loyalist for his running mate, kicking off a triumphalist party convention in the wake of the weekend's failed assassination attempt. The Milwaukee gathering erupted into cheers as Trump announced 39-year-old Ohio Senator J.D. Vance as his vice presidential pick, rewarding a one-time harsh critic who has become one of his most uncompromising supporters. "As Vice President, J.D. will continue to fight for our Constitution, stand with our Troops, and will do everything he can to help me MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN," Trump posted on Truth Social.

8 soldiers martyred in Bannu 2 soldiers, 5 civilians martyred in DI Khan

Security Forces in vicinity were immediately mobilized for clearance operation in RHC and in ensuing fire exchange, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists as a result of which three terrorists were sent to hell



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: At least eight Pakistan Army soldiers embraced martyrdom as security forces effectively thwarted a terrorist attack at Bannu Cantonment killing all 10 militants, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday. The military's media wing said that the terrorists attacked the Bannu Cantonment in the early hours of July 15, but their attempt to enter the facility was effectively thwarted by the security forces

personnel. Following their failure to enter the premises, the militants rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the cantonment, said the ISPR. The suicide blast, the ISPR said, led to the collapse of a portion of the wall and damaged the adjoining infrastructure, resulting in the martyrdom of eight brave sons of soil.

They were identified as:

- Naib Subedar Muhammad Shehzad, 44, resident of Poonch district, AJK
- Havildar Zil-e-Hussain, 39, resident of Khushab district
- Havildar Shahzad Ahmed, 28, resident of Neelum district, AJK
- Sepoy Ashfaq Hussain Khan, 30, resident of Muzaffarabad district, AJK
- Sepoy Sobhan Majeed, 22, resident of Muzaffarabad district, AJK
- Sepoy Imtiaz Khan, 30, resident of Karak district

Continued on Page 06

4 Pakistanis killed in Oman shooting incident

Pakistan condemns terrorist attack on mosque in Oman

AGENCIES

MUSCAT: At least nine people including four Pakistanis and an Indian were killed by gunfire in the vicinity of a mosque in Oman's capital of Muscat on Tuesday, a rare breach of security in one of the most stable countries in the Middle East. Local authorities said nearly 30 people of various nationalities including a security personnel were also wounded. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the injured were currently under treatment in the hospitals. "The Royal Oman Police have responded to a shooting incident that occurred in the vicinity of a mosque in

Continued on Page 06

Mushir Alam turns down offer as ad hoc SC judge

Justices (ret'd) Mazhar Alam Miankhel and Sardar Tariq Masood accept offer, say sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Justice (ret'd) Mushir Alam has declined to accept the nomination for his appointment as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court. "After careful deliberation, under present circumstances, it is with a heavy heart that I regret to inform you that I am unable to accept this esteemed appointment," read Justice (ret'd) Alam's letter addressed to SC Chief Justice and Chairman Judicial Commission Justice Qazi Faez Isa. The former judge's refusal to accept the said post comes after a sources that CJP Isa had nominated him along with Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqir Justice (ret'd) Mazhar Alam Miankhel and Justice (ret'd) Sardar Tariq Masood for appointment as ad hoc judges due to increasing accumulation of cases. A retired judge can be appointed ad hoc judge in three years or less and four former judges of the SC have been proposed to be made ad hoc judges for three years. The meeting of the Judicial Commission will be held on July 19 at 3pm in the top court's conference room. Appointment of ad hoc judges is aimed at

Continued on Page 06

Omar Ayub dubs CJP's appointment of Ad Hoc Judges a ploy to 'fix' bench

Urges Ad Hoc judges to decline the offer or else they to be remembered as 'rubber stamps'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan termed the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa's new ploy to appoint Ad Hoc Judges was nothing but a ploy to 'fix' the bench; hence they should decline the offer or else the nation would remember them as 'rubber stamps'.

Continued on Page 06

Sizzling WOK
ASIAN CUISINE

OPENING SOON

PAN ASIAN CUISINE
F-6/3, Kohsar Market, Islamabad

Naqvi reviews security for Islamabad's 9th Muharram procession

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi here on Monday visited the main procession of the 9th of Muharram and personally reviewed the security arrangements put in place to protect mourners. The interior minister inspected the procession route, met with organizers to inquire about arrangements and gave instructions to IG Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi and CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa regarding security protocols. Interior minister reviews security

for 9th Muharram procession in Islamabad. He also conducted an aerial inspection of the entire procession route, ensuring that all necessary measures were in place. The minister emphasized the importance of maintaining a high level of security throughout the mourning period, instructing the security personnel to remain on duty until the procession's conclusion. He also issued directives for the implementation of a special security plan across all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir, ensuring strict adherence to the plan. The use of drones in processions and gatherings has been banned nationwide. Mohsin Naqvi highlighted

the collaborative efforts of police, administration and law enforcement agencies in ensuring peace and order including the deployment of snipers on rooftops along procession routes. He assured the public that the federal government was providing all necessary support to maintain peace in Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. The minister also instructed the officials to implement an alternative plan for rallies and gatherings in case of rain and to strictly enforce the code of conduct across the country. Federal Interior Secretary Khurram Ali Agha, DIG and the Deputy Commissioner were also present during the inspection.



PESHAWAR: A large number of mourners attending the 9th Muharram Zuljinah procession passes through Saadar Road. Muharram Ul Haram is known as the first month of the Islamic calendar and the mourning month in remembrance of the martyrdom (Shahadat) of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), the grandson of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).—APP

Technology vital for Pakistan's sustainable growth: PFC CEO

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer, Mian Kashif Ashfaq has said that technology for development was an urgent need for Pakistan to address its multifaceted challenges and pave the way for sustainable growth. Talking to overseas Pakistanis investors delegation led by Sheheryar Khan Investment Consular to Milano Italy, here on Tuesday, he said Pakistan faces significant hurdles in education, healthcare, agriculture sectors and governance. Leveraging technology can transform these sectors, enhancing efficiency, accessibility and quality of services. He said the integration of renewable energy technologies can also address Pakistan's chronic energy shortages and reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. Investment in solar, wind, and hydropower can ensure a sustainable and environmentally friendly energy supply. He said the urgent need for technology in Pakistan spans various sectors, offering solutions to pressing issues and opportunities for development. By embracing technological advancements, Pakistan can drive economic growth, improve the quality of life for its citizens, and secure a sustainable future. He said governance and public service delivery can also be significantly improved through technology. E-governance initiatives can increase transparency, reduce corruption, and streamline administrative processes. Digital platforms for citizen engagement can foster a more inclusive.—DNA

Kundi: Peace vital for economic prosperity

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said that establishment of law and order was imperative for peace and economic development of Pakistan. He said that law and order was a major problem, and that the heights of economic progress and prosperity could be achieved by making Pakistan as per vision of father of the nation Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and national poet Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal. He said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was passing through difficult time. The important problem is of the law and order and all other problems are linked to it. If the condition of law and order is better then economic situation would be improved and progress would be made. The Governor said that people

of Karachi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan Army, police and children of Army Public School Peshawar had rendered great sacrifices for Pakistan that was unprecedented in the world history. The Governor was addressing a function at Al Ghazali university in Karachi. Earlier, the Governor reached at Jamia Al Rashid where he met with Raes Al Rashid University and Chancellor Al Ghazali University Mufti Abdul Raheem, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Sohrabgot Lal Raheem and was accorded warm welcome. He went around different sections of Al Rashid University and received briefing about the organization. Later, he attended a function at Al Ghazali University and received briefing. The Governor expressed pleasure to see such great institution in

the country. He said Quaid e Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had assembled leaders of Muslims Ummah and laid foundation of Atomic power, saying no one can defeat us if we got united. The Governor stressed for keeping care of minorities rights that were protected under the constitution. Kundi invited students of Al Ghazali to visit Peshawar saying the doors of Governor House Peshawar were now open for people and stressed on students that they would perform role like the country's Ambassador to highlight Pakistan soft image. Raes Al Rashid University and Chancellor Ghazali University welcomed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor and urged all stakeholders to shun differences and sit together for progress and prosperity of Pakistan.—APP

Thousands participate in Rohri procession

SUKKUR: Thousands of mourners from all over Sindh participated in a mourning procession in Rohri on late night of Monday to pay homage to the martyrs of Karbala. Strict security measures were adopted throughout the route of the procession to prevent any untoward incident. Thousands of mourners from different parts of Sindh had reached Rohri on 8th Muharram, where they remained busy in mourning throughout the night between 8th and 9th Muharram. In the early morning of 9th Muharram, the mourning procession emerged from Masjid Shah-i-Iraq in the Karbala ground. The procession after reaching Mando Khabar stayed there till afternoon. Then it resumed its journey through Shahi Bazaar, Dhak Road, Wichoro Chowk and Haider Shah Haqani Muhalla and ended at Karbala ground. Strict security measures were adopted throughout the town to prevent any untoward incident. Walk-through gates were installed on the route of the procession and the mourners were allowed to join the procession after passing through the gates. On Tuesday, a big mourning procession will be taken out in Sukkur. According to SSP Sukkur, Amjad Ahmed Shaikh, measures had been taken for the security of mourners. He said that besides police, Rangers would also patrol the route of the mourning procession.—APP

Indonesian diplomat shows interest in Sindh grown fruits

DNA

HYDERABAD: The Indonesian Consul General Dr Jone Kuncoro Hadiningrat, along with other diplomatic staff, progressive farmers, and agricultural experts, visited M.H. Panhwar Agricultural Farm near Khisano Mori, Tando Jam, here on Tuesday. The spokesman of Sindh Agriculture University informed that the CG praised the farm's exemplary efforts in the cultivation of jackfruit, strawberries, lychee and mangoes. He also expressed Indonesia's interest in new mango varieties and their export potential. During the visit, the delegation visited the fields of various fruit varieties cultivated at the

farm, including mangoes, lychee, jackfruit, bananas, lemons, etc. The farm's head Ghulam Sarwar Panhwar, co-chairman of MH Panhwar Farms and a progressive farmer, welcomed the delegation while the CG was presented with books authored by M.H. Panhwar on agriculture, irrigation and history. In his conversation with the media and attendees, Dr Hadiningrat expressed his happiness at seeing the advanced agricultural practices in Sindh. He noted that the modern practices at M.H. Panhwar Farms indicate significant agricultural development in the region, particularly in the cultivation of new mango varieties. He highlighted the farm's technical efforts on var-

ious fruits, including jackfruit, lychee, bananas, moringa, lemons, and strawberries, and their focus on export. Dr Hadiningrat said Indonesia was interested in importing rice, mangoes and other agricultural products from Pakistan. He suggested that institutions like the SAU could establish research and business links with Indonesia. Panhwar briefed about their ongoing collaborations with agricultural and research institutions in Sindh and across the country to facilitate exports and the exchange of modern technology. The SAU's faculty and representatives of non governmental organizations attended the event.

PPP never supports ban on any political party: Arslan

SUKKUR: The spokesman Sindh Government and Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Islam Sheikh has said that all the arrangements related to Muharram, including lighting, cleaning, security had been completed, more than two thousand security personnel had been deployed to maintain the security. Addressing a press conference at his residence here Tuesday, Arslan said that a coordination committee had been formed in this regard which was making arrangements from 1st of Muharram, while Ulama of all school of thoughts expressed their satisfaction over elaborate security arrangements across the province adding that all sensitive places were being monitored by CCTV cameras. He further said that the Chief Minister (CM) Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah was personally monitoring the arrangements for Muharram across the province and even today, he was visiting Sukkur, Khairpur and Rohri along with Home Minister Sindh Ziaul Hasan Lanjhar. The spokesman of Sindh Government said that Pakistan People's Party was a democratic party and PPP had never supported banning any political party including PTI within the scope of the constitution and law of Pakistan. He said that his party had always opposed and condemned terrorism as the PPP will always oppose terrorist political parties. There was no consultation with the Pakistan People's Party regarding the ban on PTI, he said and added that the Central Executive Council (CEC) of PPP would consider this matter in a meeting presided over by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he said. Arslan further said that President Asif Ali Zardari had always played the role of reconciliation, sacrificed for the democracy and stayed in jails for a long time, even raised the slogan of "Pakistan Khape" in difficult situations. The spokesperson further said the restoration work of Sukkur barrage was started in 2018 with the support of the World Bank, when barrage's gate no. 47 was affected, the restoration work of Sukkur Barrage was going on. The restoration work was delayed due to Covid and 2022 floods, he maintained. He further said that the international market was closed for two years due to Covid, adding that unbiased inquiry into Sukkur barrage gate issue underway, several officers have been suspended by the chief minister Sindh, he said.—APP

Pb govt takes security measures for Muharram

SARGODHA: The Punjab government has taken all the strict security measures for the 9th and 10th Muharram processions and gatherings in Sargodha division. This was stated by Provincial Minister for Construction and Communications Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth while talking to media-men on Tuesday. He said a total of 567 majalis (mourning gatherings) was going to be held in the four districts of the division, including 24 A-category majlis while 222 mourning processions would be taken out in Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali and Bhakkar collectively and 26 of A-category processions originating from different locations.—APP

70,000 primary school children to get free meals

K-P govt to bear Rs500m cost for free meal programme

SHAMIM SHAID

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to provide free meals to public sector primary schools' children in urban areas of all divisional headquarters of the province. This decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Monday. Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai, Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance Muzamil Aslam, Additional Chief Secretary Planning and Development Syed Imti-

az Hussain Shah and other senior officials of the concerned departments attended the meeting. It was decided in the meeting that initially, the initiative will be started on pilot basis in Abbottabad and Swat which will later be extended to other divisional headquarters of the province. Under the proposed program, around 70,000 children will be provided with free and quality food daily. The program has been estimated at Rs500 million annually which will be borne by the provincial government. It was further decided that a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the Social Wel-

fare Department and the private welfare organization for the implementation of the proposed program. In the meeting, it was decided to form a committee consisting of the officials of the Department of Education and Social Welfare to make progress in the implementation of the program, which will finalize all the details in this regard and submit it to the provincial cabinet for final approval. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that the proposed program was another important welfare initiative of the incumbent provincial government, under the program free


and quality food would be provided to the children of government schools. It will also help to increase enrollment in government schools and the provincial government will provide funds for this purpose on priority basis. He said spending maximum resources on people is part of the vision of Imran Khan and PTI, and the incumbent provincial government will also start more such welfare projects. He directed the concerned authorities to finalize the action plan as soon as possible for practical progress in the implementation of the proposed program.



General Practice

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

JULY

July 01/Japan
Self Defence Day

July 01/Singapore
Armed Forces Day

July 01 / Canada
National Day

July 01/Somalia
Independence Day

July 04/USA
Independence Day

July 05/Algeria
Independence Day

July 09/Argentina
Independence Day

July 09/Mongolia
Revolution Day

July 14/France
National Day

July 15/Brunei
Sultan's Birthday

July 21/Belgium
National Day

July 20/TRNC
Independence Day

July 23/Egypt
National Day

July 26/Cuba
National Day

July 26/Liberia
National Day

July 30/Morocco
National Day

Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



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



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital..9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Imam Hussain's sacrifice teaches great sacrifices: Tarar

“Lesson of the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (A.S) was that no tyrant and oppressor should be allowed to play with the truth” he said during his visit to Imambargah Kashan Abbas to review the security arrangements here

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar here on Tuesday said that the incident of Karbala had taught the lesson that great sacrifices were needed for the great causes. “Lesson of the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (A.S) was that no tyrant and oppressor should be allowed to play with the truth” he said during his visit to Imambargah Kashan Abbas to review the security arrangements here. The minister said that the incident of Karbala was the difference between truth and falsehood until the Day of Resurrection.

“The courage, patience, independence and prudence of all the companions of Imam Hussain are the beacon of light for us,” he maintained. Tarar said that the battle between the forces of truth and falsehood continued even in this era. He said that today, the need to promote the spirit of self-sacrifice was needed more than ever. The information minister inspected the route of the procession while also reviewing the security arrangements during the Majalis. He also met the organizers, mourners present in the Imambargah. On this occasion, Syed Khurram Abbas Naqvi, administrator of Imambargah Kashan Abbas, briefed the federal minister regarding the security



arrangements. Ataulah Tarar appreciated the arrangements and expressed his satisfaction over it. He said that the administration was in contact

with all schools of thought for the maintenance of law and order in the holy month. Police and administration are on alert to maintain peace during Muharram, he said adding fool-proof measures have been taken for the safety of the participants of Majalis and processions. Meanwhile Dera Ghazi Khan Police have implemented comprehensive security measures for the 9th of Muharram. According to official sources, throughout the district, a total of 100 Majalis and 60 processions are being given security with varying levels of categorization. Among these, 23 Majalis are termed as Category A, 46 as Category B, and 31 as Category C. Similarly, there are eight processions of Category

A, 31 Category B processions, and 21 Category C processions. To ensure safety, the Police was also being supported by the Elite Force, Dolphin Force, Traffic Police, and volunteers designated by the event organizers. Special female police officers have also been deployed to cater to women attendees. In compliance with the Punjab Government's directives, Section 144 is also strictly enforced. This includes prohibitions on aerial firing, display of weapons, dissemination of hate speech, and provocative activities. Violators will face stringent legal actions, said officials. The authorities are committed to maintaining peace and order during these significant events.

Iran envoy condoles death of soldiers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan has condoled Martyrdom of Pakistani Security Forces in Banu: I extend my heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the government and people of Pakistan on the martyrdom of 8 Pakistani security forces. May God Almighty bless the soul of the the Martyrs and console families who lost loved ones. My prayer goes for the safe recovery of the injured.

5th death anniversary of poet, writer Himayat Ali

ISLAMABAD: The 5th death anniversary of famous Urdu poet, writer and actor Himayat Ali Shair is being observed on Tuesday. Born in Aurangabad, India on July 14, 1926, he worked for All India Radio and migrated to Pakistan in 1951 to begin his remarkable career with Radio Pakistan at Karachi. His first poetry book was published in 1956 “Aag Main Phool” which received the Presidential Award in 1958. His other collection of poetry includes Mitti Ka Qarz, Tashnagi Ka Safar and Haroon Ki Awaz. In 2007, he published collection of all of his poetry as Kuliyaat-e-Shair. Himayat Ali Shair received the Pride of Performance Award in 2002 for his services for the promotion of art and was also given the Nigar Award for his contribution to films. He died on 16 July 2019 in Toronto, Canada.—APP

OGRA works out consumer prices

ISLAMABAD: The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has worked out the consumer prices, based on the price variations in the international market. The prices of Motor Spirit & HSD for the next fortnight, starting from 16th July, 2024, are accordingly being revised as follows: (Rs. / liter) Products Existing Prices w.e.f. 01.07.2024 New Prices w.e.f. 16.07.2024 Increase/Decrease MS (Petrol) 265.61 275.60 +9.99 High Speed Diesel (HSD) 277.45 283.63 +6.18 There will be no change in the applicable duties/levies, which will remain at the existing level.—APP

Lawyers greet Alia Neelam as first female chief justice



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Additional Attorney General Pakistan Javed Awan, Deputy Attorney General Raja Khurram Shahzad, Deputy Attorney General Chaudhry

Imtiaz Elahi, Asad Bajwa Deputy Attorney General, AAG Ijaz Basra, AAG Naseer Gujjar, AAG Anwar Khan all federal law officers met the first woman Chief Justice Alia Neelam in his chamber, Chief Justice Ms. Alia Neelam was presented

with a bouquet of flowers by the Attorney General's Office and congratulated her on becoming the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court. Additional Attorney General Javed Awan while congratulating the Chief

Justice said that it is hoped that you as the Chief Justice will play your best role in providing justice to the people of the province. The delegation of the Attorney General's Office also discussed mutual issues with the Chief Justice.

‘Emerging Technologies Centers’ to be established

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to transform Pakistan into a global IT hub, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training is all set to launch a landmark project aimed at equipping

school children with cutting-edge skills in emerging technologies. According to the Ministry of Education and Professional Training, the project will establish “Emerging Technology

Centres” in 350 schools across Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. The initiative is part of the government's strategic planning to strengthen its initiative

to make Pakistan a global IT destination. The centres will serve as catalyst for introducing children to emerging technologies such as virtual reality, artificial intelligence.—APP

Islamabad police ensures tight security

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to ensure the safety of the Muharram 9 main procession in G-6/2, Islamabad Police has deployed over 2,000 officers and implemented comprehensive security measures. The procession is under constant surveillance by drones and Safe City cameras, as confirmed by IG Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Tuesday. The route of the procession has been secured with barbed wire and tents, allowing participants to enter only through designated points. Parking for vehicles has been strategically placed away from the procession route to avoid congestion and ensure safety. Sniper commandos have been stationed on rooftops along the procession path, and all entrants are being thoroughly checked with metal detectors. Scouts are assisting the police in these security checks. To maintain strict security, all DIGs and SSPs will be conducting regular reviews of the arrangements. A ban has also been imposed on the flying of private drones in the procession area. IG Islamabad emphasized the comprehensive nature of the security plan, highlighting the collaborative efforts of the police and community scouts to ensure a safe environment for all participants.—APP

” اور اللہ کی رسی کو مضبوطی سے تھامے رکھو اور ترقی میں نہ پڑو۔“
(آل عمران - 103)

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Briefs

Aleem Khan
lauds forces
action

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment, and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan has paid glowing tributes to soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the future of Pakistan. In a tweet about the recent security operation near Bannu, he expressed gratitude, saying that soldiers are always ready and alert to counter anti-state elements. He praised the Pakistan armed forces for timely action in Bannu, noting that their excellent performance thwarted the enemy's plans. He said the blood of martyrs has made the country's defense strong and the entire nation is grateful for their sacrifices and bravery. The Minister affirmed that national security agencies are always prepared to crush terrorism and defeat the enemy.

E-procurement
system being
introduced

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The e-procurement system under the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) is successfully being implemented in twenty seven ministries and 280 public departments. The system was implemented in order to check millions of corruption and tax evasion during the procurement process. The project titled 'E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System' has been launched with assistance of World Bank. Around 13,000 suppliers and business firms have successfully registered with e-procurement system free of charges and become eligible for the procurement process under the federal government.—APP

Mobile service
to remain
suspended

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mobile phone services will remain partially suspended on the 9th and 10th of Muharram for security reasons in parts of Punjab. According to the spokesperson for the Punjab Home Department, the cellular services would be suspended only in the surrounding areas of processions and Majalis. "Mobile services will be partially suspended in Gujranwala, Narawal, Toba Tek Singh, Bhakkar, Mandi Bahauddin, Wazirabad, Rajanpur, Faisalabad, Bahawalnagar, Hafizabad, Gujrat, DG Khan and Jhang." Muharram started on July 8 in the country, after the lunar month's crescent was sighted. Faithful hold processions and majalis across the country in Muharram, while religious scholars address huge gatherings amid tight security, with thousands of law enforcers deployed to ensure security. The spokesperson clarified that cellular services will not be completely suspended in any city.

Living a Goal-Oriented Life: Lessons from
Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S) (A.S)

AFNAN WASIF

Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S), the revered grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), remains a towering figure in Islamic history for his unwavering commitment to protect, preserve, and defend the Deen (faith). His sacrifice at the Battle of Karbala stands as a monumental testament to the power of living a goal-oriented life, where principles and purpose take precedence over personal safety and comfort. Imam Hussain's life and ultimate sacrifice provide a profound lesson on the importance of setting meaningful goals and pursuing them with unwavering dedication. Imam Hussain's primary goal was clear: to uphold the principles of justice, truth, and righteousness that form the core of Islamic teachings. Despite the overwhelming odds and the apparent inevitability of his martyrdom, Imam Hussain

China's keenness to invest in Pak
demands multifaceted response

In elaborating on the development of Phase 1, Mr. Hussain acknowledged the slow pace but highlighted the instrumental role of several infrastructure projects initiated in the first phase in spurring economic growth of Pakistan. He also underscored the need to address shortcomings of Phase 1 to fully leverage the potential of Phase 2

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zahid Hussain, a renowned columnist, and author emphasized the importance of meeting Chinese economic expectations regarding CPEC with an effective and consistent policy response during a discussion at the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on 'CPEC: An Appraisal'. Emphasizing the importance of nurturing the existing synergy between the two nations, Mr. Hussain highlighted the need for upgrading the skills of the Pakistani workforce to advance high-quality development in the second phase of the CPEC. He added that the recent signing of 27 new projects related to the development of Special Industrial Zones (SIZs), agriculture, tourism, and other mutually beneficial initiatives was poised to significantly build on the commercial ties between China and Pakistan, leading to a new era of cooperation within the South Asian region.



In elaborating on the development of Phase 1, Mr. Hussain acknowledged the slow pace but highlighted the instrumental role of several infrastructure projects initiated in the first phase in spurring economic growth of Pakistan. He also underscored the need to address shortcomings of Phase 1 to fully leverage the potential of Phase 2. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IRS, underlined the critical importance of timely completion of CPEC projects, asserting that this would greatly enhance the strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China. He emphasized the multi-dimensional cooperation facilitated by CPEC for enhancing trade, and industrial collaboration as well as connectivity within the region and stressed upon the need for a fresh approach to capitalize on China's fast-growing economy. He also appreciated China's supportive role during challenging times.

IIUI President ended
nepotism, promoted
merit: Spokesperson

The spokesperson of the University also said that on Monday, in the male campus and female campus, four labs established with Saudi funding were inaugurated as a result of the vision of the president of University

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) spokesperson Nasir Farid praised the university's President, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, for transforming the institution into a merit-based hub of excellence over the past four years, saying that Dr. Alotaibi eliminated nepotism and ensuring decisions were made solely on merit. In a statement issued on Tuesday, Nasir Farid said that Dr. Alotaibi's principled decisions discouraged grouping and made it possible for deserving individuals to access their rights. He cited the frequent holding of selection boards, where employees and teachers were promoted on merit. He said that President IIUI's principled policy failed such elements whose agenda was personal interest. He said that in the light of President IIUI's vision, the university achieved significant success in research, teaching quality and infrastructural development among other fields. Mentioning the strategic plan introduced by Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, he said that President IIUI saved the university from a serious financial crisis, the most mentionable is the support provided by Saudi Arabia due to his efforts amid tough financial circumstances. Nasir Farid said that as a result of the tireless efforts of the President of University, the salaries of the last two months were managed from the Saudi fund. The spokesperson said that the universities across the country are currently suffering from severe financial crisis and the same situation has also affected the IIUI, but it is the result of Dr. Hathal's hard work and vision that even now the university is very competitive compared to other universities in the country and serving in better condition. Speaking about a high-level meeting on admissions on Monday, the University spokesperson said that in this meeting, the Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors General and other senior officials of the University praised the leadership and vision of Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and said that in result of his hard work and vision, the university has achieved a prominent position in the global rankings. They also praised saying that during his four-year tenure, along with the increase in faculty blocks, labs and infrastructure, the university has gotten high profile faculty members from Saudi Arabia's Um ul Qura University, Madinah University and Imam Muhammad Ibn e Saud University, which they said is a matter of honor and distinction. The spokesperson of the University also said that on Monday, in the male campus and female campus, four labs established with Saudi funding were inaugurated as a result of the vision of the president of University.—DNA

Interior minister condemns
Bannu terrorist attack

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on the Bannu Cantonment and paid tribute to the security forces for foiling the assault. In a statement, the interior minister expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the eight security personnel who were martyred in the attack. He described the brave men as the pride of the nation and said their great sacrifices would always be remembered. "The enemy is making a heinous conspiracy to destabilize Pakistan but we will end the scourge of terrorism with the strength of unity and agreement," the interior minister said. Naqvi praised the courage and resilience of the security forces, stating that they had foiled the terrorists' nefarious intentions by sending 10 of them to hell. He said the martyrs are the pride of the entire nation and the government stands with their families. The interior minister prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured security personnel and reiterated the government's commitment to combating terrorism and safeguarding the country's territorial integrity. The sacrifices of the martyrs will always be remembered and the nation salutes to the bravery and professionalism of the security forces in thwarting the conspiracy of terrorism, he expressed.—APP

A Speaker
calls for unity
on Ashura Day

ISLAMABAD: On the solemn occasion of Ashura Day, Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the significance of Muharram-Haram's message, urging scholars and religious leaders to promote peace, self-sacrifice, tolerance, and unity. He highlighted that the Muslim Ummah can overcome its current challenges by embracing the spirit of self-sacrifice exemplified by the martyrs of Karbala. In his message, Sadiq described the incident of Karbala as an enduring testament to faith, bravery, and martyrdom, values upheld in the Holy Quran. He called on the Muslim Ummah to foster unity, stressing that only through solidarity and brotherhood can the community address its pressing issues. Referring to the ongoing aggressions in Kashmir and Palestine, Sadiq condemned the severe state terrorism inflicted upon innocent civilians. He noted that over the past nine months, more than 40,000 Palestinians, including children, women, and the elderly, have been martyred due to Israeli actions. Similarly, he highlighted the dire situation in Kashmir, where residents face relentless oppression. He urged Muslim countries to unite and voice strong opposition against these human rights violations. Sadiq reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support for the establishment of independent states of Palestine and Kashmir in accordance with United Nations resolutions. He pledged that Pakistan will continue to provide political, diplomatic, and moral support until these goals are achieved. Deputy Speaker Syed Mir Ghulam Mustafa Shah echoed Sadiq's sentiments, reminding the nation of the unparalleled sacrifices of the martyrs of Karbala. He praised Hazrat Imam Hussain (a.s.) and his companions for their unwavering stance against falsehood and emphasized that their legacy teaches the importance of fighting against oppression and upholding the truth. DNA

Govt takes
strict
measures for
Muharram:
Minister

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government has taken all the strict security measures for the 9th and 10th Muharram processions and gatherings in Sargodha division. This was stated by Provincial Minister for Construction and Communications Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth while talking to media-men on Tuesday. He said a total of 567 majalis (mourning gatherings) was going to be held in the four districts of the division, including 24 A-category majalis while 222 mourning processions would be taken out in Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali and Bhakkar collectively and 26 of A-category processions originating from different locations. Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth said a total of 7,683 police officers and personnel were performing duties for the security of the majalis and processions. 3,500 volunteers were also on duty at various points and over 1,500 employees from Rescue 1122, municipal corporations, FESCO, PTCL, and Sui Gas, along with other departments were also performing their duties for processions and gatherings, he said. Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharth has directed all district police officers to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the Muharram processions and gatherings. He has also directed the district administration to provide all necessary facilities to the mourners. The provincial minister has appealed to the people to maintain peace and harmony during Muharram and avoid any activities that could disrupt the law and order situation.—APP

Govt to
empower
women

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said the government is committed to empowering women due to immense importance of their role in national development. Addressing the Webinar titled 'Women Shaping the Tech Landscape of Pakistan' in Islamabad, she said steps are underway to empower women by equipping them with digital skills. Shaza Fatima said with better digital skills women can also work online while sitting at home and added that the Ministry of IT is focused on skill development.

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Intellectual multipolarity

IN the first half of the 15th century, the famous medieval thinker Thomas à Kempis wrote: "How quickly the glory of the world passes away!" This is a very accurate phrase, reflecting, among other things, the essence of the course of historical development. The glory and flourishing of the empires of previous centuries were striking in their scope, but they were also destined to disappear. In place of some states, others arose, borders constantly changed, and new cultures and languages appeared. Some phenomena of human society passed, and others arose in their place. And sometimes the speed of these changes was simply astonishing. Now we are witnessing the same rapid changes in the geopolitical sphere. The time of American hegemony is passing, and a new scheme for the future multipolar world is being born. It can be assumed that the next decade will bring truly revolutionary changes in the sphere of the world economy, politics, and interstate interaction. But some things remain the same as in previous times. This is the arrogant, hypocritical, and haughty view of the Western establishment on all non-Western countries and peoples. This is the same Western-centric picture of the world that formed the basis of the idea of building a Euro-Atlanticist unipolar dictatorship. Ever since the early European colonial empires, the West has been spreading a false narrative about the alleged "primitiveness" and "backwardness" of non-Western cultures. This biased assessment concerned regions and peoples of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Oceania, and South America. Colonial historiography divided nations into "civilized" and "uncivilized", trying to legitimize barbaric phenomena (such as the use of slave labor in the colonies and attacks on Indigenous peoples) with pseudoscientific definitions. The colonizers did not recognize that the Indigenous peoples of the Global South have their own science, way of life, and developed social structure. Instead, they believed that the West was the center of the entire universe. However, the reality is that our world has always had many different cultures and their centers (and this historical trend is reflected in the idea of multipolarity). If we turn to the time of deep antiquity, we will find there a number of independent cultures that made a colossal contribution to the history of all mankind (for example, Ancient Greece, Ancient India, Ancient China, etc.). When we see a kaleidoscope of different civilizations on the grand canvas of history, we understand that the essence of world history is not at all that its main engine was the West. The essence is that mankind developed in a complex manner, thanks to the creative activity of the most diverse peoples, and the contribution of the East (in the broadest sense of this term) to world history is truly great. Arabic-speaking philosophers preserved and expanded the legacy of the greatest thinkers of antiquity, including Plato, Aristotle, Hippocrates and Plotinus. Arab and Persian scholars of the Middle Ages created numerous treatises on medicine, logic, astronomy, chemistry, and history, which became an invaluable contribution to the development of world science. The philosophical legacy of Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd, al-Farabi and al-Ghazali had a great influence on many thinkers, including Western ones. Their books were translated into European languages, and many Renaissance scholars drew inspiration and ideas from them during their research.



Americans won't know China well if

ABOUT 2,500 years ago, famed Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu warned of the vital importance of knowing your enemy and knowing yourself. The United States, for hardly the first time, could use some advice from the ancient Chinese sage. While China and the US are not outright enemies, at least not yet, Washington has adopted a host of terms – from "adversary" and "geostrategic rival" to "contender" and "pacing challenge" – to describe a relationship that is hardly headed in the right direction. Whether ties get worse or manage to turn around, Americans could do a whole lot better understanding the Asian giant by devoting more time to learning Mandarin. Without training a class of experts deeply steeped in Chinese culture, language and customs, the United States is hampered in understanding Beijing's motives, crafting informed decision-making and avoiding the sort of cardboard imagery that stokes conflict. And while tapes and websites have their place, there are few substitutes for studying in the country where a language and culture are rooted. "We need young Americans to learn Mandarin. We need young Americans to have an experience of China," said Nicholas Burns, the US ambassador to China, late last year. Exchanges have faced an uphill struggle. The Covid-19 pandemic and growing US-China tensions have taken their toll. And parents on both sides are increasingly worried about safety given America's gun culture, Beijing's growing obsession with security and last month's knife attack on teachers from Iowa in the northeastern province of Jilin. The number of American students studying in China, which was never great to begin with, has fallen to around 800, down from 14,887 in the peak 2011/2012 academic year. That compares with some 289,526 Chinese students in US institutions in 2022/2023 from a height of 372,532 in 2019/2020. The make-up is also worrying. Harvard University Chinese language programme director Jennifer Liu notes that, among Americans at Harvard studying Mandarin in recent years, business students have fallen off faster than those studying security and international affairs, raising the prospect that more people will become spies or diplomats than businesspeople. Americans have never been particularly impressive at language study. But it is getting worse, potentially fuelling "America first" thinking and provincialism. According to the Modern Language Association, the US study of all foreign languages fell across the board from a 2009 peak of nearly 1.7 million students hitting their college books to fewer than 1.2 million by 2021, the most recent year surveyed. Between 2016 and 2021, only Korean, biblical Hebrew and American sign language, of the 15 major languages studied by Americans, saw increases, even as Mandarin – down 14.3 per cent – joined a long list of those losing steam. Behind the drop-off are several uniquely American factors. The vast majority of US states have no high school language requirement. There's a shortage of language teachers. And there are limited opportunities to practice. China as a destination has also lost its buzz among some young Americans as tensions have grown, shifting the narrative from a place to make money to a geopolitical rival.

A girl who became a threat to national security

Qamar Bashir



The state has skillfully circumvented Article 9 of the Constitution, which guarantees that no person would be deprived of life or liberty save in accordance with the law. It has also frustrated Article 10, which safeguards citizens from unlawful arrest and detention. Furthermore, it has offended Article 13, which provides that no person shall be prosecuted or punished for the same offense more than once

WHO would have thought that behind the innocent baby face, glittering and sparkling eyes, and enchanting smile of a 31-year-old young married woman lies a hardcore criminal, a terrorist, a lawbreaker, and a violent person who would become one of the biggest threats to national security and safety? The entire state machinery and law enforcement personnel has deployed all the arsenals at their disposal to keep this criminal and terrorist girl in jail, despite release orders from various courts in the country, the latest being from the Lahore High Court on July 10, 2024.

Sanam Javaid, who can deceive anyone with her innocent face and legendary defiant smile, which adorns her face like bright sunshine, could have fooled anyone—but not the all-powerful state of our country. The state, rightly so, slapped her with multiple charges and arrested her several times since the events of May 9, 2023, aiming to deprive her of that bright smile. Unfortunately for the state, it has so far failed to do so, but it will continue to use whatever power it has to achieve its objectives. This tiny but deceptive girl has been charged under Sections 435 and 439 of the Cr.P.C. and under FIR No. 823/23 dated May 10, 2023. She faces charges for offenses under Sections 302, 324, 353, 427, 431, 186, 148, 149, 505, 188, and 109 of the PPC, read with Section 16 of the Punjab Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960, and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. Of course, if her smile did not break after these punitive measures, the state would continue to use one weapon after another until she agrees to trade her smile for her freedom. Interestingly, her smile becomes even brighter with each passing day, presenting a further challenge to the state. The state, in all its cleverness, played a game of cat and mouse. The IG of Punjab Police, who has mastered the art of retaining his coveted position

and has become indispensable to the government due to his ability to keep all declared enemies of the state behind bars, committed to the Lahore High Court that the girl with the smile was involved in only two cases. Yet, he successfully circumvented court orders by registering seven additional cases on similar charges in different police stations only in Lahore. He, being very wise, circumvented Section 177 of the Cr.P.C., which clearly states, "every offense shall ordinarily be inquired into and tried by a Court within the local limits of whose jurisdiction it was committed."

But when she was bailed out in all of them, she was dragged first to Mianwali, then to Musakhel, followed by Sargodha, and then Gujranwala. When she got her release from Gujranwala by the Lahore High Court, she was again arrested and taken to Islamabad, and later she may be shifted to Quetta, Balochistan. Her ability to be present at various places miles apart and commit similar crimes simultaneously clearly reflects that she either has a time machine, can make copies of herself, or possesses some kind of extraterrestrial powers. We are fortunate that the state has arrested her and clipped her powers; otherwise, the country could have suffered irreversible losses by now.

In its duet versus Smile case, the state might consider taking her to AJK, GB, or even a foreign country, despite knowing that a person who allegedly commits a crime in one jurisdiction cannot commit the same crime at the same date and time in various jurisdictions miles apart. The state has skillfully circumvented Article 9 of the Constitution, which guarantees that no person would be deprived of life or liberty save in accordance with the law. It has also frustrated Article 10, which safeguards citizens from unlawful arrest and detention. Furthermore, it has offended Article 13, which provides that no person shall be prosecuted or punished for the same

offense more than once. It has set aside Article 9, covering personal liberty, and Article 4, which enshrines the inalienable right of every citizen to enjoy the protection of law and be treated in accordance with the law. The state has successfully kept the Girl with a Smile imprisoned by entangling her in a series of criminal cases regarding a single act, usurping her fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

This girl, armless but armed with a killing and defiant smile and a twinkle in her eyes, perhaps had a bigger ideology, a greater commitment to her cause, and bigger dreams for her country. These qualities eventually made her the biggest threat to national security and safety. With her outside the jail, she could have been one of the biggest threats the country had ever faced. Therefore, the state, in all righteousness, frustrated the Lahore High Court's order. The court had declared that there was no incriminating material to connect the petitioner with any or all charges leveled against her and observed that these cases were registered against her with malafide intentions and ulterior motives, aimed solely at defeating the judicial system.

The state also disregarded the quotes of English philosopher John Stuart Mill, who said, "...a State which dwarfs its men, in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands even for beneficial purposes – will find that with small men no great thing can really be accomplished." The Girl with a Smile must learn her lessons and seriously consider trading her smile for the promised freedom, thus saving the country from imminent obliteration. But sadly, she seems too stubborn and may never trade her smile, no matter what is offered.

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

Benjamin Netanyahu doesn't want a ceasefire

Robert Inlakesh

Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly stated that he does not want the Palestinian Authority (PA) to run the Gaza Strip in a post-war setting, despite this being the only real option on the table for him. There are two reasons for this. The first is the fact that his coalition partners despise the PA due to its desire to acquire a state on 22% of historic Palestine, for the likes of Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, who see the PA as a threat to their West Bank settlements.

The second major reason is that the PA's takeover of Gaza could then create a situation where there would be international pressure placed upon the Israelis to conclude a deal on a so-called "two-state" solution. However, we should not rule out there being a plot from the side...

ISRAELI Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, will not allow for a Gaza ceasefire because it will represent an admission of defeat. Yet, if he is not forced to conclude an agreement, war with Lebanon is inevitable. The Secretary-General of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, used the boxing analogy to describe the actions of the Resistance in his first speech following the outbreak of war on October 7, stating that the knockout blow had not yet been delivered and they were at a point scoring phase of the battle. If we are to stick with the boxing analogy, Netanyahu is about to head into the twelfth and final round of the fight, clearly losing on points and physically exhausted. He is being slowly broken down and is wobbling all over the ring, with only two options left; take a knee [agree to a ceasefire] or throw one last haymaker in the hope that it will knock out the opponent [attack Lebanon]. The only problem with throwing a massive punch is that this could result in Netanyahu being knocked out cold, which is why he is hesitating so much. As all serious political analysts have said from the beginning, the United States could have ended this war a long time ago and is the only one with the power to pressure the Israelis to do so. However, it is clear that US President Joe Biden is not in his right mind, and his administration is not willing to pressure its Israeli allies and continues to support them unconditionally, so we can rule this out. Although a ceasefire would favor Washington right now and perhaps even save it from further embarrassment in the region, the narcissistic incompetency of the Biden administration will not allow for such an end to the war. With the American government ruled out of this situation, at least for the time being, we can safely say that the Israeli premier has been given no incentive to end the war in Gaza. On the contrary, according to polling data, half of the Israeli public support the re-occupation of the Gaza Strip, while only 8% believe that Palestinians should rule Gaza after the war. When you specifically look at the Israelis who identify with the right wing – primarily supporters of the Netanyahu coalition – roughly 70% want the Zionist military to re-occupy the besieged coastal territory. While many prominent members of Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party and his coalition partners from the likes of Religious Zionism still seek the total destruction of Hamas and the re-occupation of Gaza, the problem for them is their inability to complete either of these tasks. Netanyahu knows this, but when his Police Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, encourages Israelis to prepare to build settlements inside the Gaza Strip and even says he would be "happy to live" there after the war, it is difficult

for him to tell the truth publicly. If the Israeli PM decides to agree to a ceasefire, he will lose the support of his coalition and a new round of elections will be triggered – a situation in which he faces the possibility of losing. At the same time, the Zionist leader also faces internal pressure over the embarrassing blows dealt to the temporary entity along the Lebanese border areas and now beyond. Hezbollah has been battering the Israeli regime in the north of occupied Palestine, suffering blows to their military sites and intelligence gathering equipment, and forcing over 100,000 settlers to flee the area. The settler residents of the north have almost completely lost confidence in their regime, and so an attack on Lebanon is the only way to recover their image. However, this is not 2006 and there is no guarantee for the Zionist entity that it will even walk away from launching a war at all, let alone come out of it in good shape. Even Israeli media outlets have floated around the idea that at least 15,000 settlers and soldiers will be killed in such a war. The goal for the Israeli government would be to launch a limited war, with the best case scenario being a missile exchange and some brief round encounters, then ending the war in a stalemate militarily, from which they would have received a massive blow, but will claim to have greatly impacted the Lebanese Resistance's capabilities. Under this ideal situation for Benjamin Netanyahu, he would conclude the war in Lebanon with an agreement to end the war in Gaza also, then choose to pivot toward the occupied West Bank. The Israeli Prime Minister knows that in the likely event that Donald Trump wins the presidential race, the American President will recognize "Israeli sovereignty" over the West Bank, which means he can "annex" around 60% of the land, or what is known as Area C, stealing the territory with the backing of the US and also avoiding having to absorb 3.2 million Palestinians living in Area A and B of the territory. If this "annexation" is combined with a large-scale military campaign, mimicking 2002's "Operation Defensive Shield," aimed at dismantling the resistance groups inside the territory, it will provide Netanyahu with the perfect cover he needs to claim a "victory". To do this though, there must be some kind of a day after plan for the Gaza Strip set in place so that the armed confrontation does not re-ignite, which is why he has attempted to formulate a plan involving a range of Arab regimes to collaborate with him. Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly stated that he does not want the Palestinian Authority (PA) to run the Gaza Strip in a post-war setting, despite this being the only real option on the table for him. There are two reasons for this. The first is the fact that his coalition partners

despite the PA due to its desire to acquire a state on 22% of historic Palestine, for the likes of Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, who see the PA as a threat to their West Bank settlements. The second major reason is that the PA's takeover of Gaza could then create a situation where there would be international pressure placed upon the Israelis to conclude a deal on a so-called "two-state" solution. However, we should not rule out there being a plot from the side of Benjamin Netanyahu to allow for a form of the PA to take over administrative control in the Gaza Strip. Although the Palestinian Authority, based in Ramallah, is headed by Mahmoud Abbas, there is the possibility that the PA President's longtime Fatah rival, Mohammed Dahlan could be used as a PA leader in the Gaza Strip. Due to the fact that there have been no Palestinian National Authority legislative elections since 2006 and that Mahmoud Abbas' presidential mandate technically ended in 2009, there could be an argument made that would bring the surviving elements of the PA under the de facto leadership of Dahlan inside Gaza. The US and European governments would then place pressure on the PA, through their control of its funding, to allow this to take place, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE), along with other Arab nations, could step in to finance this project. Although this would technically mean that the PA would be playing a role in governing the Gaza Strip, it would keep the West Bank leadership divided from Gaza, due to the rivalry between Abbas and Dahlan. Under such a scenario, the US would ideally bring in Saudi Arabia to normalize ties with the Zionist entity also and the West Bank's PA would be in a position where its hands are tied. The above-mentioned scenarios may not even be likely to occur, but they do have to be mentioned for us to consider the thinking of the entity. At this current point in time however, the Palestinian Resistance in Gaza, under the command of Hamas' al-Qassam Brigades, is continuing to crush the Zionist military and remains far from defeat. On top of this, the other supportive fronts of the regional resistance are piling on the pressure and have the Israelis cornered. If we are to judge the Zionist entity based on its actions over the past 9 months, we can rely on it to make foolish decisions that will only further imperil it. The above-mentioned strategies for ending the war, in a way that will not represent a victory for the Zionist entity but will enable Benjamin Netanyahu to survive, appear to be far from coming to fruition. This is because there are clearly no real day after plans at this point, just chatter about what could happen and delusional statements about building settlements.

Briefs

US opposes
govt's plan
to ban PTI

FROM PAGE 01
the information minister announced at a press conference in Islamabad. Responding to a question during a daily press briefing, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller referred to the media reports and the Pakistani government's announcement, saying the development "is a beginning of the complex process". "[...] certainly banning of the political party would be of great concern to us," he added. The spokesperson stressed his country supports the peaceful upholding of the country's Constitution and democratic principles including respect for human rights and freedom of expression. "We support the democratic processes and broader principles including the rule of law and equal justice under the law and as these internal processes continue to play out we will monitor the further decisions," Miller said. The government's announcement drew severe criticism from several quarters including leaders of mainstream political parties. The PTI, without naming the PML-N, demanded invoking Article 6 of the Constitution against those who undertook the unconstitutional steps in the country, calling on allies of the ruling coalition government to clear their position on the plan to ban the former ruling party. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Monday, the party leadership also condemned the federal government's decision to ban the former ruling party. "We call on the PPP and the MQM-P to clarify their position as the ANP has already clarified its position on the issue," PTI Secretary General Omar Ayub said.

2 soldiers,
5 civilians
martyred...

FROM PAGE 01
Sepoy Arsalan Aslam, 26, resident of Bahawalpur district Frontier Constabulary's Lance Naik Sabz Ali, 34, resident of Laki Marwat. Meanwhile, On night 15/16 July 24, terrorists carried out a cowardly attack on Rural Health Center (RHC), Kirri Shamoza in Dera Ismail Khan District and opened indiscriminate fire on RHC staff. Resultantly, five innocent civilians including two Lady Health Workers, two children and one Watchman embraced Shahadat. Security Forces in vicinity were immediately mobilized for clearance operation in RHC and in ensuing fire exchange, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists as a result of which three terrorists were sent to hell. However, during intense fire exchange, Naib Subedar Muhammad Farooq (age 44 years, resident of District Narowal) and Sepoy Muhammad Javed Iqbal (age 23 years, resident of District Khanewal) paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat.

PTI rejects
cruel rise in
POL prices...

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the non-representatives government used the fuel and power as key tools for state extortion instead of taking some solid and tangible steps to improve the country's rotten tax system and increase people's income and purchasing power. He recalled that when Imran Khan-led government was ousted through regime change conspiracy, petrol was available at Rs 150 per liter, and electricity was available at Rs 17 per unit. PTI Spokesperson stated that today, petrol was being sold at Rs 275 and diesel at Rs 284, which was unacceptable, while the power tariff was ballooned from Rs 17 to Rs 84 per unit, further augmenting public miseries. He blasted the inapt corrupt government for back-breaking inflation in the country and reversing all the hard-gains of PTI government, as inflation had witnessed an alarming jump from 11% up to 45%, while the economic growth rate plummeted from 6% to below zero.

Southgate resigns as England boss after Euro final defeat

Gareth Southgate said he was resigning as England manager on Tuesday two days after they lost to Spain in the Euro 2024 final

LONDON: Gareth Southgate resigned from his role as England manager on Tuesday after yet another heartbreaking final loss at the European Championship, their second straight failure in the title decider of the continental tournament. England lost 2-1 to Spain in Sunday's showpiece in Berlin and the 53-year-old Englishman said after the game that he would discuss his future in charge of the national team. "As a proud Englishman, it has been the honour of my life to play for England and to manage England. It has meant everything to me, and I have given it my all," Southgate said in a statement. "But it's time for change and for a new chapter. Sunday's final in Berlin against Spain was my final game as England manager."

"I have had the privilege of leading a large group of players in 102 games. Every one of them has been proud to wear the three lions on their shirts, and they have been a credit to their country in so many ways." Britain's Prince William, who is also the president of the FA, thanked Southgate for his service. "Thank you for creating a team that stands shoulder to shoulder with the world's finest in 2024," he said. "Thank you for showing humility, compassion, and true leadership under the most intense pressure and scrutiny. And thank you for being an all-round class act. You should be incredibly proud of what you've achieved."



From youth to senior team. Having coached the England youth side for several years, Southgate took the senior job when Sam Allardyce resigned after one match in charge when he sought a lucrative sideline role while talking to undercover reporters. A former international with 57 caps, Southgate took over an England side that had seen its "golden generation" of players fail to impress at major tournaments. With a young core of players, Southgate's England captured the imagination of a country starved of success on the international stage as they became a force to reckon

with in tournaments. England reached the 2018 World Cup semi-finals while their run to the final at Euro 2020 was also remarkable. With most of their games being played on home soil, the country began to dream of lifting their first trophy since the 1966 World Cup. But that dream was shattered at Wembley when Italy beat England on penalties while Southgate's side crashed out of the quarter-finals at World Cup the following year in Qatar. Although they reached the Euro 2024 final, the road to Berlin was not easy as England struggled to find

the net and topped the group after scoring just two goals. Furious supporters hurled beer cups and insults at Southgate and as his team selection was also questioned, he implored the fans to get behind the squad. Although they beat Switzerland on penalties and the Netherlands with a last-gasp goal, getting the better of Spain proved to be a step too far and Southgate was gracious in defeat, saying the Iberian side were deserved champions.

Knockout record: However, Southgate's record of taking his teams deep into tournaments is unrivalled among England's other managers. FA CEO Mark Bullingham said England would be "forever grateful" to Southgate and his assistant Steve Holland for everything they had achieved. "In the 25 tournaments post 1966 before Gareth took charge, we had won seven knockout games," Bullingham said. "In his four tournaments we have won nine. So, in his eight years, he has won more games that really matter than in the previous 50 years. Before Gareth, our longest time ranked in the top five in the world was seven months. In his tenure we have been ranked there for six years." Bullingham said the search for a successor is under way and the FA have an "interim solution" in place if they do not find a permanent replacement before their Nations League campaign kicks off in September. - Agencies

Nasser provides
reality check
on Test cricket

LONDON: Nasser Hussain believes England's rapid victory over the West Indies in the first Test highlights the crossroads at which the sport's longest format currently stands. The innings-and-114-run win was secured barely an hour into the third day at Lord's. The tourists had only played one three-day game in preparation, with the majority of the squad having had no other red-ball cricket since the eight-run win over Australia in Brisbane in January. Ahead of the second Test at Trent Bridge, Nasser opened up on the concern that the ever-expanding cricket calendar means teams are not able to prepare properly for red-ball matches which in turn is damaging the game. "Those two days summed up for me where we are with Test cricket," Hussain told the Sky Sports Cricket Podcast. "You talk about all the batting they could have but they're off in a white-ball sunset, you've got bowlers who haven't bowled, you've got undercooked cricketers, and then you lose the toss and have the worst of conditions, and everyone goes 'Test cricket is dying', but if you prepare for a Test match like that you'll get exactly what England get when they go away. "It frustrates me because you've got to give Test matches the preparation that they deserve, which is a very easy thing to say but a very difficult thing to do in modern times." Meanwhile, former England skipper Michael Atherton shed light on the importance by giving an example of James Anderson "Anderson said, 'Test cricket has literally made me the person I am,' said Atherton. "So, all the lessons he's drawn from Test cricket - the ups, the downs, the highs, the lows, the coming back for that third spell at six o'clock in the evening and having to dig deep within yourself. "All of the things which have made him the mature person he is, Test cricket has helped him along the way. - Agencies

India in 'safe hands' with
Gambhir: Brett Lee

The World Cup winner was recently appointed as head coach by BCCI

SYDNEY: Former Australia pacer Brett Lee backed the new head coach of the Indian cricket team, Gautam Gambhir, to succeed with the Blues as the team is "in safe hands" with him. Gambhir was recently announced as India's head coach by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after he led Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to their first Indian Premier League (IPL) title since 2014. The white-ball series, which begins on July 27, will be Gambhir's first assignment with India. Lee believes that the former batter is someone who can keep the team united and build a solid structure. "He's [Gautam Gambhir] done a terrific job every time he's had an opportu-

nity. The Indian Premier League title with KKR is the best example. He's always been there, always at the top of his game. He finds a way to unite his players and graft his team together," Lee told Times of India. "He builds a solid structure. He has been a terrific player, and his aggression and winning attitude will help India. He has shone internationally as a player. India is in safe hands with Gautam Gambhir as coach. Congratulations to Rahul for finishing on a high." Earlier today, it was reported that Gambhir wants Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, and Rohit Sharma to feature in the upcoming ODI series against Sri Lanka which will begin on August 2. The rea-



son Gambhir wants the three senior players to feature in the Sri Lanka series is that after the matches, India will have a break of six weeks as they will then face Bangladesh in a home Test series in Chennai on September 19.

On the other hand, another senior member of the Indian cricket team, Hardik Pandya, will miss the Sri Lanka series due to personal issues. The Indian squads for the Sri Lanka series are likely to be announced today. - Agencies

No decision taken yet to
ban PTI, says Dy PM Dar

FROM PAGE 01
Referring to the PTI's 2014 country-wide sit-in, "[During the PML-N rule,] I negotiated with the PTI to end its sit-in with the permission of then premier Nawaz." He, however, said that "political reconciliation is possible but not at the cost of compromising the country's integrity". "The party [PTI] is foreign-funded," Dar said, "It was already proved by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) besides ascertaining that the donors were not only Muslims but also Jews and Christians."

The FM said that the ECP declared the PTI "a foreign-funded party" on the basis of undeniable facts as per the law and the Constitution. Dar, while answering a question regarding the government's involvement in new cases against the ousted premier Khan, rejected the claims and said that the incumbent government was not involved in any kind of tampering with the process of the law and the Constitution. "We are not like Imran Khan, neither we are summoning FIA DG

[Federal Investigation Agency Director-General] at all times nor calling the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) DG or chairman." "The cabinet is doing its work [...]. The law and the Constitution will make their way."

The statement came after the former premier Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were arrested and remanded in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) custody in a new reference related to Toshakhana gifts last week. The arrest was made after their acquittal in the iddat case - also known as the un-Islamic nikah case - which was the last hurdle in the couple's release from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. Moreover, Khan's arrest had also been declared in 12 cases related to May 9 mayhem a day ago and an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore granted his 10-day physical remand.

In his initial remarks, the foreign minister said that Pakistan became the 24th largest economy in a short period of three years in 2016 under the leadership of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif when "inflation rate

was only 2%, general inflation rate was standing at 3.6% and with the growth rate of 6%". Pointing towards the PTI and its founder Khan, he alleged that ex-PM Nawaz had been removed from office through a "conspiracy", political chaos was created in the country and "a hand-picked [leader] was introduced by spending millions at Minar-e-Pakistan in 2011".

He further alleged that the 2018 general elections were "stolen" to defeat the Nawaz-led party which led to severe outcomes for the country's economy, politics and diplomacy. Dar added that Pakistan's economic ranking had dropped to 47th from 24th during the PTI's rule and faced the risk of default due to the poor governance of the former rulers.

"The PML-N and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had no eagerness to get a chance to rule the country, but it took responsibility to pull the country out of the crises," he said. "We saved the country from default after much effort in the short tenure of 16 months and restored diplomatic ties with foreign countries."

Morata set to join AC
Milan after Euro win

LONDON: Alvaro Morata is poised to join AC Milan as a new player. Despite recently stating his commitment to Atletico Madrid, the striker is returning to Serie A. A verbal agreement has already been reached between Morata and the Italian club. According to renowned journalist Fabrizio Romano, the deal is finalised, with Milan set to pay Morata's €13 million release clause. This move allows Morata to step away from the media scrutiny he faced in Spain, where he has expressed dissatisfaction with his treatment. Morata will sign a four-year contract with Milan, who were able to convince him during the Euro 2024 through discussions with Zlatan Ibrahimovic. The former Swedish striker prioritised Morata's signing for the upcoming 2024/25 season. This week, Morata will undergo medical examinations in Madrid. His transfer to Milan is expected to be officially announced in the coming days. Remember, Morata has spoken extensively recently about the tough treatment he feels he receives in Spain and has expressed a desire to return to Italy. Despite scoring 21 goals for Atletico last season, a dry spell with just three strikes since January saw him sidelined towards the end of the campaign. Atletico will now need to seek another forward, as negotiations for Artem Dovbyk are stalled due to his asking price. After winning Euro 2024, Morata spoke about how Andres Iniesta and Bojan Krkic helped him deal with his mental health issues and the pressure of playing for Spain. Speaking to Diario AS, Morata said, "It's not the right time to talk about my future, it would be selfish." "I'm going to enjoy this. I send my thanks to my wife and family and Andres Iniesta. If it weren't for him and Bojan Krkic, I wouldn't have played in the Euros. They have been through what I have been and there is always light at the end of the tunnel," he added. - Agencies

Mushir
Alam turns
down offer
as ad hoc...

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ensuring more cases are decided than instituted and to reduce, and hopefully eliminate the cases which are pending adjudication for several years, said the SC notification. As per the statistics reflected in the bi-annual report of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, the number of pending cases in the courts surged to 2.26 million during the second half of the year 2023, increasing the overall pendency of cases by 3.9%. The report revealed that 82% of the pending cases (1.86 million) were at the district judiciary level and the remaining 18% (0.39 million cases) were at the upper tier, including the SC, Federal Shariat Court, and high courts. As per the report, 2.38 million new cases were filed during the period, while the courts managed to decide 2.30 million cases.

Omar Ayub
dubs CJP's
appointment
of Ad Hoc...

FROM PAGE 01
Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly said that CJP Qazi Isa's new ploy to appoint Ad Hoc Judges was nothing but a ploy to 'fix' the bench. "There is a back log of 56,000 cases in the Supreme Court. The Ad Hoc judges will not be able to even make a noticeable dent in the back log. Using the 'back log' is just an excuse. Target is something else," he added. Omar Ayub advised that the proposed Ad Hoc judges should decline the offer themselves if they want to leave behind a positive legacy. Otherwise, the nation will remember them as 'rubber stamps'.

4 Pakistanis
killed in
Oman...

FROM PAGE 01
the Al-Wadi Al-Kabir area," police said in a statement. The law enforcement officials also said that all security measures have been taken to deal with the situation while procedures are underway for collecting evidence and probing the attack. Pakistan's Ambassador to Oman Imran Chaudhry, in a statement, said the Omani government has confirmed four deaths, out of which two lives lost were of Pakistanis. "I was present with the diplomatic staff at night," said Imran, adding that the Omani authorities are investigating the incident. According to the Embassy of Pakistan, a terrorist attack took place on July 15 in the Wadi Kabir Muscat area by unknown assailants. It said that the authorities have cordoned off the area with drone and the surveillance is underway, adding that the operation by the Omani authorities started at 2:30am Muscat time after evacuation.

IMF deal
boosts
Pakistan's
funding...

FROM PAGE 01
dictated reforms will be key to mitigating future liquidity risks and averting another bailout. The IMF and Pakistani authorities have reached a staff-level agreement on a 37-month Extended Fund Facility Arrangement (EFF) of about \$7 billion. The agreement, inked on July 12, is subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board, although no date has been set for a vote. "If approved, which we expect is likely, the new IMF programme will improve Pakistan's (Caa3 stable) funding prospects," the Moody's said in its latest report. It said the programme would provide credible sources of financing from the IMF and catalyse funding from other bilateral and multilateral partners to meet Pakistan's external financing needs. "However, the government's ability to sustain reform implementation will be key to allowing Pakistan to continually unlock financing over the duration of the IMF programme, leading to a durable easing of government liquidity risks."

Pakistan's shooting trio confident of winning PO medal
Kishmala Talat, GM Bashir and Gulfam Joseph will represent Pakistan

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: The three shooters finalised for the Paris Olympics 2024 have completed their preparations during the training camp in Lahore and are confident of winning a medal for winning in Shooting competitions. Kishmala Talat, GM Bashir and Gulfam Joseph will be in action for Pakistan and they have trained under a Russian coach. All three shooters won various medals at different international tournaments and managed to earn a direct qualification for the Paris Olympics. Kishmala Talat will participate in three events, she will be in action in 10m Air Pistol, 10m Air Pistol Mixed and 25m Sport Pistol. "It is an honour for me that I have qualified and will be representing Pakistan in the Olympics. I have practised a lot in the [training] camp and have made myself



strong mentally and physically. With all the training, I'm confident of winning the

medal," she said. Meanwhile, GM Bashir will be in action in the 25m rapid-fire pistol

event. Ahead of the event, he said, "During the camp, I practised not only my shooting skills, but I was also working on myself to remain as fit as possible. That is why we keep doing running and swimming, we also did exercises to our heart rates low." Gulfam Joseph will be in action in the 10m air pistol, while he will also participate in the mixed event with Talat. Pakistani shooters will leave for France on July 19 and they will also get a chance to train at the venue before the competitions. Paris 2024 Olympic Games Key Figures - 26 July to 11 August 2024 - 19 days of competition (handball, football and rugby take place from 24 July) - 329 events - Athletes from over 200 NOCs and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team - 32 sports (including the 4 additional sports), - 754 sessions (competitions and ceremonies), - 10,500 athletes.

Briefs

200 Kenyan police deploy to tackle Haiti violence

NAIROBI: Another 200 Kenyan police officers have left for Haiti under a UN-backed mission to try to quell rampant gang violence in the troubled Caribbean nation, senior police officers said Tuesday. The deployment comes after the East African nation sent some 400 officers to the violence-ravaged Haitian capital Port-au-Prince in June, part of a controversial offer to send some 1,000 police to help stabilize the country. The promise — made by embattled President William Ruto, who is trying to calm roiling anti-government protests at home — has run into persistent legal challenges in Kenya. “We have 200 police officers who left last night, they should land in their destination of Haiti this morning,” one senior police officer said on Tuesday. “They are joining their colleagues who are already on the ground.” Another senior police source confirmed that the officers had left on Monday night, traveling by chartered plane, adding: “More will be departing soon until we have all the 1,000.” The East African nation is leading a force expected to number a total of some 2,500 personnel. Other countries, mostly in Africa and the Caribbean, are also contributing to the mission, which is blessed but not managed by the United Nations. On July 1, Kenya’s National Police Service issued a statement to scotch rumors that seven officers had been killed in Haiti. The forces deployed had been “received warmly,” and were “all safe and ready to discharge their clear and specific mandate,” it said. They were “working closely with their host, the Haitian National Police, and have so far undertaken strategic mapping of the likely areas of operational concerns and conducted several joint patrols within Port-au-Prince.” The deployment was approved by a UN Security Council resolution in October, only to be delayed by a Kenyan court decision in January that ruled it unconstitutional. The court said Ruto’s administration had no authority to send officers abroad without a prior bilateral agreement. While the government secured that agreement with Haiti in March, a small opposition party, Thirdway Alliance Kenya, has filed a fresh lawsuit in another attempt to block it. —DNA

Afghanistan bus crash kills 17

KABUL: At least 17 people were killed and 34 more injured when a bus overturned in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday, a local official said. The accident occurred on a highway linking the capital Kabul to the north of the country Mustafa Hashemi, director of information and culture of Baghlan province, told AFP. He said the dead included 12 men, two women, and three children. Traffic accidents are common in Afghanistan, due in part to poor roads after decades of conflict, dangerous driving and a lack of regulation. In March, 21 people were killed and 38 injured in southern Afghanistan’s Helmand province when a bus collided with an oil tanker and a motorbike. —APPP

Soldier injured in Paris knife attack

PARIS: A soldier guarding a major Parisian railway station on Monday was injured in a knife attack by a man who was then arrested, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said. The soldier’s life was not in danger, Darmanin said on X, while a police source told AFP that he had suffered a shoulder wound. The attack at the Gare de l’Est station in northern Paris came less than two weeks before the start of the Olympic Games in the French capital. “Thoughts to the soldier injured tonight at the Gare de l’Est,” Armed Forces Minister Sebastien Lecornu wrote on X, paying tribute to the French troops protecting citizens. —APP

Rwanda’s Kagame cruises to crushing election victory

Paul Kagame scored a crushing election victory that will extend his iron-fisted rule by another five years

NEWS DESK

KIGALI: Rwanda’s President Paul Kagame scored a crushing election victory that will extend his iron-fisted rule by another five years, according to partial results issued Monday. De facto leader since the end of the 1994 genocide and president since 2000, Kagame scored 99.15 percent of the vote, the National Election Commission announced after 79 percent of ballots had been counted. It tops the 98.79 percent Kagame won in the last election in 2017 and is streets ahead of Democratic Green Party candidate Frank Habineza with 0.53 percent and independent Philippe Mpayimana with 0.32 percent. Democratic Green Party candidate Frank Habineza was given 0.53 percent of the vote and independent Philippe Mpayimana 0.32 percent. The outcome of Monday’s poll was never in doubt, with Kagame accused of muzzling the opposition and several prominent critics barred from the race. With 65 percent of the population aged under 30, Kagame — who has secured a fourth term — is the only leader most Rwandans have ever known. The 66-year-old is credited with rebuilding a traumatised nation after the genocide but he is also accused of ruling in a climate of fear at home, and fomenting



instability in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. - Reset the clock - Over nine million Rwandans — about two million first-time voters — were registered to cast their ballot, with the presidential race being held at the same time as legislative elections for the first time. “(Kagame) gives us everything we ask him, such as health insurance. This is why he wins by a big margin,” said

34-year-old mechanic Francois Kwabakina. Kagame won with more than 93 percent of the vote in 2003, 2010 and in 2017, when he again easily defeated the same challengers. He has overseen controversial constitutional amendments that shortened presidential terms from seven to five years and reset the clock for the Rwandan leader, allowing him to potentially rule until 2034. Rwandan courts

had rejected appeals from prominent opposition figures Bernard Ntaganda and Victoire Ingabire to remove previous convictions that effectively disqualified them from Monday’s vote. The election commission also barred high-profile Kagame critic Diane Rwigara, citing issues with her paperwork — the second time she was excluded from running. Wearing a green shirt and sun-

glasses, Kagame cast his vote in Kigali around midday. The imbalance between the candidates was evident during the three-week campaign, as the well-oiled PR machine of the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) swung into high gear. The red, white and blue colours of the RPF and its slogans “Tora Kagame Paul” (“Vote Paul Kagame”) and “PK24” (“Paul Kagame 2024”) were everywhere. His rivals struggled to make their voices heard, with barely 100 people showing up to some events. Despite the lacklustre turnout at his rallies, Habineza hailed the “free and fair atmosphere”. “This is a very good show of the level of growth in democracy in our country. We have been able to campaign (across) the whole country,” he told AFP Monday. Kagame’s RPF militia is lauded for ending the 1994 genocide when it marched on Kigali — ousting the Hutu extremists who had unleashed 100 days of bloodletting targeting the Tutsi minority. The perpetrators killed around 800,000 people, mainly Tutsis but also Hutu moderates. Since then, Kagame has overseen a remarkable economic recovery with GDP growing by an average of 7.2 percent per year between 2012 and 2022, although the World Bank says almost half the population lives on less than \$2.15 a day.

Irish PM condemns anti-immigration clashes

WEB DESK

DUBLIN: Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris condemned violent anti-immigration clashes at a planned asylum-seeker housing facility in Dublin as “reprehensible,” as 15 were arrested. The clashes are the latest at sites earmarked for asylum seekers who have arrived in Ireland in growing numbers in recent years. Videos posted on social media showed machinery and construction materials on fire at the building site, a former paint factory in the north of the capital. Protesters threw bricks and launched fireworks at police, who used pepper spray to disperse the crowd of more than 100 mostly male teenagers. Irish Prime Min-

ister Simon Harris said “no person has a right to burn cars, damage property” or attack the police. “These actions are criminal and are designed to sow fear and division. We should not accept them being legitimized in any way by describing them as ‘protest,’” Harris added in a statement. “A number of Garda vehicles have been damaged,” police said, using the name for the Irish national force. One video showed a person, believed to be a worker at the site, which is planned for repurposing as an accommodation facility for up to 500 asylum seekers, being removed from the scene on a stretcher. Protesters at the site entrance have delayed the start of work “for several months,” the

integration ministry said. The violence was sparked by a provider attempting to start work, said the ministry, which is responsible for housing asylum seekers. “The (ministry) condemns all acts of criminality and intimidation of providers and their employees,” it said. Ireland’s Justice Minister Helen McEntee told the Irish Times newspaper that she was “appalled” by the scenes and that those involved would face the “full rigours of the law.” Since 2022, there has been a sharp increase in arson attacks on properties around the country linked to accommodating asylum seekers. During violent riots in Dublin last November that were sparked by unrest over increased

immigration and ignited by a knife attack outside a school, rioters also targeted a number of properties used to house asylum seekers. Meanwhile, PA Large crowd gathers at barrier in Coolock, including one man holding a sign which reads Irish Lives MatterPA A large crowd gathered at the Coolock site in north Dublin The Irish justice minister said she was “appalled at the criminal behaviour that took place in Coolock”. Helen McEntee said any body involved would face “the full rigours of the law”. PA Police officers watch on as a fire is lit during the protestPA Fires were lit at the protest site Dublin city councillor Micheal Mac Donncha described the incident as “deplorable”.

N.Korean diplomat in Cuba defected to South

SEOUL: A high-ranking North Korean diplomat stationed in Cuba defected to South Korea last November — just months before Seoul and Havana established diplomatic ties, South Korea’s spy agency said Tuesday. North Korean diplomat Ri Il Kyu had been responsible for political affairs at Pyongyang’s embassy in Cuba since 2019, tasked specifically “with obstructing the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Cuba”, according to South Korea’s Chosun Daily. Ri defected to South Korea with his wife and children in early November, making him the highest-ranking North Korean diplomat known to have defected since Thae Yong Ho, Pyongyang’s deputy ambassador to Britain, in 2016, the report said. South Korea’s spy agency told AFP Tuesday that it was “true” there had been a “defection of the counselor of political affairs from the North Korean embassy in Cuba”, without giving further details. Seoul’s unification ministry has previously flagged a rising number of defections by North Korean elites, which they said made up around 10 of the 196 defections in 2023, the highest in years. Around three months after Ri’s reported defection, Seoul and Havana — which is one of Pyongyang’s oldest allies, and a fellow communist state — announced they were establishing diplomatic ties. In an exclusive interview with South Korea’s Chosun Daily, Ri said he decided to defect after Pyongyang rejected his request to seek medical treatment in Mexico after an injury, even though he could not receive the necessary treatment in Cuba due to a lack of specialist equipment. —APP

Hundreds injured in BD job quota protests

DHAKA: Hundreds of protesting Bangladeshi students have been injured in clashes with pro-ruling party groups, the country’s largest hospital said on Tuesday, in the wake of campus rallies against public sector job quotas. The students have been demonstrating since early July against a quota system under which 30 percent of well-paid government jobs are reserved for the families of those who fought in the 1971 liberation war against Pakistan that resulted in Bangladesh’s independence. The movement to reform the system started in 2018, forcing the government to issue a circular canceling the quota, but last month a high court order nullified it. Students have been rallying since the announcement of the court’s ruling and on Monday and Tuesday morning clashed with members of the youth wing of the ruling Awami League party. In the capital Dhaka alone, at least 234 were injured. “A total of 234 students received treatment at our hospital following the students’ clashes on Monday,” Brig. Gen. Asaduzzaman, director of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, told media reporters. “At the moment, six of the injured students are admitted to our hospital. We have kept them under observation as some of them got head injuries... among the injured, there are students from different educational institutions, including Dhaka University.” The protests escalated on Sunday, after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina undermined demonstrators by saying: “If the grandchildren of freedom fighters do not receive benefits, who would get it? The grandchildren of razakars?” —DNA



BEIJING: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal shaking hands with Mr. Zhao Chenxin, Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). —DNA

Antonio: Gaza is a potential killing zone

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that the extreme level of fighting and devastation in Gaza is incomprehensible and inexcusable

FOREIGN DESK

GENEVA: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed concern over the ongoing situation in the Gaza Strip, saying “nowhere is safe” in the besieged enclave. “The extreme level of fighting and devastation in Gaza is incomprehensible and inexcusable... Everywhere is a potential killing zone,” Guterres said on X. It is high time for the parties to the conflict to show the political courage and political will to finally reach a deal, he added. Separately, Guterres’ spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the UN is calling on all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and to take constant care to “spare civilians and civilian objects.” I can further tell you that we and our humanitarian partners

continue to assist families who are being displaced from northern Gaza to areas in the south,” he told the reporters. Dujarric highlighted that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that with each new evacuation directive, families in Gaza are being forced to make impossible choices: Stay amid active hostilities or flee to areas with little space or services. “There is no safe place in Gaza. Not shelters, not hospitals, and not the so-called humanitarian zones,” he stressed. Israel, flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7 attack last year by the Palestinian group Hamas. Meanwhile, 49 more Palestinians were

killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip, pushing up the overall death toll to 38,713 since last Oct. 7, the Health Ministry in the battered territory said on Tuesday. A ministry statement added that some 89,166 other people have been injured in the onslaught. “Israeli forces killed 49 people and injured 69 others in two ‘massacres’ against families in the last 24 hours,” the ministry said. “Many people are still trapped under rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them,” it added. Flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian group Hamas. Over nine months

into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water, and medicine. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered Tel Aviv to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6. Israeli forces escalated their attacks across multiple locations in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, leading Palestinian health officials to report at least 50 deaths from bombardments in southern and central areas. The Palestinian group Hamas has accused Israel of intensifying attacks in Gaza to sabotage cease-fire efforts led by Arab mediators and the U.S. Israel maintains its

operations are aimed at rooting out Hamas members. In Rafah, a southern border city under Israeli operation since May, Gaza health officials reported five Palestinians killed in an airstrike on a house. Nearby in Khan Younis, officials said a man, his wife and two children were also killed. After on Tuesday, an Israeli airstrike on a car killed at least 17 Palestinians and wounded 26 others in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, officials said. The airstrike hit near a tented area housing displaced families on Attar Street, the Health Ministry said. In the historic Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, at least four Palestinians were killed in separate shelling and aerial strikes, medics said. An Israeli airstrike killed four in Sheikh Zayed in northern Gaza, they said.

Bitcoin reaches 1-month high at \$63,700

ANKARA: Bitcoin, the most common digital currency, has surged over 2.1% on Tuesday to reach a one-month high of around \$63,700. As of 1130GMT, Bitcoin’s market cap has also increased to \$1.26 trillion. The positive sentiment in cryptocurrency markets was bolstered by expectations of Donald Trump winning the presidential election and speculations of the Fed cutting interest rates twice this year. Earlier this month, Bitcoin’s price had dropped below \$52,000, marking its lowest level since February 2024. During the same period, Ethereum prices also saw a rise of 4.1% to \$3,333. —APP

Far right to seek influence in EU parliament

Strasbourg: EU leaders’ fate will be in lawmakers’ hands from Tuesday onwards as the European Parliament convenes for the first time since June elections, with a bolstered far right demanding more influence in the assembly. Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who has outraged his EU counterparts by visiting Russia and China, was due to address the parliament but his speech was postponed — officially because of a busy voting schedule. Tensions are high in Europe as the 720 lawmakers start their five-year term, with current European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s future on the line. As war rages on Europe’s doorstep, the bloc faces multiple challenges including a stagnant economy and growing global uncertainty, which the leaders will have to confront head-on after their election. MEPs will vote on Tuesday for the president of the parliament based in Strasbourg, France, with the current speaker, 45-year-old Maltese conservative Roberta Metsola, expected to win another two-and-a-half-year mandate. But all eyes will be on Thursday’s vote when lawmakers decide whether to give von der Leyen another five years as commission chief. Since EU leaders struck a hard-fought deal on her candidacy in late June, von der Leyen has been scrambling to win over lawmakers in the main political groups. It could be a tight race. The polyglot German won by only nine votes in 2019. “She needs to walk a fine line to get the support of different groups in the European Parliament,” said Elizabeth Kuiper, associate director of the European Policy Centre think tank. Von der Leyen must satisfy lawmakers who do not want the European Union to swerve from its focus on cutting carbon emissions to tackle climate change, while other MEPs want her to reduce the number of new environmental regulations. The far right made significant gains in June elections in the 27-country bloc, although the centrist legislative coalition made up of the conservative European People’s Party (EPP), the Socialists, Democrats and Liberals is still the largest. —APP

5 UN schools hit in Gaza last 10 days

LONDON: So far, a total of five schools affiliated with the UN and its agencies have been hit by Israeli bombs in Gaza, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said on Tuesday. “Yesterday in Gaza City, an @UNRWA school sheltering families was hit,” the agency wrote on X. “The day before, one of our schools was hit in Nuseirat,” it added. “Five @UN schools have been hit in the last 10 days,” the UNRWA lamented. It said: “9 months in, the relentless, endless killings, destruction & despair continue,” adding that no one is safe in Gaza. Israel has pounded the Gaza Strip since a cross-border attack by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023. Besides killing more than 38,000 Palestinians since then, the military campaign has turned much of the enclave of 2.3 million people into ruins, leaving most civilians homeless and at risk of famine. It has also triggered a genocide case at the International Court of Justice. —APP

Briefs

JI raises flag of protest against fuel price hike

DNA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami has rejected the recent increase in petroleum product prices, terming it unjust to the public. In a statement, JI spokesman, Qaiser Sharif said his party would not tolerate the burden on the public and would stage a sit-in in Islamabad on July 26. He announced the launch of a movement titled "Haq do awamko (Give people their rights)" to protest against anti-people policies. JI head Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman will lead the sit-in. He said the JI would approach courts and take to the streets to demand public rights. The protest will continue until their demands are met, he added. Qaiser Sharif claimed that people from all walks of life, including scholars, lawyers, traders, farmers, laborers, and industrialists would participate in the sit-in.

Senior N. Korean diplomat defects to South

SEOUL: A high-profile North Korean diplomat stationed in Cuba has defected to the South, Seoul's spy agency has confirmed to the BBC. The political counselor is believed to be the highest-ranking North Korean diplomat to escape to South Korea since 2016. The diplomat defected in November, the National Intelligence Service (NIS) said. Details about defections of North Koreans often take months to come to light as the defectors must take courses on South Korean society before they are formally integrated. South Korean media reports say that the defector was a counsellor responsible for political affairs at the North Korean embassy in Cuba. The NIS has not confirmed this to the BBC. The ChosunIlbo newspaper said it was able to interview the diplomat, whom it identified as 52-year-old Ri Ilkyu. It added that he defected because of "disillusionment with the North Korean regime and a bleak future". His work reportedly involved stopping Havana from forging official diplomatic ties with Seoul. However, in February, the two governments did establish official relations, in what was seen as a setback for Pyongyang. "Every North Korean thinks at least once about living in South Korea," the newspaper quoted him as saying. The last known high-profile defection to the South was that of Tae Yong-ho in 2016. He is North Korea's former deputy ambassador to the United Kingdom. On Sunday, South Korea marked its very first North Korean Defectors' Day ceremony. - Agencies

Media can strengthen Pakistan-China ties: Ambassador Hashmi

Media Delegation from Balochistan and China International Communications Group call on Ambassador Khalil Hashmi



DNA

BEIJING: A delegation of journalists from Balochistan province of Pakistan, accompanied by representatives from the China International Communications Group (CICG), visited Ambassador Khalil Hashmi at Pakistan Embassy Beijing. Warmly welcoming

the delegation, Ambassador Hashmi emphasized the pivotal role of media in fostering friendship between Pakistan and China. He underscored the significance of Pakistan-China ties and encouraged both Pakistani and Chinese media to actively highlight success stories of the enduring relationship. Ambassador also highlighted the central position of Balochistan in China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) and underscored the importance attached by Pakistan and China to the development of Balochistan. The journalists from various parts of Balochistan shared experiences from their visit to China and expressed their keen interest in covering the diverse dimensions of the Pakistan-China relationship. Representatives from CICG provided insights into the

media landscape in China and discussed potential areas for collaboration with Pakistani media. Ambassador Hashmi underscored the need for continued engagement and cooperation between Pakistani and Chinese media. He expressed optimism about the future of media collaboration and its role in bringing the people of Pakistan and China even more closer together.

Trump is coming, Orbán warns Brussels

WEB DESK

BRUSSELS: Orbán suggested that Trump's "likely" re-election would shift the financial dynamics between the US and EU regarding support for Ukraine, anticipating the EU's greater burden in the future. Donald Trump will act on Ukraine immediately after re-election as US president, Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán has warned EU member states in a letter seen by Euronews sent following his trips to Beijing, Moscow and Washington, touting a radical three-point shift of the policy towards the conflict. In the letter, Orbán proposes engaging in high-level political talks with China to explore the modalities for a further peace conference on Ukraine, reopening direct diplomatic communication with Russia and launching a coordinated political offensive toward the Global South to regain its support. In the 12 July letter, Orbán shares "a summary evaluation of my recent discussions with leaders of Ukraine, Russia, China, Türkiye, and President Donald J Trump" - controversial trips he undertook in the first two weeks of Hungary's EU presidency. These trips triggered reactions from the European Commission, which decided to effectively boycott events during the Hungarian presidency in retaliation. Orbán expressed concerns regarding the current US political climate and its implications for European foreign policy, particularly concerning the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Asif doubles down on criticism of judiciary

Defence minister asks courts to refrain from giving "political verdicts"; don't consider politicians too weak

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Doubling down on the criticism of the judiciary following the Supreme Court's July 12 verdict on the reserved seats case in favour of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday urged the courts to refrain from giving "political verdicts" and to pass judgments that uphold their respect. "I respect the courts but courts should also get themselves respected and the politicians should not be mistaken as being too weak," he said while addressing a press conference in Sialkot on Tuesday. The defence minister's remarks came days after the Supreme Court issued its short order in the reserved seats case, declaring the Imran Khan-founded party eligible for reserved seats for women and minorities in the assemblies. Amid criticism pouring in from all political quarters, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has defended its decision to ban the PTI as Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said consultations would be held with the allies of the ruling coalition and the ruling party would bring the matter in parliament. Information Minister Attaullah Tarar announced Monday that the federal government had decided to ban the PTI and initiate Article 6 proceedings against then prime minister Imran Khan, then president Dr Arif Alvi and then deputy speaker of the National Assembly Qasim Suri for dissolving the National Assembly in April 2022. "The PTI only intends to ascend to power. Article 6 applies to those who violate the Constitution," the defence minister said highlighting the need to invoke the treason charges against the PTI leaders. Asif said the PTI leaders are involved in lobbying in a bid to persuade the foreign powers to speak against Pakistan. "The contempt of court proceedings, whenever initiated, were launched against politicians," Asif said. "Does an institution not commit contempt as it does not dispose of 2.6 million cases? I respect the judiciary but the judiciary itself needs to make itself worthy of respect by giving verdicts in line with the Constitution - that are not political in nature." "Why did the judiciary not take any notice of the 2018 election results, then? Didn't they see the result of the 2018 general elections?" Asif raised questions, coming hard on the judicial system for what he said "providing a cover to the May 9 culprits".

Shabana sworn in as UK's first woman Muslim Lord Chancellor

In her speech, Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood said she was "the first Lord Chancellor to speak Urdu"

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Shabana Mahmood, a British-Pakistani Kashmiri-origin Birmingham MP, has been sworn in as the United Kingdom's new Lord Chancellor at a ceremony at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on Monday. According to the Lancashire Telegraph, Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood has pledged to continue "defending the international rule of law and upholding human rights". The 43-year-old Labour Party member took to social media to share the news with the world on X and wrote: "Today I was honoured to be sworn in as Lord Chancellor, promising to defend our independent judiciary from interference and undue pressure. I will be a champion of the Rule of Law. 900 years into this ancient role, it is more vital than ever before." Mahmood, who is from Small Heath, Birmingham, became the first first Muslim woman to be appointed to the post, taking her oath of allegiance on the Holy Quran and said in her speech



that she was "the first Lord Chancellor to speak Urdu". She took oath in the presence of Lady Chief Justice Sue Carr, the President of the Supreme Court Robert Reed and the Chancellor of the High Court Julian Flaux. In her speech, Mahmood said the new Labour government would continue "defending the international rule of law and upholding human rights" in line with the European Convention on Human Rights, drawn up after the Second World War. She also acknowledged the challenges faced by the justice system, adding that more should be done to provide access to justice for women and girls "who are the victims of violence and abuse". Addressing the Lord Chancellor, Carr said: "There will no doubt be challenges and choices to be made today and tomorrow. That is an inevitable feature of governing. We will work with you and your ministers as you face these demands. I very much look forward to forging a stable, long-term partnership with you as Lord Chancellor within, of course, constitutional bounds, in the service of justice and the achievement of justice."

UK's Deputy PM dismisses Vance 'Islamist UK' claim

LONDON: The deputy prime minister has dismissed comments by Donald Trump's running mate for US vice president that UK under Labour might be the first "truly Islamist" country with nuclear weapons. JD Vance, the Ohio senator chosen as Mr Trump's vice presidential candidate on Monday night, made the comments while at the National Conservatism conference in Washington DC last week. The 39-year-old said he was "beating up" on the UK, and had discussed with a friend "what is the first truly Islamist country to get a nuclear weapon", then joked "maybe it's Iran, maybe Pakistan kind of counts, and then we sort of decided maybe it's actually the UK since Labour just took over". The suggestion that Islamists are gaining in power in some

European countries with Muslim minorities is common in some right-wing US political circles. Angela Rayner told ITV that Mr Vance had said "quite a lot of fruity things in the past" but said does not "recognise" his characterisation of the UK. She added that she "looked forward" to meeting him and Mr Trump if they won the US election in November. She added: "I'm very proud of the election success that Labour had recently. We won votes across all different communities, across the whole of the country, and we're interested in governing on behalf of Britain and also working with our international allies." Mr Vance's comments were also criticised by Exchequer Secretary James Murray. Mr Murray told Sky News: "I don't know what he was driving at in that comment, to be honest. I mean, in Britain, we're very proud of our diversity. I'm very proud that we have a new government, I'm very proud that our Labour government is committed to national security and economic growth. I'm very clear where we are. I don't really know how that comment fits in." Foreign Secretary David Lammy has spent recent months consciously seeking to forge strong relations with Donald Trump's allies, among them Mr Vance. - Agencies

Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi interrogated by NAB

NAB Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon questioned the couple about the gifts and their sale related to the Toshakhana

ADIL SHAHEEN

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and wife, Bushra Bibi were interrogated for four hours at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in a recently filed case related to the sale of state gifts (Toshakhana). A team from Rawalpindi's accountability watchdog, led by Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon, interrogated the PTI founder and his wife, the couple was recently acquitted in the Iddat case by a sessions court. Judge Afzal Majoka's short order stated to release Imran and Bushra Bibi unless they were wanted in other cases, the couple was technically free until the government charged them with a new NAB case. According to jail sources, the NAB team questioned the couple about the gifts and their sale related to Toshakhana. Sources stated that questions were raised about underpricing of a Bulgari set.

Political restrictions not a solution to issues: Javed



Senior party leader says if state faces threats, it is not political parties who pose that danger

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Former federal minister and senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Javed Latif, stated that imposing restrictions on political parties is not the solution to issues. He stressed that national political parties are assets that strengthen rather than weaken states. He

said this during a press conference at the party secretariat in Lahore on Tuesday. Latif asserted, "Restricting political parties does not solve issues. People sitting in offices and individuals from parties should not misinterpret my words. If the state faces threats, it is not national parties and leaders who pose that danger, but those opposing the country." He remarked, "In the past 75 years, the country has weakened in every respect. We cannot afford any more trials. The government should convene an all-party conference where it should be disclosed who brought back 6,000 terrorists into the country. Why are we repeatedly being held accountable?" Latif highlighted the reality that if individuals in institutions or senior members of political parties remain silent for any reason, everyone knows why. "Whenever a government takes steps for the progress and happiness of the nation, it is turned into a lesson. Someone else is in front, but hidden hands belong to others, which weaken the state. These hidden hands that weaken the state should be exposed," he added. He further said, "Some individuals in institutions should resolve their grudges with each other for the sake of the state. The desire to demean each other is not in Pakistan's interest. We are dragged into others' wars, and they themselves escape unscathed."

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