



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Borrell blasts Israel for unbearable 'catastrophe in Gaza'**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Adidas apologises to Hadid over ad campaign**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Arslan Ash claims fifth EVO title**

Detailed News On Page-06



## DG ISPR says

# Digital terrorism aimed at weakening army-people ties

Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry says Azm-e-Istehkam not military operation, but comprehensive, integrated campaign against terrorism

DNA / STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) has said that the armed forces are already rendering sacrifices in the battle against terrorists and stressed that it is time for the nation to stand up against militants and "digital terrorists". The DG ISPR, while speaking during a press conference in Rawalpindi on Monday, said: "Digital terrorism is being done on social media. The army is standing up against terrorists and digital terrorists. The time has come for the entire nation to stand up against them." Lieutenant General Chaudhry said that unfortunately, serious issues were also being politicised in Pakistan, presenting Azm-e-Istehkam as an example. "Azm-e-Istehkam is a comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism campaign, not a military operation per se as it is being presented," the DG ISPR said during a press conference in Rawalpindi. Recalling that an Apex Committee — the country's top security body — meeting was held on June 22 over Azm-e-Istehkam, he said that the statement following the huddle noted that "we have made an anti-terrorism policy with national consensus". The DG ISPR, addressing concerns over the campaign, said that no-go areas do not exist across the country, clarifying that there would be no more displacements due to Azm-e-Istehkam. As there was much hue and cry over the newly announced campaign, the army's spokesperson informed journalists that the Prime Minister's Office released a statement on June 24 to clarify the matter. "Azm-e-Istehkam is not a military operation. Why is Azm-e-Istehkam being made controversial? There's a strong lobby which wants the objectives of Azm-e-Istehkam not to be fulfilled. It is being politicised." "Why did a mafia, political mafia, and

Continued on Page 06

## Imran admits giving call for protest outside GHQ

Court approves Imran Khan, Bushra's 7-day physical remand in Toshakhana case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has admitted that he gave a call for a protest outside the army headquarters in Rawalpindi before his arrest, Geo News reported Monday. The former prime minister made the admission while speaking to the journalists during a hearing of a case inside Adiala prisons. "I had given a call for holding a peaceful protest outside the General Headquarters (GHQ) before my arrest," Imran Khan said, adding that police and Rangers attacked my house in Zaman Park on 14 March. "Later on March 18, the law enforcers again forcibly barged into my house," he said, adding that on the same day, the Judicial Complex witnessed shelling inside and outside its compound. The cricketer-turned-politician referred to an incident

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on increase in investment and capacity of federal government Ministries. — DNA

## Pakistan, Oman forge unity against terrorism

Telephone call between the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Pakistan and the Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with the Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of Oman, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi. They discussed the recent terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Ali bin Abu Talib in Wadi Kabir in Muscat and emphasizing the importance of concerted action to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Continued on Page 06

## Ahmad Janjua's case IHC angry with govt on 'forced disappearances'

Court remarks that it had been happening in Balochistan and KP and now it starts here in the Capital

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday expressed its anguish at the working of the government in the missing persons' case observing that "people go missing and the state does not know anything about them." Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir gave these remarks while hearing the petition of Farhana Barlas, the wife of PTI's International Media Co-ordinator Ahmed Janjua, against his disappearance. Advocate Iman Mazari appeared before the court on behalf of Farhana Barlas, while Advocate General Islamabad represented the state. The court was told that masked men in uniform forcibly took Ahmed Janjua away at 4 am on July 20.

Continued on Page 06

## Bin Laden's ally sent on judicial remand

Aminul Haque hailing from Afghanistan was living in Pakistan

DNA

GUJRANWALA: A Gujranwala court Monday sent the arrested leader of the banned organization Al-Qaeda, Dr Aminul Haque to jail on a 14-day judicial remand. A close associate of Osama bin Laden, he was arrested from Gujranwala in a joint operation of CTD and secret agencies in Gujranwala. He was on physical remand as part of

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### Jl announces sit-in at D-Chowk

"We are coming to Islamabad to protest against inflation," Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami says

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami announced a sit-in at D Chowk on July 26. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naemur Rehman in his address to the Islamabad Bar Association said that we are coming to Islamabad not for ourselves but against the unnecessary taxes imposed on the people. Jl Cheif said the country should have a government of form 45, not 47. "The people have the right to vote as they wish. It has been 70 years since Pakistan's creation. But we are going backward every day," he said.

### ATC slams door on Qureshi's plea

The court directed Qureshi to appear in person for the trial

COURT REPORTER

LAHORE: The anti-terrorism court, Lahore has turned down the request of senior leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, to appear via video link in the May 9 cases. During the hearing of May 9 cases on Monday, the counsel of Qureshi requested the court for appearance through video link. However, the judge rejected the plea. The court directed Qureshi to appear in person for the trial. The former Foreign Minister is behind the bars in Adiala Jail. Four days ago, he was brought to Lahore in connection with his cases being heard by the ATC. However, after the hearing, Qureshi was sent back to Adiala Jail.

## 'Anti-state digital media cell'

# Police 'arrest' PTI info secretary, chairman

Gohar Khan says he went along with Hasan to the Police Lines, however, police asked him to leave

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police on Monday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Information Secretary Raof Hasan from the party's Central Secretariat for heading a digital media cell allegedly involved in running propaganda against Pakistan and its integrity. After reports pertaining to the arrest of the PTI spokesperson and Chairman Gohar Khan surfaced, the capital's police clarified that they only arrested Hasan during a raid "on the basis of evidence". "The PTI digital media centre had become a centre of international disinformation, from where anti-Pakistan propaganda is run throughout the world," said police. Meanwhile, Gohar said he went along with Hasan to the Police Lines, however, the police said since the PTI chairman was not wanted in any case, he could leave. He said Hasan was detained in the Police Lines. Police said those directly involved in the anti-national propaganda

Continued on Page 06

## Govt withdraws ban on issuing passports to asylum seekers

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the matters related to the welfare of overseas Pakistanis where it was decided to reverse the policy

PICTURE ON PAGE 4

decision of suspending the issuance of passports to Pakistani nationals seeking asylum abroad. "The meeting discussed in detail the recent policy decision that

Continued on Page 06

## Cabinet set to decide on PTI ban today

Federal cabinet to meet to discuss imposing a ban on PTI and review the political situation

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called a federal cabinet meeting today to discuss the potential ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Sources indicate that the cabinet will seek approval for the ban and deliberate on the current political climate in the country. Recently, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Atullah Tarar announced in a press

Continued on Page 06

# Top US Democrats fall in line as Harris steams towards nomination

"Lot of big dominos have fallen, including almost all potential contenders who might've challenged her," says Axelrod

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: Endorsements poured in swiftly Sunday for Kamala Harris as the Democratic Party's presidential nominee following Joe Biden's extraordinary announcement that he would step down from the race. Throwing support behind the current US vice president were a variety of party heavyweights as well as numerous governors and other officials previously considered potential nominee rivals, but who now stand a chance of becoming her running mate. "A lot of big dominos have fallen, including almost all of the major, potential contenders who might have challenged her. Hard to see any other outcome here than her nomination," Democratic former White House strategist David Axelrod wrote on X, calling Harris' sudden momentum a "shock-and-awe campaign." California Governor Gavin Newsom and his Pennsylvania counterpart Josh Shapiro on Sunday endorsed Harris to lead the Democratic ticket, removing themselves as possible contenders. "With our democracy at stake and our future on the line, no one is better to prosecute the case against Donald Trump's dark vision and guide our country in a healthier direction than America's Vice President, @KamalaHarris,"

Continued on Page 06

## Pakistan welcomes ICJ's opinion on Israeli occupation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes the Advisory Opinion by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the "Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem." The ICJ's ruling clearly establishes that Israel's unlawful policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are in breach of Israel's obligation to respect the right of Palestinian people to self-determination, and that Israel is under an obligation to end its unlawful occupation; cease its illegal settlement activities; and to make reparation for the damage caused. It may be recalled that Pakistan had made a written submission

Continued on Page 06

**TURKISH AIRLINES**

BEST PART OF THE JOURNEY

Stopover IN ISTANBUL

EASY VISA

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT: [TURKISHAIRLINES.COM](http://TURKISHAIRLINES.COM)

Facebook: [turkishairlines](https://www.facebook.com/turkishairlines) #paKistanbul

+92 21 306 02 333 | [FREEHOTELQTRVY.COM](http://FREEHOTELQTRVY.COM)

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Economy: ECONOMY CLASS PASSENGERS CAN ENJOY TRAVEL FOR FREE IN A 5 STAR HOTEL.

FREE ACCOMMODATION: PER LIMITED KINGDOM, IRELAND, USA, ICELAND PASSENGERS

Business: BUSINESS CLASS PASSENGERS CAN ENJOY TRAVEL FOR FREE IN A 5 STAR HOTEL.



# Govt fosters progress opportunities for Balochistan's youth

Rana Mashhood urged the youth to continue efforts for making prosperous and stable Pakistan besides working with diligently to create scope in the society

DNA

QUETTA : Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmad on Monday said that the government was providing platforms, opportunities to the youth to exhibit their abilities and play their pivotal part for the prosperity of the country. Addressing a ceremony organized by Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) for awarding certificates through Chamalang Education Project to the students of Loralai and Kohlu districts at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUIEMS), he said that the condition of Balochistan would improve as the province is lucky to have such lot of talented and motivated youth. He urged the youth to continue efforts for making prosperous and stable Pakistan besides working with diligently to create scope in the society. Rana hailed the students that "you are not just making your future but that would be the success of your family, region, province and the country at large." He also lauded the Chamalang Education Project that pro-

viding free education to the poor students of Loralai and Kohlu districts. Mashhood Ahmed Khan said that the then Chief Minister Punjab, Shehbaz Sharif has initiated the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund to provide scholarships to talented students in the province which would be expanded across the country and it renamed as Pakistan Educational Endowment Fund. He said the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has the vision to empower the youth in order to make them a productive citizens. The government has established Danish School Authority and in this connection four Danish schools in Balochistan would be set up for which funds have been allocated in the recent budget. He hailed the efforts of Pakistan Army for providing education in remote areas of Balochistan. Balochistan Minister for Education, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani on the occasion said that she feels happy when seeing the students of Balochistan, competing the students of other provinces. She said that PML-N President Nawaz Sharif has always launched youth programmes to empower them. He

allocated seats for the students of Balochistan in the educational institute of Punjab. Raheela Durrani said that PML-N has always been supporting Balochistan, adding that the visit of Chairman of Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan is the evident of federal government's thriving support to the province. Chief Executive Officer of PPAF Nadir Gul Breach expressed his commitment to extend Chamalang Education Project and would provide the required funds to educate the out of school children in Loralai and Kohlu district. He reaffirmed his resolve to collaborate with the federal and provincial governments to bring back the out of school children and strengthen the educational institutions across the country. Breach lauding the success of the Chamalang Education Project vowed to expand the same to other far-flung and remote areas of the province. Nadir Gul said that special efforts should be taken for delivering special contribution for uplifting the socio-economic condition, eradication of poverty and enhancing the literacy rate in the country.



PESHAWAR : Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting offering fataha for the deceased father of Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mobashir Hasan in Peshawar.— DNA

## 2-week summer camp inaugurated at AIOU

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), in collaboration with the Yunus Emre Institute, Turkiye launched a two-week summer camp for children at its main campus, the other day. According to the AIOU, Education Attaché of the Turkish Embassy, Dr. Mehmet Toyran graced the occasion as chief guest while Director of the Yunus Emre Institute, Dr. Halil Tokar also attended the event. Dr. Mehmet Toyran, while speaking at the inaugural ceremony emphasized that "education and cultural exchange are the foundations of mutual respect and understanding between our countries, and this summer camp is a part of that effort." The camp will provide practical training in archery under the guidance of expert instructors. Workshops on calligraphy will introduce children to the beauty of this traditional art, while Turkish language classes will teach basic conversational skills through engaging and interactive methods. Director of International Collaboration and Exchange, AIOU Dr. Zahid Majeed thanked all the guests and stated that this summer camp represents a significant step in the ongoing efforts of the Yunus Emre Institute.

## Gilani opens 25th IAS scientific conference at PAS

FAISLA SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Senator Sherry Rehman jointly inaugurated the 25th IAS Conference on "Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus for the Security of OIC Countries". The conference was inaugurated at the Auditorium of Pakistan Academy of Sciences in the presence of dignitaries from the OIC Member States, IAS Secretariat-Jordan, Chairman Higher Education Commission, representatives of diplomatic missions in Islamabad, Executive Director COMSATS, IAS and PAS fellows. PAS organized the con-

ference in collaboration with the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) from July 22-24. Over 140 scientists, academicians, and scholars, industrialists and policy makers from Pakistan and 13 delegates from OIC countries including Bangladesh, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Palestine, South Africa, Sudan, as well as Uzbekistan attended the Inaugural event of the 25th IAS Conference. In their opening address, PAS President Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik and President of IAS Prof. Adnan Badran highlighted the distinctive challenges confronting OIC member states in the backdrop of Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem nexus, including mushrooming populations, climate change impacts, and water and food resource scarcities, and the urgent need to address these challenges through integrated and innovative approaches to ensure sustainable resource management and security of resources in the OIC Member States. Senators Sherry Rehman, who attended the event as nominee by the President, presented the message of Asif Ali Zardari who is also the patron of the IAS. Speaking at the occasion, Chairman Senate Yousuf Raza Gilani highlighted the issues of Water-Energy-Food Ecosystem for the security of OIC Countries were very pertinent.

## Saudi Falcon Vigen delegation visits ICCI

ISLAMABAD: Mohammad Tariq Ghous, President of Falcon Vigen Investment Company Saudi Arabia, expressed his willingness for investing in Pakistan during a meeting with acting President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar here on Monday. Accompanied by Mohammad Tashfeen, Country Head Pakistan, Ghous praised the investment-friendly environment in the country and appreciated the Pakistan government's initiatives to attract foreign investment. Ghous commended the country's peaceful atmosphere and the government's efforts to promote economic stability through foreign investments. Earlier, acting President ICCI Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar welcomed the delegation and highlighted potential investment areas in the country, including mines and mineral sectors. He said that country's youth is not only blessed with all the needed technology but is equally enthusiastic to serve the country for economic betterment.

On his part Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General United Business Group, expressed Pakistan's love and unwavering support for Saudi Arabia. He also made the mention of ICCI's initiatives, including plans for a modern hospital, international university, industrial estate, and state-of-the-art expo center. Bakhtawari also highlighted ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's efforts to serve the business community, including installing water filtration plants and providing educational resources like computers and lab equipment etc. in the duty of his corporation social responsibility.—DNA

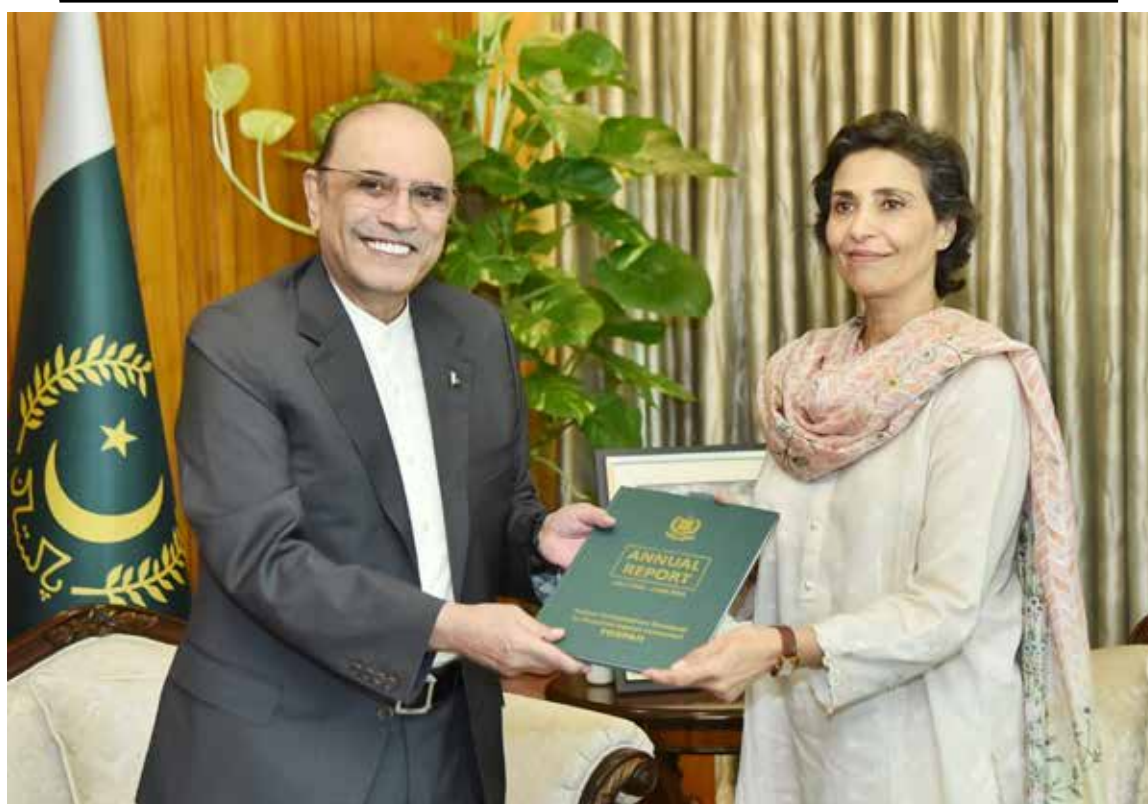
## NDMA, SULC enhance disaster management coop

HYDERABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Sindh University Laar Campus (SULC) Badin have signed a Letter of Cooperation (LoC) to ensure cooperation in the field of disaster management. The agreement was signed by the Pro-Vice Chancellor Sindh University Laar Campus Professor Dr. Khalil-Ur-Rehman Khoumbati and the Director General National Institute of Disaster Management M. Tanveer Paracha on behalf of NDMA. The aim of this consensus was to strengthen coordination and building institutional and technical capacity to effectively handle disasters. The SU spokesperson informed on Monday that the parties will exchange knowledge on past disasters, early warning systems and innovative

practices, creating synergy through shared platforms, while efforts will also be taken to enhance capabilities of government agencies and local communities to handle disasters such as floods, earthquakes, droughts, tsunamis, heat waves and cyclones. According to LoC, advanced technologies and innovative practices like remote sensing, GIS mapping and risk-based spatial planning will be employed to bolster emergency response systems. Training experts, professors, scientists and other disaster management staff will engage in exchanges, joint workshops, conferences, seminars, drills and training courses.

Both parties have agreed to safeguard confidential information exchanged during the implementation of the LoC, and no party will

disclose classified information to third parties without prior written consent. After agreement, the Registrar Sindh University Professor Dr. Mushtaq Ali Jariko has officially notified the establishment of the Disaster Risk Reduction Society (DRRS). Dr. Muhammad Tufail Chandio from the Department of English has been appointed as the President of the DRRS. He will be supported by Dr. Abbas Ali Shah, FCPS In-charge at the Thalassemia Centre Badin serving as Vice President. Haji Ahmed Solangi from the Department of Commerce has been named Secretary, while Dr. Khalil-Ur-Rehman Bhatti, In-charge of the Department of Business Administration will serve as Treasurer and Muhammad Khan Samoon as Information Secretary.—APP



ISLAMABAD : The Federal Ombudsperson, Ms. Fauzia Vigar, presented the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH)'s Annual Report for the year 2022-23 to the President Asif Ali Zardari, during a call on, at Aiwan-i-Sadr.—DNA

## Health Minister directs for intensification of anti-dengue activities

Syed Qasim Ali Shah expressed satisfaction with the anti-dengue measures taken so far and instructed the distribution of mosquito nets in affected areas

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR : Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Minister, Syed Qasim Ali Shah has issued directives for intensification of anti-dengue activities with the onset of the monsoon season. He emphasized increase in larvicidal activities and acceleration of awareness campaigns.

He issued these directives at an anti-dengue review meeting held under the chairmanship of Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah on Monday at health secretariat. The meeting was attended by Secretary Health Adeel Shah, Special Secretary Health Polio Abdul Basit, DG Health Dr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, Director EPI Dr.

Arif, Director Public Health Dr. Irshad Roghani, representative of district administration, UNICEF, WHO, and officials from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among other relevant authorities. Syed Qasim Ali Shah expressed satisfaction with the anti-dengue measures taken so far and instructed the distribution of mosquito nets in affected areas and the launch of targeted campaigns in hotspots to prevent future outbreaks. Director Public Health Dr. Irshad Roghani presented an overview of the current dengue situation. He noted the necessity of monitoring water storage due to load shedding and reported that mosquito nets have been distributed in affect-

ed areas, with further distribution ongoing. Dr. Roghani highlighted that dengue cases are at a historic low compared to the previous year, with only 69 cases reported so far, of which only five are active, all under home quarantine. Dr. Roghani further detailed that over 1,700 awareness walks and more than 92,000 awareness sessions have been conducted, educating millions about dengue prevention. He explained that upon deof a positive dengue case, WHO protocols are followed, including fogging and IRS spraying in the affected area to eliminate mosquito and larval reservoirs. Regarding entomological surveillance, Dr. Roghani informed the

meeting that continuous surveillance of anti-dengue activities is ongoing, with 1.5 million homes checked so far, resulting in the elimination of dengue larvae in over 500 homes. "Over 4,000 dengue breeding sites inside homes and 640 positive larvae sites identified during external surveillance have been eradicated" he added. In Punjab, 133 cases, and in Balochistan, over 6,000 dengue cases have been reported. Analysis over the past three years indicates that the dengue season begins in August, with the highest number of cases in September. This year, only 17 cases have been reported from Peshawar Division, and 21 cases from Malakand Division.

## Census shows rich lingual tapestry in Sindh

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: At least 16 distinct languages are spoken by different communities in Sindh showing a rich tapestry of languages in the province, according to the 2023 population census data released by the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) last week. Sindh and Urdu are the most widely spoken languages in the province, followed by Pashto and Punjabi. The census data further reveal that that Sindh is the predominant language in the province, with 33.462 million speakers, closely followed by Urdu with 12.409 million speakers. Pashto ranks third with 2.955 million speakers, and Punjabi follows with 2.265 million speakers. Moreover, there are 1.208 million Balochi

speakers, 913,418 Saraiki speakers, 830,581 Hindko speakers, 265,769 Brahui speakers, 53,249 Kashmiri speakers, 57,059 Mewati speakers, 22,273 Shina speakers, 27,193 Balti speakers, 14,885 Kohistani speakers, 777 Kailashi speakers, and 1.151 million speakers of other languages across the province. Among the five divisions of Sindh, Karachi stands out as the most linguistically diverse. The seven districts of the teeming metropolitan city collectively host 10.315 million Urdu speakers, 2.752 million Pashto speakers, 2.264 million Sindh speakers, 1.645 million Punjabi speakers, 808,352 Balochi speakers, 753,903 Saraiki speakers, 653,727 Hindko speakers, 75,993 Brahui speakers, 30,375 Mewati speakers, 26,906

Balti speakers, 14,073 Kohistani speakers, 21,860 Shina speakers, 614 Kailashi speakers, and 943,165 speakers of other languages. These figures highlight Karachi's role as a melting pot of linguistic and ethnic diversity within Sindh, reflecting its vibrant cultural mosaic. Sindh nationalists reject census data. The Sindh Taraqeeqasand Party (STP) has rejected the data of the recently published results of the 2023 Digital Census regarding the Sindh speaking population. "We do not accept the published data of the current digital census," said STP chairman Dr. Qadir Magasi, in response to the released figures of the census. He stated the headcount, controversial since its inception, did not reflect the true population figures.—APP

## GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN CABINET SECRETARIAT CABINET DIVISION TENDER NOTICE

Sealed bids are invited from firms/contractors/suppliers/dealers registered with Sales Tax/Income Tax Departments (FBR) and having their own offices/stock/manpower/expertise in the procurement of, works and services as-required for the Financial Year 2024-25.

Name of Procuring Agency	Cabinet Division, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.
Number of Tender(s)	03 (Three).
Annual Procurements	i. Stationery, Toners and Miscellaneous Items ii. Hardware and Electrical Items
Annual Repairs & Maintenance.	iv. Pre-qualification of workshop(s) for the Repair / Maintenance of different make/model of vehicles / motorcycles i.e. Suzuki, Honda, Toyota, Mitsubishi Buses, Mercedes Benz Cars, Jeep etc, Protected or Non-Protected Vehicles and Machinery / Equipment, Furniture/Fixture and Hardware items.
Closing Time, Date & Place	The tender must be uploaded on e-paid. The same can also be dropped in Tender Box within time, upto 11.00 hrs, <b>07-08-2024</b> Room No.1048, Cabinet Block, Cabinet Division, Islamabad.
Opening of bids.	11.30 hrs, <b>07-08-2024</b> Cabinet Division, Cabinet Block, Islamabad.

- Bids Security of each tender (excluding of all Government applicable Taxes at the time of submission) in shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order (refundable) in favour of Section Officer (Gen-I), Cabinet Division, Islamabad must be attached with each bid separately.
- All Government Rates & Taxes shall be applicable at the time of supply / work order in the quoted rates.
- Detail of specifications of above items including Terms & Conditions and quantities can be obtained from Room No: 1048, 1st Floor, Cabinet Division or can be downloaded from the Cabinet Division Website ([www.cabinet.gov.pk](http://www.cabinet.gov.pk)) and PPRA Website ([www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk)) on any working day during office hours by closing date & time (free of cost).

PID(0494/24

(Muhammad Aamir Qureshi)  
Section Officer (General-I)  
Ph: 051-9201455



## 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

## Enquiry

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

## Hospitals

CMH.....5611111  
MH.....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



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kuwait to Pakistan, Abdul Rehman Jay. Al-Mutiari called on Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Privatization and Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan. – DNA

# Pakistan faces overall 38% increase in energy prices

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Speakers at a panel discussion underscored that Pakistan is facing an overall increase of 38 percent in energy prices along with a 62 percent rise in capacity charges leading to tariff hikes in the country that could be overcome through an independent power consumer model promoting individual power generation. The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), as part of its Monday Seminar series, under the auspices of the Network for Clean Energy Transition (NCET) conducted a panel discussion on "Pakistan's Electricity Tariff Structure: Insights and Key Determinants" here at the SDPI conference hall. Dr. Khalid Waleed, Research Fellow at SDPI, detailed Pakistan's consumer categories and tariff-setting mechanisms, highlighting how the tariff structure

is designed to reflect various consumer types and usage patterns. Residential consumers, classified under category A-1, make up 89% of the consumer base and account for 48% of the total consumption. This trend is opposite to the global pattern where industries are the main consumers of electricity. In Pakistan, however, commercial consumers (A-2) represent 9% of the consumers and 7% of the consumption. He further explained the mechanism behind the high electricity bills. In Pakistan, the capacity charge, encompassing fixed operational and maintenance costs, return on equity, debt servicing, insurance, working capital financing fees, and procurement and construction costs, is higher than the generation charge. The Energy Price (EP), which includes fuel cost and variable operational and maintenance expenses, is projected to increase from 0.84 trillion Rs in FY24 to

1.16 trillion Rs in FY25, translating to a rise from 10.94 Rs/unit to 15.65 Rs/unit. The Capacity Price (CP) is anticipated to grow from 1.847 trillion Rs in FY24 to 1.95 trillion Rs in FY25, contributing to 18.39 Rs/unit or 60% of the overall power tariff. Another reason for the increased electricity bills is the various taxes imposed. He explained that in Pakistan, electricity bills include several taxes, including an 18% General Sales Tax (GST) from the federal government and an Electricity Duty from provincial governments of 1.5% for residential customers and 2% for commercial customers. "Various strategies can be employed to effectively address the issue, such as removing the six-month criteria for protected consumers, promoting innovative financial solutions, simplifying the SLAB mechanism, and, most importantly, advocating for region-wise competitive tariffs and improving service quality,"

he suggested. Dr. Musarat Jabeen highlighted the concept of the independent power consumer (IPC) model, advocating for solar energy initiatives and encouraging everyone to generate their own energy to promote sustainability. She emphasized the need to formulate new policies tailored to our specific needs and challenges. Engr Ahad Nazir, Associate Research Fellow and Head Center for Private Sector Engagement at SDPI highlighted that all energy-generating plants are paying fixed tariffs regardless of production and output, which eliminates the incentive to compete, whereas capacity payments and the dollar index are the main causes of such high prices. He presented three models: cost-reflective tariffs, subsidy-targeted tariffs, and decentralized tariff settings, which are international best practices adopted to tackle major crises and maintain costs.

"Electricity theft is a major problem, so tariffs must be charged regionally, rather than being common for all of Pakistan. Transitioning towards cost-reflective tariffs and revisiting TOU tariffs to manage peak demand is essential whereas moving towards sustainable and renewable resources promotes clean energy," he added. Engr. Ubaid ur Rehman Zia, head of energy unit at SDPI mentioned that the tariff structure reflects the complex interplay of power sector policies and regulations, market dynamics, and regulatory frameworks. The structure and determinants of these tariffs have far-reaching implications, affecting not only household budgets but also the competitiveness of businesses and the overall economic stability of our country. He mentioned that the structure of Pakistan's tariffs has a regressive nature, disproportionately affecting smaller consumers.

## ISSI and BNU to host international conference on "Pak-U.S. relations"

The conference aims to foster a deeper understanding of Pakistan-U.S. ties, address contemporary challenges in the bilateral, regional and global context, and identify opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration in various domains. The key subjects to be covered will include bilateral relations, economic partnership, security cooperation, and regional dynamics

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with Beaconhouse National University (BNU), is organizing an International Conference on "Strengthening Pakistan-U.S. Relations."

The Conference will be held on July 24, 2024, at

the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad. The conference aims to foster a deeper understanding of Pakistan-U.S. ties, address contemporary challenges in the bilateral, regional and global context, and identify opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration in various domains. The key subjects to be covered will include bilateral relations, economic partnership, security cooperation, and

regional dynamics. The conference will feature a distinguished line-up of diplomats, practitioners, and subject specialists including from the academia. The event will feature panel discussions and interactive sessions, providing a platform for participants to engage in meaningful conversations and explore opportunities for fruitful collaboration. The event will be attended by a cross-section-

including from the diplomatic community; academia; members of think tanks, civil society, and the media; and students of international relations. It is expected to foster a deeper understanding of the ties between Pakistan and the United States, and the role of collaborative efforts in addressing shared challenges, realizing opportunities, and advancing mutual interests.

## IPPs play a central role in the economy's destruction

ISLAMABAD: The chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board and National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, as well as former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that IPPs are playing a major role in the destruction of the country's economy. He suggested stopping the establishment of new IPPs and giving state-owned IPPs standard rates for supply or electricity. Mian Zahid Hussain stated that we should start with the power plants of our friendly country, China, in order to balance the agreements with IPPs. The veteran business leader told the business community that we should stop building new IPPs of all kinds because only those in power need them. He warned that the country will go bankrupt if the private sector does not stop building new power plants. Mian Zahid Hussain stated that different IPPs have received payments ranging from Rs 750 to Rs 350 per unit, which is unacceptable. Setting up IPPs is not a business; it is profiteering and robbery. We need to explain to the public why we are purchasing electricity worth billions from various IPPs and paying trillions of rupees to some IPPs without generating a single unit. According to Mian Zahid Hussain, IPPs receive payment in the form of capacity charges without producing any electricity.—DNA

## ICT admin cracks down on price hikes, ensure fair practices

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the Assistant Commissioners of Islamabad have intensified their efforts to control price hike in the Federal Capital in a bid to tackle rising prices. According to the Spokesman of ICT's Administration, Assistant Commissioner Nilore led by district administration teams inspected markets at Khanna Pul area, where offenders were nabbed for overpricing and failing to display price lists. On the occasion, he also visited shopping malls where he also checked licences of security guards. Additionally, an anti-encroachment operation cleared 15 carts blocking pathways. In another action, Assistant Commissioner Industrial Area targeted price violations in I-9 area. During inspection, the AC imposed 10 persons and arrested fines to several individuals for not displaying price lists and using polythene bags. He also inspected Petrol pumps of the area, and checked petrol nozzles and fire safety measures. Security guards found without proper licenses had their weapons confiscated.

Similarly, Assistant Commissioner Shalimar visited G-10 area, resulting in multiple arrests for overpricing on fruits and vegetables, as well as violations in naam/roti pricing, leading to the sealing of offending tandoors.—APP

## Political parties should work jointly for peace, economic stability

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Region (SAFRON) and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday said that all political parties should work together for maintaining peace and ensuring substantial economic stability in the country. Addressing a news conference here, the minister said that nobody should play politics on the national issues such as peace and economic prosperity, adding that the country was heading towards economic stability due to efforts under dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. He strongly condemned malicious campaign against the supreme institutions and tragic incidents of Germany and Bannu and urged that no one should be allowed to defame the country for their personal motives. He said that a political party was continuing the campaign against state institutions which was highly regrettable. "I have always talked against terrorism valiantly and all the political parties should play their role in eradicating the menace of terrorism from the country," Amir Muqam added.—APP

## IESCO issues power suspension notice

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 23rd July 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, Upper Topa, Patriata, TDGP, FSH, I-8/4, I-8 Markaz, IndustrialH, Modern Steel, New PTN, Pak Iron Steel, Mumtaz Steel, Fazal Rubber, MG Steel, Pothohar Steel, Fazal Ghee, GOR, I-10/4, Katarian, Bani, Holy Family, Isolation Hospital, Rahara, CM Pak Zong, D-12 /1&2 Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Bagh Sardaran, Eid Gah, Dhok Najo, Ali Market, Khyaban Sir Syed, Raja Sultan, Mohammadi Chowk, Katarian Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Qureshiabad, Garja.I, Hayal, Gulistan Fatima, Ranyal, Murt, Katarian, Holy Family, Bani, F Block, Bajniyal, Bijniyal.II, Madina Colony, Officer Colony, Lakho, Car Chowk Feeders, Attock Circle, Punjab Small Industries, Mix Industries, Kohistan Enclave, Pind Pran, Valley, Gulshan Sahat, Sangani, Shahullah Ditta, Paswal, Shakurdra, Ghorghashti, Maskinabad Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Kallar Kahar, Jund Awan Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 17:00 PM, GSO Circle, Sodan Gali, Bagh No-2, Numanpura, Harjal, Numanpura 3, Dhali No. 1, Dhali No. 2, Bagh No. 1, Numanpura 2, Kharal feeders and surrounding areas will remain closed. Furthermore, From 10:00 AM to 13:00 PM, 132 KV Grid Station Bahria Town Phase-IV (Consumer Grid) will be affected but in case of emergency load management of 20 to 25 MW should be done at 132 KV Cantt, Chaklala, Al Ghurir giga grid station as per requirement. —DNA

## JULY 2024

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk

www.dnanews.com.pl

www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

# Islamabad POST

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





## Briefs

## Tourism squad effectively working in facilitating tourists

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab Tourism Squad (PTS) Murree was effectively working to provide all kinds of facilities and guidance to tourists thronging to the recreational spots of the area. Tourism squad also issued warning to the hotels and restaurants management to ensure cleanliness and provide tourists with a comfortable environment and quality food to enjoy their trip, said a press release issued here on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director Operations Syed Khurram Hasan said that the Punjab Tourism Squad will take all possible measures in collaboration with the local government for facilitating the tourists. He said that tourism squad would take all possible steps to provide neat & clean ambience, supply of quality food and other necessary facilities to the tourists. He said that tourists can contact with Punjab Tourism Squad helpline 1421 in case of any problem to avoid untoward incident.—APP

## Rs 33.16 bln released for various power sector schemes

ISLAMABAD: The government had disbursed a sum of Rs 33.16 billion for various power sector NTDC/PEPCO schemes under the annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in last fiscal year 2023-24. According to the official data issued by the Planning Commission, the government had specified a sum of Rs 55.27 billion for various NTDC/PEPCO projects in PSDP 2023-24. Out of the total release amount, the local component stood at Rs 29.639 billion while the foreign aid component was Rs 25.638 billion. A sum of Rs 38.800 billion had been spent on various water-related projects so far. Under ongoing schemes, an amount of Rs12,000 million has been allocated for Installation of 2x600 MW coal-fired power project GENCO-1 Jamshoro, Rs 2,536.471 million for interconnection of isolated Makran Network, Rs 1600 million each for 220kV Hairpur Substation, 220kV Swabi Substation, Rs 1200 million for 500kV Allama Iqbal Industrial City for 600 MW Demand of the Special Economic Zone, Rs 1,059 million for replacement of LT Bare conductor with ABC Cable in Peshawar Khyber Circle and Bannu Circle, Rs 1,439 million for 220/132 Kv GIS substation Dhabiji, Rs 964 million for electrification works at different valleys of District Chitral and Rs 900 million for 220 kV Quid-e-Azam Apparel and Business Park in the PSDP for FY 2023-24.—APP

## 'Serious focus needed to fight growing mental diseases'

ISLAMABAD: Noted neurophysician of the country Dr Fowzia Siddiqui of Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi, who is also President of Epilepsy Foundation Pakistan has stressed the need of a serious focus of government and society to fight growing cases of mental illness in the country. On the occasion of 22nd July World Brain Day of World Federation of Neurology, she said that the human brain is very complex and so are the brain diseases. She said there is a greater need if spreading awareness about the brain diseases so that their timely diagnosis and treatment could be ensured. She said even a minor problem in brain could affect the whole body. A tiny clot in brain could result in paralysis of whole body. She said that there are different symptoms of different brain diseases and people should immediately consult a trained neurologist or psychiatrist in case of any complaint. She asked the government and all stakeholders to raise awareness about the brain diseases so as to prompt a healthy society in Pakistan.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and for Minister for Foreign Affairs Ishaq Dar chairs high level meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —DNA

## Testing, commissioning of Gwadar Airport completed

A Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Pakistan official explained to Gwadar Pro, "Testing and commissioning encompass a series of engineering techniques and procedures designed to check, inspect, and test every operational component of a project, from individual functions to complex systems

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The testing and commissioning of the New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) have been completed with precision. This phase marks the culmination of a detailed three-month process, begun on April 15, that optimized the airport's compliance with design requirements, operational efficiency, and minimized future operational risks while adhering

to maintenance standards and legislative regulations. The comprehensive testing and commissioning involved the airport's entire infrastructure, including the runway, taxiway, apron, electrical systems, telecommunications networks, security features, water supply system, and grid station, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Pakistan official explained to Gwadar Pro, "Testing and commissioning encompass a series of engineer-

ing techniques and procedures designed to check, inspect, and test every operational component of a project, from individual functions to complex systems. The main objective is to ensure that all elements, including construction, processing, and installation, function according to capacity, usage, and requirements." Last July, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif inaugurated the airbase infrastructure of the China-funded NGIA, which includes 32 components such as

civil, technical, electrical, and communication facilities, alongside modern allied services. The next phase will see the construction of a cargo complex designed to handle diverse cargo types. Upon completion, NGIA will be the largest airport in Pakistan and the nation's second to operate under an open sky policy. It is slated to accommodate both narrow-body aircraft such as the ATR 72 and Boeing B-737 and wide-body aircraft like the Airbus A-380 and Boeing B-747,

facilitating both domestic and international flights. The airport's development is guided by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Costing Rs. 60.208 billion, NGIA is a flagship project of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The airport, surrounded by a security fence, spans over 4,300 acres and is located 26km northeast of the existing Gwadar City airport on the southwestern Arabian Sea coast of the Balochistan region.

## Al-Shifa Trust Chakwal Eye Hospital extended

Donation of Rs 150 million helped trust provide better facilities

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Pakistan's leading eye care facility, has announced the completion of an extension block in the Chakwal Eye Hospital, allowing it to cater to the needs of five hundred patients per day. Chakwal Eye Hospital was designed to cater for 250 patients per day, but the influx forced the hospital administration to make temporary arrangements, said Maj. Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan, President of Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital. The trust was concerned about providing better facilities to the patients but was unable to extend and upgrade the hospital due to a lack of funds, he said while briefing media men. He said that at this juncture, Dr. Nasir Baz, a Pakistani doctor serving in Fresno, California, met him and ex-

pressed concern about the hospital in Chakwal. He noticed that some patients were waiting outside under a makeshift shelter, and the hospital's infrastructure had become insufficient due to the overwhelming demand. Maj. Gen. Rehmat Khan said that he informed him of the financial constraints hindering expansion plans. Dr. Nasir Baz, who hails from a village in Chakwal, offered financial assistance to expand facilities and improve infrastructure. Additionally, he expressed full confidence in the ability and integrity of officials of the Al-Shifa Trust. Dr. Baz inquired about the cost of expansion and donated Rs 150 million for the purpose, enabling the trust to complete the hospital's expansion and upgrade within two years. Our Chakwal hospital can now accommodate 500

patients daily and provide round-the-clock emergency eye care services, thanks to Dr. Baz's generosity, Maj Gen (Retd) Rehmat Khan explained. He added that the number of retinal and glaucoma surgeries will now reach 40 per day, in addition to the daily treatment of 30 to 40 glaucoma patients who do not require surgery. Maj Gen (Retd) Rehmat Khan announced the deployment of an outreach team in Chakwal villages to conduct school screenings and provide pick-up and drop-off facilities for serious patients. The Al-Shifa President told journalists that over the last 30 years, the trust has treated 30 million patients free of charge, a service worth Rs 13 billion. The free treatment also includes thousands of surgeries for glaucoma, retina, and cancer.

## IRSA releases 322,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 322,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 311,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1515.96 feet and was 117.96 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 171,000 cusecs and 190,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1197.20 feet, which was 149.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 22,600 cusecs and 15,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 205,900, 201,800, 143,000 and 75,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 52,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 36,500 cusecs released from River.—APP

## FPCCI energy committee demands audit of IPPs

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The FPCCI Standing Committee on Energy, under the chairmanship of Malik Khuda Bakhsh, held an emergency meeting to highlight the devastating impact of exorbitant electric charges on Pakistan's economy and condemned these high rates. It was stated that the entire burden has been

placed on the public to favor 40 IPPs. In the country, 25% of IPPs are closed, and these closed IPPs are receiving monthly payments of Rs 10 billion, causing the national economy to sink further into crisis. Additionally, IPPs are charging capacity charges of Rs 24 per unit even for unused electricity. In the meeting, the committee vehemently demanded an immediate review of these capacity charges, which are

pushing industries to the brink of collapse and endangering the survival of businesses in Pakistan. The Energy Committee members expressed deep concern over the catastrophic effects of the Independent Power Producers' (IPPs) exorbitant electric charges, which have resulted in widespread unemployment, closure of industries, reduction in foreign investment, and significant economic losses.

## Railways move ahead to adopt digital work place solutions

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is taking steps to become an E-office soon to digitalize its service and improve internal efficiencies through electronic administration. The e-office platform aims to cater for the need for effectiveness and transparency in Governmental processes and service delivery mechanisms as well as help government departments to go paperless. The idea is being implemented with the help of the National Information Technology Board (NITB) which will be responsible for providing the relevant training to the staff of Pakistan Railways. E-Office is a digital workplace solution that replaces the existing method of manual handling of files and documents with an efficient electronic system. According to an official source, Pakistan Railways will be on e-office

soon which will not only facilitate the users but also make the entire system of the department transparent. Listing other steps taken by the department, the source revealed that Pakistan Railways has developed a software application for journalist concession card management. All the related data for journalist concession cards across the country is managed by the Directorate of Public Relations. The software has been prepared and is linked with the centralized reservation center as well. About the Networking Monitoring System (NMS), the source said that the software has been deployed on the premises of the Directorate of IT with the help of this system all network deployed all over the railways network is being monitored critically and in case of any disconnections the concerned service provider is taken up

and pursued till the fault is removed. The efficiency of the network is being monitored through this system from audit perspective as well, it said. Regarding the provision of internet facilities at different levels, the source said that the entire railway headquarters office is covered with internet service. Internet facility is also being provided at the Ministry via the PR Headquarters office (as a backup link). It was decided by the management of Pakistan Railways to develop an e-ticketing system with the latest technology indigenously. To implement this idea, Pakistan Railways hired IT professionals from the market and developed the software, which has been deployed and in operation since May 2016. As the e-ticketing system has now been deployed on the latest tools and techniques, to facilitate the management of

earnings at the day's end, a train train-wise earning portal has been devised. This portal indicates complete information about the financial aspect from the commercial point of view and provides the live incremental financial position concerning passenger earning. The software for the email exchange server has been installed in the IT Directorate with the viewpoint that emails being used previously from the web hosting company were bounced back as a result e-ticketing client of Pakistan Railways was not in a position to approach this office in case of complaints and claim of refund. In addition to the above facility the email addresses have also been issued to the officials of Pakistan Railways to communicate on officials' email within or out of the organization, it added.—APP

## POL import bill decreases by 0.61 percent in FY2024

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The imports of the overall petroleum group decreased by 0.61 percent during the fiscal year 2023-24 as compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The total imports of the petroleum group during July-June (2023-24) stood at \$ 16,910.249 million as against the imports of \$ 17,014.558 million during the same period of last year, according to PBS data. Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products declined by 12.91 percent, from \$ 7,628.442 million last year to \$ 6,643,912 million during the time period under review. However, the imports of petroleum crude increased by 11.80 percent, from \$ 4,947.216 million to \$ 5,531.129; natural gas liquefied by 4.84 percent, from \$ 5,531.129 to \$ 3,945.703 whereas the imports of petroleum gas liquefied went up by 16.93 percent and reached to \$ 675.029 million as compared to \$ 789.287 last year. The imports of all other petroleum group products decreased by 35.86 percent and went down to \$0.339 million from \$0.218 million. Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the petroleum group imports witnessed a decrease of 3.73 percent during the month of June 2024 as compared to the same month of last year. The petroleum imports during June 2024 were recorded as \$ 1,632.251 million against the imports of \$ 1,571.302 million during June 2023. On a month-on-month basis, the petroleum imports into the country decreased by 0.42 percent during June 2024, as compared to the imports of \$ 1,577.878 million in May 2024, according to the data. It is pertinent to mention here that overall trade deficit declined by 12.32 percent during the FY2024 to \$24.089 billion compared to last year's deficit of \$27.474 billion.

**Asian Wok**

WE WELCOME YOU AT ASIAN WOK, MURREE

30 Minutes Drive From Islamabad - Murree Toll Plaza

**TIMINGS:**  
12:30 PM - 12:00 AM

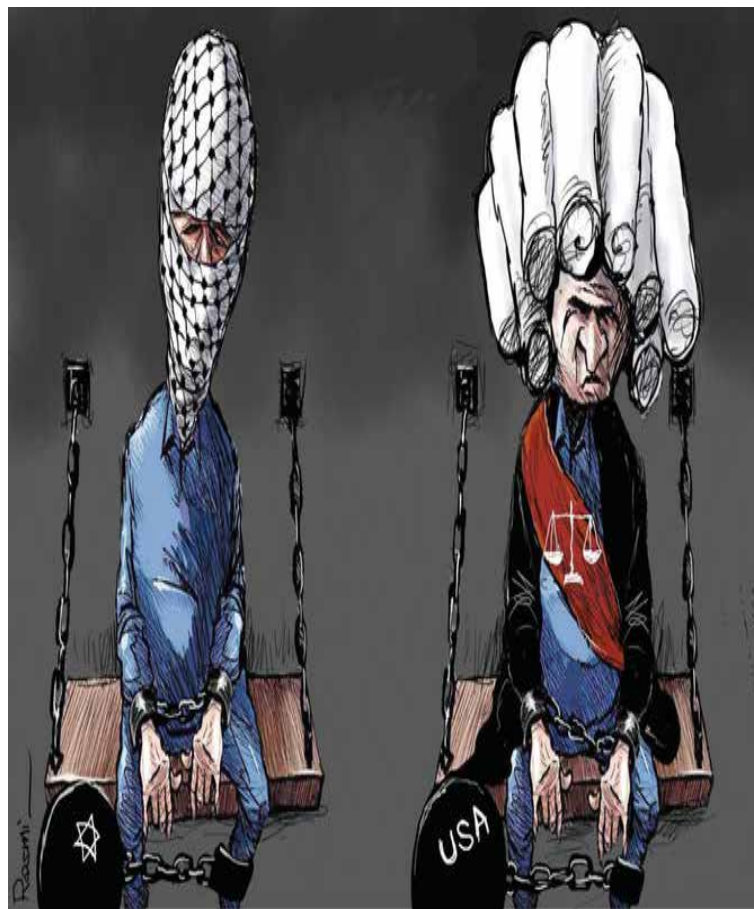
Park Ridge Apartments, Lower Topa, Murree Expressway, Murree  
0300 8403004 | 0300 8503004



## Whatever happened to the Tories?

Whatever happened to the British Conservative Party at the general election at the start of this month? Its members have been left, in the words of the BBC's chief political correspondent, "dazed and confused, even grief-stricken". As Rishi Sunak said in the moments before he visited Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation, the UK public had clearly demonstrated their anger and disappointment at his government. Some Tories – such as the former immigration minister (and anti-immigration enthusiast) Robert Jenrick – said it was because they hadn't delivered on their more extreme promises, such as the madcap plan to deport asylum-seekers to central Africa, an initiative which had immediately been junked by the incoming Labour government, the moment that they swept into power with their massive landslide. Perhaps not. It should be noted that Labour only earned 33.7 per cent of the popular vote. The Conservatives took 23.7 per cent and Reform UK 14.3 per cent. With the Liberal Democrats on 12.2 per cent and the Greens on 6.7 per cent, a system of proportional representation would doubtless still have launched Keir Starmer into Downing Street, leading a progressive coalition government, but one which would have had to suffer those right-wing parties constantly snapping at its heels. There are those on the right of the Conservative Party already calling for a deal to be done to join forces with Nigel Farage and his four-and-a-bit other Reform MPs. Some Conservatives would even like Mr. Farage to take over as their new leader. But there are other Tories who believe that those parties which prove themselves able to form governments in the UK are almost always those which have occupied the center ground of politics – and who suspect that Mr. Farage's claim to be the rightful heir to the "right of center" is rather like Reykjavik purporting to be only very slightly to the north of Rio. Indeed, there are those on the moderate wing of the Conservatives who might feel more ideologically aligned with Keir Starmer's centrist Labour Party than with those they view as nasty Nigel's crew – his cadre of gammon-faced likely lads posing for the cameras down their local pubs, mouthing off about migrants, the purveyors of nostalgic fantasies which remorselessly invoke an imagined history of national glory, all garnished with lashings of real ale and lardy chips. Those Tories would certainly dread the idea of consigning the country's future to such a bunch of viciously capricious old white men, a club of crusty curmudgeons with nothing to look forward to but the past. The struggle for the soul of the Conservative Party will be fought over the coming months, and it will most probably be a ruthless and bitter one. Both sides sincerely believe it will be a battle for its survival, and they look like they're willing to fight to the death for it. But the recent attempt to assassinate Donald Trump has reminded us all how dangerous such zealotry can be – and how fragile is the veneer of peace enjoyed by western democracies. Two British politicians have tragically been assassinated in the last few years. We should be thankful that the violence provoked by the UK's last general election was for the most part milkshake-based – and we should remain mindful of the ways in which aggressive rhetoric can quickly spin into real-world atrocities. Joe Biden was last week forced to admit that it had been wrong for him to suggest, just days before the lethal shooting at his rival's rally, that it was time for the Democrats to target Mr. Trump as the "bullseye" for campaign attacks.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily  
 Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
 Deputy Editor: Abid Raza  
 Member APNS / ABC Certified  
 Vol: 05 Issue: 209  
 Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com  
 Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960  
 Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



## Nato's China focus

While the recent Nato summit celebrated the organisation's 75th anniversary, its focus on China underscored a shift in geopolitical dynamics. The transatlantic alliance, which was founded to defend against the threat from the Soviet Union and later Russia, is increasingly critical of China and its global role. Nato has voiced deep concern over China's failure to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and accused Beijing of providing material and political support for Moscow's war efforts. This marks a significant turn, with Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg calling it the alliance's strongest message to date on China's involvement in the conflict. The intense focus on China comes at the same time as a growing feeling of unease within Nato. Some Western strategists had anticipated that Russia's invasion of Ukraine could end up akin to the Soviet quagmire in Afghanistan, potentially leading to the downfall of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Yet, despite funneling large amounts of financial support and military equipment to Ukraine and imposing severe financial restrictions on Russia – including freezing large parts of its foreign reserves – the conflict in Ukraine has continued into a third year. Russia has spent heavily on defence during the conflict, allocating upwards of 6 per cent of its GDP to military spending since its invasion began in February 2022. This is in contrast to Nato member countries, whose defence spending as a percentage of GDP tends to be lower. Moscow has also shown economic resilience thanks to its considerable financial resources, including US\$580 billion in foreign currency and gold reserves. This economic cushion supports its military efforts and allows for sustained investment in its defence industries. Meanwhile, the defence industries in many Nato countries, particularly in Europe, have largely been scaled back following the end of the Cold War. War games and assessments have indicated potential shortfalls in ammunition production and military readiness among alliance members, highlighting a gap in industrial capacity and preparedness for high-intensity conflicts. While European allies remain wary of China, many are also concerned about being caught in the crossfire of escalating Sino-American tensions in addition to the effects of Russia's war in Ukraine. They still consider Russia as the main threat to Nato and are sceptical about suggestions of expanding the alliance's role into the Indo-Pacific. This scepticism towards Nato's approach is exemplified by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who is far friendlier towards China and Russia than many of his counterparts in western Europe. Just a few days before the Nato summit, Orban visited Putin and President Xi Jinping. Orban has moved to increase Hungary's engagement with China, resulting in 16 billion (US\$17.4 billion) of investment by Chinese firms, making China the top investor in Hungary. European nations who rely on commerce with China want to avoid anything that would increase tensions with an important trade partner. Consider Germany, the economic engine of the European Union. In April, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited China and discussed how to consolidate and develop their relations. As the second- and third-largest economies globally, their strategic partnership not only enhances bilateral ties but also influences the Eurasian continent and global stability. Germany is feeling the effects of the deterioration of economic ties with Russia.

## Solving the IPP quagmire: Strategies & solutions

Qamar Bashir



Previously, the outcry against rising power costs came primarily from consumers, chambers of commerce, and small and medium enterprises, whose demands were largely ignored. However, the government now seems to realize that addressing the dual issues of electricity and gas circular debt is critical for its survival. To build pressure, the various scandals and secret information including the payment of large subsidies to IPPs and capacity payments to idle power

The government has recently launched a discreet campaign against Independent Power Producers (IPPs), highlighting issues related to high electricity tariffs. Previously, the outcry against rising power costs came primarily from consumers, chambers of commerce, and small and medium enterprises, whose demands were largely ignored. However, the government now seems to realize that addressing the dual issues of electricity and gas circular debt is critical for its survival. To build pressure, the various scandals and secret information including the payment of large subsidies to IPPs and capacity payments to idle power producers have been leaked to the media. This has kickstarted a heated debate in the mainstream media. Critics, analysts and energy experts are arguing that the agreements with IPPs were detrimental to national interests due to high production costs leading to elevated tariffs for consumers. The guaranteed payments have significantly increased the national debt and dependency on private entities for essential services, reducing governmental control over energy infrastructure. Furthermore, these contracts are prone to inefficiencies and corruption, escalating costs and reducing transparency, ultimately straining public finances and economic stability. Ironically, most of these problematic IPP agreements were signed during the PPP and PML(N) periods. The initial policy to attract private investment in the power sector was introduced in 1994, followed by a second wave of IPPs between 1995 and 1997. A severe energy crisis from 2005 to 2010 increased reliance on IPPs, and in 2012, the Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) was made a statutory body to streamline development. The CPEC projects from 2013 to 2018 further expanded IPP capacity, especially in coal and renewables. During the PTI government in 2020, the government renegotiated terms with 47 IPPs to address high tariffs, but the total liability to IPPs in the power sector remains approximately Rs2.31 trillion. Former Minister Gohar Ejaz revealed that the government pays Rs2 trillion annually to IPPs under "Take or Pay" clauses, even when no electricity is produced. IPPs have utilized less than 50% of their 23,400 MW generation capacity over the past two years, incurring additional costs of nearly Rs1 trillion due to idle and partially operational plants. The media, civil society and political forces are pressuring the government to renegotiate power tariff payable to IPPs. The demand, though logical

and sensible, is difficult to implement due to long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with fixed terms, "Take or Pay" clauses, and capacity payments obligating the government to pay for unused power. These contracts include sovereign guarantees, making them legally binding and difficult to alter without facing international arbitration, which can result in hefty fines. Additionally, Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) protect foreign investments, adding another layer of complexity. Attempts to renegotiate can erode investor confidence and impact the country's credit rating and future foreign investment prospects. But the country cannot sustain this heavy burden anymore and it needs to get out of this paradox sooner the better, but how? In typical contractual agreements for power projects, it is common for the initial costs to be high due to the capital investment required. Over time, these costs are expected to decrease as the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) recover their fixed costs and earn profits. Additionally, some agreements may include provisions for the eventual transfer of the entity to the government once the IPP has recovered its fixed costs and achieved a reasonable return on investment. However, many of the agreements signed with IPPs in Pakistan appear to have overlooked these aspects. Instead, they included "Take or Pay" clauses and guaranteed payments that ensure ongoing high costs even after the initial investment has been recouped. This has led to a situation where the expected reduction in costs over time has not materialized, continuing to strain public finances and contributing to circular debt. The government of Pakistan however should not give knee jerk reactions by unilaterally terminating the agreements, but should think creatively to create a win-win situation while negotiating with Independent Power Producers (IPPs). It should search, find and adopt international best practices that can provide valuable insights. However, there is no second opinion that renegotiating terms and tariffs is essential. The renewed negotiations should bring the IPPs willing on the table and convince them with logic and wisdom. The terms of reference should include; adjusting payment terms to reflect actual power consumption rather than fixed capacity payments and gradually lowering tariffs as IPPs recover their fixed costs and earn reasonable profits. Amending "Take or Pay" clauses to "Take and Pay" agreements, where payments are made based on actual electric-

ity supplied, and incorporating performance-based incentives can also improve efficiency and reliability. The government should offer its continued support and guarantee linked to operational efficiencies and reduced tariffs to maintain investor confidence while phasing out subsidies as IPP financial health improves. Encouraging long-term partnerships, such as equity participation in future projects and including provisions for transferring ownership to the government after fixed costs are recovered, aligns IPP interests with national development goals and ensures sustainability. Promoting renewable energy through competitive bidding and diversification into renewable projects can reduce operational costs and environmental impacts. This strategy not only lowers electricity tariffs but also enhances energy security and sustainability. Examples from other countries, like the Philippines, which restructured its power sector through the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) in 2001, show that renegotiating contracts and introducing competitive bidding can stabilize prices and improve financial health. India's Electricity Act 2003 promoted competition and efficiency by unbundling state electricity boards and allowing open access and competitive bidding, leading to increased private investment. Similarly, South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) attracted significant investment in renewables through competitive bidding, reducing costs and enhancing energy security. Ghana's approach of renegotiating IPP contracts, reducing capacity charges, and improving state utility efficiency further illustrates how strategic reforms can address similar challenges. Implementing these strategies, based on international best practices, can help Pakistan negotiate more favorable terms with IPPs, ensuring both parties benefit while addressing the country's energy and financial challenges. This approach can reduce electricity costs, lower circular debt, and promote a sustainable and efficient power sector, ultimately benefiting both IPPs and the country.

—The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC

## 'A world without borders': Revolutionary love and solidarity for Palestine

Samah Jabr

This affectionate support exemplifies the solidarity I encounter around the world. For someone transitioning from the hostility of the occupied land, such experiences are like an emotional thermal shock. A world without borders, racism and political violence is a collective dream, connecting stateless Palestinians with many people worldwide in what can be called revolutionary love—a love that is not declared, but deeply felt in the hands that connect, the hearts that heal and the minds that envision a world where freedom and equality are inherent rights

"A World Without Borders", read the tattoo on the arm of one of the Brazilian activists who stood with me and my Palestinian friend at the S o Paulo Airport, bidding us farewell before our return flight. When unexpected challenges arose, the Brazilian activists stayed with us for hours, helping to resolve the issues. Even when we were denied access to our flight that night, they ensured that we had a place to sleep and continued to handle the logistics while we rested. This affectionate support exemplifies the solidarity I encounter around the world. For someone transitioning from the hostility of the occupied land, such experiences are like an emotional thermal shock. A world without borders, racism and political violence is a collective dream, connecting stateless Palestinians with many people worldwide in what can be called revolutionary love—a love that is not declared, but deeply felt in the hands that connect, the hearts that heal and the minds that envision a world where freedom and equality are inherent rights for all. Revolutionary love manifests in small, everyday actions: the teacher in a refugee camp providing hope to children who have known only violence; the artist who tells stories of the resilience of a forgotten people; the ordinary citizens boycotting products that contribute to oppression and supporting fair trade and ethical businesses. Each of these actions contributes to a larger movement of solidarity and liberation. Revolutionary love is not just an abstract concept. It is a transformative force that challenges the status quo and fuels the fight for justice, equality and human dignity. It is the courage to love beyond visible and invisible boundaries, to empathize with those whose suffering is often silenced and normalized and to act in solidarity with their struggles. It is the energy that allows us to stand up and make sacrifices for one another. Remember the story of Rachel Corrie, an American activist who stood in front of Israeli bulldozers to protect Palestinian homes from demolition. Her ultimate sacrifice of life itself exemplifies revolutionary love, demonstrating a willingness to face immense personal risk for the sake of justice. Or think of the countless medical professionals from around the world who volunteer in Gaza, providing critical healthcare amid bombings and blockades. Their acts of service, driven by deep empathy and commitment to human dignity, transcend national, religious, ethnic and cultural divides. Watch students facing police violence in campus encampments in North America and Europe. Read about Zionist groups like Canary Mission and pro-Israel leagues threatening people's jobs and jeopardizing their in-

stitutional standing for speaking up for Palestinians. Unlike paid missionaries who join Israeli army's genocidal war in Gaza for a few thousand Euros per week and the bribed journalists and influencers who spread anti-Palestinian propaganda, we see activists who stand beside Palestinians. They raise their voices in tireless advocacy against genocide. They offer daily support to those who refuse to succumb to despair, despite relentless adversity. They receive no money for these principled acts and, indeed, often must pay a price themselves for their commitment, through suffering tangible and intangible losses. The call for international solidarity with the Palestinian people is rooted in revolutionary love. It is reciprocal, even when Palestinians' hands are tied and we cannot extend them to our comrades in equal measure. For decades, Palestinians have been immersed in personal and collective hardships, our lives subject to relentless scrutiny and control. Yet, amid this darkness, the feeling that we are connected to a wider human community has not perished. I remember Palestinian public employees contributing a small percentage of their salary to Syrian refugees on several occasions. Similarly, Palestinians demonstrated in solidarity with the Turkish people who lost their lives protecting their democracy in 2016 and demonstrated in support of the oppressed Rohingya people in Burma. In Gaza, I witnessed people collecting money to support the survivors of earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, as well as the victims of flooding in Libya. Palestinian health and mental health professionals, as well, have participated in support missions to several crisis areas worldwide. It is a testament to the strength of revolutionary love that Palestinians continue to strive for connections with indigenous, Black and other marginalized communities. I believe that human beings have an innate need for justice and empathy. This is my understanding of "fitrah", translated as "original disposition", in Islamic faith. When we witness suffering, our capacity for empathy compels us to act. This is not merely a moral obligation but a psychological imperative that connects us to our shared humanity. Revolutionary love taps into this deep-seated need, urging us to break down the learned barriers of indifference and prejudice that often divide us. Supporting the Palestinian struggle is about recognizing and affirming the humanity of a people who have been dehumanized for far too long. The Palestinians find themselves at the climax of a clash of civilizations, challenging not only Israel, but a unipolar and deformed world order, where human dignity and rights are divided unevenly. This deformed world

presents us with ambiguous and illusionary borders between Occident and Orient, the global North and the global South. In this corrupt world order, the Israeli Occupation sitting on our chests is considered to be very European, Western and civilized, while we are viewed as barbaric and dehumanized savages. Palestinians dare to push Israel off our chests and, in doing so, challenge White supremacy and the Western world order. We should not be alone in doing so. A world that claims to regret Black slavery and the eradication of the indigenous people in the conquest of new continents should be in solidarity with Palestinians. Revolutionary love means seeing your ancestors in our eyes, hearing their voices in our cries. Revolutionary love is about understanding that Palestinian pain is universal and that our dreams are legitimate and human. It is about acknowledging our right to push away the heavy weight on our chest, to breathe and to connect as equals. International solidarity with the Palestinian people means amplifying our voices, supporting our rights and standing with us in our defense of our common human dignity. As the poet, Samih Choukeir, puts it: "If my voice fades, your throats will not", emphasizing that the collective spirit of solidarity will continue unabated in the struggle for justice. It means educating oneself and others in Palestinian history and current realities. Possessing this knowledge makes plain the similarity between our struggle and that of other native and colonized nations. This knowledge prepares us for challenging harmful narratives and advocating for global political change to promote human rights for all. By embracing revolutionary love, we affirm that the struggle to end the Occupation of Palestine is a struggle driven by love for humanity, not hate—contrary to what our enemies falsely claim. It is a call to action, urging people of the world to stand together, not as passive bystanders but as active participants in the fight for justice. In doing so, we not only honor the Sumud and the courage of the Palestinian people, but also uphold the values that define our shared human experience: compassion, justice and unwavering love. In supporting the Palestinian people, you not only aid our struggle, you enrich your own lives by connecting with a deeper sense of purpose and humanity. Revolutionary love teaches us that our fates are intertwined, that justice for one is justice for all. A world without borders—let us answer this call with open hearts and determined spirits, standing together in defense of human dignity and enduring peace.



## Briefs

## Imran admits giving call for protest...

FROM PAGE 01  
last year when, ahead of his appearance before the court of Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal, fierce clashes erupted between his supporters and security personnel. Back then, he had claimed that the government was planning to either assassinate or arrest him inside the Judicial Complex. Recalling the March 18 incident, he said he understood that he would be arrested, adding that he then called for a peaceful protest in front of the army's headquarters before his arrest. The PTI founder said his counsels assured him that they would be part of the investigation and surrender to the police for arrest. Replying to a question, the 71-year-old former premier said martial law was better than a technocratic regime, adding, "An unannounced martial law, however, remains in place in the country, already."

## Police 'arrest' PTI info...

FROM PAGE 01  
were arrested and all the evidence from the PTI's digital media cell was taken into custody. The party, in a statement on X, said: "It's absolutely shameful how Islamabad Police continues to completely mock and disregard every law in this country. Law of the jungle is reigning over Pakistan!" PTI said police took a computer and some other equipment into custody as well from the party secretariat. Footage shared by the party on X shows numerous police vehicles and some police officials outside its secretariat. Police sources denied the report of the arrest of four women as well as the confiscation of a laptop and documents from the office. Condemning the raid at the former ruling party's central secretariat, PTI leader Khuram Sher Zaman claimed the arrest was made on instructions of the "Form-47 government".

## Govt withdraws ban on...

FROM PAGE 01  
was taken vide circular dated 5 June 2024 for not issuing passport to any individual who had sought asylum or already living on asylum abroad. It was decided to reverse the policy decision with immediate effect and to withdraw the circular of 5 June 2024," according to a press release. The meeting was attended by the foreign secretary, interior secretary, Director General of Immigration and Passports (IMPASS) and senior officers of the foreign ministry. The meeting also discussed the issues relating to delays in the issuance of passports to Pakistanis living abroad. The interior secretary and Director General of IMPASS briefed the deputy prime minister about the ongoing efforts to streamline the process.

## Top US Democrats fall in line...

FROM PAGE 01  
Newsom wrote on X. Meanwhile North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said Harris "should be the next president," and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, who like Harris sought the Democratic nomination in 2020, said he would "do all that I can to help her win this election." Democratic standard-bearers including Bill and Hillary Clinton, John Kerry and a raft of Democratic members of Congress, including left-wing star Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez also endorsed Harris. Some notable figures, including former president Barack Obama and ex-House speaker Nancy Pelosi, praised Biden for his decision but stopped short — for now — of endorsing Harris. The money was also pouring in, with Democratic fundraising group Act-Blue announcing that small donors had raised \$46.7 million in the hours after Harris's campaign launch — "the biggest fundraising day of the 2024 cycle."

## ICC greenlights budget for 2025 Champions Trophy

Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi also attended the meeting

DNA

LAHORE: The budget for the 2025 Champions Trophy has been approved at the International Cricket Council's (ICC) annual meeting in Colombo, News Media reported on Monday. The approval of the competition's budget, which will be hosted by Pakistan, was given on the last day of the ICC meeting. Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Mohsin Naqvi also attended the meeting. Remember, the budget was prepared by ICC Chief Finance Officer Ankur Khanna and PCB Chief Finance Officer Javed Murtaza. The PCB stands firm on its stance of hosting all of the Champions Trophy 2025 matches in the country despite rumours of a neutral venue or plan B. Pakistan is set to host the Champions Trophy 2025 and recently, the rumours of a "plan B" and "neutral venue" started to emerge in the news, wherein it was reported that the Indian cricket team will not travel to Pakistan and play their



matches on a neutral venue. However, the PCB strongly believes that since the event is of Pakistan, it should be completely staged in Pakistan. The International Cricket Council's (ICC) annual meeting

is scheduled in Colombo from July 19 to 22 and the PCB delegation will go there with a strong stance of hosting all the matches in the country. Three venues — Karachi, Rawalpindi and Lahore — will host the matches of eight matches and according to PCB's proposed schedule to ICC, all of India's matches will take place in Lahore. The PCB also allocated Rs12.80 billion for upgradation of three stadiums. Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, Karachi's National Bank Cricket Arena and Rawalpindi International Cricket Stadium will be elevated ahead of the marquee event. Except India, all eight teams that will participate in the Champions Trophy have already played in Pakistan and the PCB believes that India does not have a strong reason not to come here. The proposed dates for the Champions Trophy are from 19th February to 9th March. This event will mark the return of the ICC Champions Trophy after an eight-year hiatus, with its last occurrence in 2017, when Pakistan emerged victorious by defeating India in the final.

## Arslan Ash claims fifth EVO title in Tekken

SPORTS DESK

WASHINGTON : Pakistani Tekken star Arslan Ash clinched the Tekken 8 EVO 2024 title for the first time, defeating compatriot Atif Butt in the grand finals in Las Vegas, USA. Arslan triumphed 3-1 in the winner's final. Subsequently, Atif faced Japanese competitor Nobu in the loser's final, overcoming him 3-0 to secure a place in the grand finals. This was Arslan's fifth EVO title in Tekken as he has previously won four EVO Tekken 7 titles



Atif took the first game in a closely contested final, but Arslan equalised the scores. When Atif switched

to FENG and equalised at 2-2, it seemed as though the game would end. Just when it appeared that Atif

would win the final round, Arslan won his fifth EVO Championship title with a flawless hit. "I've done it again, Alhamdulillah, 5th EVO title in the bag, but definitely not my last," Arslan tweeted. "This win is for Pakistan and everyone out there pushing boundaries! Onward and upward! And to my critics, I've still got it, baby! And I'm not done yet," he added. Meanwhile, Atif was not happy with his performance but vowed to come back. "First of all, I would like to thank all of my supporters. As a professional player, I always wanted to win an EVO."

## British cricket club impose ban on players for hitting sixes

LONDON : Southwick and Shoreham Cricket Club, one of the world's oldest cricket clubs, has decided to ban players from hitting sixes. This change comes after numerous complaints from neighbors about damage to property and safety concerns. Founded in 1790 near Brighton, the club has told batters that no run will be counted on the first six and the batters will be out for hitting a second six during the same innings on the Green ground. The decision was made after complaints were made about balls hitting people, house windows, cars, and sheds. "Hitting the bowler for a six out is part of the glory of the sport. How can you ban it? It's ridiculous," a batter said as quoted by DailyMail UK. "To take that away robs the joy of it. I don't agree that the rules should be tinkered with in this fashion." Another batter said: "Everything is about health and safety these days and insurance companies are charging a fortune to indemnify sports clubs against accidental damage or injury to bystanders. "If you buy a house next to a cricket ground then you've got to expect a few cricket balls in your garden." The Green ground, surrounded by residential homes, has short boundaries. Even though nets have been erected to stop the ball but their height is restricted due to trees nearby. — APP

## Babar Azam reveals chat with AB de Villiers

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan's white-ball cricket captain, Babar Azam, recently shared his experiences and personal insights during a rapid-fire interview with South African cricket legend AB de Villiers on de Villiers' YouTube channel. When asked to name the toughest bowler he has ever faced, Babar promptly responded, "Pat Cummins." De Villiers concurred, adding, "Yeah, I agree with that. He's very close. He's one of the toughest bowlers I have ever faced." Babar has a respectable record against Cummins, the Australian fast bowler. According to Cricmetrics, Cummins has dismissed Babar three times in Test matches and once in One Day Internationals (ODIs). Despite these dismissals, Babar averages an impressive 52.3 in Tests and 86 in ODIs against Cummins. Notably, Cummins has never managed to dismiss Babar in Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is). The former South African captain also asked Babar about the batter he enjoys playing with or against the most. Babar named AB de Villiers. In the interview, Babar also revealed that he seeks advice from fellow cricketers greats such as Virat Kohli, Kane Williamson, and Joe Root to refine his batting technique. "Whenever I get the chance, I talk with them to improve my game," Babar said. Beyond the cricket field, Babar enjoys playing snooker during his breaks and has dabbled in cycling, though he found it quite challenging. He also mentioned that the most famous person in his contact list is renowned singer Atif Aslam.—DNA

## Digital terrorism aimed at weakening army-people ties

FROM PAGE 01

An illegal mafia say that they would not let this [campaign] happen?" he questioned, adding that a certain political mafia wants to make Azm-e-Istehkam controversial. Providing statistics over the ongoing operations, he said that the army is conducting four to five operations per hour on a daily basis — clarifying that the war against terrorism was already in full form. The security forces conducted 22,409 intelligence-based operations this year, he said, explaining further that armed forces, police, intelligence agencies, and other law enforcement agencies are conducting more than 112 operations daily. "During these operations, 31 high-value targets have been killed. This year 137 officers and soldiers laid their lives in the operations," the army's spokesperson told journalists. Lt Gen Chaudhry explained that the army had cleared several areas of terrorists but if the governments do not ensure reconstruction of those areas,

then the army will have to deploy its forces over there to "hold the area". "The army is clearing the areas, holding it, and then it is the provincial government's task to build and transfer. If you don't build and transfer to the people, then terrorists will emerge again and you will remain in a vicious cycle of 'clear and hold'." The DG ISPR explained that if such a cycle continues, then it will be easier for certain elements to incite the locals of the area against the army and a false narrative would also be made against the forces. "In conclusion, Azm-e-Istehkam is a comprehensive campaign against terrorism. If we follow it, it will not just wipe out terrorism, but also the country. The stakes are very high." Moving on in the press conference, he said that on July 15, eight military personnel embraced martyrdom and sent "all terrorists to hell". He informed journalists that Sepoy Saqib threw himself onto the grenade to save everyone else. "The very next day, people in Bannu staged a march,

saying that they wanted peace. Some armed personnel were also part of the peace march," the DG ISPR said. Providing details about the march, in which a person died while several others were injured, he said that people participating in the demonstration had broken down an under-construction wall while they had also looted a supply depot. "Some armed people opened fire, which led to the loss of life. In Bannu, the army personnel followed their response SOP accordingly. Similarly, people had also raised questions as to why did the army not fire on May 9." Explaining the SOP of the army, he said that if an "anarchist group" approaches a military installation, it is first given a warning, and then it is dealt with. "It is the provincial government's job to control a mob, not the army's. However, at the same time, people can definitely hold their peace march," the spokesperson said. While he showed footage of the Bannu incident and said that armed personnel could be seen, he stressed.

## Pakistan Shaheens bag comfortable win over BD A

Mehran Mumtaz bagged four wickets and fast bowler Shahnawaz Dahani took three wickets

DHAKA : Pakistan Shaheens won the first four-day match against Bangladesh A by 148 runs in Darwin, Australia on the back of left-arm spinner Mehran Mumtaz's four wickets and fast bowler Shahnawaz Dahani's three wickets. On the fourth day, Bangladesh A started their second innings at 20 without loss while chasing a target of 428 runs. Amir Hasan and Parvez Hossain batted well, and at one point, Bangladesh A was at 190 for the loss of only three wickets. Amit scored 71 and Parvez Hossain made 57 runs before getting out. After that, Mehran and Dahani bowled brilliantly as Bangladesh A lost five wickets for only 36 runs. Thus, Bangladesh A's entire team was bowled out for 279 runs. The second four-day match between the two teams will start on Friday at the same ground. On Day three, Bangladesh A resumed their innings from the overnight score of 203-4 before succumbing to 266 all out in 76.2 overs as Shaheens took no time in wrapping up their innings. Shahadat Hossain was stranded for 36 not out while none of the batters apart from Rejaur Rehman Raja (32, 18b, 4x4s) offered any resistance as their team added only 63 runs for six wickets leaving a deficit of 201 runs. Test fast bowler, Khuram Shahzad was the chief destroyer as he dismissed five batters in

the first session claiming figures of 6-72 in 21.2 overs, his sixth five-wicket haul in first-class cricket. Mohammad Ali finished with 2-64 in 22 overs, while also holding up one end on the morning of day three. Shahnawaz Dahani had one scalp to his name.

With a lead of 201 runs, Pakistan Shaheens began their second innings coping two early blows. Haseebullah departed for a six-ball duck while Sahibzada Farhan was dismissed for eight, leaving Shaheens 20-2 in 5.1 overs.

Omar Bin Yousuf (100 not out, 123b, 6x4s, 2x6s) and Mubasir Khan (95, 134b, 8x4s, 1x6), promoted up the order, put on a mammoth 177-run third-wicket partnership to help Pakistan extend the lead over 400-mark. Schedule (all

matches in Darwin) Jul 26-29 — Four-day vs Bangladesh 'A' Aug 4 — 50-over match vs Northern Territory (NT) Aug 6 — 50 over match vs Bangladesh 'A' Aug 9-18 — nine-team Top End T20 Series.



## Pakistan welcomes ICJ's...

FROM PAGE 01  
to the ICJ on the case in July 2023, and later also shared a rejoinder with the Court. Pakistan also participated in the oral public hearing held by the ICJ on the case in February 2024. In its submissions to the ICJ, Pakistan reiterated its strong and unwavering support for the right to self-determination of the Palestinians and highlighted the illegality of the Israeli occupation. Pakistan calls for the immediate and full implementation of the Court's Advisory Opinion. We hope that the Court's ruling will be an important step towards ending the Israeli occupation, realization of the inalienable right of the Palestinians to self-determination, and creation of a viable, secure, contiguous and sovereign State of Palestine on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

## IHC angry with govt on 'forced...'

FROM PAGE 01  
Advocate Mazari told the court some officials were in uniform on a query whether those police officials were in uniform. The court remarked that if need be the court will also summon the attorney general for Pakistan. Justice Tahir observed that they [police] also have the CCTV footage. The police officials informed the court that an FIR has been registered. Justice Tahir remarked that it [forced disappearances] had been happening in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, now it has started in Islamabad. "The state knows nothing. What the government is doing? How much time is needed to recover Ahmed Janjua?"

## Bin Laden's ally sent on judicial...

FROM PAGE 01  
the ongoing investigation. Upon the completion of his physical remand, the official of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) presented him before the District and Sessions Judge's court in a tight security, requesting that he might be sent to jail on judicial remand. The court reviewed the case and subsequently ordered a 14-day judicial remand, during which Amin-ul-Haq will remain in judicial lockup. The high-profile terrorist Aminul Haque hailing from Afghanistan, was living in Pakistan by creating fake documents.

## Pakistan, Oman forge unity...

FROM PAGE 01  
The Deputy Prime Minister extended Pakistan's full support to Oman in its efforts to combat terrorism. He also appreciated Oman's support in repatriation of dead bodies to Pakistan and taking care of wounded/injured Pakistani nationals in Omani hospitals. The two leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, ranging from political, economic and defense cooperation to people-people exchanges. The Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister welcomed the forthcoming visit of a delegation of Omani investors to Pakistan later this week, geared towards exploring areas of mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

## Cabinet set to decide on PTI ban...

FROM PAGE 01  
conference the federal government plans to impose a ban on PTI. He stated that legal action under Constitution's Article 6 would be pursued against former President Arif Alvi, PTI founder Imran Khan, and Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri. Tarar added that the cabinet's approval would lead to a reference being sent to the Supreme Court. Measures such as blocking their passports and identity cards and passing a parliamentary resolution will also be considered, with actions being carried out within the bounds of the constitution and law.



## Briefs

## Landslide kills 20 in southern Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA : Over 20 bodies, including those of children, women and police officers, have been recovered after a landslide occurred in the Gofa district of southern Ethiopia, local media reported on Monday. The disaster struck at 1000GMT, just before noon, according to state-owned Fana Broadcasting Corporation. Misikir Mitiku, a local official, told Fana that the death toll might rise as search and rescue efforts continue. Mitiku also said that rescuers were also among the victims as some of them were lost during the search and rescue efforts. Landslides in southern Ethiopia normally occur during the rainy season, which lasts from June to August.—APP

## Heavy rainfall causes flooding in France

PARIS : Intense thunderstorms have caused severe flooding in France's Haute-Marne department since late Saturday, injuring at least five people. The communes of Bologne, Marault, Anneville-la-Prairie and Meures have been particularly hard hit, with rainfall 10 times higher than usual in just one hour, according to a weather update issued by the department. Five people were hospitalized, mainly for hypothermia, and 34 were evacuated from their homes, according to the update. Several roads became impassable due to the excessive rainfall. The local power grid was also damaged, leaving 63 households in the region without electricity, the department said. The French Meteorological Service issued an orange weather alert Saturday for the region, reflecting a serious level of caution regarding weather conditions. This was downgraded to yellow Sunday, indicating that conditions may be locally dangerous but less severe. Officials warned that waterlogged ground could lead to a rapid rise in water levels if further intense rainfall occurs. Wind gusts of about 70 kilometers (43 miles) per hour and small-sized hail are possible, but the main concern remains the potential for additional flooding from heavy rain, officials said. Local authorities said they continue to monitor the situation closely and have advised residents to remain vigilant.—DNA

## 1 dead from Nipah virus in Kerala

NEW DELHI : Authorities in southern India's Kerala state are taking preventive steps after the death of a 14-year-old boy from the Nipah virus and the identification of 60 persons in the high-risk category, the state's health minister said on Sunday. Parts of Kerala are among those most at risk globally for outbreaks of the virus, a Reuters investigation showed last year. Nipah, which comes from fruit bats and animals such as pigs, can cause a lethal, brain-swelling fever in humans. Nipah is classified as a priority pathogen by the World Health Organization (WHO) because of its potential to trigger an epidemic. There is no vaccine to prevent infection and no treatment to cure it.

"The infected boy died on Sunday after a cardiac arrest," Veena George, the state health minister told local TV reporters, speaking in the Malayalam language. Earlier, in a statement on Saturday, she said as part of Nipah control, the government has issued orders to set up 25 committees to identify and isolate affected people. Dr. Anoop Kumar, director of critical care medicine at Aster MIMS Hospital in Calicut, said one positive case of Nipah had been diagnosed in a school-going boy and persons who had been in contact with him were being watched. "There is a minimum chance of an outbreak of Nipah virus at this stage," he said, adding that the situation would be monitored for the next 7-10 days.—Agencies

## DIBPL, ZLK partner for enhanced Shariah finance

This strategic collaboration aims to enhance access to Shariah-compliant financial products for DIBPL's extensive customer base, including Roshan Digital Account holders and local clients

DNA

KARACHI : Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan Limited (DIBPL), a subsidiary of Dubai Islamic Bank UAE, the world's first Islamic Bank, has partnered with ZLK Islamic Financial Services, Pakistan's first Shariah-compliant brokerage firm. The MoU signing ceremony was held at DIBPL's registered Head Office in Karachi. The MoU was signed by Junaid Ahmed, CEO of DIBPL, and Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman of ZLK Islamic Financial Services, in the presence of Ashfaq Ahmad Khan, COO of ZLK Financial Services, and Naveed Malik, Head of Consumer Banking at DIBPL and other departmental heads of DIBPL. This strategic collaboration aims to enhance access to Shariah-compliant financial products for DIBPL's extensive customer base, including Roshan Digital Account holders and local clients. Customers will gain brokerage services of investing in a variety of Riba-free financial products such as shares, GoP Ijars, Sukuk, ETFs, and Murabaha Share Financing (MSF). This ini-



itiative demonstrates DIBPL and ZLK Islamic Financial Services' commitment to promoting and expanding ethical and Shariah-compliant financial solutions in Pakistan. Mr. Junaid Ahmed, CEO, DIBPL, commented: "At DIBPL, we are committed to pioneering Islamic banking solutions. This collaboration with ZLK Islamic Financial Services highlights our dedication to expanding access to innovative financial products, promoting financial inclusion and prosperity." Mr. Naveed Malik, Head of Consumer Banking, DIBPL, added: "Our collaboration with ZLK enhances our business by opening new markets and streamlining operations. This partnership aligns with our vision of generating Halal Munafa and promoting financial inclusion, providing Shariah-compliant banking services to underserved populations for positive social and economic impacts." Mr. Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman, ZLK Islamic Financial Services, emphasized the strategic importance of the partnership, stating: "We are excited to partner with DIBPL to enhance our brokerage services and provide clients with seamless access to Shariah-compliant investment opportunities."

## '17,000 orphans'

## Borrell Condemns Israel for Gaza 'Unbearable Catastrophe'

Borrell stated that it is not possible to continue cooperation with Israel normally in light of the current situation

WEB DESK

LONDON : European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said he has denounced the relentless Israeli offensives against Palestinians in Gaza as "unacceptable", emphasizing that the bloc cannot continue normally its relationship with the Tel Aviv regime in the wake of unfolding redevelopments. Borrell stated that it is not possible to continue cooperation with Israel normally in light of the current situation. "Israel can interpret history as it wishes, but re-

spect for international law is binding," he continued. Borrell said, "What we see in Gaza is a humanitarian catastrophe, man-made, of unbearable dimensions; 17,000 orphans; almost 40,000 people being killed." "In order to rebuild Gaza [they] will need 10 years of taking rubble out." He added that, "Unhappily, the ceasefire that President [of the United States, Joe] Biden has been proposing, [has] not come. Humanitarian support is still stalled." Borrell made the remarks ahead of the last Foreign

Affairs Council meeting before the summer break. The veteran Spanish politician also voiced the EU support for implementation of The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling that says Israel's continued presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and should come to an end "as rapidly as possible." The United Nations says malnutrition is posing a great threat to Palestinian women and children in Gaza amid Israel's genocidal war. Regarding Israeli expansionism, Borrell said,

"The big news is the Advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), on Friday. They are stating clearly the position that the European Union has always supported; that the occupation of the West Bank - the Palestinian territories in the West Bank - is fully illegal, and it has to stop." Last week, the EU foreign policy chief said he is dismayed at the "unbearable" climbing human cost and wide-scale destruction caused by the ongoing US-Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

## 2024 decisive to ending AIDS as health threat

LONDON: Political decisions taken this year will determine whether a target to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 can be reached, the United Nations said Monday. Figures from 2023 show a drop in new infections and fatalities and improvement in access to treatment for HIV-positive patient. But while those figures look positive, the UNAIDS agency warned that the progress remained fragile. "Decisions leaders make this year will determine whether (or not) countries can achieve the 2030 target of ending AIDS as a public health threat and ensure progress beyond 2030," the report said. In the over four decades since the AIDS epidemic burst onto the global scene, it has killed more than 42 million people. While AIDS-related deaths have been steadily declining, falling from 670,000 in 2022 to 630,000 last year, the number still remains dizzyingly high. "A person dies from AIDS-related causes every minute," UNAIDS chief Winnie Byanyima pointed out in the report, warning the world remains off track to reach ambitious 2030 objectives. "The inequalities that drive the HIV pandemic are not being addressed sufficiently." Nearly 40 million people live with HIV, the virus that can cause AIDS, the report said. Around 1.3 million new infections were recorded last year, a decline of 100,000 compared to 2022 and a dramatic 60-percent fall since a peak of 3.3 million in 1995.—APP

## 5 killed in nursing home shooting in Croatia

DARUVAR, Croatia: A gunman opened fire in a nursing home in Croatia on Monday, killing at least five people, according to officials and state media, in a rare instance of gun violence in the Balkan country. State broadcaster HRT said an unidentified gunman entered a nursing home in Daruvar - some 130 kilometers east of Zagreb - and began shooting. At least five were killed and several others wounded during the incident, HRT said. Police said they were informed of the incident at 10:10 a.m. local time (0810 GMT), and confirmed the suspect had entered the nursing home and used a firearm. "The person linked to the perpetration of the crime is under police custody," police said in a statement. The number of dead was later confirmed by Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, who called for a thorough investigation by relevant officials. "We are appalled by the murder of five people at the home for elderly in Daruvar," Plenkovic said on social media. The head of a regional emergency care facility, Nenad Mrzlecki, told local media that medical teams found four dead at the scene and four others wounded, who were immediately taken to local hospitals. Mrzlecki did not provide information about the fifth victim. "Our teams are still on the ground and the priority is to provide everyone with the necessary help, after that is done we will know the exact data on the number of victims," he said. Croatian newspaper Jutarnji list described the alleged shooter as a "retired military police officer" who killed his mother along with other residents and staff. Daruvar, a town of some 7,000, has long been a popular spa destination thanks to the area's thermal springs. Shootings in the Balkan country are rare. Last year in neighboring Serbia, the country was rocked by back-to-back mass shootings, including a massacre at a school in the capital in Belgrade in which 10 people were killed.—DNA

## Adidas drops Bella Hadid after Israeli criticism

Sportswear brand apologises for featuring model in controversial campaign

LONDON: Adidas has withdrawn images of model Bella Hadid from advertisements promoting a sports shoe that was initially launched to coincide with the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, according to a report by news Agency. The German sportswear giant announced it was "revising" the campaign after facing criticism from Israel due to Hadid's involvement. The SL72 trainers, which Adidas describes as a timeless classic, were being marketed by Hadid, an American model with Palestinian ancestry. Hadid has in the past drawn criticism from the Israeli government for allegedly chanting "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," a phrase considered by some to be antisemitic. Israel's official account on X voiced objections to Hadid being "the face of [the Adidas] campaign," particularly noting that "eleven Israelis were murdered by Pales-



tinian terrorists during the Munich Olympics." Over the years, Hadid has been vocal in her criticism of the Israeli government and has shown strong support for Palestinians. On October 23, she posted on Instagram expressing sorrow over the loss of innocent lives and urging her followers to pressure leaders to protect civilians in Gaza. Adidas issued a statement to USA Today about the SL72 campaign, stating that it "unites

a broad range of partners." The company added, "We are conscious that connections have been made to tragic historical events - though these are completely unintentional - and we apologise for any upset or distress caused. As a result, we are revising the remainder of the campaign. We believe in sport as a unifying force around the world and will continue our efforts to champion diversity and equality in everything we do." Adidas did not specify what changes would be made to the campaign. The SL72 advertisements had shown Hadid, dressed in Adidas apparel and holding flowers, highlighting her sneakers. "Giving Bella Hadid her flowers in the SL 72," read a tweet from Adidas Originals. However, following the company's apology and commitment to revise the campaign, all tweets featuring Hadid were removed from Adidas Originals' X account and

Instagram. As of Thursday afternoon, Hadid was still featured on Adidas' website. The controversy has ignited a wave of reactions on social media, with many expressing support for Hadid. One user wrote, "Apologise for what? Bella is a queen," followed by several Palestinian flag emojis. Another commented, "Why cancel Bella? She is supporting her people! Same way Israel killed thousands of Palestinians. Why is no one cancelling their supporters?" A third user simply stated, "Bella deserves better." Despite the removal of Hadid's images, other advertisements featuring Adidas brand ambassadors like French footballer Jules Kounde, US rapper A\$AP Nast, and Chinese model Sabrina Lan remain online.

The tragic events referenced by Israel occurred on September 5 1972.

## Italy accuses NATO chief Stoltenberg of betrayal

Italy's defence minister has accused NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg of betraying Rome by not appointing an Italian as the alliance's new envoy

FOREIGN DESK

ROME : Italy's defence minister has accused NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg of betraying Rome by not appointing an Italian as the alliance's new envoy tasked with coordinating NATO's actions on its southern flank. The position was created earlier this month at the request of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and her government said at the time they thought an Italian should be given the job. NATO has not yet announced who will get the role, but Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto told La Stampa newspaper at the weekend that Stoltenberg had nominated a Spaniard, adding that he considered the decision as "nearly a personal affront". Asked about Crosetto's criticism, the NATO press office said:

"NATO will announce any appointment in due course." It declined to make any other comment on the minister's comments. Crosetto said he had written "a very angry mes-

sage" to Stoltenberg. "He infuriated me and there will be consequences on a personal level," he said in an highly unusual outburst by a NATO member against the head of the mil-

itary alliance. "His was a betrayal of a principle. It was Italy that had fought to create the role of envoy for the southern front." Crosetto said, adding that Stoltenberg had disagreed with the decision to create the new role and had punished Italy accordingly. NATO last month selected former Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte to take over on Oct. 1 from Norway's Stoltenberg, who is stepping down after a decade in the post. Asked if he expected the role to be reassigned to Italy after Stoltenberg's departure, Crosetto said he hoped it would be given "to the best person". Meanwhile, an Italian journalist has been ordered to pay Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni damages of 5,000 (€4,210) over social media posts making fun of her height. A judge ruled that two tweets by Giulia Cortese, who was also handed a suspended

fine of 1,200, were defamatory and amounted to "body shaming". followed an exchange in which Ms Cortese described Ms Meloni as a "little woman" and told her: "I can't even see you." Reacting to the verdict, Ms Cortese said the Italian government had a "serious problem with freedom of expression and journalistic dissent". The pair first clashed in October 2021, when Ms Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy party was still in opposition, after Ms Cortese posted a mocked-up image of Ms Meloni on X, formerly Twitter. Ms Meloni was seen in the image standing in front of a bookshelf on to which a framed photo of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini had been artificially added. In a post on Facebook, Ms Meloni said the image was of "unique gravity" and that she would be taking legal action.



## Mumbai's first underground metro launches this week

NEW DELHI : India's commercial hub Mumbai is to start its first underground metro line, the 'Aqua Line' (Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ), on July 24, aiming to ease the daily commute for the city's residents Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary Vinod Tawde made the announcement on social media, highlighting the significant benefits of the 33.5 km route from Aarey Colony to Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC). The Aqua Line, which will greatly reduce traffic congestion, spans 33.5 km and houses 27 stations. The project, overseen by the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC), has seen an investment of over 370 billion Indian rupees. Out of the 27 stations, 26 are underground. Metro services will operate from 6.30am to 11.00pm local time, with frequent train arrivals. Trains will reach speeds up to 90 km/h, reducing a typically two-hour road journey to just 50 minutes by metro. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will manage the operation and maintenance of the Aqua Line, including the operation control centre, depot control centre, stations, running of trains, and maintenance of all metro infrastructure to ensure passenger safety. The contract with DMRC is set for ten years. While the first phase launches this month, the entire project, including the second tunnel phase, is expected to be completed within the next eight months, promising further improvements to Mumbai's transportation system.—APP

## Malnutrition threatening newborns in Gaza

GENEVA : The United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, has issued a stern warning about the impact of malnutrition on Palestinian women and children in Gaza amid Israel's genocidal war on the besieged territory. "According to doctors, it has become increasingly common for premature and low-weight babies to be born in Gaza," the UN body said in a Sunday post on X social media platform. It added, "Malnutrition poses a great danger to pregnant women and newborns, leading to an increase in stillbirths, low-weight babies, and children suffering from wasting and delayed growth." The United Nations Population Fund then called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, saying it "is the solution to save their lives." The UNFPA's warning came after the Government Media Office in Gaza earlier announced that 34 children had starved to death, while 3,500 others were at risk of death due to malnutrition and starvation. Agencies

## Albania tourism boom sparks fight over river's future

BRATAJ : The Shushica River's sparkling emerald waters wind a spectacular course through southern Albania that activists say is now at risk from a project that would divert a portion of its flow. A tourism-fed construction boom is underway along the nation's hundreds of miles of pristine coastline, and the new developments need water - lots of it. This has sparked a fight that echoes others over intensive development in Albania, which has welcomed investment after decades of deep poverty caused by communist rule and its chaotic collapse. Locals are pushing back, saying plans to divert water to developing areas threaten their own economic survival. In southern Albania's Shushica valley, a string of villages have rallied against a new project to pipe water from the area's river to a nearby development on the coast. "The battle for water is the battle for our children, for our future," said Lulezim Bardhi, a former resident of Brataj, one of the villages, after taking a gulp of the Shushica's water.—APP



## Briefs

**PTI media coordinator remanded for seven days**

ADIL SAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf media coordinator Ahmed Waqas Janjua has been handed over to the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on seven-day physical remand. The accused was produced in court of ATC judge Tahir Abbas Sipra in a case registered in a Counter Terrorism Department police station. The investigating officer informed the court that explosive materials were recovered from Janjua at the time of his arrest and therefore, the accused be given on a physical remand for further investigation and recovery. The officer sought 15-day physical remand but the court allowed seven-day remand and ordered to produce the accused before the court on July 29. A case of disappearance of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf media coordinator is being heard in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

**Raja moves SC for restoration of election tribunals**

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legal czar Salman Akram Raja on Monday moved the apex court for the restoration of the election tribunals. Raja has filed an application to review the SC's July 4 judgment. According to the petition, the applicant said that the Supreme Court had the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to consult with the Lahore High Court (LHC) chief justice for the appointment of judges to look into the applications of rigging, pointing that the SC had not issued any guidelines in its July 4 verdict. Raja further said in the application that the Lahore High Court judges were right in the appointment of judges which must have been accepted by the Election Commission of Pakistan instead of raising objections over it. Evaluating the SC's decision of overruling the Lahore High Court judgment, Raja said that the apex court had not suspended the judges appointed to weigh-in on electoral rigging, adding that the Election Commission of Pakistan didn't have the right to oppose the Lahore High Court judgment. "Only Lahore High Court can decide the jurisdiction of the judges of election tribunals of Punjab," he added.

**Teen tragically burned alive over land dispute**

DNA

MUZAFFARGARH: An 18-year-old boy was allegedly burned to death over a land dispute in Muzaffargarh, south Punjab. The teenager, Ehsanullah, was burned alive in Seetpur, a city in Alipur Tehsil of Muzaffargarh, the police revealed. The police added that a case against the perpetrators has been registered on behalf of the boy's uncle. According to first information report (FIR) filed by the victim's uncle, their family and the suspects were involved in a land dispute. It further stated that the young boy was taken to the THQ hospital in Alipur which referred him to Multan. Additionally, the first information report stated that the victim was tied to a tree and set on fire. It added that he later succumbed to his injuries. The uncle said that he has also been issued death threats before. The police filed a murder case against four people at the Seetpur police station on the family's complaint. The law enforcement officials said that a investigation of the case is underway and they are conducting raids to arrest the suspects.

# Israeli massacres in Khan Yunis following new evacuation orders

The Civil Defense announced in a press statement that one of its ambulances was hit while heading to an area that had been bombed in BaniSuhaila, explaining that the bombing injured two workers with moderate injuries, and they were transferred to Nasser Hospital for treatment

NEWS DESK

GAZA: The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) committed on Monday several massacres in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza, shortly after the IOF issued new evacuation orders, affecting more than 200,000 citizens in the city. Medical sources reported that the death toll of the Israeli bombing has risen since this morning to 35 martyrs in addition to 80 wounded. Moe martyrs and wounded continue to arrive at the Nasser Medical Complex, the sources added. The PIC correspondent explained that Israeli airstrikes and artillery shelling targeted several Palestinian homes, leading to a large number of martyrs and injured. Local sources told the PIC correspondent that the IOF issued evacuation orders for Palestinians in the eastern neighborhoods of Khan Yunis, in addition to most of the neighborhoods in central Khan Yunis. Meanwhile, the IOF intensified its aerial and artillery bombardment at a time when citizens were trying to move towards the west of the city, leading to a rise in the death toll. Our correspondent reported that the IOF raided BaniSuhaila, east of Khan Yunis, amid violent bombardment. The Civil Defense announced in a press statement that one of its ambulances was hit while heading to an area that had been bombed in BaniSuhaila, explaining that the bombing injured two workers with moderate injuries, and they were transferred to Nasser Hospital for treatment. In a previous statement, the Palestinian Ministry of Health re-

## Hamas urges UN to halt genocide in Gaza

GAZA: Hamas has denounced Israel's stepped-up attacks on civilian neighborhoods across the southern Gaza Strip, calling on international organizations to stop the war of extermination in the besieged territory. In a statement on Monday, the Palestinian resistance movement said the international community and the United Nations must urgently intervene in that regard. "We reiterate that our nation will remain steadfast and hold onto their lands. Resistance fighters will remain committed to confronting the criminal Zionist enemy that seeks to expel our people and obliterate our national cause." Hamas said the determination of the people in Gaza is impenetrable and unbreakable. The Palestinians of Gaza, Hamas said, will continue to stand up to the occupying regime until the full liberation of Palestinian territories, return of all Palestinian refugees and restoration of the legitimate right of Palestinians to self-determination. 39 Palestinians were killed on Monday after the Israeli military launched a new assault on eastern Khan Yunis. The attack came minutes after the military ordered evacuation, which the Palestinian Civil Defense in Gaza said would affect more than 400,000 people. Israel has killed over 39,000 Palestinians, most of them women, children, and adolescents, in Gaza since October. The regime launched the campaign of death, destruction and genocide after it was caught off-guard by Operation Al-Aqsa Storm into the occupied territories. Israel has been enforcing a near-total siege on the coastal territory, which has reduced into a trickle the flow of foodstuffs, medicine, electricity, and water into the Palestinian territory. - Agencies

ported that among the martyrs were 6 children, 4 women, and more than 36 injuries, including serious cases. The Nasser Medical Complex in the city called on residents "to urgently donate blood" for the injured amid a severe shortage of blood units. According to the new evacuation orders, which were attached to a picture of the residential blocks required to be evacuated, the Israeli occupa-

tion army reduced the so-called "safe zone" in the Al-Mawasi area west of in Khan Yunis. With the escalation of the war of genocide on the Gaza Strip, the IOF turned the Al-Mawasi area into a displacement hotspot crowded with hundreds of thousands of citizens, lacking the basic necessities of life such as water, electricity, or toilets amid insufficient humanitarian aid for the increasing numbers of the displaced. Meanwhile, The organization "Save the Children" warned of the collapse of the mental health of children in Gaza, with the continuous psychological traumas they are exposed to as a result of the ongoing Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. The organization said in a post published on the X website, "It is impossible to imagine the harm that has befallen the children of Gaza after nine months of the siege and continued bombardment." It stressed that there is an urgent need for an immediate ceasefire, safe access to children, and providing them with assistance. "Save the Children" also quoted a Palestinian mother in the Gaza Strip, who said that "the children are frightened, angry and cannot stop crying." The mother pointed out that there are even many adults who feel fear, anger and cry constantly. The organization added, "If it is difficult for adults to deal with all this, then how about the children?" The UN Special Rapporteur on the right of every person to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, TalengMofokeng, had warned last April of the risks of physical and mental disorders among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in the years to come, against the backdrop of the ongoing Israeli war. Mofokeng said, "Of course, we see physical injury. And because it is physical, one can estimate the extent of its seriousness. But the acute psychological pain, which will later turn into phobias and other types of mental illnesses in a later stage of life, is really important to start taking into consideration."

## Ukraine's top diplomat to visit China this week

KYIV/BEIJING: Ukraine's top diplomat will visit China on Tuesday at the invitation of Beijing for talks that Kyiv said would focus on how to end Russia's war in Ukraine and on a possible Chinese role in reaching a settlement. Nearly 29 months since Russia's full-scale invasion, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba will discuss bilateral ties at talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during a trip to China from July 23 to 25, the Ukrainian foreign ministry said. "The main topic of discussion will be the search for ways to stop Russia's aggression and China's possible role in achieving a stable and just peace," the Ukrainian ministry said in a statement on its website. The Chinese statement said Kuleba's visit would run from July 23 to 26 and provided less detail. The trip is unusual as China is widely seen as close to the Kremlin, with which Beijing declared a "no limits" partnership in 2022 just days before Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Though the world's second largest economy has not condemned the Russian invasion and helped keep Russia's war economy afloat, Kyiv has been cautious in its criticism of Beijing. - Agencies

## 4.7 magnitude earthquake strikes KP areas

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: An earthquake with a magnitude of 4.7 hit the Swat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and surrounding areas on Monday, causing no immediate reports of damage or casualties. According to the seismological centre, the magnitude of the earthquake was 4.7 on the Richter scale, the depth of the earthquake was 205 km, while the epicenter was the Hindu Kush Mountain range. Fortunately, there have been no reports of notable damage or casualties. People came out of their houses in fear by reciting Kalma-e-Tayyaba. On July 15, an earthquake with a magnitude of 5 jolted Zhoob and its adjoining areas in Balochistan province. According to the seismological center, the epicenter of the earthquake was 106 kilometers in south from Zhoob.

## Naval collaboration tops agenda as Brazilian Chief visits Pakistan

Both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interests, regional maritime security environment and bilateral naval collaboration



Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes Chief of Staff Brazilian Navy Called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters Islamabad

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Brazilian Chief of Staff Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes visited Naval Headquarters Islamabad and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, the visiting dignitary was received by Chief of the Naval Staff. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy also presented Guard of Honour. Brazilian Chief of Staff laid floral wreath at Shuhada Monument and afterwards was introduced to Principal Staff Officers of Naval Headquarters. Later, Admiral Andre Luiz Silva Lima De Santana Mendes

called on Chief of the Naval Staff in his office. Both the dignitaries discussed matters of mutual interests, regional maritime security environment and bilateral naval collaboration. Various avenues of cooperation including training, exchange of visits and conduct of bilateral naval exercises between the two Navies were also focused. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiative of Regional Maritime Security Patrols to ensure maritime security and peace in the region. The visiting dignitary acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. The recent visit of Brazilian Chief of Staff will further augment and expand defence ties between the two brotherly countries in general and the defence forces in particular.

## President for comprehensive plan to prevent urban flooding in Karachi

The President was given a comprehensive presentation by international water and sewage management experts and proposed various solutions to address the challenges of urban flooding and sewage in Karachi



MEHTAB PRIZADA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday directed the Sindh government to prioritize a comprehensive plan to prevent urban flooding in Karachi by adopting a sustainable, long-term strategy based on international best practices for managing sewage and stormwater. The President expressed these views while chairing a meeting on saving Karachi from urban flooding and environmental degradation and promoting sustainable water resource development, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President was given a comprehensive presentation by

international water and sewage management experts and proposed various solutions to address the challenges of urban flooding and sewage in Karachi on the pattern of the tunnel sewer systems of Washington DC, the London Super Sewer Project, and the Deep Tunnel Sewerage System of Singapore. Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, Adjutant General Lt General Muhammad Asim Malik, Minister for Local Government Department of Sindh, Saeed Ghani, Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed AsifHyder Shah, CEO Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation, Syed Salahuddin, Country Head Herrenknecht Pakistan, Col (r) DanyalNaveed Ahmed, senior government officials, and local and international water management experts attended the meeting. During the briefing, it was proposed that a network of small and large sewer tunnels under existing roads in high-flood zones of Karachi may be developed. It was highlighted that underground tunnelling using modern techniques would not disturb the public, city traffic and land ownership. The experts informed that Karachi generated almost 450 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage. They added that sewage and stormwater were collected in small and large open drains which fell into the Lyari and Malir rivers and were released untreated into the sea, polluting the marine ecosystem. It was further informed that the existing network of drains had limited capacity and absorbed around 50% of the rainwater under normal circumstances. The meeting was told that excess water was not absorbed by the system, causing urban flooding. Speaking on the occasion, the President underlined the need for completing the feasibility study to control flooding in Karachi through tunnelling options within three months. He stated that Karachi and its coastal areas need to be made clean and brought at par with other Metropolitan cities of the world.

## UAE hands 57 Bangladeshis long-term jail terms for protests

FOREIGN DESK

DUBAI: A court in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has jailed 57 Bangladeshi nationals for staging protests in the Gulf country against their own government, according to the state media. Three Bangladeshis were sentenced to life, 53 others to 10 years in prison and one to 11 years for "gathering and inciting riots" during protests on Friday, the official Emirati news agency WAM said on Monday, adding they would be deported after the completion of their prison terms. A witness confirmed that the defendants organised large-scale marches in several streets of the UAE "in protest against decisions made by the Bangladeshi government", it added. Unauthorised protests are prohibited in the UAE. The country's penal code also criminalises offending foreign states or jeopardising ties with them. Protests led by students began earlier this month in Bangladesh after a court in the capital, Dhaka, last month reinstated a government quota system that reserved more than 50 percent of the civil services jobs. Students have been demanding that job quotas, which include 30 percent reserved for descendants of freedom fighters who participated in the 1971 war of independence, be abolished amid stagnant job growth and high rates of youth unemployment.

**HUNZA SERENA**  
HOTEL

**NOW OPEN**

**Hunza Serena Hotel**

Nestled Amongst Majestic Peaks,  
Rooted In Heritage

For more information, please call: 05813-45570-8