



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

SG Patricia appreciates Pak commitment to the Commonwealth principles

Detailed News On Page-08

End of 'killer' Netanyahu will be like Hitler's

Detailed News On Page-07



Djokovic knocks Nadal out of singles event

Detailed News On Page-06



Condemns life threats to CJP

Govt to deal hate-mongers with an iron fist

Referring to the ongoing campaign against Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, the defence minister said that few misguided people were targeting the CJP for a recent SC verdict which, he said, had nothing to do with the CJP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government on Monday strongly condemned life threats to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa by a certain group and announced initiating legal proceedings so that no one could dare to challenge the writ of the state. "The law will take its course against the elements behind the provocative and baseless propaganda campaign against the CJP" said Defence Minister Khawaja Asif while addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal. He regretted that an attempt was being made to spread bloodshed in the name of religion for vested political interests. He said that believing in the finality of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is part of our faith. He said that the Supreme Court has already clarified its position on the matter. The minister pointed out that Qazi Faez Isa is being targeted for many years under various pretexts. He stated there is an ongoing effort to silence a principled and upright voice in the judiciary. Emphasizing the need for the rule of law, Khawaja Asif stated that the dictation of any individual or group will not be accepted. Meanwhile speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal strongly condemned a recent announcement by a group, threatening the life of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, denouncing it as an act of sedition against the country's constitution and religious values. He said that the government will also take legal action to prevent such incidents in

Continued on Page 06

TLP leader 'arrested' for inciting violence

State will not allow anyone to issue a fatwa calling for anyone's murder

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) Vice Emir Pir Zaheerul Hasan Shah, who had gone in hiding in Okara, has been arrested after being booked for inciting violence against Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, sources told Geo News on Monday. Shah's arrest comes after a case was lodged against him for a speech made during a protest rally outside the Lahore Press Club during a demonstration against the SC verdict in the Mubarak Sani case. The case was lodged in Lahore's Qila Gujjar Sing police station on behalf of Station House Officer (SHO) Hammad Hussain against the TLP leader and 1,500 party workers for issuing death threats to the chief justice. The FIR includes provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and those related to spreading religious hatred and anarchy, pressuring and threatening the higher judiciary, interference in state affairs,

Continued on Page 06



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and British High Commissioner in Pakistan Jane Marriott held a meeting and vowed to strengthen bilateral ties. - DNA

SBP cuts policy rate by 100bps to 19.5%

SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed says inflation rate eased to 12.60%, while external account continues to improve

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday reduced the interest rate from 20.5% to 19.5%, the second cut in a row, citing a slight cooling in the inflation rate - a move that is mostly in line with the general market consensus. Addressing a press conference after MPC meeting on

Continued on Page 06

TTP chief booked in terrorism cases

Cases have been registered against Mehsud Ghat Haji at CTD North Waziristan and Der Ismail Khan

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: A case was registered against Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) chief Noor Wali Mehsud and Ahmad Husain alias Ghat Haji in a terrorism case following a recently surfaced phone call in which they can be heard talking about attack on public properties and schools. Both have been booked under various sections of the Anti-Terrorism

Continued on Page 06

Despite reservations Tariq Masood, Mazhar Alam Miankhel sworn in as SC ad hoc judges

CJP Qazi Faez Isa administers oath to judges appointed for a period of one year to reduce pendency of cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Justice (ret'd) Tariq Masood and Justice (ret'd) Mazhar Alam Miankhel on Monday were sworn in as Supreme Court's ad hoc judges by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa for a period of one year. The oath-taking ceremony, attended by other SC judges and Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan, comes after President Asif Ali Zardari approved their appointments under Article 182 of the Constitution in the apex court on Friday. The president's nod followed CJP Isa-led Judicial Commission of Pakistan's (JCP) approval in a meeting attended by eight members including four senior SC judges - Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Yahya Afridi - a retired judge Justice Maqbool Ahmed

Continued on Page 06

Maryam, British HC vow to enhance cooperation

Maryam Nawaz welcomes the British companies' investment in solar project

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and British High Commissioner in Pakistan Jane Marriott held a meeting and vowed to strengthen bilateral ties. Both sides agreed to boost cooperation in health, education and other sectors, during the meeting. Punjab CM informed the British High

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Imran Khan, Bushra's physical remand approved

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: An accountability court on Monday approved a 10-day physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana reference filed by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) recently. The anti-corruption body's team had presented the couple before the court after the expiry of their previous seven-day remand. The anti-graft watch had sought a 14-day remand of the couple, but the court turned down the request and approved physical remand till August 08.

Iran vows to strengthen ties with Pak

Consul General Nourian acknowledged the various global challenges facing the world today

DNA

KARACHI: A farewell ceremony was held in Karachi to bid adieu to the outgoing Consul General of Indonesia, Dr. June Hadiningrat, and Thailand, Mr. Narut Soontharodom. The event, attended by dignitaries, diplomats, and foreign ministry officials, also marked the welcome of the new Dean of Consular Corps, Iranian Consul General Mr. Hassan Nourian. In his farewell speech, Mr. Nourian praised the outgoing Consul General for their tireless efforts in promoting commercial, cultural, and people-to-people relations between Pakistan and their respective countries.

Capacity charges unacceptable

JI's Hafiz Naeem warns of expanding protests

Hafiz Naeem says protest to expand to Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta within two days

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman, the Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami, has issued a stern warning that if immediate demands regarding inflation are not met, protests will expand to Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta within two days. He emphasized that the sit-ins will persist until their demands are fulfilled, even hinting at the possibility of a march to Islamabad's D-Chowk. During a press conference at the ongoing sit-in at Liaquat Bagh Chowk in Rawalpindi, Hafiz Naeem highlighted the protest, now in its fourth day, as a demonstration of the public's determination and resilience. He pointed out the burden of high electricity bills and the government's lack of response to alleviate this issue. He noted that a significant number of women would join the protest despite obstacles in Lahore, criticizing the government, which he described as being controlled by a single family, for creating hurdles and worsening the situation. Hafiz Naeem condemned the

Continued on Page 06

Kurram dispute intensifies as death toll reaches 43

Despite negotiations and ceasefire agreement, intense gunfire continues in various parts of Lower Kurram

DNA

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: The tribal clashes in Kurram District upon land dispute have intensified, resulting in the deaths of 43 individuals, with 177 reported injured. According to police sources, the conflict between the tribes has entered its sixth day. Despite a ceasefire agreement, intense gunfire continues in various parts of Lower Kurram. Meanwhile, no firing has

Continued on Page 06

Gwadar: Solider martyred, 16 injured by violent mob

Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations

STAFF REPORT



RAWALPINDI: On 29 July 24, a violent mob in garb of so called Baloch Raji Muchi assaulted Security Forces' personnel employed for security duties in Gwadar district. Resultantly, Sepoy Shabbir Baloch (Age: 30 years; resident of: District Sibi), embraced shahadat. In addition, the unprovoked assaults by the violent protesters have resulted in injuries to sixteen soldiers including an officer. While on the other hand, fake and malicious propaganda is being spread on social media using doctored pictures and videos by the propagandists to gain sympathy and support for the unlawful violent march. Security forces have displayed extreme restraint to avoid unwarranted civilian casualties despite provocations. The violent actions of the mob are unacceptable and those responsible will be brought to justice. All citizens are urged not to fall prey to the propaganda, remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in maintaining public safety and order. Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with the Nation, remain determined to thwart attempts of sabotaging peace and stability of Balochistan.



MURREE SPARKLETTS
Bottled Drinking Water

WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

330ml, 750ml

For Sales & Supply Contact:

Adeel Butt 03334131756
Kaiser Waheed 03325808422
Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043

India's power shift unlikely to change Kashmir policy

The discussion emphasized the need for sustained efforts to counter India's consistent policy of dominating occupied Kashmir, despite the BJP's apparent weakened position after the elections

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : The Kashmir movement is likely to remain an ongoing process despite the slightly changed power dynamics following the general elections in India. Although the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) governs in coalition with other parties, both the BJP and the Indian National Congress share similar policies on foreign and domestic matters, including Kashmir. While the Indian stance remains unchanged, various internal factors and shifts in the external environment will inevitably influence the situation over time and could act as catalysts for resolving the issue. Meanwhile, to effectively counter Indian policies, Pakistan must leverage its strengths, demonstrate long-term commitment,

of Multi-Track Dialogue Development & Diplomatic Studies, Dr Raja Sajjad Muhammad Khan, director Kashmir Policy Research Institute, Ifthikhar Gillani, Ankara-based Kashmiri journalist, and Farzana Yaqoob, former minister of AJK and IPS research associate. The discussion emphasized the need for sustained efforts to counter India's consistent policy of dominating occupied Kashmir, despite the BJP's apparent weakened position after the elections. Recently, the Indian government has shifted administrative powers from the chief minister to the lieutenant governor to facilitate legislative changes. This move, made in anticipation of the legislative assembly elections expected in September 2024, is part of India's strategy to secure de jure authority over Kashmir. However, Kashmiris

time. Indian policies seek to manipulate the Kashmiris' goal of self-determination by making it seem unachievable, making them feel ignored internationally, and distorting their mindset toward accepting Indian dominance. Delhi also misleads Kashmiris into believing that their future lies with India and pressures pro-India Kashmiri parties to align with Indian policies. Furthermore, India fabricates media narratives to portray Pakistan as unable to support Kashmiris and to discredit the legitimacy of their struggle. Its strategy includes punishing resilience and using media to reinforce its narrative. Pakistan must adopt a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach to counter Indian policies on all fronts, including legal, social, political, economic, security, diplomatic, diaspora, ideological, intellectual, and historical. This includes leveraging AJK's legal standing in international forums, mobilizing Kashmiri youth to build a supportive narrative, and engaging young political activists to sustain hope and unity. Highlighting Indian atrocities, utilizing multilateral forums, and mobilizing the diaspora are also essential. Additionally, Kashmir's soft power should be harnessed through literature and film, and historical data on Indian abuses should be meticulously compiled. Pakistan's strategy should address global, regional, domestic, and resistance-focused dimensions to effectively advance the Kashmir issue. In his concluding remarks, Khalid Rahman said that a multidimensional approach is crucial for effective policy-making in AJK and for Pakistan to play a strong international role. He stressed the importance of rekindling national Kashmiri sentiment and fostering hope, arguing that a focus on strengths rather than weaknesses is essential to overcome challenges. Rahman underscored that Pakistan must maintain a proactive stance to navigate the evolving geopolitical landscape.



and adopt a strategic, multidimensional approach. These views were expressed during the 23rd IPS Working Group on Kashmir meeting, titled 'Third BJP Government: India's Kashmir Policy and its Future Outlook' organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The session, moderated by Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice-chairman IPS, was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali, security analyst and strategist, Dr Waleed Rasool, director Institute

must remain resilient in their cause for self-determination. The significant increase in voter turnout in Kashmir - from 19.6% in 2019 to 50.86% in 2024 - reflects the use of voting as a means of survival and resistance. Additionally, the current plight of Muslims in India serves as a cautionary example for Kashmiris not to see their future with India. The speakers emphasized that the impact of the BJP's policy to assert control over occupied Kashmir has become increasingly apparent over



ISLAMABAD : President Asif Ali Zardari being briefed about the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) by Chairperson BISP, Rubina Khalid, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.—DNA

Ambassador designate to Mauritius visits ICCI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's engagement with Africa has historical roots and is characterized by mutual respect and cooperation. By harnessing mutual cooperation, Pakistan and Africa can unlock new economic opportunities and foster sustainable development. This has been stated by Pakistan's Ambassador designate to Mauritius Syed Zahid Raza during his meeting with former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry here on Monday. He said that deeper engagements with Africa remains a strategic imperative for Pakistan, adding that forging a strong and effective partnership for peace, progress and prosperity is an indispensable goal, which should be advanced through a clear vision, consistent policy, and a long-term strategy. The Ambassador designate while appreciating the role of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in advancing trade relations with friendly countries all over the world said that he would do his level best to strengthen the business to business and people to people relations with Mauritius alongside the diplomatic ties. He said to achieve the objective, he will do his best to organize business delegations' visits to Mauritius especially the ICCI members for nurturing needed bilateral business relations. Zafar Bakhtawari apprised the visiting guest that the Chamber is already Africa focused and has recently celebrated Africa Day in a befitting manner for bringing Pakistan and the African countries closer to each other.

President calls for expanded BISP outreach, beneficiaries

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD : President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday underscored the need for enhancing the outreach of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) as well as the number of beneficiaries for the uplift of underprivileged sections of society. The President expressed these views during a briefing given by the Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Mrs Rubina Khalid, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. He asked the Chairperson of BISP to establish an office at Gwadar so that the deserving people of the area could benefit from the Programme. Taking note of the 0.45% service charges by the banks from BISP cardholders, the president said that the service charges need-

to be waived off, and in this regard, the State Bank of Pakistan should be approached to ask banks for opening accounts for BISP beneficiaries. He said that the new payment system would also protect BISP beneficiaries from exploitation. He also called for engaging donors and the private sector to support BISP in its endeavours to provide scholarships to the maximum number of deserving students. During the briefing, the President was informed about the core initiatives taken by BISP, including the Benazir Kafalat Program, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program, BISP Scholarships for Undergraduates Program and Benazir Nashounma Program. Chairperson BISP informed that Rs 598.718 billion had been allocated for BISP

during the ongoing fiscal year. She said that Benazir Kafalat was the flagship program of BISP, providing unconditional cash transfers to eligible women and transgender persons across Pakistan. It was highlighted that Rs 461 billion had been allocated for the Benazir Kafalat Program, during FY 2024-25, for 9.3 million eligible families. In order to enhance school enrolment and provide education to children from low-income households, she informed that Rs 77.18 billion had been allocated for the Benazir Taleemi Wazaif which would benefit 9.7 million children. It was further highlighted that Rs 1.7 billion had been allocated to provide 10,000 scholarships to students under the BISP Scholarships for Undergraduates Program.

Zong launches 'Doorstep Delivery'

ISLAMABAD : Zong 4G, the leading telecommunication service provider in Pakistan, on Monday announced the launch of its new "Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service". Zong is committed to making digital services accessible to all Pakistanis by offering affordable and convenient solutions. The company's focus on affordability ensures that everyone can benefit from the power of technology, while its commitment to convenience brings services directly to the doorstep, said a news release. According to the official spokesperson for Zong 4G, "Keeping the evolving demands of our customers, Zong's new Online Booking Portal and Home Delivery Service innovates the customers experience. This is one of the many steps we are taking to digitalize our customers' journey with Zong." Through its home step services, Zong's goal is to make its services directly available to customers' homes and ensure that even those who may have limited mobility or access to physical stores can still benefit from the digital products and services.—APP

Energy, tax hikes to boost inflation: Atif

ISLAMABAD : President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that the current fiscal inflation rate will exceed 22 percent due to the increase in tax rates and energy prices. President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said in a statement that the government should reduce its expenses to provide relief to the masses.

The burden has been transferred to the people and the industrialists by increasing the electricity and gas prices, the people are suffering from serious problems. The electricity in Pakistan is more expensive than other countries in the region, the loans taken from commercial banks at high interest rates are affecting the economy. The poison is a killer, the government has to pay interest of Rs 8500 billion on loans from commercial

banks this fiscal year. The IMF agreement is welcoming but the burden should not be put on the people. As a result of expensive energy, inflation will increase due to the increase in production cost. Inflation has increased in the fiscal year that started from July 1. The government has set a target of 12 percent inflation for the current fiscal year but inflation will exceed to 22 percent.—APP

Schofer appreciates formation of Youth Assembly at MNSUAM

MULTAN: US Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer appreciated the formation of Youth Assembly at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture Multan and stated that youth were future of Pakistan and it could play role in promotion of civic, social justice and gender equality. He said this while addressing ceremony of Youth Assembly, held under auspices of "HumAhang" at local hotel on Monday. The US deputy chief of mission also lauded the active role of the varsity. He hoped that youth assembly would surely play its role for professional success by shaping minds of the students. He also pledged that US would continue to support such initiatives. Andrew Schofer stated that he was first time visiting Multan. He however added that he was very happy to visit the city of the people who were sweet like mangoes and soft like cotton. Dean Environmental Science Shafiq Saeed also spoke and stated that the youth assembly would serve as nursery to promote leadership skills amongst the student. The students would be able to resolve their issues by raising their voice in effective manner. He stated that it would lead students towards positive activities by ensuring and promoting peace building. The representative of Youth Assembly also spoke and stated that it would help promote culture of tolerance by addressing extremism. It would give space to people to express their thoughts in amicable way. HumAhang representative Mujeeba Batool, during her address stated that they were working in Multan, Muzaffargarh, Sukhar, Shikarpur and Khairpur. The initiative would help empowering the students, she remarked. She said it will create sense of community engagements. She added that awareness was being imparted through workshops, theater performances, seminars etc. She hinted that dialogue was best option for enduring peace, tolerance and pluralism. The students presented performance on Sufi music and enthralled the audiences. They also captivated the spectators in panel discussion. On this occasion, US consul general Kristin K. Hawkins and a good number of students and teachers were also present.—APP

Ahsan unveils PM's programme to eliminate Hepatitis

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal stated that the government is committed to eradicating hepatitis C from the country. He said this while speaking as the chief guest at the launching ceremony of the Prime Minister's Programme for the Elimination of Hepatitis C in Pakistan on World Hepatitis Day themed, "It's time for action." Ahsan Iqbal formally inaugurated the programme on behalf of Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif in the PM House on Monday. Ahsan Iqbal said that the PM's programme would help in eliminating hepatitis C in the country. A special task force will be formed to address challenges in health, education, and other areas in collaboration with provinces. He said the initial results of the first digital census conducted in Pakistan indicated

that the country's population growth rate has increased from 2.4 percent to 2.55 percent, positioning Pakistan among the 30 fastest-growing nations, with a projected population of 500 million by 2050. He stated that managing food, water, education, and employment for such a large population is challenging and emphasized the need to impose a national emergency to control population growth. He said that in April 2022, after the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government took office, they summoned 1,000 experts from various fields to propose solutions to address the significant challenge of saving the country from default. Ahsan emphasized that stable leadership and consistent policies are crucial for success, citing expert opinions. A total of 26 million children are out of school and realizing the dream of an educated nation requires enrolling them. Member PM's Task Force on Hepatitis

Elimination Dr. Saeed Akhtar said almost 10 million Pakistanis are active carriers of hepatitis. He stated that the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved a PC1 of 68.25 billion for the Prime Minister's Programme for the Elimination of Hepatitis C in Pakistan. The federal share will be 34.78 billion, while the provinces will contribute 33.42 billion for the programme in the next three years. The programme would be executed with assistance from 40 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as private partnership is key for the success of any programme. He said that the programme aims to screen the entire population and attain hepatitis-free status by December 2029. A PM's portal has been set up for individuals to self-register for hepatitis virus screening, he added. He asked people to avoid unnecessary injections and drips, tattoos, and get dental and surgical pro-

cedures only from authentic medical facilities with proper sterilisation of instruments, ask barbers to use new blades and in case of blood transfusion make sure it is screened properly. Prime Minister's Coordinator Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath stated that there are 60 million people worldwide suffering from hepatitis, with 10 million of them in Pakistan. Dr. Mukhtar said the PM's Hepatitis elimination program is being launched in collaboration with the federal government and all four provinces. Everyone over the age of 12 will be screened, and free treatment will be provided to those diagnosed with hepatitis. In a video message, World Health Organisations (WHO) Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the launch of the hepatitis elimination program and urged other countries to emulate Pakistan's initiative.





OGRA Convenes Urgent Meeting to Address Supply Issues in AJK

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) urgently convened a meeting with representatives from the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) and all Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to address the critical supply issues in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) resulting from the road closure to Muzaffargarh due to a landslide. Demonstrating prompt and decisive action, OGRA and the Ministry, after thorough consultation with all stakeholders, decided to adopt an alternate route for the transportation of petroleum products. This measure aims to ensure the continuous supply of products to the retail outlets in the region. — DNA

The Smooth Moving Connection

freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

Head Office

3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.

Tel: (+92-51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272723, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92-51) 2825132, 2274227.

E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Rashtri

Room No. 14 B16, 3rd Floor, Kalkaji Main Road, New Delhi, India.

Phone: (+91-11) 26101717

Fax: (+91-11) 26101717

E-mail: rashtri@freelinemovers.com

F. Gulberg Centre

Main Boulevard, Lahore.

Phone: (+92-42) 3579891, 3579108.

Fax: (+92-42) 3579142

E-mail: laha@freelinemovers.com

Peshawar

Office No. C-8, 2nd Floor, Zafar Plaza, Left Road, Ring Road, Peshawar.

Phone: (+92-91) 2527981

Fax: (+92-91) 2528081

E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com

Kabul

House # 4, Street # 4, Charan Anwar Road, Doha - E, Kabul - Afghanistan.

Phone: (+93-78) 771 81 707851 831 81 77448 208

E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com

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 Exchange9270831-5
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

More Monsoon rains-wind, thundershowers till 3rd Aug

Flash flooding is expected in Northeastern parts of Punjab including Deg, Basemter and Bein nullahs of River Ravi, Aik & Palku areas in catchment of Chenab as well as Neelum Valley, Muzafarabad, Rawalkot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber of AJ&K while Mardan, Swat, Dir, Kohistan, Shangla and Malakand of Upper KP province

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Monday issued an advisory highlighting that monsoon currents from Bay of Bengal are likely to penetrate central and southern parts of the country from July 27th and likely to remain till August 3rd whereas under its influence heavy to hefty rainfall is expected in upper catchment areas of western and eastern rivers of country from July 28th to August 4th. Flash flooding is expected in Northeastern parts of Punjab including Deg, Basemter and Bein nullahs of River Ravi, Aik & Palku areas in catchment of Chenab as well as Neelum Valley, Muzafar-

bad, Rawalkot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber of AJ&K while Mardan, Swat, Dir, Kohistan, Shangla and Malakand of Upper KP province," the NDMA said. Low to Medium level flow is expected in rivers Jhelum Upstream of Mangla, Kabul, and its tributaries, Chenab at Marala, Khanki, and Qadirabad. Low to medium-level flows are expected in the River Indus at Tarbela and hill torrents of DG Khan division, and increased flows are expected in the Nullahs of Zhob. Urban flooding is expected in Northern & Northeastern parts of Punjab i.e Lahore, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Narawal, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Gujrat, Rawalpindi/ Islamabad, and surrounding areas while southern parts of Sindh

including Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Sanghar, S. Benazirabad, and Karachi* also face urban flooding during forecasted period. NDMA has issued instructions to all relevant departments to take necessary precautions to mitigate the possible effects of flooding and extreme weather. Flash floods can strike suddenly, catching people off guard. Population at risk is advised to avoid flood waters and find a safe location away from flood-prone areas. Even a mere six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet, and just one foot of moving water can sweep away a vehicle. Bridges can be hazardous during floods. Avoid crossing them if water is flowing rapidly. Avoid staying in weak structures. In case of in-

tense rain, seek shelter in safe places such as schools, government buildings, or any concrete buildings. NDMA has launched the Pak NDMA Disaster Alert application, available on Google Play Store and iOS App Store, to provide timely alerts, advisories, and guidelines to the public. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board has put its filed personnel on high alert after the city has witnessed intense rain with gusty winds on Monday. Since the MET Office has predicted more rain during the current monsoon spell in Punjab province, the RCB's filed teams have been tasked to be vigilantly prepared to respond with full magnitude. Rawalpindi Cantonment Board's CEO Syed Ali

Irfan Rizvi had issued instructions to all the officers to stay in the field in this regard. The CEO said that staffers deployed for drainage in low-lying areas were engaged in draining water. Arrangements are complete in view of any flooding situation, he said. The spokesman RCB, Rasheed Saqib informed that both the Additional CEOs were present in the field and monitoring the developing situations in low lying areas and the nullahs. Drainage is being ensured by the personnel under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Officer, he said. Additional CEO Umair Mehboob visited different areas of the Cantt early in the morning and reviewed the entire situation.

ICT admin cracks down on dengue violators

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a determined effort to combat the spread of dengue, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has intensified operations, resulting in the arrest of four individuals and the closure of three businesses for violations of standard operating procedures (SoPs) set by the government. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the authority has ramped up their anti-dengue campaign, with significant actions taken in Sector F-7. The AC City led an operation that resulted in the arrest of four individuals. These arrests were made due to continuous violations of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) designed to curb the spread of dengue. Three business outlets were also shut down for failing to implement the required anti-dengue measures. These closures are part of a broader effort to ensure compliance with health regulations aimed at preventing the breeding of dengue-carrying mosquitoes. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the need for city-wide efforts to stop the growth of dengue larvae. He called for unbiased and comprehensive inspections to be carried out across all sectors of the city. Memon also stressed the importance of keeping citizens informed about ongoing operations and health measures --APP

Aurangzeb meets with the Chairman Youth Programme



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with the Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan at Finance Division today. Rana Mashhood Ahmad

Khan provided an overview of the Prime Minister's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme which promotes entrepreneurship among youth by providing business loans on simple terms and with less markup through Commercial, Islamic and SME banks. The discussion covered the current

structure of the scheme, including its three operational tiers, and explored the potential benefits and logistics of introducing additional tiers. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciated the programme and recognized it as a valuable scheme for supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

He expressed support for the initiative, highlighting its role in stimulating entrepreneurial activity and contributing to economic growth. The meeting underscored the Government's commitment to enhancing opportunities for the youth and promoting sustainable business development across the country.

Karwan development foundation launches tree plantation drive

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: In response to the alarming rise in temperatures and the escalating climate crisis, Karwan Development Foundation (KDF) has announced the establishment of a large-scale nursery aimed at planting one million trees across the Cholistan region. This transformative initiative, led by KDF Chairman Syed Abid Gillani, will see trees being planted in schools, colleges, hospitals, and on farmers' lands, marking a significant step towards environmental sustainability and climate resilience. In a recent press conference, Mr. Gillani elaborated on the foundation's plans, highlighting their urgent commitment to counteract the effects of climate change. "Karwan Development Foundation is resolute in its mission to enhance Pakistan's green cover as a critical measure against rising temperatures. Our goal is to establish more nurseries and provide free trees to the people of Pakistan, ensuring a greener, cooler, and healthier future for all," stated Mr. Gillani. This initiative in Cholistan is part of KDF's broader strategy to combat climate change

nationwide. The foundation has already made significant strides with the "Fruit Villages" project in Azad Kashmir, where thousands of fruit trees have been planted to create sustainable and productive landscapes, contributing to food security and economic stability. With temperatures soaring to unprecedented levels, the importance of this tree plantation drive cannot be overstated. Trees play a crucial role in reducing urban heat, improving air quality, and providing shade and cooling, thereby mitigating the adverse effects of extreme heat on communities. By involving educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and local farmers, KDF ensures a community-wide approach that maximizes the environmental and social benefits of this initiative. Appeal to the Public: We call upon the people of Pakistan to join hands with Karwan Development Foundation in this vital mission. The rising temperatures and deteriorating environmental conditions demand immediate action. Your participation, whether through planting a tree, spreading the word, or volunteering your time, can make a significant difference.

Edu ministry to expand collaboration with Noon Academy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has announced the expansion of partnership with Noon Academy a global EdTech following its remarkable success in enhancing the learning outcomes and exam results of 5000 students. According to the Education Ministry, building on this excellent performance, we are now scaling up the initiative to benefit 5,000 students of Grade 9 in federal government schools. "This expanded collaboration aims to further improve educational outcomes and provide high-quality learning opportunities to an increased number of students", it added.

SECP initiates consultation to revamp mutual & pension fund regimes

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Monday published a consultation paper, suggesting various alterations to the total expense regime (TER) and distribution paradigm for mutual funds and pension funds. These suggestions aim to reduce the burden on retail investors, optimize their returns, inculcate better saving habits, and increase retail penetration, said a news release. The consultation paper is made available on SECP's website to solicit public feedback and comments from stakeholders. The paper reviews the current regime in three parts including the TER framework for mutual funds, the TER of pension funds, and a review of distribution models. While evaluating the current TER frameworks for mutual and pension funds, the paper suggests alterations to reduce the financial burden on investors, enhance their long-term returns, and guarantee equity and transparency in the expenses of fund managers. The problems that have impeded the growth of the distribution network and affected retail penetration are discussed in the third part of the paper. Further, it recommends a transformative framework to revamp the distribution model and improve its usability and accessibility for average investors. --APP



آپ ہی کے ٹیکس سے ممکن ہوگی پاکستان کی ترقی اور خوشحالی

تاجر دوست سکیم

ایڈوانس ٹیکس کی پہلی وصولی: 31 جولائی 2024

گھر بیٹھے بٹھائے TAX آسان موبائل ایپ سے کریں ادائیگی

استعمال آسان | ادائیگی آسان

انشال کریں | تاجر دوست سکیم پر جائیں | رجسٹر کریں | شہر کا نام لکھیں | دکان والی جگہ لکھیں | آدائیگی کریں

یکمشت ادائیگی: 25 فیصد رعایت

ایڈوانس لازمی ٹیکس کی ادائیگی ہر ماہ کی 15 تاریخ

آسان رجسٹریشن کے لیے:

نام _____ شہر کا نام _____ قومی شناختی کارڈ نمبر _____ بجلی کا نمبر _____ موبائل نمبر _____

مزید تفصیلات اور معلومات کے لیے ٹیکس آسان موبائل ایپ استعمال کریں یا ترقی ٹیکس سہولت مرکز وزٹ کریں

نوٹ: مسلسل دو ماہ ٹیکس کی ادائیگی نہ ہونے کی صورت میں آگے کی آرڈیننس 2001 کی دفعہ 182 کے تحت جرمانہ اور قانونی کارروائی ہو سکتی ہے۔

FBR HELPLINE | PID(1)641-D/24

helpline@fbr.gov.pk | 051 111 772 772 | www.fbr.gov.pk

Briefs

Exhibition 'Next Nature' to showcase work of three artists

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition titled "Next Nature" showcasing work of three artists including Zahra Jewanjee, Naqsh Raj, and Tahir Ali will open at Tanzara Gallery on August 01. The exhibition, curated by Aasim Akhtar, will explore the dynamic tension between abstraction and representation, a dichotomy that has been a cornerstone of artistic practice for over a century. Through their unique styles and techniques, these three artists delve into the complexities of perception, imagination, and knowledge. From Naqsh Raj's vibrant, grid-based compositions to Zahra Jewanjee's intricate, circular forms and Tahir Ali's bold, gestural abstractions, each artist activates both the sensual and the cerebral, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in their distinct visual worlds. The exhibition will continue till August 10 and serve as a treat for the art lovers residing in the federal capital and surroundings. —APP

Rescue teams open Lawrence College Road

RAWALPINDI: After timely operation to remove rocks, the Lawrence College Road in Murree is now open for traffic. The road was closed due to landsliding which caused a blockade of traffic. According to the details, a relief operation was immediately launched to clear the road under the instructions of DC Murree Agha Zaheer Abbass Shirazi. He pointed out that due to the rainy season, the risk of landslides in mountainous areas existed. He instructed the field officers to attentively monitor the situation and remain prepared to address any untoward situation. —APP

'Azadi floats' to travel through Punjab main cities

RAWALPINDI: 'Azadi floats' depicting cultural and ideological representation of Pakistan will be traveling through various main cities of Punjab on the occasion of forthcoming independence day. The floats will pay tributes to national heroes along with displaying cultural music and folk dances. According to the details, a meeting of the Board of Management of the Punjab Arts Council PAC was held with Shazia Rizwan, MPA in the chair. During the meeting it was apprised that the floats would ensure the representation of all four provinces, and statues of the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the great thinker of the nation, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and the Mother of the Nation Fatima Jinnah would be parts of the floats. Executive Director Ghulam Saghir Shahid while briefing the meeting informed that PAC was preparing two floats for the first time in connection with the Independence Day celebrations, one float would travel from Rawalpindi to Lahore via GT Road, while the other float would entertain the citizens from Dera Ghazi Khan to Multan. He further informed that the Azadi floats would pay tribute to the heroes of the Pakistan Movement and would also feature music and folk dances. Shazia Rizwan mentioned that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz has issued special instructions for the preparation of the Independence Day floats. She stressed for the preparation of state of the art work on the said floats. The meeting was attended by PAC management and notable poets including Ali Asghar Samar, Naseem Sehgar, Dr. Farhat Abbas, Arif Baloch, Saleem Shahzad, Anjum Salimi, Akbar Niazi, Itifaq Butt, Ziauddin Mari, and Irfan Jameel. The participants informed the chair about the literary organizations of Rawalpindi-Islamabad and their services. At the conclusion of the meeting, a painting exhibition was inaugurated by the MPA. —APP

Power bills enrich IPP mafia, bankrupting poor

The business leader said that increasing installed capacity beyond requirements, ignoring the bidding process, and giving profit determined in dollars is not a mistake, but deliberate attempts aimed at amassing billions have made the country bankrupt and the people mentally ill

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that soaring energy costs are hurting the poor and middle class while benefiting the powerful and ruthless elite class.

He said that rising energy costs are forcing industrialists to close their mills, while the underprivileged and the middle class are struggling to survive. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement today that many people whose income is insufficient to cover

their electricity bills are making ends meet by selling jewellery and household items. He stated that political interests are being prioritised over the people, while the masses are being robbed mercilessly. The business leader said that increasing installed capacity beyond requirements, ignoring the bidding process, and giving profit determined in dollars is not a mistake, but deliberate attempts aimed at amassing billions have made the country bankrupt and the people mentally ill. He emphasized that in this contest, we cannot ignore the negative character of politicians and Nepra's failure to safeguard the interests

of the masses. According to Shahid Rashid Butt, the responsible institution should bear the burden of recovering the losses from stolen electricity and unpaid bills. He noted that influential individuals receive free or extremely cheap electricity, forcing the masses to foot the bill, which is unjustified. He said that if the government stops collecting 24.5% of income and sales tax during summer electricity bills, then the consumer's bills will decrease by 24.5%. At the same time, the government's revenue will decline by Rs 50 billion. A reduction in PSDP, which is 1150 billion rupees, easily covers the loss of Rs 50 billion if

authorities desire so, he said. He pointed out that to appease the assembly members, the development spending from the previous year, which was seven hundred and five billion rupees, has now increased to eleven hundred and fifty billion rupees. It's not a big deal to subtract fifty billion rupees from the Rs 1150 billion budget, but it's only possible if the goal is to provide some relief to the people. The government's income will decrease by 300 billion rupees if it abolishes taxes on electricity bills for the entire year and reduces the development budget to make up for the losses. Even if the development budget is reduced to meet the

losses, it will be 150 billion rupees more than last year's development budget, which will be enough to keep the legislators pleased. Such a move will not only provide relief to the masses but also improve production and exports. The government charges 18 percent of the sales tax on LNG and furnace oil imports, which it uses to run its power plants. Reducing this tax will result in lower electricity bills, but only if the authorities plan to provide some relief to the suffering people. He observed that while the cost of electricity has increased, the practice of overbilling, which aims to defraud people, needs to cease.

Commissioner reviews arrangements finalized to cope with flooding

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak here on Monday reviewed all the arrangements finalized by Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi and administration to cope with flooding. Chairing a meeting held at Commissioner Office, the Commissioner said that rain emergency was declared in Rawalpindi. All concerned institutions were on high alert, he added. The Commissioner said that all the Deputy Commissioners along with the officers concerned were present in the field. Immediate arrangements should be made for drainage of stagnant rain water, he added. Nullah Lai should be specially monitored and all the preparations should be completed immediately, Aamir Khattak said. Managing Director (MD), WASA briefed the Commissioner about arrangements finalized for Monsoon. WASA teams are engaged to drain out stagnant rain water particularly from low-lying areas with the help of heavy machinery, he informed. Water level in Nullah Lai at Kattrian was at 5 feet while at Gawalmandi, it was recorded at 4 feet. He further said that all the officers were directed to remain alert during rain and all the arrangements were finalized timely to deal with any emergency. Under the supervision of Director Sewerage, drainage operations were being done across the city, he informed. —APP

IRSA releases 344,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 344,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 403,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1519.31 feet and was 121.31 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 238,700 cusecs and 200,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1200.20 feet, which was 152.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 32,200 cusecs and 12,000 cusecs respectively. —APP



ISLAMABAD: youngster experience the thrill of zip-lining at Chattar Adventure Park in the Federal Capital. —ONLINE

PIMS incinerator continues spewing health hazardous dark smoke

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Hospital incinerator established to get away with hazardous hospital waste through incineration and safe management of its remains has become a nuisance for the residents of F-8, G-7 and G-8 sectors facing dark smoke with an increased ratio of pollutants being spewed since last quarter of the year. An incinerator is a highly capital-intensive infrastructure developed to convert solid or liquid waste of both hazardous and non-hazardous nature into gas or ash, reducing to less bulky, less toxic or less harmful material. The major products, of incineration of waste, are carbon dioxide (CO₂), water, and ash, whereas the items of serious concern are compounds containing sulfur, nitrogen, and halogens that are highly detrimental to health and the environment. The incinerator is operated at a high temperature ranging from 850°C to 1200°C that helps convert waste into flue gas CO₂ and water as end products. When contacted, by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), the official informed that the matter was already in the notice of the Agency and the matter was being taken as per the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997. Suleman Bilal, a local area resident told APP that it is a usual practice during morning and evening durations when the incinerator starts working and emits thick dark smoke, making the air unbreathable for all. "The incinerator is next to the hospital where the Paeds ward, burn centre, and cafeteria are in its closest proximity where massive visitors are present. They are at risk of contracting serious health complications and respiratory diseases that are evident from the pungent dark smoke directly affecting nostrils and lungs of an individual," he added. He urged the authorities concerned to action and stop the unhealthy practice at a critical healthcare facility. When contacted the spokesperson PIMS, Dr Mubashir, he least bothered to respond to multiple queries sent on WhatsApp seeking his official stance on the matter. Tahir Shah, a medical student urged the Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam to take up the matter on high priority and ensure action as per law as public health, especially of the ailing, infant, juvenile and female and the elderly was of critical importance due to their vulnerability to such level of air pollution. —DNA

ICT admin intensifies drainage efforts amid Monsoon rains

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration is on high alert, taking measures to prevent flooding and ensure smooth traffic flow, as the heavy rain showers hit the Federal Capital. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, heavy rains have started pouring down on the city, prompting a swift response from the administration. Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates are actively present in the field, closely monitoring the situation. The district administration teams are visiting various low-lying areas to assess the impact and take necessary actions to prevent waterlogging. A key focus is on the status of the city's drains, including those in areas H-8 and G-7. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon emphasized the importance of effective drainage to prevent

flooding. He said that ACs and magistrates are working on the ground to ensure that the drainage systems function properly. And efforts were underway to manage the monsoon rains and minimize disruption. Irfan Nawaz assured residents that all measures were being taken to maintain effective drainage. Traffic police were also on duty to ensure smooth traffic flow on all major highways. The district commissioner highlighted the cooperation between various departments to tackle the challenges posed by the heavy rains. Meanwhile, the citizens were advised to lodge a complain regarding rainwater on the district administration number 051-9108084. This coordinated effort by the authorities aimed to minimize the impact of the monsoon rains and keep the city running smoothly despite the challenging weather conditions. —APP

Pakistan credited as Guest of Honor at 8th China-South Asia Expo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan was credited as Guest of Honor at 8th China-South Asia Expo, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. As per the report, Pakistan took center stage as the country of honor at the recently concluded 8th China-South Asia Expo held in Kunming from July 23 to 28. With a grand total of over 170 stalls, Pakistan showcased its vibrant economic diversity through a myriad of products ranging from exquisite furniture and carpets to fresh fruits, intricate handicrafts made from bronze and onyx, and dazzling jewelry, all housed within the Pakistan Pavilion inspired by the iconic Lahore Fort. The engage-

ment of Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi at the expo bolstered Pakistan's prominence. "The China-South Asia Expo serves as a testament to China's unwavering dedication to enhancing economic ties and promoting regional integration," remarked Ambassador Hashmi in an exclusive interview with Gwadar Pro. "I am delighted to see Pakistan's diverse range of products on display, showcasing our nation's rich cultural heritage and economic potential," he added. One of the highlights of the Pakistani Pavilion was the spectacular mango display curated by Dr. Adnan Hafeez. With an impressive selection of over a ton of mangoes, featuring three prized varieties—Sindhri, Langra, and SB Chaunsa, Dr. Hafeez aimed to introduce the sweetness and diversity of Pakistani mangoes to the Chinese consumers. "We hope that such platforms will bring us closer to our Chinese customers, allowing our products and services to make a deeper impact in the market," he said. The 8th China-South Asia Expo and the concurrent 28th China Kunming Import and Export Fair attracted over 2,000 enterprises from 82 countries, regions and international organizations, including Nepal and Malaysia, underscoring its status as a premier event for promoting economic cooperation and cultural exchange in the region.

Elite bargain for structural transformation: Haroon Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Former Minister of State, Board of Investment (BOI), Haroon Sharif has said that the only way forward for economic progress is to embrace a structural transformation prevailing in the economic system of the country through elite bargaining insulating the beneficiaries of the status quo with improved governance responding developing regional trends. The former Chairman BOI explained that the country's prevailing structure, modalities and tools to improve GDP demanded diversification in the market and business practices catering to the needs of both the regional nations and the local masses, Haroon Sharif stated that in a talk organised by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). "Elite bargain or political will is that elites of a country reconsider their models and bargain on shifting over new economic models and systems. We also need to include politicians and businessmen and beneficiaries of this system to change the structure," Haroon Sharif said. The second option is to succumb to the young population's pressure either willingly or by force to change the system as for elite bargain other than the electorate pressure-based changes, and transformation mega steps are taken to change the ways of doing business like Taiwan, Vietnam and others did, he added. "Asia's successful examples of economic structure transformation including East Asia and Southeast Asia have been on governing the markets who had identified economic winners and supported them to deliver their economic goals. India's three decades journey where it has reformed its economic structure and built up its private sector is evident. Pakistan has to start from somewhere," he mentioned. He said the country's financial system is unable to support new development initiatives which is the job of the development banks and not the commercial banks. For instance, to promote the agriculture sector the government should revive ZTBL with the help of Chinese investors which is lying redundant through capital and experts. He said the concept is to start agreeing on the winning sectors (economic sectors able to perform up to the mark) then financing those winners, and ultimately facilitating the cost of doing business for those sectors. Sharif elaborated the transformational approach as a parallel system developed along the existing economic model on a fast-track basis. —DNA

MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

JUDO
KARATE
KUNG-FU
JU-JUTSU
TAEKWONDO
UNIFORMS AND COLOURED BELTS

Ashraf

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-52-3256000 / 3255768
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 05 Issue: 215

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

The view on UN tax talks

Britain created a loophole that made it a tax haven less than a century ago, when the House of Lords ruled in a case involving a UK company that traded in Egyptian land. The 1929 decision allowed foreigners to set up companies in the UK that would not be considered UK resident under British law because they were controlled from overseas. Crucially, they could be shielded from taxation at source because they were incorporated abroad. That judgment sent history scurrying towards the creation of an "offshore world" of tax havens through which nations compete to offer the least possible corporate tax and the greatest possible secrecy. This system could be coming to an end. Over the next three weeks, 193 UN member states in New York will thrash out draft terms of reference for a convention that seeks the biggest overhaul of global tax rules for a century. Many countries, led by the African Group, are seeking a right to tax economic activity where it takes place. If enacted, this could see the convention, legally binding on contracting states, to require multinational corporations to pay tax where they employ staff and do real work, instead of in tax havens where they hide profits. Last year, the EU Tax Observatory said that, in 2022, corporations shifted \$1tn - 35% of the profits they earned outside their home countries - to tax havens, with governments losing out between \$240bn and \$600bn annually. In 2023, the seven biggest US pharmaceutical companies paid no tax in America on global profits of more than \$40bn. Wealthy nations are complicit in such avoidance. Despite growing corporate profits, the effective tax rate companies face worldwide has declined by a third since 1975. Poor nations, desperate for cash to deal with environmental and fiscal crises, are the biggest losers. Lower-income countries' tax losses (\$47bn) are equivalent to half of their public health budgets. The UN tax talks began shamefully when countries including the UK and the US, as well as the EU, attempted to frustrate proceedings. These nations preferred the pro-rich, corporate-friendly way of doing things when they ran tax rules under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Its 2019 proposals would have seen 80% of "redistributed profits" flow to wealthy counties while lower middle-income nations lost out. That approach led to rising anger over glaring imbalances. As Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, pointed out this month: "Tax avoidance has impeded governments all over the world from providing basic services to their citizens, contributing to global inequality, which is at an all-time high. Fewer than 3,000 people hold nearly \$15 trillion - equivalent to the annual GDP of Germany, India, Japan, and the United Kingdom combined." Rich nations are now engaging with the UN process. The UK has a historic responsibility for this mess. Along with its network of overseas territories and crown dependencies, it is responsible for nearly a quarter of global corporate tax loss. Alex Cobham, chief executive of the Tax Justice Network, applauds Labour ministers' tough rhetoric against tax-dodging. He asks whether they will now "opt for continuity with the previous Conservative government's policy and continue to frustrate efforts at the UN? Or will they mark out a new course for the UK on the world stage and support international efforts to curb tax abuse?" The government should show that principles take precedence over the profits for a privileged few.



Bigger BRICS building a multipolar world

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim announced on Sunday that Malaysia has officially applied to join the greater BRICS grouping. In late May, Thailand's Cabinet approved a draft application to join the newly expanded BRICS. If the two key regional players in Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are accepted as members of the grouping, which accepted Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia as new members earlier this year, it will have significant geopolitical ramifications, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. Their joining the group will further enlarge the platform, giving it greater representativeness of the Global South. The total economy of the enlarged BRICS accounts for about 60 percent of that of the G7. The strong appeal the grouping has for emerging market economies and the great potential it has demonstrated to act as a responsible representative of the Global South make it a player on world stage that no party can afford to ignore. While some in the West tend to increasingly view the swelling BRICS as an anti-West geopolitical tool, particularly against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis and the United States' China-containment strategy, with Russia and China being members of the organization, they simply turn a blind eye to the fact that grouping is not a military alliance like NATO but largely an economic one that operates following the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, inclusiveness, consensus and strengthened collaboration. It is the organization's openness and fairness, and the shared conviction of its members that the Global South deserves its due say in global affairs and the reform of global governance that have attracted new countries that recognize that the organization can provide them with a platform for strengthened coordination and cooperation to that end. Unlike the G7, the expanding BRICS group is not a clique pursuing narrow interests. It provides a large space for countries to uphold their strategic autonomy and calls for resolving differences through dialogue and negotiations. Only those holding a zero-sum game Cold War mentality, or those thinking the rise of the Global South threatens to touch their cheese, would try to sow discord between the members of the augmented BRICS, or seek to misinterpret any country's application to join or display of interest in being an observer in the grouping. In the face of the contest between those countries seeking to build a multipolar world and those upholding the unipolar hegemony, and the clash between economic globalization and "de-globalization" tendencies, the growing BRICS grouping follows the trend of history, stands on the side of fairness and justice, and makes the right choices. The accession of more countries to the enlarged BRICS can accelerate the process of building a multipolar world, and promote a more just and equitable international order. The organization should always stay committed to its original aspiration of openness, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation to elevate the practical cooperation among its members to new heights. Apart from pooling efforts to make unique contributions to resolving world hotspot issues, the grouping.

Wily politicians and their Ill-judgements

Dr M Ali Hamza



Despite these challenges, his political acumen allowed him to maintain a significant role in shaping Indonesia's political dynamics during a critical period of democratic transition. Though Haz had a reputation as a wily politician, but his speech before Muslim clerics at Abubakar's Solo boarding school in May 2002 is remembered as ill-judged and has attracted lot of criticism. This article is not about a criticism on Haz but to learn from recent history where shrewd politicians have made politically

The ninth vice president of Indonesia (2001-2004), Hamzah Haz was a smart politician known for his strategic manoeuvring. It was sad to hear about his passing on July 24, 2024. From newspaper journalism to teaching economics, from cabinet ministry of People's Representative Council (DPR) to serving as a minister of investment, and from the vice presidency to the position of party's presidential candidate in the 2004 Indonesian presidential election, Haz smartly played his cards. It is said that he adeptly navigated Indonesia's volatile political landscape during the post-Suharto era. His ability to form alliances and his pragmatic approach to governance helped him gain influence. However, Haz's tenure was marred by allegations of controversy over his conservative views. Despite these challenges, his political acumen allowed him to maintain a significant role in shaping Indonesia's political dynamics during a critical period of democratic transition. Though Haz had a reputation as a wily politician, but his speech before Muslim clerics at Abubakar's Solo boarding school in May 2002 is remembered as ill-judged and has attracted lot of criticism. This article is not about a criticism on Haz but to learn from recent history where shrewd politicians have made politically incorrect statements and took inappropriate decisions. In the world of politics, strategy and cunning are often as crucial as vision and policy. While many politicians adeptly navigate the complexities of governance and public opinion, others, despite their political acumen, have made missteps that have tarnished their legacies. Here are some notable examples of wily politicians whose ill-judged actions have had significant repercussions. Richard Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, is perhaps the most infamous example of a shrewd politician undone by his own actions. Known for his foreign policy achievements, particularly in opening diplomatic relations with China and détente with the Soviet Union, Nixon's presidency was ultimately marred by the Watergate scandal. The attempt to cover up a break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters led to his resignation in 1974, making him the only US president to resign from office. Nixon's involvement in the scandal and the subsequent cover-up was a profound misjudgement that overshadowed his political career. David Cameron, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,

is a prime example of a politician whose calculated risk backfired spectacularly. In 2016, Cameron called for a referendum on the UK's membership in the European Union, confident that the vote would favour remaining in the EU. However, the result was a narrow victory for the Leave campaign, leading to Brexit. The decision to hold the referendum, intended to settle internal party divisions and political pressure, instead resulted in Cameron's resignation and long-term uncertainty and division in the UK. Aung San Suu Kyi, once celebrated as a symbol of peaceful resistance and democratic ideals, faced international condemnation for her handling of the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar. As the de-facto leader of Myanmar, her government was accused of ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya Muslim minority. Suu Kyi's refusal to condemn the military's actions and her perceived complicity significantly damaged her reputation. Her ill-judged defence of the military at the International Court of Justice in 2019 further alienated her from the global community. Nicolas Sarkozy, the former President of France, has had his share of legal woes that have overshadowed his political career. Known for his dynamic and often divisive leadership style, Sarkozy faced multiple investigations into alleged corruption and campaign financing violations. In 2021, he was found guilty of corruption and influence peddling, receiving a three-year prison sentence, two of which were suspended. These legal issues and the decisions that led to them have severely tarnished Sarkozy's legacy as a political leader. Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, is another politician whose career has been overshadowed by allegations of corruption. While he has been a dominant force in Israeli politics, Netanyahu was indicted on charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust in 2019. His alleged involvement in a series of corruption scandals, including accepting expensive gifts and offering regulatory favours in exchange for favourable media coverage, has cast a long shadow over his political achievements. Netanyahu's attempts to avoid prosecution and his divisive rhetoric have further po-

larized Israeli society. Moreover, his repeated decisions to launch attacks on Gaza have had profound implications, both for his political career and for Israel's standing in the world. Netanyahu is facing political isolation and having fractures within his ruling coalitions, making governance increasingly difficult. Israeli citizens, tired of the endless cycle of violence, have staged protests and expressed their dissatisfaction with Netanyahu's leadership. War crime allegations, human rights violations, diplomatic fallout, decline in tourism, stalled negotiation, huge cost of conflict, are the results of Netanyahu worst ill-judged decision. There are critics who believe that he had paid all this price to cover-up his series of corruption scandals and to secure his political career, but in vain. Imran Khan, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, came to power with promises of reform and anti-corruption measures. However, his tenure was marked by economic instability and poor management, culminating in a severe financial crisis. Khan's government struggled with inflation, a burgeoning debt crisis, and an inability to secure consistent international financial support. His policies, including abrupt changes and a lack of coherent strategy, agricultural neglect, bureaucratic paralysis, suppressing political opposition, poor foreign policy, lack of substantial reforms in the education sector, mismanaged privatization, were seen as misjudgments that undermined his political credibility. These examples highlight the fragile nature of political power and the delicate balance between strategic political manoeuvring and disastrous mis judgments. These politicians' ill-judged actions not only impacted their careers but also had far-reaching consequences for their countries and the international community. In the high-stakes realm of politics, even the most astute leaders can see their legacies unravel due to a single misstep. Indeed, the political world is complex, as are the personalities of politicians. Therefore, studying the darker side of wily politicians can be highly beneficial in manifolds.

—Author's email: mali.hamza@yahoo.com

Iraq's tightrope walk with US and Iran

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Since the 2003 invasion that removed Saddam Hussein, the presence of American troops in Iraq has been controversial. At first, these troops were seen as liberators, but over time, many Iraqis, especially Shi'a Islamist groups, have come to see them as occupiers. These groups believe that foreign troops undermine Iraq's sovereignty and hinder its control over national security and internal

An Iraqi military delegation is going to visit Washington soon, and there is a lot of anticipation and tension in Iraq about this visit. The focus is on the presence of American troops in Iraq, which has been a hot topic among Iraq's various political groups. Iraqi Shi'a Islamist hardliners are especially eager to speed up the withdrawal of U.S. forces from their country. Since the 2003 invasion that removed Saddam Hussein, the presence of American troops in Iraq has been controversial. At first, these troops were seen as liberators, but over time, many Iraqis, especially Shi'a Islamist groups, have come to see them as occupiers. These groups believe that foreign troops undermine Iraq's sovereignty and hinder its control over national security and internal affairs. These hardliners, who often have strong connections to Iran, view the American military presence as a way for the U.S. to exert influence in the region, which counters Iran's influence in Iraq. Their demand for a quick withdrawal aligns with their opposition to U.S. policies in the Middle East. The killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani by a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad in January 2020 intensified these feelings, leading to louder calls for the U.S. to leave. For the upcoming visit to Washington, these hardliners want the Iraqi delegation to take a firm stand and insist on a clear and quick timeline for the withdrawal of American troops. This position reflects their anti-American views and responds to growing frustration among Iraqis over the foreign military presence, which they blame for ongoing instability and violence. However, the Iraqi delegation faces a difficult situation. The United States has been an important ally, providing military support, training, and financial aid essential for Iraq's fight against

ISIS and other extremist groups. A sudden and unplanned withdrawal could create a power vacuum, potentially leading to more insurgent activities and further destabilization. The delegation needs to carefully balance these issues. While addressing the hardliners' demands and the broader Iraqi desire for sovereignty, they must also consider the practical need to maintain a strategic partnership with the United States. This partnership is crucial not just for military support but also for economic and political stability. Moreover, the visit will be closely watched by other countries. Iran will be particularly interested in the outcomes due to its interests in Iraq. Other regional allies and adversaries will also be paying attention to how the U.S.-Iraq relationship develops, as it affects regional security dynamics.

In July, the Iraqi government is actively trying to maintain good relations with both the United States and Iran. On July 17, an Iranian-backed militia launched a drone attack on an Iraqi airbase where some of the 2,500 US troops in the country are stationed. There were no casualties, but this attack has raised concerns that the informal cease-fire arranged by Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani between the Iranian-backed militias and the Americans may be falling apart. The militias and their allies in the Iraqi parliament believe that the US is delaying negotiations over the withdrawal of its forces from Iraq. Sudani has stated that the American-backed multinational coalition should leave, but he also wants to create a bilateral military support program with the US and other countries.

On July 8, a Pentagon delegation met with Iraqi officials in Baghdad to discuss the future of American military relations with Iraq, but there

were no announcements about progress or a withdrawal timetable. Under pressure from hardline Shi'a Islamists, a Shi'a politician said on Iraqi TV that a withdrawal schedule announcement would come within weeks. However, Washington has not mentioned any timetable, leaving Sudani without political support. An Iraqi military delegation is expected to visit Washington soon, and Shi'a Islamist hardliners want Iraq to push for a quicker withdrawal of American troops. Meanwhile, on July 13, Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein met with US Treasury Under Secretary for Terrorism and Intelligence Brian Nelson in Washington. He urged the US to ease sanctions that have blocked about 30 Iraqi commercial banks from accessing dollars and the international banking system. Hussein claimed that the Iraqi banking sector has made reforms to address American concerns about money laundering benefiting Iran and its proxies. Although the Treasury Department appreciated Iraq's commitment to reform, it did not indicate any easing of the sanctions. Hussein also met with State Department Under Secretary for Political Affairs John Bass to seek assistance regarding Iranian funds frozen in Iraq, but the State Department also gave no public sign of flexibility. In a positive development for Baghdad, the State Department announced last week that it had granted another four-month waiver to the Iraqi government, allowing it to buy Iranian electricity without facing American sanctions. The State Department spokesperson said that Baghdad was making steady progress toward finding alternative sources to replace Iranian electricity imports. Given the extreme heat in Iraq this summer, improving the electricity supply is more crucial than ever for the Iraqi people.

Briefs

Govt to deal hate-mongers...

FROM PAGE 01
future. Adding that those behind this move belonged to the group established in 2027-28. "This time, we are all united as Muslims, and our belief in Khatm-e-Nabuwat (the Finality of Prophethood) is the foundation of our faith," he remarked. He emphasized that no Muslim needs a certificate from any individual or group to get a certificate of his/her faith in Khatm-e-Nabuwat. He said that only courts have the right to punish or reward, no one else can decree murder. He said that if this right is given to Ulema (Muslim Scholars) then every school of religious thought could give its own verdict. The minister said that Pakistan Ulema also condemned this issue jointly. The minister also highlighted the need for unity and refraining from creating anarchy in society.

TLP leader 'arrested'...

FROM PAGE 01
obstructing in performance of legal duties and others. It is to be noted that apart from TLP, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Sami (JUIS), Mili Yakjehti Council Pakistan (MYC) and Wa-faqul Madaris-ul-Arabiya (WMA) have also voiced their opposition to the apex court's verdict in the said case. The opposition comes despite the clarification issued by the apex court on Friday which said that the court's verdict clearly states that no one can be a Muslim without having faith in the finality of prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

JI's Hafiz Naeem...

FROM PAGE 01
unjust agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), revealing that 70 to 80 percent of IPPs are non-operational due to contractual issues, with the government holding shares in 52 percent of them. He demanded a forensic audit of the IPPs and the abolition of capacity charges, citing excessive taxes on bills. He insisted that electricity prices should be based on actual production costs. Calls for ending government perks were made, questioning why WAPDA officers and other officials receive free electricity and fuel. Naeem suggested that the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and judges should be limited to 1300cc vehicles to reduce the public burden, recalling former Prime Minister Junejo's precedent of 1000cc vehicles for all.

Kurrum dispute...

FROM PAGE 01
been reported between the villages of Upper Kurrum, Bushehra, and Malikhil following the ceasefire. Initial skirmishes were reported between the Boshera and Mali Khel tribes. However, these altercations turned violent and deadly when both sides resorted to using their heavy weaponry, said official sources. Authorities feared that the number of casualties could increase even further if the fighting continued. Recent reports indicate that overnight, heavy exchanges of fire occurred at four additional locations in Kurrum District, including Balishkhel, Kharkali Sangina Pewar, Teri Mangal Zeran, Khumsa Maqbal, and Kunj Releza.

TTP chief booked in...

FROM PAGE 01
Act in the case registered at CTD North Waziristan. Another FIR has been registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act in Dera Ismail Khan over the terrorist attack on a rural health center in Kirri Shamozai area. In the recently surfaced phone call, Noor Wali Mehsud can be heard giving instructions to Ghat Haji to attack government properties especially schools and hospitals. Following this, the militants carried out terrorist attacks including the rural health center in Dera Ismail Khan, a girls' school in Mir Ali and the target killing of a teacher in Tank.

Paris Olympics 2024

Djokovic knocks Nadal out of singles event

The record Grand Slam winner is on the hunt for the only accolade missing from his collection

SPORTS DESK

PARIS : Novak Djokovic progressed to the third round of the men's singles tennis tournament at the Olympic Games after a straight sets victory over his long-time rival Rafael Nadal. The record Grand Slam winner is on the hunt for the only accolade missing from his collection, and he swiftly dispatched Nadal in the opening set at Roland Garros. The venue has been the stage for Nadal's 14 French Open triumphs, and in what is anticipated to be his final appearance on the Parisian clay, fans were hoping for a fairytale ending. After taking the first set 6-1, Djokovic appeared poised to easily overcome Nadal in the second during their 60th encounter. However, the Spaniard rallied from a break down to level the score at 4-4. Nonetheless, the Serbian re-



gained his advantage in the next game before serving out the match to secure a 6-1, 6-4 victory. Although Nadal's hopes of a second singles gold medal were thwarted, the veteran remains in the men's doubles draw alongside Carlos Alcaraz. The Games are Djokovic's fifth attempt to claim a gold medal. The 37-year-old's best performance came during his debut at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. He entered this year's competition as the top seed, while reigning French Open and Wimbledon champion Alcaraz—who defeated him in London earlier this month—is the biggest threat to his pursuit. Alcaraz takes on Dutch player Tallon Griekspoor later on Monday for a place in the next round. Djokovic, meanwhile, will play the winner of the clash between Germany's Dominik Koepfer and Italian Matteo Arnaldi.

India to host Asia Cup 2025 in T20 format

NEW DELHI: India will host the men's Asia Cup in the T20 format next year, while the tournament will be played in a 50-over format in Bangladesh in 2027. According to the Invitation for Expressions of Interest for the sponsorship rights document issued by the Asian Cricket Council, a total of 13 matches will feature in the tournament, which will include six teams - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and a sixth team to be decided through a qualifying event. Although the dates have not yet been finalised, sources have indicated that the tournament could be held sometime in September, once the monsoon season has ended in the country. As per the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Future Tours Programme (FTP) 2023-27, India has a packed calendar next year, with a limited-overs series against England in January-February, followed by the Champions Trophy in February-March. After the IPL concludes, the team will tour England from June to August before heading to Bangladesh for three ODIs and as many T20Is. Therefore, the Asia Cup is expected to be held after the Bangladesh series and before the two-match Test series against the West Indies in October. However, sources in the BCCI clarified that no decision has yet been made regarding the possible venues. While there will be no men's Asia Cup tournament in 2026, the Women's Asia Cup will be played that year in a T20 format, followed by the men's U-19 and Emerging Teams Asia Cup tournaments. Last year, the Asia Cup was played in a hybrid model, with Pakistan hosting a few matches at home, while India played all its fixtures in Sri Lanka. Under Rohit Sharma's captaincy, India clinched the title, defeating Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the final at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. - Agencies

Shahid Afridi slams PCB for scapegoating players

Former skipper questions PCB advisor's capability, stressing the need for experienced professionals like Gary Kirsten

LAHORE: Former Pakistan cricket captain Shahid Afridi has voiced strong criticisms against the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and its current leadership. During a media conference, Afridi expressed his discontent with how the board operates and handles players. He began by criticising the board for allegedly using players as scapegoats. "It is not right to pit players against each other to save oneself. The cricket board should not use players as a means to protect itself," Afridi said. "The Pakistan Cricket Board is like a father to the players. I have played for the Pakistan team for 20 to 22 years, and there have been many issues during my time," he added. The former all-rounder suggested that Mohsin Naqvi should choose one role to focus on, as juggling both positions might hinder his effectiveness. "Since Mohsin Naqvi holds both positions at the PCB and the Ministry

of Interior, he should now make a decision and choose one position. If he follows the advice of the PCB advisors, he won't be able to achieve much," he said. "The PCB chairman's advisor lacks knowledge about cricket and will be unable to guide him in the right direction. The advisor is not capable of this role," he added. Afridi reflected on his own experience and the impact of his statements on players like Shaheen Afridi. He acknowledged that his comments, even if intended as constructive criticism, often result in negative perceptions. "I've stopped speaking because my comments about Shaheen often lead to negativity. I don't praise him much and usually end up scolding him, which creates a negative image," he said. The former skipper emphasised the need for experienced professionals like Pakistan's newly appointed

red-ball coach Gary Kirsten, not just for the national team but also at the grassroots level. "People like Gary Kirsten are needed not only for the Pakistan team but also at the grassroots level," he said. Afridi, 47, also sharply criticised India's potential decision to withdraw from visiting Pakistan for the Champions Trophy 2025, citing their past experiences under challenging conditions. "We have continued to visit Indian cities even in difficult situations and have played despite threats. However, if you do not want to come, then don't come to Pakistan," he said. He also expressed his concerns about the selection process, criticising the board's approach. "When there is a defeat, everyone is responsible. Removing one or two selectors won't change anything. Players were being chosen by raising hands; what was going on?" he concluded.

Pakistan shooters continue poor run at Paris Olympics



KARACHI: Pakistan shooters Kishmala Talat and Gulfam Joseph continued their poor run at the 2024 Paris Olympics as they were knocked out of one more event on Monday. Joseph and Kishmala participated in 10-meter mixed doubles but couldn't get to the final round. Pakistan managed to get 571 out of 600 points in the mixed event and got 14th out of 17th position. Pakistani shooters are now out of all 10-metre pistol events. Kishmala will now participate in 25m rapid fire pistol event. Earlier, Joseph, participating in the 10-metre air pistol competition,

failed to qualify for the final round. He finished in 22nd position out of 33 shooters. Joseph scored 571 points out of 600. Meanwhile, Kishmala could not advance to the final round of the 10-meter air pistol event. The Pakistani shooter scored a total of 567 points across six series. Kishmala scored 93 points in the first series, 97 in the second, and 94 in the third. In the last three series, she scored 93, 95, and 95 points. Kishmala Talat did not make it into the top eight required for the final round. She ranked 32nd out of the 44 shooters. Kishmala's real hopes at the Olympics lie in the women's 25m pistol events. It must be noted Pakistan have fielded seven athletes in the global event and they are accompanied by 11 officials. - Agencies

Gulfam Joseph and Kishmala Talat are out of one more event

Stokes confident of England's future after WI series win

London : England's Test captain Ben Stokes is confident of his team's future after white-washing West Indies 3-0 in a three-match Test series. England dominated the Caribbean side as they recorded a 10-wicket win in the third and final Test at Edgbaston with their skipper, Stokes, sealing the win with a 24-ball half-century, the fastest for England in Test history. While England chased the 82-run target in just 7.2 overs, their victory was set up by Mark Wood's remarkable spell where he bagged his fifth five-wicket haul for the team. "I think that's one of the best reverse swing performances I've seen in a long time," Stokes said in praise of his fast bowler. "It was just awesome to see and I think there was almost a bit of relief there because he'd beaten the bat so many times in the two games that he'd played and definitely didn't get the rewards that he deserved." England play Australia in Ashes in 18 months and they are focused on building their bowling attack as James Anderson retired this summer. Having a high pace and the use of reverse swing is crucial for success Down Under and England saw that during this series. "I think it shows how important pace is," Stokes said of whether England have built an attack that can succeed overseas. "You also need skill to go with that... [but] having different types of options in your armoury in a bowling attack is obviously key, especially when it's flat, when it's not really offering you much in the air or off the wicket." Having Woody and Gus [Atkinson] in this game in particular I think was very good and obviously having those two operate together is very, very exciting for the future of England." - Agencies

Naval Chief visits Romania, discusses Maritime Security

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf underscored that Pakistan firmly believes that dialogue and negotiations are the most effective means of resolving maritime disputes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf paid an official visit to Romania. During the visit, Naval Chief held combined meeting with Chief of Defence Staff General Gheorghita Vlad and Chief of Romanian Navy Vice Admiral Mihai Panait onboard Romanian Navy Frigate Regina Maria. Issues related to regional maritime security, professional matters of mutual interest and bilateral military collaboration were discussed in the meeting. The dignitaries, while acknowledging the significance of strong bilateral military collaboration, agreed on further enhancing mutual interactions in diversified military domains. During his visit to National Defence University of Romania, the Admiral also delivered a lecture on

'Collaborative Maritime Security' in which he stressed upon the need for Collaborative Maritime Security efforts. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf underscored that Pakistan firmly believes that dialogue and negotiations are the most effective means of resolving maritime disputes. He highlighted that no single state has the capacity to create and sustain an environment with effective Maritime Security. Pakistan Navy effectively contributes towards Collaborative Maritime Security efforts with participation in Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) led CTF-150 and 151, conduct of Regional Maritime Security Patrol and multinational maritime exercise AMAN. The recent visit of the Naval Chief will further augment and expand the bilateral defence ties between two friendly countries.



Tariq Masood, Mazhar Alam...

FROM PAGE 01

Malik, AG Awan, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and Pakistan Bar Council representative Akhtar Husain. Justice (ret'd) had initially Miankhal's refused to become an ad hoc judge of the apex court, citing "personal reasons", becoming the third judge to turn down the proposal. Before him, Justice (ret'd) Mushir Alam and Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar had also turned down the offer to become ad hoc judge of the apex court. It is to be noted that a retired judge can be appointed ad hoc judge for a period of three years or less. Appointment of ad hoc judges, as per the top court itself, is aimed at ensuring more cases are decided than instituted and to reduce the pendency of the cases. As per the statistics reflected in the bi-annual report of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, the number of pending cases in the courts surged to 2.26 million during the second half of the year 2023, increasing the overall pendency of cases by 3.9%. The report revealed that 82% of the pending cases (1.86 million) were at the district judiciary level and the remaining 18% (0.39 million cases) were at the upper tier, including the SC, Federal Shariat Court, and high courts. As per the report, 2.38 million new cases were filed during period, while the courts managed to decide 2.30 million cases.

Maryam, British HC VOW...

FROM PAGE 01

Commissioner about Punjab's first Women Virtual Police Station and Child Safety Virtual Centre. Maryam Nawaz stated that concrete measures have been taken for the safety and security of women and children. She also highlighted the solarisation project to provide economic relief to citizens through solar panels in Punjab kicking off from August 14. Punjab CM was ready to welcome British companies for investment in the solar project. She emphasised that the bidding process for solar projects would be transparent and merit based. Maryam Nawaz also highlighted her government's efforts for mitigation of environmental pollution. She also shared her vision of making Punjab, the biggest digital hub of South Asia. British High Commissioner commended the Punjab Sikh Marriage Act and Child Marriage Bill. Jane Marriot also hailed Punjab government measures for minorities' protection, children and women safety initiatives. Maryam Nawaz also lauded the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) welfare and development projects in Punjab. Senator Pervez Rasheed, Senior provincial Minister Maryyuum Aurangzeb, Additional Secretary Sara Hayat and others also attended the meeting.

SBP cuts policy rate by 100 bps...

FROM PAGE 01

Monday, SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad said "We have noted that the inflation is on a declining trend." Last month, the SBP's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) trimmed its benchmark interest rate by 150 bps to 20.5% last month, following a record-high 22% that had been maintained for almost a year. SBP governor said the inflation rate has come down to 12.60% from 38% while the external account has continued to improve. The central bank in a statement said the announcement of monetary easing showed positive indicators for the national economy citing a slight drop in inflation, a build-up in SBP's foreign reserves despite repayments of debt, and a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a 37-month EFF program of about \$7.0 billion. The statement added that the committee assessed that the external account has continued to improve, as reflected by the build-up in central bank's foreign exchange reserves despite substantial repayments of debt and other obligations.

Briefs

Ex-SA
President
Zuma
expelled
from ANC

CAPE TOWN : South Africa's former President Jacob Zuma has been expelled from the African National Congress (ANC), the party he once led, after campaigning for a rival party in the 29 May general election. The ANC's disciplinary committee found him guilty of "prejudicing the integrity" of the party by joining uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), and has given him three weeks to appeal against its ruling. MK has said Mr Zuma had not been notified of the decision taken by a "kangaroo court". Mr Zuma, 82, was an ANC veteran but fell out with the party after he was forced to quit as president in 2018 over corruption scandals. He has always denied any wrongdoing. He had been suspended by the ANC in January after creating MK, which now sits in opposition to the ANC-led government in parliament. In a statement, MK said it was shocked to learn from media reports that Mr Zuma had been expelled. The disciplinary proceedings were conducted "in a manner akin to a kangaroo court", the party said. "It is a foundational legal principle that no person, not even those accused of a serious crime, should be punished or sentenced in their absence," it added. The ANC's disciplinary committee held a virtual hearing, which Mr Zuma refused to attend, saying he wanted to be physically present.—APP

Mali
separatists
claim
major victory
over army

DAKAR: A mainly Tuareg separatist coalition on Sunday claimed a major victory over Mali's army and its Russian allies following three days of intense fighting in a district on the Algerian border. "Our forces decisively obliterated these enemy columns on Saturday," said a statement by Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadan, spokesman for the CSP-DPA alliance. "A large amount of equipment and weapons were seized or damaged," and prisoners were taken, he added. The statement said seven separatist fighters were killed and 12 wounded in the fighting in Tinzaouatene district. The nation's military leaders who seized power in a 2020 coup have made it a priority to retake all of the country from separatist and extremist forces, particularly in Kidal, a pro-independence bastion in the north. Large-scale fighting broke out Thursday between the army and separatists in Tinzaouatene after the army announced it had retaken control of several districts. The district is almost surrounded by Algerian territory and has been at the heart of other battles between separatist forces and the national army over the past decade.

Musk
criticizes PO
opening
ceremony

WASHINGTON : Elon Musk voiced displeasure over the inclusion of drag queens in the Paris Olympic Games' opening ceremony, particularly a performance reminiscent of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." The segment sparked immediate backlash from right-wing figures, with Musk joining the chorus of critics, many of whom took issue with its perceived disrespect to Christians. The organizers of the Games later apologized for any of offense they caused with the scene, which evoked images of the painting which depicts the moment when Jesus Christ announced to his 12 disciples that one of them would betray him. Posting on X, Musk shared his disapproval and emphasized his point by replying to a side-by-side image comparing the performance to da Vinci's painting. "Christianity has become toothless," he lamented. As the controversy grew, drawing responses from other notable figures like Donald Trump Jr., Musk reiterated his stance on Saturday.—APP

'End of genocidal Netanyahu will be like Hitler's': Fidan

'Humanity will stand with Palestinians,' ministry says in response to Israel, adding: 'You will not be able to destroy Palestinians'

NEWS DESK

ANKARA : Türkiye said early Monday that "just as the end of the genocidal Hitler came, so too will be the end of the genocidal (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu." "Just as the genocidal Nazis were held accountable, those who seek to destroy the Palestinians will also be held accountable," said the Turkish Foreign Ministry in a statement. "Humanity will stand with the Palestinians. You will not be able to destroy the Palestinians," it added. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on X that "our President has become the voice of humanity's conscience." "Those who seek to silence this just voice, especially international Zionist circles including Israel, are in a state of great panic. "History has ended the same way for all genocidal perpetrators and their supporters," he added. Turkish Presidency Chief Advisor for Foreign Policy and Security Akif Gagatay Kilic also said that "as long as our President Erdogan stands by the op-

Palestinian child dies of malnutrition

GAZA CITY : A Palestinian child died on Monday of severe malnutrition caused by Israel's crippling blockade on the Gaza Strip, according to a local medical source. Ali Anas al-Tater, 6, breathed his last at the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza City as a result of acute malnutrition exacerbated by the prolonged Israeli siege and the ensuing food crisis, the source told Anadolu. Earlier this month, Hatem al-Hour, head of the neonatal department at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, warned that the number of Palestinians suffering from malnutrition was beyond the capacity of hospitals amid the ongoing Israeli war. On July 11, the United Nations World Food Program warned that the collapse of the health care system and lack of sustainable food sources put Gaza's children at risk. Israel has imposed a crippling siege on the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7, 2023, leaving the territory's 2.3 million population on the verge of starvation. According to Gaza's government media office, humanitarian aid has not reached Gaza City and northern areas for over two months. In June, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor issued a warning about an unprecedented return to famine conditions in the region. Flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian group Hamas.—APP

pressed people, these murderers will continue to go mad. "They believe that with their shameless and arrogant statements they can silence our voice, which defends justice and the oppressed. "Netanya-

hu and his cabinet members, like all genocidal perpetrators, will find themselves in the dustbins of history," he added. The statements came after Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz made defamatory and

insulting remarks targeting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on social media. Meanwhile, The Palestinian Ministry of Education said on Monday that it presented a report last month about the way that Israel's targeting of schools in Gaza has "eroded the foundation for sustained societal growth." The United Nations also reported that more than 76 percent of schools in the war-stricken Strip require "full reconstruction or major rehabilitation" to be functional. Back in April, UN experts expressed deep concern over the pattern of Israel's attacks on schools, universities, teachers, and students in the Gaza Strip, raising serious alarm over the "systemic" destruction of the Palestinian education system. "With more than 80% of schools in Gaza damaged or destroyed, it may be reasonable to ask if there is an intentional effort to comprehensively destroy the Palestinian education system, an action known as 'scholasticide'," the experts said. The Government Media Office in Gaza said the figure is part of the overall

death toll of more than 39,000 people. Meanwhile, Amjad Barham, Palestinian Minister of Education and Higher Education, said on Monday that 39,000 high school students from the Gaza Strip did not take the exam this year. Barham added that, "There is no overall pass rate because the number of students is incomplete," due to the killing of 10,000 students in Gaza and the inability of the remaining students to take the exams amid the months-long war. The Israeli regime has completely destroyed 117 schools and universities, while partially destroyed 332 schools and universities in Gaza. More than 107 scientists, university professors, and researchers were also killed. Since the start of Israel's war, the Tel Aviv regime has killed at least 39,363 Palestinians and injured over 90,923. The Government Media Office in Gaza said on Tuesday that Israel has killed at least 16,000 children in the besieged territory since October. Thousands more are also missing and presumed dead under the rubble.

Sexual
violence rife
in Sudan's
capital

KHARTOUM: Sexual violence against women and girls aged between nine and 60 is rife in Sudan, where survivors are prevented from accessing health-care in the capital, Human Rights Watch said. In a new report on Monday titled 'Khartoum is Not Safe for Women', the rights watchdog recorded testimonies from 42 healthcare workers and first responders on sexual violence and forced and child marriage since war erupted in April 2023. Between April and February 2024, 18 healthcare providers alone treated a total of 262 survivors of sexual violence in greater Khartoum, which includes the city of Omdurman just across the Nile River. The RSF "have raped, gang raped, and forced into marriage countless women and girls in residential areas in Sudan's capital," said Laetitia Bader, HRW's deputy Africa director. "The armed group has terrorized women and girls and both warring parties have blocked them from getting aid and support services, compounding the harm they face and leaving them to feel that nowhere is safe." But according to first responders, the number of reported cases is only a fraction of the real figure, with most survivors unable or unwilling to seek emergency care.—Agencies

Türkiye
captures
3 wanted
criminals

ANKARA : Turkish authorities apprehended three internationally wanted criminals involved in multiple crimes, including drug trafficking, the Turkish interior minister said Monday. Ali Yerlikaya said on X that Alexander Gustafsson, sought by Sweden on an Interpol red notice for drug trafficking, money laundering, doping, and forgery, was detained in Istanbul. He had entered Türkiye with a fake Polish passport. Dragan Pavlicevic, wanted by Montenegro on an Interpol red notice for drug trafficking and membership in a criminal organization, was captured in Istanbul on Sunday. The Interpol red notice stated that Pavlicevic, along with criminal organization members, was involved in the shipment of 1.5 tons of cocaine in Montenegro, Colombia, Ecuador, Australia, and the Netherlands. He was also implicated in the shipment of 900 kilograms (1,984 pounds) of cocaine sourced from Ecuador. Additionally, Alexander Nedevski, wanted by Sweden with a red diffusion for money laundering and drugs, was detained in the Bodrum district of the Mugla province. He had also entered Türkiye with a counterfeit Kosovo passport.—APP

Russian
Orthodox
criticizes
PO opening
ceremony

MOSCOW : The Russian Orthodox Church has condemned the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics, claiming that Christians were insulted and that a "godless culture" is spreading in Europe. The opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics has drawn significant backlash for its depiction of Leonardo da Vinci's painting "The Last Supper" with a "drag queen" performance, which many view as disrespectful to religious beliefs. Vkhintang Kipshidze, the deputy chairman of the Russian Orthodox Church's Synodal Department for Church Relations with Society and the Media, expressed outrage over a performance during the ceremony that depicted the "Last Supper" with a drag queen. Kipshidze also noted that the Russian flag was banned from being carried in the Olympics. "If this demonic display had taken place under the shadow of our flag, it would not have been possible to experience a great joy." Expressing solidarity with millions of Christians who felt insulted by the opening ceremony, Kipshidze said: "Those who directed the Olympic opening showed their disdain for European civilization and Christianity as its foundation.—APP

President Jokowi begins work from new capital Nusantara

WEB DESK

JAKARTA : Outgoing Indonesian President Joko Widodo started work Monday from the new presidential palace in his country's ambitious new capital, where he intends to spend the last few months of his presidency. "Today I have started receiving officials for meetings here, in the president's office," Widodo told reporters at the new presidential palace, as authorities race to complete other key infrastructure projects in the future capital city of Nusantara before Independence Day celebrations next month. The capital, also known as IKN, is located in East Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo. Widodo said his first agenda item on Monday was a meeting with executives of the Nusantara development authority. He is also scheduled to meet with provincial leaders. To facilitate the move, the presidential secretariat is preparing all the necessary furniture for the presidential office, in-

cluding tables, chairs and lighting, while the supply of clean water, electricity and internet is "all running well," Widodo said.

We came here to check the latest progress of the IKN, especially the construction of the palace, I see everything is still in process," Widodo said, adding that there are thousands of workers racing to complete the infrastructure projects, and that "I don't want our presence to hamper its development progress." He is optimistic that the new "Garuda Presidential Palace" will serve as the backbone of the country's independence day ceremony on Aug. 17. Only one month is left before Nusantara is slated to hold its first ever Indonesia Independence Day celebration, which is also expected to be the official transfer of the capital city from Jakarta. Its relocation plan has come into question, however, amid slow construction progress and missed deadlines, forcing the resignations of the head of the Nusantara Capi-

tal Authority and his deputy last month. Most of the new city's buildings are unfinished, with the new state palace 88% complete and several ministry buildings only with their lower floors usable. The project to build the new capital is estimated to cost \$33 billion, of which the state budget would shoulder only 20%. Widodo's administration has relied heavily on investments from the private sector to build key infrastructure and public facilities, as the state budget will mainly cover the construction of basic infrastructure, buildings, and utilities within the "core area" of the government. In a bid to lure investment, earlier this month Widodo signed a presidential regulation that grants investors certain rights, including land rights of up to 190 years in the future capital. Public Works and Housing Minister Basuki Hadimuljono who also serves as the acting head of the IKN Authority, said the government is still working to procure another 40 megawatts for the city.

Indonesia's
sea nomads
turn to jobs
on land

PULAU PAPAN: Sofyan Sabi's sea-dwelling community has fished beneath the waves off the Indonesian coast for centuries, but climate change and overfishing have forced him and many of his contemporaries on land to make a living. The Bajau tribe of fishermen led a nomadic life at sea for generations, spending days and nights on boats with thatched roofs in the waters between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Members of the tribe learn to dive from a young age, and their bodies have adapted over time to allow them to fish underwater for longer periods, researchers say. But for the hundreds of Bajau people living on the tiny boardwalk island village of Pulau Papan in Indonesia, their ancestors' unique way of life has all but died out. "We changed professions. We are fishermen who work at a farm. Farming gives better income because there are many crops I can plant," Sofyan said, adding that he owns a nearby two-hectare plot to grow corn and bananas.—APP

50% of Yemeni
children suffer
from stunting: PM

SANAA : Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak announced Sunday that 50% of the country's children suffer from chronic malnutrition. He made the statement during an event in Aden to mark World Population Day, which fell on July 11, according to Yemen's official Saba news agency. Bin Mubarak emphasized that his government's vision focuses on people as the most important resource to be invested in and improved through dedicated services and programs, despite the significant challenges and financial and economic pressures the country faces. He said among the challenges the government is facing is that 45% of the population is under 16 years old and 65% are of working age, while 50% of the country's children suffer from chronic malnutrition and 21% are stunted as a result. Bin Mubarak said the seriousness of these figures necessitates serious engagement, a high level of responsibility and prioritizing them in all plans, programs and spending. He also noted the financial and economic pressures facing the government in dealing with these challenges due to the ongoing war waged by the Houthis group, which has deprived the Yemeni people of benefiting from their resources, according to the agency. Yemen's population is around 32 million, most of whom need humanitarian aid, according to previous UN reports. Yemen is experiencing a severe economic crisis exacerbated by the cessation of oil exports in October 2022 due to attacks by the Houthis on oil ports in areas under government control. For more than two years, Yemen has been experiencing a lull in a war that began nearly 10 years ago between government forces supported by a Saudi-led Arab military coalition and Houthi forces backed by Iran, who have controlled provinces and cities including the capital Sanaa since September 2014.—DNA

New push for mRNA
bird flu vaccine
development: WHO

GENEVA: The World Health Organization announced Monday a new project to accelerate the development in poorer countries of vaccines for human bird flu infections using cutting-edge messenger RNA technology. The WHO said Argentinian manufacturer Sinergium Biotech would lead the effort and had already begun developing candidate H5N1 vaccines. The bird flu H5N1 first emerged in 1996, but since 2020 an exponential growth in outbreaks in birds has occurred in parallel with the virus increasingly jumping to mammals, including cattle in US farms and a few humans. This has prompted fears the virus could spark a future pandemic. Sinergium is aiming to establish proof-of-concept in preclinical models for its candidate vaccines, the WHO said. Once the preclinical data is ready, the technology, materials, and expertise will be shared with a network of manufacturers in poorer countries, allowing them to accelerate their own development and production. The UN health agency said the project would be rolled out through the mRNA technology transfer programme it established with the UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) in 2021, at the height of the Covid-19 crisis. That programme was aimed to help low- and middle-income countries, which found themselves dramatically underserved during the pandemic, to develop and produce their own vaccines using RNA.—APP



Brussels : Pakistan's Ambassador Anna Baloch called on Secretary General World Customs Organization (WCO) Ian Saunders. They discussed Ongoing engagements between Pakistan and WCO in the domain of custom cooperation.—DNA

N.Korea mobilizes military helicopters for flood rescue

Leader Kim Jong Un surveys damage and chastises officials for their failure to prepare and respond to recent torrential rain

FOREIGN DESK

PYONGYANG: North Korea has said it used military helicopters to evacuate more than 5,000 people from severe flooding in the northwest of the country near the Chinese border. The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said leader Kim Jong Un supervised the military rescues on Sunday as residents were brought out of Sinuiju city and Uiju town. KCNA shared photos of Kim on a windswept airfield with officials, as well as surveying the scale of the floods from the rear passenger window of a black vehicle. Ten helicopters as well as navy and government boats were used in the rescue effort. Heavy rainfall on Saturday had caused a river on the North Korean-Chinese border to exceed

a dangerous level and created "a grave crisis", the agency said. Kim Jong Un looking out of a black car. The vehicle is being driven through

brown flood waters. Kim looks serious. Kim surveying some of the floods from a car [KCNA via KNS and AFP] Kim reprimanded officials

for their failure to prepare and respond to the recent torrential rain, despite previous orders to enhance the country's measures against nat-

ural disasters, it said. "They, seized with defeatism at combat with nature, do not confidently turn out in the disaster prevention work, only expecting chance from the sky," Kim said, according to KCNA. KCNA did not mention any deaths or how much damage the flooding caused. North Korea has seen record-breaking downpours. Earlier this month, Kaesong City experienced an unprecedented 463mm (18.2 inches) of rain in a single day. South Korea's meteorological administration said it was the highest rainfall recorded in North Korea in 29 years. Floods in North Korea often cause serious damage because of poor drainage, deforestation and dilapidated infrastructure. Typhoons and torrential rains in 2020 were among the difficulties Kim previously said had created "multiple crises" at home.



Briefs

Iran seizes oil tanker in Gulf, arrests crew

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards have seized a Togo-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf and arrested its nine-person crew over alleged fuel smuggling, the military force said Monday on its Sepahnews website. "On Friday morning, an oil tanker named Pearl G, carrying the flag of the African country of Togo... was seized by judicial order," said the Guards' statement. The vessel is "owned by an Iraqi resident of Dubai, United Arab Emirates," and it was carrying 700,000 liters of fuel, the statement added. The Guards' naval forces captured it near the Arash oil field "while loading smuggled fuel from Iranian barges," it said. "This oil tanker along with its nine crew members who are of Indian nationality have been transferred to Imam Khomeini harbor and are under surveillance." It is the second such seizure in less than a week. On July 22, the Guards seized another Togo-flagged oil tanker and arrested its 12 crew members, also over alleged fuel smuggling. The fate of both the vessel and the crew remains unclear. Iranian naval forces regularly announce the detention of vessels transporting fuel in the Gulf. In late January, Iran seized a vessel carrying two million liters of allegedly smuggled fuel. - Agencies

Businessman abducted from Karachi 'reaches' home

BUREAU REPORT
LAHORE: Zulfiqar Ahmed, a well-known businessman who was kidnapped from Karachi last week, has reached home in Lahore, sources told Geo News Sunday. Earlier, police and the family's lawyer confirmed that the industrialist has contacted his family and will soon be with his loved ones. "Zulfiqar Ahmed has spoken to his family in Lahore and will soon be home," counsel Mian Ali Ashfaq, told the TV channel while DIG South Asad Raza said that the businessman will soon reach home.

However, there are no details about his abductors or where he was kept during this period. The industrialist was abducted from the Mauripur Road in Karachi on July 23 along with his friend Qaiser. They were forcibly taken at gunpoint by eight masked men in a double-cabin vehicle. Qaiser was released shortly after. On Thursday, the Sindh High Court (SHC) issued notices to the federal and provincial law officers, Sindh's inspector general of police and others in response to a petition seeking the recovery of Zulfiqar Ahmed. The petitioner, Anber Zulfiqar, stated that her husband was a prominent businessman and managing director of textile manufacturing and oil companies.

PTI media coordinator sent to jail

MEHTAB PIRZADA
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's anti-terrorism court (ATC) has sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) international media coordinator Ahmad Waqas Janjua to jail on judicial remand rejecting physical remand request. Ahmad Janjua was presented before ATC's judge Tahir Abbas Sipra in an arms recovery case at the end of a seven day physical remand. Ahmad Janjua's lawyers Iman Mazari and Hadi Chatta also appeared before the court. Iman Mazari informed the court that his client was abducted on July 20 at 4 am. She added that the case was fixed in the Islamabad High Court but the case wasn't mentioned there and later on his client's seven day physical remand was taken. Hadi Chatta Advocate stated that the court was misguided as physical remand was taken when the case was proceeding in the high court.



ISLAMABAD: A view of clouds hovering over the Margalla Hills during rain in Federal Capital. - Online

Pak committed to Commonwealth agenda of connectivity: Dar

He highlighted the vast opportunities for collaboration in realizing goals in education, skills, youth and women empowerment, health, and environment preservation

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday reiterated that Pakistan remained committed to working with the Commonwealth to promote its agenda of connectivity, education, youth and women empowerment, and climate resilience. The deputy prime minister, addressing a joint press stakeout with Secretary General of the Commonwealth Patricia Scotland after their meeting, said that Pakistan was also resolved to support the initiatives aimed at strengthening and modernizing the Commonwealth to meet the 21st-century challenges, besides continuing to play an active role in building bridges among member states. He appreciated the secretary-general, who is on a five-day maiden visit here, for serving the organisation with "dedication and grace" across her eight-year term and her role in promoting the Commonwealth's values and mission and modernizing the outlook. The deputy prime minister lauded her contribution to promoting cooperation in education, youth empowerment, capacity building, and climate action, besides supporting Pakistan after floods, particularly regarding the appointment of a climate finance advisor for Pakistan. Ishaq Dar urged the Commonwealth's role to resolve outstanding disputes among member states with greater urgency and press for implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. Dar said Pakistan's vision of the regional connectivity agenda



matched that of the Commonwealth. He highlighted the vast opportunities for collaboration in realizing goals in education, skills, youth and women empowerment, health, and environment preservation. He told the visiting dignitary that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was looking forward to attending the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024 scheduled to take place in Apia, Samoa in October. Dar said on the sidelines of the Commonwealth foreign ministers meeting in September, he would engage with the participating counterparts. In her remarks, Secretary-General Patricia Scotland lauded Pakistan's continued support of the Commonwealth particularly during her eight-year term. She told the media that she was visiting Pakistan to see

and celebrate the way Pakistan had arisen from the devastating floods of 2022 that had affected more than 33 million Pakistanis with two million of them lost homes and livelihoods. The secretary-general appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the Commonwealth principles as the organization strived for a digitized and AI-enabled world. She said that 65% of Pakistan's population under age 30 would not just be the leaders of tomorrow but would also help the Commonwealth create a better future. To a question, Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that Pakistan continued to uphold values like peace and development through dialogue and respecting independence and sovereignty. Pakistan sees the Commonwealth as a forum to forge consensus on pressing issues, he added. He said that owing to its geostrategic location, Pakistan envisioned itself as a regional hub for trade as regional connectivity would create jobs for young people and create conditions for win-win cooperation. He also appreciated Secretary-General Patricia Scotland's vision of increasing intra-Commonwealth trade to US\$2 trillion by 2030. Responding to a query, the secretary-general said the Commonwealth consisted of 2.7 billion people or one-third of the world. She said the trade with Commonwealth states was far faster, cheaper and easier than other countries. To another question, she explained that the Commonwealth had been challenging and combating all forms of discrimination while mainstreaming fairness and equality for all including girls and women.

No one has right to issue fatwas to kill anybody: Tarar

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister Information Ata Tarar said that no one has the right to issue fatwas to kill anybody. Talking to the media along with PML-N leader Hanif Abbasi and religious scholars he said that there are political motives behind issuing fatwas adding they will become a wall in the way of those who spread hatred by issuing fatwas. Federal Minister said that if when explanatory statement surfaces, what is the scope for issuing fatwas for killing? Now this is a work beyond condemnation, he said. Minister Tarar further highlighted the role played by his elders and Justice Qazi Faiz Isa's father, a colleague of Quaid-e-Azam, and his grandfather who provided services for Muslims. He said that it is the responsibility of the state to implement the law and that an FIR has also been registered on what has been done. He said that there is no room in our society to make such announcements for political purposes. More to read: TLP nab emir arrested for incitement, hurling threats at CJP Qazi Faez Isa

Is Ahsan Iqbal mulling resignation?

Sources close to PML-N leader say that he will step down if interference continues and he is not given a free hand

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Over the past few days, media and social media is abuzz with rumours of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) top leader and Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal's resignation over differences with Planning Commission's Deputy Chairman Dr Jehanzeb Khan. Sources close to the federal minister claim he is not resigning but if the minister is not given a free hand and the interference continues, he will call it a day and be ready to accept any other position in the government. When contacted Dr Jehanzeb said, The country needs unison of thought in these challenging times.

Israel launches devastating raids on Lebanon's south

UN special coordinator, UNIFIL chief urge restraint; Lebanon seeks immediate end to hostilities on all fronts

FOREIGN DESK

BEIRUT: Lebanon on Sunday called for an international investigation into a strike that killed 12 people, including children, in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, warning against a large-scale retaliation. Hezbollah rejected Israel's accusation of bombing Majdal Shams on Saturday, saying in a statement that "the Islamic Resistance has nothing to do with the incident at all, and we categorically deny all the false claims in this regard." After Hezbollah's statement, Walid Jumblatt, former head of the Progressive Socialist

Party - the most powerful Druze leader in Lebanon - warned against "what the Israeli enemy is doing to ignite strife, fragment the region, and target its various communities." His warning came as Israel on Sunday morning carried out intense raids on the villages of Al-Abbassieh and Burj Al-Shamali near Tyre, southern Lebanon, causing widespread destruction. It also raided the border villages of Tayr Harfa and Khiam, and targeted a residential building in Taraya, central Bekaa, with two missiles, destroying the building but causing no casualties. The attack in Majdal Shams came hours after a raid by Israel on the southern border village of KfarKila, in which four Hezbollah members were killed. In a statement, the Lebanese government condemned "all acts of violence and attacks against all civilians," adding that "targeting civilians is a flagrant violation of international law and contradicts the principles of humanity." It called for an "immediate cessation of hostilities on all fronts." Foreign Minister Abdullah Bou Habib said in a statement on Sunday that "since the beginning of war,

Finance minister Aurangzeb meets Ambassador designate to USA



STAFF REPORT

Islamabad: Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb was called on by the Ambassador designate to the USA Mr. Rizwan Saeed Sheikh at Finance Division today. The Finance Minister congratulated

Mr. Sheikh on his new appointment as Ambassador to USA and underscored the importance of bilateral relations between the two countries. He shared insights from his visit to Washington D.C. for the Spring Meetings and informed about the recent Staff Level Agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh expressed keen interest in collaborating closely with the Finance Ministry

The Minister also elaborated on Pakistan's economic reform agenda, focusing on key areas such as energy reforms, State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) reforms, and privatization efforts. Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Sheikh expressed keen interest in collaborating closely with the Finance Ministry. He affirmed his commitment to showcasing Pakistan's economic reforms agenda on the international platform. The Ambassador also conveyed his gratitude to the Finance Minister for his warm wishes and support.