

RCCI urges govt to renegotiate IPPs deals, withdraw tax

Saqib Rafiq said that at present the business community and the common man are very worried about electricity bills

DNA
RAWALPINDI: In a press conference at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), expressing deep concern over private power plants, IPPs' profits, excessive electricity and rising cost of doing business, Chamber President Saqib Rafiq said that at present the business community and the common man are very worried about electricity bills. We are giving an SOS call to the government. It is high time for the government to feel the pain and demand that the agreements made with the independent power producers (IPPs) should be revised. The government is paying more than Rs

2.3 trillion to the IPPs in terms of capacity charges, the additional payment of 580 billion rupees should be audited, he added. Group leader Sohal Altaf said that the business community and the salaried class have been taxed so much that people have lost their savings and have zero purchasing power. It is very unfortunate that the budget was consulted by people who have no knowledge of the ground realities. The real stakeholders were neither consulted nor taken on board and added that that is why the Tajir Dost Scheme was not successful, he added. The government should take immediate steps otherwise the situation will go out of control. There should not be any kind of tax on the electricity bill, he demanded. Senior Vice President

Muhammad Hamza Sarosh while sharing the historical data said that transparency was not kept in the agreements in terms of installed capacity charges, and added that instead of taking Rupee and Pakistan inflation numbers they took the dollar and US inflation numbers. Former presidents Asad Mashadi and Raja Amir Iqbal reiterated the demand for immediate audit and accountability of IPPs and said that transparency should be brought in the deals made with private power plants. The high cost of electricity in Pakistan has made our exports less competitive in the open market. Usman Sharikat said that alternative sources of energy should be popularized and the wheeling model should be adopted like the rest of the world.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Algerian ambassador to Pakistan, Brahim Romani at Parliament House.—DNA

Unique Group organises Girl Guides seminar

LAHORE: The Unique Group of Institutions (UGI) organised a seminar on Girl Guides at Dr. Nisar Ahmed Raza Auditorium, here on Friday. The event was presided over by Chairman UGIs Prof. Abdul Masam Khurram, while the guest speaker was Tahira Sultan, national programme officer of Pakistan Girl Guides Association. The main purpose of organising the seminar was to provide awareness to a group of UGIs Girl Guides before their departure to Murree. A special documentary was also screened on the occasion to highlight the importance of Girl Guides. Speaking on the occasion, Unique Group of Institutions Chairman Prof. Abdul Masam Khurram said that Pakistan Girl Guides Association instils the ability among the female students to help other so that they could play a role as a successful citizen in their practical lives. He said that like every year, the Unique Group of Institutions, was sending its students to the Murree camp for girl guide training. He said the role of parents in this regard was commendable. Addressing the seminar, Program Officer Tahira Sultan said that the aim of Girl Guides was to promote confidence building among female students and enable them to play a role in development of the country. Director Unique Group of Institutions Professor Wasim Anwar Chaudhry also addressed the event. At the end of the function, the parents asked various questions regarding Murree camping and thanked the UGI management.—APP

Gilani seeks new coop avenues between Pakistan, Algeria

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Friday underscored the need to further diversify Pakistan-Algeria relations and explore new avenues of co-operation to further add impetus to bilateral relations. "Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with Algeria which are rooted in history, religion and similarity of views on various regional and international issues," he expressed these views during a meeting with Algerian Ambassador Brahim Romani. He also acknowledged and appreciated Algeria's support to Pakistan in the United Nations and at other international fora, in particular, the support for Pakistan's various candidatures.

He called for broadening the political and economic ties. "There is a great need for closer trade and economic relations as the current level of trade is far below its true potential", the chairman stated. He highlighted the significance of frequent exchange of business delegations to boost trade and explore opportunities for joint ventures and investment. He said that Pakistan has one of the best quality rice in the world and Algeria may consider importing rice from Pakistan. He underlined that there is huge potential for mutual collaboration in IT, pharmaceutical and other sectors. Collaboration between Pakistan and Algeria in the IT sector particularly freelancing can be beneficial for both countries as there are thousands of companies in Pakistan providing freelancing services, he maintained. He highlighted the need for parliamentary linkages and institutional cooperation to learn from each other's experiences. He said that parliamentary diplomacy is one such tool which can help bring people of the two sides closer and promote strong people-to-people contacts. Acknowledging the diplomatic relations, the Senate Chairman observed that Pakistan had issued diplomatic passports to the Algerian leadership to facilitate their travel in 1958. On the Kashmir issue, the chairman said that the unresolved Kashmir dispute remains on the agenda of the UN Security Council (UNSC) since 1948 and continues to threaten regional peace.



AIOU announces admission schedule for Fall 2024

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the admission schedule for the merit-based programs for the Fall 2024 semester, and details are available on their website at www.aiou.edu.pk. According to the AIOU, the applications for BS, BSc, MBA, MS, MPhil, and PhD programs can be submitted online until August 20. It is noteworthy that admissions to BS, BSc, and MBA programs will be purely on a merit basis, while for MS, MPhil, and PhD programs, passing the entry test is mandatory. The entry tests for these programs will be held at the university from August 22 to 24. The Director Admissions, Syed Zaid-Hussain, stated that under the guidance of Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, special attention will be given to ensure transparency in conducting the entry tests and compiling the merit lists. Additionally, admissions for Matic, PA, and I.Com programs are also ongoing, with the last date to apply being September 5. Admission forms and prospectuses can be obtained from the university's main campus, regional offices/contact offices, and designated sale points across the country.

Online complaint portal launched

QUETTA: The Balochistan police has launched its new website to enable the public to lodge complaints online, marking a milestone in the province's efforts to improve transparency and efficiency in addressing public grievances. The event was attended by key provincial figures including Balochistan ministers Mir Shouab Nowshera and Bahi Hamid Khan Khattak, IGP Abdul Khalif Shukh, and DIG Operations Atiq-uz-Zaman Ghorani. Nowshera, while speaking at the event, emphasized the importance of technological advancement in public service. "This initiative will lead to more efficient handling of complaints and better service delivery," IGP expressed his optimism about the website's impact on policing in the region. "The introduction of this online platform is a significant achievement for the police. It will streamline the process of lodging complaints and ensure a more systematic follow-up. Our aim is to build trust between the police and the public through such initiatives."—APP

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BISP beneficiaries to get skill training

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid Friday emphasized equipping the beneficiaries with latest vocational and technical skills to make them self-sufficient. She was speaking

during a meeting between President and CEO of Bank Al-Falah, Aftab Bajwa and Group Head of Digital Banking, Yahya Khan, held here. The meeting focused on enhancing transparency in payment disbursement and promoting digital for women beneficiaries. During the discussions, Senator Rubina Khalid urged the bank representatives to treat BISP beneficiaries as valued clients and to implement measures to eliminate deductions from stipend amounts.—APP

Ayaz urges youth to play their role in nation-building

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said that youth need to be acquainted with the committee system of Parliament as the standing committee plays an effective role in legislation

FAISAL SHEKH

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Friday urged youth to play their role in nation-building rather than indulging in propaganda and political polarization. "Acquainting youth with parliamentary procedures and norms is pivotal for the growth of democracy in Pakistan," he expressed these views during his keynote address to the orientation session of the Young Citizen Internship Program initiated by the National Assembly. He also said that

youth need to be acquainted with the committee system of Parliament as the standing committee plays an effective role in legislation. The speaker also informed the participants, "Pakistan Parliament is the first regional Parliament which transformed itself into the first-ever Green Parliament of the World through solarization." Member National Assembly (MNA) Dr. Nihat Shaukat Khan, one of the pioneers of the Youth Internship Program initiated by the National Assembly, presided over the orientation session with his virtual presence and highlighted the importance of connecting the youth with the Parliament, imparting basic principles of democracy to youth, equipping youth with parliamentary etiquettes, processes and most importantly, directing the youth towards nation-building. Director Advocacy, Campaign, Communications and Media - Save the Children, Raza Hussain Qazi warmly greeted the Young Citizens present in the Speaker's Lounge and apprised them of the goals and objectives

of Save the Children Organization along with the synopsis of what is about to follow in the coming four weeks of the Young Citizen Internship Program 2024. Special Secretary (Special Initiatives), Syed Shamoon Hashmi delivered the opening remarks and workshops of the Program aimed at imparting knowledge related to democratic norms, principles, and processes.

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General Sahir praises role of Chinese People's Liberation Army

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee attended commemoration ceremony of 97th founding day of People's Liberation Army of People's Republic of China as a Chief Guest. The Chairman JCSC congratulated the people, civilians and military leadership, and all ranks of People's Liberation Army, and praised the role of People's Liberation Army in China's development and its rapid modernisation to become an important force for regional peace and stability. While addressing the audience, the Chairman JCSC highlighted close and fraternal "All Weather Friendship" between China and Pakistan and reaffirmed commitments to further expand and deepen the relationship. During the

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speech, the Chairman JCSC also underscored Pakistan's firm commitments to work closely with China to ensure defence cooperation and regional peace and stability. The ceremony was attended by a large number of civilians and military officers, journalists, businessmen and members of the civil society.



RAWALPINDI CANTONMENT BOARD
Tel: 051-9274401-4 Fax: 051-9274407

INVITATION TO BID

Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) being procuring entity intends to procure the LED Screen size (24 ft high and 20 ft wide) for installation on RCB's "Mall Plaza" at Mall Road Rwp Cantt. Sealed bids in accordance with PPRA Rules-2004 (amended up to date) are invited from eligible manufacturers / authorized distributors/firms/companies registered with Income Tax. Sales Tax Deptt having valid NTN & GST certificates for supply and fixing of LED Screen size (24 ft high and 20 ft wide). The firm/company fulfilling the eligibility criteria as per bidding document may participate in the Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure under Rule 36(b) of PPRA Rule 2004 (as amended up-to date).

AVAILABILITY OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS:
Bidding documents along with terms and conditions can be obtained from office of RCB on payment of fee of Rs.3,000/- (non-refundable) on any working day up to 02-08-2024 during office hours on production of Call Deposit in original.

BIDS OPENING DATE/TIME:
Sealed Technical Bids and Financial Bids in separate envelopes will be received in RCB office until 1400 HRS on 06-08-2024 and the Technical bids will be opened on the same day at 1500 HRS, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized agents. Financial Bids of technically responsive/qualified bidders will be opened after 10 days of the opening of Technical Bids.

EARNEST MONEY:
2% of the total bid amount in shape of Call Deposit (CCD) prepared from the firm/company account in favour of Executive Officer Rawalpindi Cantonment Board issued by any schedule bank of Pakistan (having rating A+ or above).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Registered with FBR having NTN & GST number with "ACTIVE" status.
- Firms/companies shall demonstrate annual turnover 2022-23 @ 2 times the total amount of quoted bid and shall demonstrate annual turnover to already executed jobs @ 1.5 times cumulative cost of running jobs in hand.
- Successfully completed similar nature of jobs within last 05 years in any Govt. / Semi Govt. Organization / Autonomous body / Private Housing Sector and successfully handed over to concern Department.
- Firms/companies never blacklisted by any government agency/department shall be eligible for participation in the bidding. (An affidavit to this effect on stamp paper shall be required).
- Firms duly registered with companies' register and participating in a joint venture for this bid should have a joint bank account.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Bidding document will be issued on written request on original letter pad of the firm from owner of firm or their authorized rep having valid special power of attorney on stamp paper duly attested by Oath Commissioner.
- On award of contract, satisfactory performance certificate along with copy of work order from concerned Departments is necessary.
- If any fake false information/documents submitted, the firm concerned will be liable to be blacklisted as per RCB's blacklisting policy.
- Technical Bids of the contractors will be evaluated in accordance with laid down evaluation criteria mentioned in Tender/Bidding Documents.
- Financial Bids of technically responsive bidders will be opened in the presence of bidders or their reps in the office of CEO RCB on the date & time to be notified later on whereas Financial Bids of technically un-qualified bidders shall be returned unopened to the respective contractors.
- Bids will be evaluated in accordance with evaluation criteria mentioned in bidding documents & validity of bids shall be 180 days as per PPRA Rules.
- CEO RCB reserves the right of demanding the analysis of the quoted rates from contractors or their reps to check the responsibility and workability of rates.
- Conditional / incomplete bids shall not be accepted.
- Lowest bidder shall deposit performance security within 07 days as per PPRA Rules 2004 otherwise the already deposited 2% earnest money shall be forfeited.
- Successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement (on own cost) on non-judicial stamp paper of appropriate value for faithful execution of contract.
- Rwp Cantt Board / CEO reserves the right to accept or reject all bids (prior to acceptance) as per PPRA's Rules No. 35(1) due to any reason thereof.

Cantonment Executive Officer
Rawalpindi

PID (I) 464 / 24

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 04/Somalia Independence Day
 - July 04/USA Independence Day
 - July 05/Algeria Independence Day
 - July 09/Argentine Independence Day
 - July 09/Mongolia Revolution Day
 - July 14/France National Day
 - July 15/Brunei Sultan's Birthday
 - July 21/Belgium National Day
 - July 20/TRNC Independence Day
 - July 23/Egypt National Day
 - July 26/Cuba National Day
 - July 26/Liberia National Day
 - July 30/Morocco National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

- Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
- Marriott.....051-282621
- 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**
- Ethi Ambulance.....315
 - PIA Flight Info.....114
 - PIA Cargo.....9280979
 - Railway Enquiry.....117
 - Railway Exchange.....9270831-5
 - WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
 - CAA.....9281092



- Hospitals**
- CMH.....5611111
 - MH.....5611116
 - Cant Hospital.....9270907-11
 - DHQ.....5556314
 - RGH.....9290301-7
 - Holy Family.....9290322-7
 - PIMS.....9261170-79
 - Polyclinic.....9218300-09
 - Shifa International 4603966



- Departments**
- CDA.....9221334-43
 - CDA.....9208301-04
 - Met Office.....9256360-6
 - RDA.....5555864
 - TMA.....5770886
 - Cantonment Board 9270153-3

- Water Tank**
- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

SUPARCO announces Lunar Astrophotography

The contest is being arranged by the Space Education and Awareness Drive (SEAD) which is an initiative under the ambit of SUPARCO's Space Education and Awareness Programme to enthuse students and the public through activities, competitions and space news

ISLAMABAD: To commemorate the International Moon Day falling on July 20, the Space and Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has announced a Lunar Astrophotography Contest across the country. According to an official of SUPARCO, the contest will be held under the theme "Eliminating the Shadows" and astrology enthusiasts from any part of the country can submit geotagged images with their name and location as well as the time when the picture was taken to become part of the contest. The official informed APP that the geotagged images with the name and location of the sender

mentioned at the left bottom corner can be sent to manager.sead@gmail.com by July 21. The contest is being arranged by the Space Education and Awareness Drive (SEAD) which is an initiative under the ambit of SUPARCO's Space Education and Awareness Programme to enthuse students and the public through activities, competitions and space news. As per the rules, the official conveyed, the participants retain the ownership of their images but grant the competition organizers the right to use the images for promotional purposes. Any image found to be plagiarized, heavily edited or not taken in July 2024 will

be disqualified. The participants must adhere to ethical guidelines in photography and avoid any harmful or intrusive methods to capture their images, the official said. According to SUPARCO, International Moon Day is an annual event, held for the general public and celebration of the world like in Pakistan. International Moon Day is a good opportunity to educate the public, and promote and raise awareness on the status and prospects for humanity. The major goals behind celebrating this day are sustainable moon exploration and utilization of the moon as well as highlighting the need to collaborate and jointly undertake activities on and around the

moon. This celebration fosters increased global cooperation between stakeholders all around the world, as well as promote participation for future generations, the SUPARCO said. International Moon Day marks the anniversary of the first landing by humans on the Moon as part of the Apollo 11 lunar mission. The General Assembly declared International Moon Day, a United Nations-designated international day to be observed annually on 20 July, in its resolution on "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space" in 2021. According to the United Nations, for thousands of years, human civilizations have

looked up to the sky pondering the origin and mysteries of the Moon-only natural satellite. Ground-based observations enabled by the invention of the first telescopes opened a new chapter in our understanding of our celestial companion. With the birth of space activities, the moon became the ultimate destination of countless missions, including crewed flights that brought the first human footprints to another place in the universe. As moon exploration efforts continue taking shape with ambitious plans, this global celebration will serve not only as a reminder of success in the past but as an annual testimony to future endeavours.—APP

Pak Navy ship deployed on regional maritime patrol

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has deployed its warship PNS YARMOOR with embarked helicopter in the Indian Ocean for safety and security of merchant ships bound to and from Pakistani Ports. During the deployment, PN Ship will undertake independent operations as well as combined operations along with other friendly and partner nations to achieve common objectives of safe and secure maritime commons. The ship will also call on regional ports for Naval Diplomatic tasks in line with Pakistan's foreign policy objectives. Pakistan Navy is committed to ensure freedom of navigation on high seas and safety of international sea lanes of communication to maintain rule based order at sea regularly deploys its warships on Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) and also contributes to collaborative maritime security efforts. RMSPs are conducted as PN initiative to contribute towards maritime security and to support international efforts against menace of maritime terrorism, piracy and narco-arms smuggling.



ISLAMABAD: Director General Information Service Academy Arshad Munir presenting a souvenir to the outgoing Federal Information Secretary Mr. Shahera Shahid, who is retiring from service next week. Other officers of the ISA also attended the farewell ceremony.—DNA

Police arrest two bike lifters recover three motorcycles

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two bike lifters and street criminals and recovered three stolen motorcycles, a carry van and other items from their possession, said a Police spokesman here on Friday. He informed that a team under the supervision of SHO, Cantt Police Station managed to nab two bike lifters namely Rafique and Fayaz and recovered three stolen motorcycles, a carry van and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Peshawar, Nasir Nawaz said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind bars.

Aleem sponsors repatriation of stranded prisoners

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan has come forward to sponsor the repatriation of Pakistani prisoners from Sri Lanka, who they have been stuck for several years. This philanthropic move has been hailed as a major breakthrough in the efforts to bring back these prisoners, who were facing difficulties in paying their expenses and fines. According to sources, the Ministry of Interior had been in touch with Sri Lankan authorities for the past three months to facilitate the release of Pakistani prisoners. However, the process was delayed due to financial constraints. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan's announcement has now removed this hurdle, and the prisoners will be able to return home once the necessary procedures are completed. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has expressed his gratitude to Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan for taking personal interest in the release of prisoners. "Your good work is a breath of fresh air for Pakistani prisoners and their families," he said. This humanitarian gesture by Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan has been widely appreciated, and is seen as a ray of hope for the prisoners and their families. The repatriation process is expected to be completed soon, reuniting the prisoners with their loved ones.—APP

RWMC conducts anti-dengue awareness campaign

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The communication teams of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) on Friday carried out its cleanliness and anti-dengue awareness campaign in the Masjids of Satellite town area to raise awareness about the lifecycle, prevalence, treatment and prevention of dengue. According to the RWMC spokesman, the teams asked the Masjid Imams / Khatibs of the F-Block area to play their part in educating the people about the importance of cleanliness in the light of Islamic teachings in the sermons of Friday prayers. The objective of the activity was to reach out to a maximum number of people, in order to educate the general public about the precautionary measures for dengue to get rid of it, the spokesman said. The teams also distributed waste bags and leaflets among the faithful and educated them about the importance of cleanliness and the prevention of dengue. In a message, RWMC has requested the people to keep an eye on junkyards, schools and under-construction buildings which lead to the spread of dengue larvae and also make sure to leave no place wet or with stagnant water.

Govt to introduce track and trace policy

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industry and Production, National Food Security and Research Rana Tawees Hussain on Friday said that the government has decided to introduce track and trace system in local cotton and spinning industry aimed at avoiding tax evasion. Talking to a delegation of the Pakistan Cotton Ginner's Association, who called on minister, he said that the cotton industry has a pivotal role in the rural economy and the potential to provide employment opportunities for a large portion of the skilled and semi-skilled workforce in the country. The meeting discussed matters relating to additional taxation measures on seed cotton and cotton seed cake in the current budget, said a press release. The minister said that a track and trace system will be implemented on locally produced cotton bales in order to avoid tax evasion to protect local farming communities as well as the industrial sector of the country. Rana Tawees Hussain said that the Cotton Control Act will be implemented in real terms in collaboration with the provincial governments and assured the delegation that their proposals regarding sales tax on seed cotton and cotton seed cake will be considered. The minister also assured the delegation that the matter of new taxation measures will be taken up with the Finance Division and Federal Board of Revenue for consideration to address the issues faced by the local spinning industry. Speaking on the occasion, the representatives of the Cotton Ginner's Association apprised the minister about the additional taxation on cotton products and said that heavy taxes were affecting the production of the cotton spinning industry.—APP

Overseas Pakistan's are economic backbone of Pakistan: Bakhtawari

Haji Abid Hussain echoed his sentiment by urging the community to strengthen the young generation's connections with Pakistan by persuading it to prioritize investments in the motherland. He also requested the Pakistan government to address Overseas Pakistanis' grievances and enhance interaction between business organizations of the two countries to attract investments

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Overseas Pakistanis will yield positive results for the country's economy and urged them to invest, particularly in the real estate sector, to support the country's growth. Speaking at a reception hosted by Haji Abid Hussain, Central President

of Overseas Pakistanis Welfare Council London, Bakhtawari expressed gratitude to the organizers and highlighted the investment opportunities in Pakistan. He noted that the current government's investment-friendly policies will yield positive results for the country's betterment. Bakhtawari encouraged Overseas Pakistanis to invest more in Pakistan, as their remittances play a vital role in the country's economic advancement.

Haji Abid Hussain echoed his sentiment by urging the community to strengthen the young generation's connections with Pakistan by persuading it to prioritize investments in the motherland. He also requested the Pakistan government to address Overseas Pakistanis' grievances and enhance interaction between business organizations of the two countries to attract investments. Chairman Overseas Pakistanis Welfare Council

Naeem Naqshbandi said the OPWC will extend all possible cooperation with regard to the connectivity of Pakistani business fraternity with the British business circles to the needful. All the participants agreed that improving the order situation in Pakistan is essential for both foreign and local investments by stressing the need for formulation of a comprehensive and long-term investment policies for the purpose.

Romina Khurshid lauds UK support for Pakistan's Climate action

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Romina Khurshid Alam lauded the UK's support for Pakistan's Climate action as the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and government of United Kingdom have agreed to enhance collaboration to address climate change and environmental issues in Pakistan. The agreement was reached during a meeting between Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam, and a UK Embassy delegation met her led by Development Director, Jo Moore, on Friday, a news release said. She said this collaboration marks a significant step forward in the fight against climate change, and both countries are committed to working together to address this global challenge. Khurshid Alam stressed the importance of bridging civil society, academia, and corporate sectors in both nations to tackle the pressing issues of climate change and environmental degradation. She highlighted the urgent need for tangible actions to mitigate global warming impacts, preemptively address flood risks, and support vulnerable farming communities. The Coordinator noted that shifting weather patterns have significantly impacted agricultural productivity threatening food security and livelihoods with the country facing billions of dollars in economic losses from climate-related disasters in the past. The UK delegation presented a report to the Coordinator aimed at bolstering Pakistan's climate resilience, and both sides agreed to work together to implement sustainable agricultural practices and mitigate future impacts.—APP

JULY 2024

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Briefs
Generation in Ltd office set up to empower youth

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Friday said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif approved the establishment of the international multi-sector partnership program Generation in Limited office in Pakistan. In a statement, Mashhood said that the Prime Minister would be the Patron-in-Chief of the Council while the Chairman of the PMYP will act as Chairman and Co-Chairman. He said that setting up the Generation in Limited office is another step towards youth empowerment. The Chairman PMYP added that 41 members would be part of the Generation in Ltd Advisory and Technical Steering Council while 17 federal and provincial ministers are included in the Strategic Advisory Committee. This initiative is an important step towards youth empowerment and promoting sustainable development, he said and added that Generation in Limited will work under the Public Private Youth Partnership and will provide more development opportunities to Pakistani youth.—APP

Bank officials meet BISP chairperson

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Atif Bajwa, President & CEO of Bank AlFalah, and Mr. Yahya Khan, Group Head of Digital Banking, met with Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), at the BISP headquarters. The meeting focused on enhancing transparency in payment disbursement and promoting dignity for women beneficiaries. During the discussions, Senator Rubina Khalid urged the bank representatives to treat BISP beneficiaries as valued clients and to implement measures to eliminate deductions from stipend amounts. The discussion also covered technical and skill training for BISP beneficiaries. These joint projects will be developed and executed in close consultation with technical teams from both BISP and Bank AlFalah to ensure effective implementation and positive outcomes.—APP

Police arrest three drug peddlers

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police in a crackdown on drug peddlers managed to recover two kg charas and arrested three accused, said a police spokesman here on Friday. He informed that Pirwadi police recovered 1660 grams charas from the possession of Adeel, 520 grams charas from Usman and 10 liters liquor from Bilal Khan. Superintendent of Police, Rawal, Faisal Saleem said the accused were challenged with concrete evidence and operations against drug peddlers would continue to eradicate the scourge of drugs.

PTA for timely reporting of unlawful media content

The PTA highlighted that social media platforms encourage users to lodge complaints directly, ensuring a faster and more efficient process to address and eliminate inappropriate content

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) stressed that timely reporting of unlawful content directly to social media platforms is crucial for its prompt removal. The PTA highlighted that social media platforms encourage users to lodge complaints directly, ensuring a faster and more efficient process to address and eliminate inappropriate content. PTA Director Muhammad Farooq in his article "The Need to be Responsible Online User" said it is essential for the public to familiarize themselves with these guidelines, as they provide a framework of rules for uploading and sharing content. Social Media companies strive to ensure a safe platform for users through self-regulation, which involves establishing community guidelines and standards. He further said that effective results

cannot be achieved without active public participation. To facilitate the instant reporting of unlawful content to the PTA, a state-of-the-art and user-friendly Complaint Management System (CMS) has been developed. It is accessible online at <https://complaint.pta.gov.pk/RegisterComplaint.aspx>, with a mobile app available for download on both the Playstore and Appstore. Users, he said, can lodge complaints by selecting relevant categories, such as Against the Glory of Islam, Hate Speech, Anti-State, Child Abuse or Immoral/Immoral content. The PTA team thoroughly and vet each complaint and takes up the matter with the concerned social media platform for its prompt removal. For public guidance on lodging accurate complaints, a video titled "How to Report Unlawful Online Content" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZggEwZu5G4w>) has been uploaded on PTA's official YouTube channel (@ptaof

icialpk). The PTA has provided a list of URLs (https://www.pta.gov.pk/assets/media/sm_platforms_09032024.pdf) for major social media platforms where complaints can be lodged directly to the platforms. Additionally, WhatsApp, known for its end-to-end encryption, encourages users to report unlawful content within the app by long-pressing the message and selecting the "report" option. In a culturally rich and diverse nation like Pakistan, where individuals embrace various religious beliefs and sects, it is paramount to avoid uploading or sharing content that offends the sentiments of others. Knowledge of local laws is crucial to avoid legal consequences for uploading unlawful content, he said in the article. The Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Section 37 deals with the removal of unlawful online content related to the glory of Islam, particularly in

Malik Sohail meets with Calgary Economic Development Team

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) Malik Sohail Hassan met Shazna Reilly, director of Canada's Calgary Economic Development Team during his visit to America. On this occasion, Dr. Umar Farooq Advisor to Minister for Mines & Mineral Affairs Alberta Province, Manager Trade Calgary Economic Development Team, Minister for Mines & Mineral Affairs Alberta Province Development Mr. Chad Kuljanc were also present. In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion on investment opportunities in Pakistan to attract investors. Talking about investment in Pakistan, Malik Sohail Hassan said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council is making investment safe, Green Pakistan Initiative, tourism sector, mines and minerals, pink salt and rice sectors have wide investment opportunities. He said that joint measures and proposals have to be made to attract Canadian investors to facilitate investments, trade missions and partnerships in identified sectors. Promotional efforts will be enhanced to create awareness about Pakistan for Canadian entrepreneurs.

How can a country develop from which people are escaping?

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Friday that how can a country develop from which people and businessmen are fleeing? He claimed that politics is the third world's most profitable industry, which explains the reasons behind the plight of the poor population. He added that in poor nations, the elite and the people can never develop together because policymakers are always focused on promoting the elites. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that the interests of people are sacrificed for the sake of the elite in poor nations; therefore, these countries cannot run without the assistance of lenders. Income support programs encourage the poor to stay impoverished. We will achieve better results if we use this capital to set up factories or give people loans to start small businesses. He claimed that despite the constant rise in electricity and gas prices, which is devastating to people and businesses, incompetence, politics, and corruption in these sectors remain unchecked. People are already frustrated with IPPs, and now the installation of new IPPs is robbing them of their right to life. He said that a recent official meeting revealed the theft of gas worth forty billion rupees annually. The public bears the brunt of inflation due to the hike in gas prices, which have risen to 570% and are likely to increase further, despite the lack of effort to end theft.—He noted that stealing gas is far more difficult than stealing electricity, and it is nearly impossible to do so without the assistance of officials from the relevant departments.—DNA

Competition tribunal maintains Penalty

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal has upheld the Competition Commission of Pakistan's (CCP) findings in the appeal filed by Reckitt Benckiser (RB) Pakistan regarding deceptive marketing practices for its flagship product, 'Detol'. The Commission received a formal complaint from Unilever Pakistan alleging that RB had carried out a misleading, deceptive, unsubstantiated, and unethical advertising campaign for its product 'Detol Soap' through print and electronic media, said a press release issued here on Friday. Following an inquiry, it was concluded that RB failed to substantiate the claims made in its advertisement specifically that Detol Soap kills up to 99.9% of germs and provides 24-hour protection against germs, cold, and flu. Consequently, RB was found to be engaged in deceptive marketing practices in violation of the Competition Act, 2010. In its order dated 26.12.2019, the CCP concurred.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Türkiye Mehmet Pacaci and Representative of TRNC Dilşad Senol cutting cake to the July 20 Peace Operation.—DNA

CDNS set target of Rs 170 bn for Islamic Finance in FY 2024-25

Islamic finance now has a significant role in the global financial sector. A large part of the economy of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance

ISLAMABAD: The Central Director General of National Savings (CDNS) has set a target of Rs 170 billion investment in Islamic finance for the Current Fiscal Year, which has been set for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country. "The National Savings had issued the Islamic bonds for the promotion of the Islamic finance system, which will help the development of the Islamic economy in the country," the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS had achieved the target of Rs 75 billion during the last fiscal year (2023-24) from the Islamic bonds, and that was why it aimed to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector. "Islamic finance now has a significant role in the global financial sector. A large part of the economy

of many major countries currently includes Islamic finance," he added. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in the CDNS. Given the current market trend in the country, an ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further, he added. Replying to another question, he said that the CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the saving culture in the country. He said that the CDNS has realized a target of Rs1.742 trillion in fresh bonds and exceeded 100 percent of the annual target in the last fiscal year 2023-24, from July 1 to June 30th. The National Savings has set an annual target of Rs 1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed the 100 percent of the annual target." The

CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said. He said this was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target, the target of Rs 1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22. The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the financial year (2022-23) which will promote savings culture in the country, he said, adding that given the current market trend in the country the ambitious target had been set to improve the savings culture further. The official said that work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced. At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users," he added.



Coordination cornerstone in global health emergencies

ISLAMABAD: Coordination is cornerstone in facing global health emergencies, like COVID-19 epidemic, said Pakistan UN diplomat Shamsah Akhtar. She was speaking at the 3rd Conference of Global Health Forum (GHF) of Bonn Forum for Asia, according to a report carried by China Economic Net. About Pakistan's experience, she said our relevant departments tried their best to provide a large amount of funding to fight against COVID-19 epidemic, as well as received financial support from partner countries and international organizations, all of which are extremely vital. Asked what can hu-

mans learn from viruses? She replied at first glance, it seems like an absolutely ridiculous question, but the real reality may be enough to alert us. "In the 75 years since its establishment, the WHO has worked hard to do a lot of work. However, from an overall perspective, we are still far from achieving true global coordination. The functions of many departments and platforms are highly overlapping. Such an inefficient situation may have been known by the world for so long, which has ruthlessly exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic," Shamsah Akhtar, BPA council member and former UN Secretary-General of the UN, expressed bluntly at the 3rd Conference of Global Health Forum

(GHF). The Pakistani economist and diplomat's view was endorsed by renowned Chinese virologist and immunologist Gao Fu. Gao pointed out that countries are paying more attention to competition than collaboration. He made a remark that the coronavirus is human's enemy, but learning from the enemy is the key to defeating it. All parties need and must to learn the virus's spirit of collaboration. Currently, multinationals vaccines namely precise small molecule inhibitors are being used, but the novel coronavirus could successfully escape recently because of the synergy of its variants around the world. The interaction between them makes their mutation rate

faster and faster, and even produces sub-variants, for they are extremely good at learning from each other and sharing data. "Once they know that the original strain is useless, they will mutate and evolve. Scientists couldn't name all the variants even if we use up all 26 Greek letters. Thus, know yourself as well as the enemy and let's collaborate now," Akhtar endorsed Gao's view, added that global medical institutions are in urgent need of reform, during which multilateralism should be the crux. Not only governments and national institutions but also small and medium-sized enterprises should actively participate in the process, in which data sharing is critical.

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Briefs JCP approves appointment of two ad...

FROM PAGE 01 It is also pertinent to mention that the former ruling party - Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) - had asked the JCP to turn down a proposal to hire ad hoc judges, saying the appointment would compromise the independence of the judiciary. The PTI has been raising concerns over the appointment of ad hoc judges, claiming that the move is aimed at targeting the party, while the government has supported the decision, saying it falls under the ambit of law. In a letter to the JCP members earlier today, PTI's Omar Ayub said that he has "great concern" at the recent proposal to appoint ad hoc judges. Ayub noted that he was writing the letter as the matter of the appointment was not being presented before the parliament's committee, therefore, PTI lawmakers did not have a platform to voice their concerns. However, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar put his weight behind the appointment of the retired jurists in the Supreme Court as ad hoc judges, saying that the country's Constitution allows such appointments.

TTP chief's leaked call reveals...

FROM PAGE 01 fellow terrorists on how to disrupt the peace in Pakistan without revealing TTP's involvement. In the call, Meehsad outlines two methods: targeting government schools or hospitals with explosions and then reclaiming the attacks in retaliation for the demolition of their homes by security forces. He suggests another approach where they do not claim responsibility but destroy police and military personnel's homes. Meehsad advises his associates to choose whichever method yields the most impact while ensuring that TTP's involvement is not traced back to him. The conversation also includes instructions from Ahmed Hussain to Saqib Gandomar to target homes of high-ranking police, military, and FC officers and to either close or blow up schools, but keep these plans strictly confidential. The TTP has a history of targeting schools and public welfare centres, openly claiming responsibility for their terrorist activities. They have been involved in numerous plans to spread unrest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with recent disturbances in Bannu linked to the group.

'Let Pakistan progress', Maryam...

FROM PAGE 01 the judgement will change the composition of the National Assembly. The Punjab chief minister said the top court gave the PTI relief that the party did not even seek. The SC judges gave them 15 days to submit their affidavits claiming their affiliation with the PTI, despite the fact that they had already submitted documents affirming allegiance with another party, she said. "We will not let this be a cake walk for you. This government will complete its five years' tenure. If anyone tries to create political instability, they will be dealt with iron hands," the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader warned. "It was said that verdicts were announced according to their conscience," Maryam noted, adding that decisions should be according to the constitution, not according to a person's conscience. She said the one they were trying to bring back was the nation's criminal. "No one knew from where he was launched and from where he was sourcing funds," she maintained. The PML-N leader said a group of few people gave such orders which halted the process of development. She also said that the law and Constitution did not allow floor crossing, while the "SC judge's ruling said, you can commit floor crossing".

Zverev outlasts Gaston to reach Hamburg quarter Defending champion will face Zhang Zhizhen next

SPORTS DESK

HAMBURG: Roared on by Hamburg fans defending champion Alexander Zverev battled through to the quarter-finals with a 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Frenchman Hugo Gaston. Hope hope Zverev is recovering from a knee injury he suffered at Wimbledon but still covered the court as Gaston played a string of drop shots. Gaston took the first set after a 30-ball rally, which Zverev was convinced should have been halted for a double bounce. Zverev bounced back to break in the next game on his way to taking the second set. The decider included five breaks of serve but Zverev took the last to lead 6-6 before holding serve to 15 seal victory. In the quarter-finals the German will face Chinese eighth seed Zhang Zhizhen who beat Flavio Cobolli, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5). French fifth seed Arthur Fils also advanced, beating Serb Laslo Djere, last year's losing finalist, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2. Fils, who made the semi-finals in Ham-



burg a year ago, reached his sixth tournament quarter-final this season. The consistency has the 20-year-old top of the rankings in the ATP's 'Race to Jeddah', where the Next Generation under-21 finals will be played in December. Fils has reached just one final, when he won on clay in Lyon in May 2023. "When I'm practicing super hard like I'm doing, of course I am able to show a great level and great fitness for a few hours," said Fils. "If a guy wants to beat me, it has to be tough. I am not going to let the match go." Fils will face second seed Holger Kane, who beat Marco Tringolli 6-4, 6-3 in 80 minutes. The Dane said he had tried to turn his round of 16 straight sets loss to Novak Djokovic into motivation. "It's been very intense since Wimbledon. I only had one day off, actually," said Kane on court. "I was like, 'I don't want to rest, I want to go straight back to practice', because I was very disappointed. I went straight back to work on the things that needed to be done, and now I have the chance to train these things in matches."

ECP to implement Appex Court's...

FROM PAGE 01

order wherein it had upheld the ECP's decision denying the reserved seats to the PTI-backed SSC. In a statement, the ECP said the decision was taken after the electoral body held two meetings on Thursday and Friday to deliberate on the reserved seats case verdict. The statement further said that directives have been issued to the ECP's legal team to immediately "identify" any obstacle in the implementation of the verdict so that the apex court could be approached for guidance. "Moreover, the commission strongly condemned and rejected the undue criticism of the chief election commissioner and honourable members by a political party," the ECP's said without naming the Inran Khan-founded party. "Demanding the resignation of CEC and members is ridiculous," it added while referring to the demand put forward by the PTI after a legal victory in the Supreme Court. The commission further stated that it worked in line with the Constitution and laws while not succumbing to any type of pressure. Moreover, the ECP stated that 39 candidates who had been declared as PTI MNAs had shown their affiliation with the embattled party in their nomination papers, while to be a candidate of any party, it is necessary to submit the party ticket and declaration to the returning officer (RO). But in the case of the said MNAs, these documents were not submitted to the ROs; therefore the ROs couldn't declare them PTI candidates, it added.

Babar, Shaheen, Rizwan 'unlikely' to get NOC for Canadian league Sources say this is because all-format players will not be issued the certificate as per the policy

LAHORE: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan are unlikely to get a no-objection certificate (NOC) to participate in the upcoming league Global T20 Canada, sources told News Agency on Friday. The insiders revealed that the players will not get a NOC despite the Canadian league, which is scheduled from July 25 to August 11, not clashing with any series. This is because all-format players will not be issued the certificate as per the policy. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is not in favour of this due to busy international schedule, said the sources. The development comes days after the cricket body decided not to grant fast bowler Naseem Shah the NOC to play the Hundred cricket league due to being an all-format player. However, the Global T20 Canada has not yet received an approval from the International Cricket Council (ICC) due to several reasons. The board said that he formally decided only approval. Pacer Moham Nawaz, Asif Ali and Itihbar in the Global T20 Canada, said that it would work issue NOC to the players the requirements would players will be promoted and performance. There's not fit the criteria. There's discipline," said PCB chief



the International Cricket Council (ICC) sources, the sources NOC of the players will after the league gets an approval from the state machinery. Earlier this week, the PCB ordered a technical process to those who would fulfil be granted the NOC. "On the basis of their fitness no place for players who do also be no compromise on discipline," said PCB chief

Reilly Opelka powers into Newport ATP semi-finals 26-year-old American fired 27 aces to defeat Mackenzie McDonald 4-6, 6-3, 6-4



NEW YORK: Reilly Opelka hammered 27 aces in a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Mackenzie McDonald on Thursday to reach a semi-final in Newport. Opelka, playing on a good element to that, said Opelka, who shocked top seed and defending champion Adrian Panarino in the previous round. "Let's just call it like it is, these guys don't want to lose to a guy that hasn't played in a while," Opelka said. "I'm

playing with house money. It allows me to be a little bit more free and there's extra nerves on the other side of the net." But Opelka, who last played at Washington in 2022 when he was ranked 17th in the world, acknowledged he has some rust to shake off before a headliner appearance at the US Open in August. "I was serving for it, 40 love and then for two dou-

Sunil Gavaskar unhappy with 'modern practice' of bowlers

NEW DELHI: Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar expressed his unhappiness with the "modern practice" of bowlers where they stand near the boundary rope and drink in addition to already scheduled drinking breaks. Gavaskar believed that it gives an "unfair advantage" to the bowlers as the batters do not have the same luxury of drinking other than during the scheduled breaks. "In cricket, the modern practice of bowlers, especially the quick ones, getting a refreshing drink on the boundary line where they go to the field after completing their over is an example of the authorities turning a blind eye to the practice," Gavaskar wrote in an article. According to the International Cricket Council (ICC) rules, a player can drink even outside the scheduled breaks as long as no time is wasted and no other cricketer is bothered. "An individual player may give a drink either on the boundary edge or the fall of a wicket, on the field, provided that no playing time is wasted. No other drinks shall be taken onto the field without the permission of the umpires. Any player taking drinks onto the field shall be dressed in proper cricket attire," the ICC rules states. However, Gavaskar argued that only bowlers can take advantage of this rule as the batters, even when they have taken eight runs, are not given the opportunity to take drinks. "Why have the drinks interval then if bowlers are going to get themselves hydrated after going flat out for six deliveries? Mind you, the batter doesn't get the chance to have a drink after an over where they may have taken eight runs or so, which are all run," he wrote. - Agencies



French athletes banned from wearing hijab at PO

"No one should impose on a woman what she needs to wear or not wear." Hurtado said. On May 24 this year, Amnesty Int'l and several other organizations came together to send a letter on the ban to IOC, organization responsible for organizing Olympic Games

PARIS: French athletes have been barred from wearing the hijab or Muslim headscarf, at the Paris Olympic Games. France imposed the ban on its national team players as it prepares to host the Games from July 26 to Aug. 11 and the Paralympics from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8. French Sports Minister Anneliseoud-Castera initially announced the ban on Sept. 24, 2023. A few days later, Oud-Castera, who was a member of the French political show Demosche in Politique, confirmed that no woman in her country's delegation would wear a headscarf during the Paris Olympics. Following the announcement of the ban, Maria Hurtado, the spokeswoman for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), said in a statement on Sept. 26 that the ban was not right. "No one should impose a woman what she needs to wear or not wear," Hurtado said. On May 24 this year, Amnesty International and several other organizations came



together to send a letter on the ban to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the organization responsible for organizing the Olympic Games. It called on the IOC to make a public appeal to sports authorities in France to lift all restrictions on French athletes wearing the headscarf, both at the Paris Olympic Games and at all sporting events. Amnesty International said the IOC responded inadequately to the joint letter. In its response, the IOC said France's headscarf ban was outside the remit of the committee and that "freedom of religion is interpreted in many different ways by different states." Subsequently, in a press release dated July 16, Amnesty International said the headscarf ban demonstrates the existence of the country's "discriminatory double standard" policy. It reiterated that the ban on the participation of veiled French athletes at the Olympic Games violates international human rights law. It also said the ban demonstrates the "discriminatory hypocrisy" of the French authorities on the eve of the Paris Olympic Games and the "weakness" of the IOC in its response.

Bin Laden's 'close aide' arrested... FROM PAGE 01 Haq was among the top fighters of the extremist group and that he was involved in several terrorist activities. Haq - responsible for coordinating security for the deceased Osama bin Laden's chief - has also been designated as a terrorist by the United Nations. The high-ranking officer said that a case has been registered against Haq, noting that the authorities would probe what was a high-profile terrorist doing in Pakistan. "He was seen in Afghanistan in 2021. He also has Pakistan's ID Card, on which Lahore and Haripur's addresses have been added," the CTD officer added. The United Nations Security Council's website shows that Haq, who was born in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province in 1960, was designated as a terrorist on January 25, 2001.

Omani envoy calls on PM Shehbaz

FROM PAGE 01 nearly all of whom were Pakistanis. While appreciating Oman's swift response and cooperation with the Pakistan Mission in repatriation of the dead bodies and treatment of the injured, the Prime Minister said Pakistan had itself been the victim of terrorism for the past several decades. He offered Pakistan's support to Oman in dealing with the menace of terrorism, which must be eliminated in all its forms. During the course of the meeting, the Prime Minister conveyed his good wishes for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq while fondly recalling his telephone conversations with the Sultan on Eid of Adha as well as Eid of Fitr earlier in the year. The Prime Minister reiterated his invitation to His Majesty to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

PTI seeks urgent hearing...

FROM PAGE 01 PTI Spokesperson said that the case regarding recovery of missing persons be fixed for immediate hearing so as to ensure their earliest release in the light of a miscellaneous application filed in the apex court by renowned jurist Atiqa Abbasi. He stated that the democratic forces imposed on the country had taken extra-constitutional measures of enforced disappearance of citizens as a routine practice during the past two years. PTI Spokesperson pointed out that the state machinery alarmingly intensified its brutal and fascist tactics, including forced disappearances, the use of fabricated cases, forced divorces, and kidnapping for statements to crush the country's largest political party and change the loyalties of its supporters.

TLP calls off days-long...

FROM PAGE 01 Before the TLP started their protest sit-in at Faizabad interchange almost a week ago, the party's activists, led by their top leader Saad Razi, took out a protest rally from Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi on Saturday. The TLP, in their demands, asked the PML-N led government to officially boycott Israeli products and send food and medical aid to Palestinians, especially those suffering from Israel's relentless military aggression in Gaza. One of their demands was that Pakistan's government declare Israeli PM Netanyahu a "terrorist." "The federal government will continue and boost its efforts to help the Muslims of Palestine and the TLP people will assist the government for the purpose," Prime Minister's Adviser on Political and Public Affairs Rana Samuallah said, flanked by Information Minister Atiqah Tarar and TLP leaders. "A shipment of goods comprising fruits and medicines weighing more than 1,000 tonnes will be dispatched to Palestine before July 31," Samuallah said. He added that Israel emerged as a terrorist state and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu committed war crimes against innocent citizens.

Briefs

Russia jails US journalist for 16 years

MOSCOW: US journalist Evan Gershkovich has been found guilty of espionage by a Russian court and sentenced to 16 years in a high-security penal colony, after a secretive trial deemed as a "sham" by his employer, his family and the White House. The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reporter was first arrested last March while on a reporting trip in the city of Yekaterinburg, about 1,900km (1,300 miles) east of Moscow, by security services. Prosecutors accused him of working for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), accusations that Gershkovich, the WSJ and the US vociferously deny. It marks the first conviction of a US journalist for espionage in Russia since the Cold War ended more than 30 years ago. Both sides in the trial have 15 days to appeal against the verdict, the judge said. "This disgraceful, sham conviction comes after Evan has spent 478 days in prison, wrongfully detained, away from his family and friends, prevented from reporting, all for doing his job as a journalist," Wall Street Journal publisher Almar Latour and Editor in Chief Emma Tucker said in a statement. "We will continue to do everything possible to press for Evan's release and to support his family. - Agencies

IT problems will take time to fix

LONDON: The boss of cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike has admitted it could be "some time" before all systems are back up and running after an update from the company triggered a global IT outage. Experts are warning that it could take days for big organisations to get back to normal. Although there is now a software fix for the issue, the manual process required will take a huge amount of work, they said. The global outage has led to almost 1,400 flights being cancelled, while banking, healthcare and shops have all been affected. The issue was caused when an update from CrowdStrike caused Microsoft systems to "blaze screen" and crash. The problem piece of software was sent out automatically to the firm's customers overnight which is why so many were affected when they came into work on Friday morning. It meant their computers could not be restarted. Writing on X, CrowdStrike chief executive George Kurtz said: "The issue has been identified, isolated and a fix has been deployed."

PNS 'Yarmook' deployed on regional security patrol

FAISAL SHEIKH
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has deployed its warship PNS YARMOOK with embarked helicopter in the Indian Ocean for safety and security of merchant ships bound to and from Pakistan Ports. During the deployment, the Pakistan Navy Ship will undertake independent operations as well as combined operations along with other friendly and partner nations to achieve common objectives of safe and secure maritime commons. The ship will also call on regional ports for Naval Diplomatic Ties in line with Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, a Pakistan Navy news release said. Pakistan Navy is committed to ensure freedom of navigation in high seas and safety of international sea lanes of communication besides safeguarding national maritime interests and trade through sea. Pakistan Navy, cognate of its national obligations to maintain rule based order at sea regularly deploys its warships on Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) and also contributes to collaborative maritime security efforts.

Pakistani prisoners in SL to return home within 7 days

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner reiterated the importance of Sri Lanka's relations with Pakistan, highlighting the strengthening of ties between the two nations over time

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Sri Lankan High Commissioner Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Sriwijaya Gunaratne on Friday met Minister of Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi and discussed issues of mutual interest including the release of Pakistani nationals imprisoned in Sri Lanka. Both sides agreed to expedite the necessary steps for the release of Pakistani nationals imprisoned in Sri Lanka jails within 7 days. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner, Admiral (Retd) Ravindra Chandra Sriwijaya Gunaratne assured all possible support in this regard. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed gratitude to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner for his support in facilitating the repatriation process. "All necessary steps are being finalized to ensure the swift return of Pakistani citizens imprisoned in Sri Lanka," he said. In addition to the prisoner repatriation, the meeting also discussed anti-narcotics and border security issues. Naqvi emphasized the need to further develop mutual relations and promote cooperation in counter-narcotics and border security. Sri Lanka's High Commissioner reiterated the importance of Sri Lanka's relations with Pakistan, highlighting the strengthening of ties



between the two nations over time. This breakthrough marks a significant milestone in the diplomatic efforts between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, paving the way for enhanced cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

Volodymyr Zelensky makes 'historic' address to UK Cabinet

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday received a standing ovation from senior ministers as he became the first foreign leader to address the British cabinet in person since 1987. Zelensky gave members of the new Labour government a rundown of the latest situation in Ukraine after a red-carpet welcome at Prime Minister Keir Starmer's 10 Downing Street residence and office. He and Starmer had a one-on-one meeting before hand, in which he thanked Britain for its sustained backing for Kyiv since Russian forces invaded in February 2022. "Thank for the invitation, for the privilege, for me to be here," he told Starmer, who led Labour to victory in elections two weeks ago and has reaffirmed UK support for Ukraine "for as long as it takes." Zelensky on Thursday urged European leaders to remain united against Russian aggression, as he seeks more military help, including much-needed air firepower to push back Russian troops. At Cabinet, dressed in his trademark army fatigues, and flanked on either side by Britain's Union flag and the blue-and-yellow flag of Ukraine, he renewed his call for help

in boosting his country's "long-range capability." "If the restrictions on using Western weapons against Russian military are lifted, we can strike further than just near the border," he told ministers. That would allow Ukraine to "not only protect ourselves from any Russian offensives but also secure our frontline positions and cities from Russian bombs," he added. NATO member states, including the UK, have been hesitant about Ukraine using Western-supplied weapons such as missiles on targets inside Russia, for fear of escalating the conflict. Britain has signalled that "Ukrainian forces could use UK-supplied Storm Shadow missiles for defence strikes." "We're providing weapons to Ukraine for their defence of their sovereign country. And that does not preclude them hitting targets in Russia," Defense Secretary John Healey told BBC radio. "But that must be done by the Ukrainians, it must be done within the parameters and the bounds of international humanitarian law," added Healey, who visited Ukraine within days of this appointment. The last foreign leader to address the British Cabinet in person was US president Bill Clinton in 1997 after Labour's Tony Blair swept to power, also in a landslide win over the Conservatives.

Trump vows to end wars if elected again

WEB DESK

MILWAUKEE: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump promised Thursday to bring an end to raging international crises and restore American prestige on the world stage, saying he could "stop wars with a telephone call." The former president sought to paint a dire picture of the world under his successor Joe Biden, telling the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee that the planet is "teetering on the edge of World War III." "We will restore peace, stability and harmony all throughout the world," Trump said, without giving any detail on how he might do that. "Under our leadership the United States will be respected again. No nation will question our power, no enemy will doubt our might, our borders will be totally secure." Trump placed the blame for conflicts around the world

squarely on Biden — even those with roots stretching far before the Democrat took office. "There is an international crisis the likes of which the world has seldom seen part of... war is now raging in Europe, in the Middle East, a growing specter of conflict hangs over Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines and all of Asia," he said. He vowed to change all that if he is elected to a second term in the White House. "I will end every single international crisis that the current administration has created, including the horrible war with Russia and Ukraine," Trump said. But "to achieve this future, we must first rescue our nation from failed and even incompetent leadership." He also said he wanted Americans held abroad to be released — or else. "The entire world, I tell you this: we want our hostages back and they better be back before I assume office or you will be paying a very big price," said Trump — again vowing to give any specifics. He pledged to build a version of Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system for the United States, ignoring the fact that the system is designed for short-range threats and would be ill-suited to defending against intercontinental missiles that are the main danger to the country. And he suggested that Kim Jong Un — the reclusive North Korean dictator whom he met in person during his presidency, and whose country possesses a nuclear arsenal — longed to see him back in the White House. "I get along with him, he'd like to see me back too, I think he misses me, if you want to know," Trump said.

Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine illegal, says ICJ

Top UN court says Israel's settlement policy in occupied territories violates international law

NEWS DESK

THE HAGUE: The top United Nations court said Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and east Jerusalem violates international law, as it delivered a non-binding advisory opinion on the legality of Israel's 57-year occupation of lands sought for a Palestinian state, a ruling that could have more effect on international opinion than it will on Israeli policies. International Court of Justice President Nawaf Salam was expected to take about an hour to read out the full opinion of the panel, which is made up of 15 judges from around the world. In part of the opinion, he said the act of transferring by Israel of settlers to the West Bank and Jerusalem as well as Israel's maintenance of their presence, is contrary to article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The court also noted with "grave concern" that Israel's settlement policy has been expanding. The court also found that Israel's use of natural resources was "inconsistent" with its obligations under international law as an occupying power. Friday's hearing comes against the backdrop of Israel's derailing 10-month military assault on Gaza, which was triggered by the Hamas-led attacks in southern Israel. In a separate case, the International Court of Justice is considering a South African claim that Israel's campaign in Gaza amounts to genocide, a claim that Israel vehemently de-

nies. Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek all three areas for an independent state. Israel considers the West Bank to be disputed territory, whose future should be decided in negotiations, while it has moved population there in settlements to solidify its hold. It has annexed east Jerusalem in a move that is not internationally recognized, while it withdrew from Gaza in 2005 but maintained a blockade of the territory after Hamas took power in 2007. The international community generally considers all three areas to be occupied territory. At hearings in February, the Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki accused Israel of apartheid and urged the United Nations' top court to declare that Israel's occupation of lands sought by the Palestinians is illegal and must end immediately and unconditionally for any hope for a two-state future to survive. Israel, which normally considers the United Nations and international tribunals as unfair and biased, did not send a legal team to the hearings. But it submitted written comments, saying that the questions put to the court are prejudiced and "fail to recognize Israel's right and duty to protect its citizens," address Israeli security concerns or acknowledge Israel-Palestinian agreements to negotiate issues, including "the permanent status of the territory, security arrangements, settlements, and borders." The Palestinians presented arguments in February along with 49 other nations and three international organizations.

Uncertainty sends PSX plummeting over 1,721 points

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Stocks hit a tailspin on Friday, losing over 2% amid escalating political uncertainty, as investors weighed a report by BMI, a Fitch Solutions company, which forecasted that the government to last only 18 more months — triggering a profit-taking spree. Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Shares Index plunged to 81,172.89 points, losing a massive 1721.57 points or 2.1% compared to Thursday's close of 82,894.46 points. The main index of the country's "high-performing" capital market began on a positive note, reaching an intraday high of 81,837.84. However, investors soon went on a selling spree to hedge their bets amid a fierce judicial battle between the government and opposition. Meanwhile, BMI, a Fitch Solutions company, in a risk assessment report, has projected a political disruption in Pakistan. "Pakistan's next parliamentary election is scheduled for 2028. However, it is highly likely that the country will see a change of government before this date."

Bangladesh students defy ban to continue protests

DHAKA: Protesting students have returned to the streets of the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, defying a ban on public rallies following a day of clashes which left dozens dead. Symbolic funeral processions were planned to pay tribute to at least 25 people killed on Thursday. "Two more deaths were reported on Friday, bringing the total since protests started to at least 33 - although the exact toll is difficult to assess due in part to an almost complete communications shutdown, with mobile internet and telephone lines reportedly down. The shutdown comes as authorities try to quell the protests demanding the government scrap a job quota for the families of veterans of the country's independence war in 1971." - Agencies

Blast rocks Tel Aviv; Yemen claims drone operation

SANAA: Yemeni armed forces announced an operation against Tel Aviv as a powerful explosion hit an area near a US consular facility amid the failure of Israeli air defenses to intercept the drone. The blast occurred in the city's Ben Yehuda Street on Friday, Israeli media outlets reported. Meanwhile, Yemeni Armed Forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Sarve announced that the country had launched an operation against Tel Aviv on Friday morning. He said that further details of the operation would be announced soon. The Israeli military has said it is opening an investigation to find out why the country's air defense systems were not activated to intercept the drone. Other Israeli officials were quoted as saying that an "attack drone" had entered the occupied territories' airspace from the direction of the Mediterranean Sea. The aircraft exploded in a building lying less than 100 meters away from a US consular facility in the city, they added. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly delayed his trip to Washington following the explosion. The explosion, however, comes amid the Israeli regime's ongoing genocidal war against the Gaza Strip, which has prompted resistance groups from across the region to stage hundreds of retaliatory strikes against targets across the occupied territories. Palestine's Mujahideen Brigades hailed the Yemeni operation as a "qualitative shift" in the resistance against the Israeli regime. Furthermore, the brigades praised the actions of the Yemeni army and other resistance groups against the Israeli regime, calling it the "most honorable military intervention" to support the oppressed and confront the injustices imposed by the Israeli occupiers. - Agencies

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Trump vows to end wars if elected again as US president

Detailed News On Page-08

Gilani seeks new avenues with Algeria

Detailed News On Page-02



Zverev outlasts Gaston to reach Hamburg quarter

Detailed News On Page-06



Amidst criticism and controversy JCP 'approves' appointment of two ad hoc judges

Justice (ret'd) Tariq Masood and Justice (ret'd) Mazhar Alam appointed for a period of one year, say sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Friday approved appointing two former Supreme Court judges — Justice (ret'd) Tariq Masood and Justice (ret'd) Mazhar Alam Mansikhel — as ad hoc judges to the apex court for a period of one year. Justice Mubir Akhtar opposed Justice Tariq nomination while Mazhar Alam nomination was opposed by three judges including Justice Mansoor, Justice Mubir and Justice Afridi. The development came after the JCP meeting headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Ishaq held earlier today to discuss the appointment of retired judges to the apex court in a bid to reduce pendency of the cases. Before him Justice (ret'd) Mubir Alam and Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Bagar had also refused appointment as ad hoc judges, which the apex court said were needed to clear a backlog of cases. The sources said Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar and Justice Yahya Afridi opposed the appointment of Justice (ret'd) Mansikhel as the former judge had already declined the offer. However, his appointment was approved by a 6:3 majority and now it is up to the former judge that he accepts the offer or maintains previous his stance, they added. Meanwhile, Justice (ret'd) Masood's appointment was approved by 8:1 majority, with Justice Akhtar in opposition, the insiders added.

Continued on Page 06

LHC CJ rejects CEC's request for election tribunals' reformation

COURT REPORTER

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Aaliya Neelum rejected the request of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) seeking the reformation of the election tribunals in the province. Chief Election Commissioner Sultan Akram Raja met the LHC chief justice and requested her to reconstitute the existing election tribunals, the sources said. Justice Aaliya Neelum turned down the CEC's request, maintaining that the present election tribunals will continue to function as usual. The LHC chief justice said that the final decision on the election tribunals will be made by the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan. Earlier on June 20, the Supreme Court (SC) rejected an appeal moved by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against formation of election tribunals by the Lahore High Court. The two-member bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Qazi Faez Ishaq and also comprising Justice Naeem Afghani, heard the Election Commission's appeal. The commission's lawyer, Sikandar Bashir, and PTI lawyer Salman Akram Raja appeared before the court. Justice Ishaq questioned whether the Chief Election Commissioner and the CEC could meet to resolve disputes. He remarked that if every issue is to be made contentious, then Parliament should be shut down. He asserted that using ordinances is a disregard for Parliament and a violation of its authority.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi, pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Prime Minister's House. — DNA

Omani envoy calls on PM Shehbaz

PM expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to implement the Supreme Court's order on slotting reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In a major legal victory for the PTI and a setback for the rulers, the apex court had on July 12 ruled that PTI was and is a political party that won general seats in the national and provincial assemblies in the February 8 elections, thus, is entitled to reserved seats. The court, by a majority of 8, set aside the Peshawar High Court's judgement of March 25 and declared the ECP order of March 1 to be ultra vires the Constitution, without lawful authority and of no legal effect. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the SC's full bench announced the 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying the PHC's

Continued on Page 06

Bin Laden's 'close aide' arrested in Gujrat

Amin al-Haq — an Afghan national — has also been designated as a terrorist by the United Nations

DNA

LAHORE: In a significant development, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab said Friday that the men enforcers had arrested Amin al-Haq — a close aide of Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden. "The terrorist was apprehended during an intelligence-based operation," DIG CTD Usman Akram Gondal said, adding that he was taken into custody from Sarai Alamgir, a town in the Gujrat district. Associated with bin Laden since 1996, the CTD noted that

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Omar urges journalists to stand up for 'truth'

Opposition working together to navigate the country's challenging times

SAIFULLAH ANSARI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and opposition leader Omar Abub Khan said there is a dire need for local investment to propel the national economy forward, urging local investors to take the initiative, reported 24News HD TV channel on Friday. Addressing a Federal Union of Journalists meeting in Gujranwala, he urged the journalist community to stand up for the right and the truth.

Bangladesh protesters storm prison

DNA

DHAKA: Bangladeshi student protesters stormed a prison and freed hundreds of inmates on Friday as police struggled to quell unrest, with huge rallies in the capital Dhaka despite a police ban on public gatherings. This week's unrest has killed at least 75 people, according to media count of victims reported by hospitals, and emerged as a momentous challenge to PM Sheikh Hasina's autocratic government after 15 years in office. Student protesters stormed a jail in the central Bangladesh district of Narasingdi and freed the facility's inmates.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. — Editor

Slams reserved seats ruling 'Let Pakistan progress', Maryam tells SC judges

Punjab CM alleges apex court judges rewriting Constitution to bring one person back

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Launching a salvo against the Supreme Court verdict allowing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to claim reserved seats in the parliament, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday said the apex court judges should let the country progress. "I would like to ask the SC judges to let the country function," Maryam said addressing an event in Lahore. She alleged the apex court judges of rewriting the constitution to bring one person back to the mainstream politics. "Who are those (people) who do not like the country making progress and rewrite the Constitution," she said. In a major legal victory for the PTI, the SC on July 12 ruled that the party was eligible for the allocation of reserved seats. The decision has not only paved the way for the PTI's return to the parliament, which was kicked out of the February 8 polls owing to the ECP's December 2023 ruling, but has also increased the pressure on the coalition alliance as

Continued on Page 06

TLP calls off days-long Faizabad sit-in

Decision comes after federal govt assures TLP it will speed up efforts to help Palestinians

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) on Friday called off its sit-in in the Faizabad area of Islamabad after the federal government assured them that they would ramp up efforts to help out Palestinians, who have been facing Israeli atrocities since the clash began in October last year. The TLP's decision came this afternoon after the incumbent government engaged in successful negotiations with them.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan asks Afghan authorities to take action against terrorists

The Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson emphasised that countries should refrain from commenting on Pakistan's domestic matters, asserting that Islamabad can handle its internal issues independently

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has once again asked the Afghan authorities to take immediate and effective action against terrorist groups including their sponsors and backers who remain involved in act of terrorism inside the country. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly news briefing that Pakistan has provided evidence of individuals and groups responsible for terrorist attacks. She said Islamabad expects the Afghan authorities to disarm the TTP and Gul Bahadar Group, and hand over their leadership including those involved in terrorist incidents to Pakistan. The spokesperson said the Afghan authorities know the whereabouts and actions of these individuals. Responding to a question, Ms Baloch said Pakistan is capable of defending itself against all terror groups and ensure the safety and security of its people. Alluding to the Indian oppressive tactics in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said Pakistan will continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people for the just and peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

TTP chief's leaked call reveals terror plans in Pakistan

The leaked call unveils TTP's plans to disrupt peace in the country

SHAMIM SHARIF

PESHAWAR: A leaked call has exposed Noor Wali Mehsud, the leader of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), giving shocking instructions for terrorist activities in Pakistan. According to a Pakistani newspaper, the call features TTP leader Noor Wali Mehsud, Ahmed Hussain (aka Ghat Haji), and local commander Saqib Gandapur discussing their sinister strategies. Mehsud can be heard directing his

Continued on Page 06

PTI to get 'seats finally' ECP to implement Appex Court's order on reserved seats

Decision follows meeting of electoral body to consider apex court's ruling on PTI-SIC reserved seats case

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to implement the Supreme Court's order on slotting reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). In a major legal victory for the PTI and a setback for the rulers, the apex court had on July 12 ruled that PTI was and is a political party that won general seats in the national and provincial assemblies in the February 8 elections, thus, is entitled to reserved seats. The court, by a majority of 8, set aside the Peshawar High Court's judgement of March 25 and declared the ECP order of March 1 to be ultra vires the Constitution, without lawful authority and of no legal effect. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of the SC's full bench announced the 8-5 majority verdict, nullifying the PHC's

PTI seeks urgent hearing on missing persons' case

PTI Spokesperson urges SC to halt reign of terror, recover missing affiliates

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) urged the Supreme Court (SC) to promptly hear the case related to the recovery of missing persons and put a halt on the ongoing state of reign of terror in the country aimed at coercing PTI's affiliates to switch loyalties.

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