

Friday, August 02, 2024

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Ethiopia inspired by Pak strategies, seeks closer ties

Detailed News On Page-08

Hassan Nasrallah asserts etaliation is inevitable

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Detailed News On Page-08



Carini tearfully quits bout in just 46 seconds

Detailed News On Page-06



PM deplores world silence

Pakistan observes day of mourning on Haniyeh's shahadat

The prime minister said Netanyahu was out to destroy Palestine. Despite clear verdicts of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and resolutions of the United Nations, Israel could not be stopped from its barbaric acts

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday strongly denounced the attack that led to martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, chief of Hamas Political Bureau, in Tehran, terming it a barbaric act that was a flagrant violation of international laws and rules. The extraterritorial assassination, he said, had sparked widespread condemnation across the world including Pakistan, Turkiye, Russia, Iran, China and Malaysia which had denounced the attack in the strongest words. Ismail Haniyeh's children and grandchildren had also been ruthlessly martyred, he added. The prime minister was chairing a meeting on the situation of Palestine which was attended by the parliamentarians representing the government's allied political parties.

Shehbaz Sharif said that the bloodshed in Palestine continued for last nine months claiming lives of many innocent Palestinians everyday. Over 40,000 Palestinians including thousands of children had been martyred till date. "The world is silent over this barbarism," he said. "Such terrorism and extremism is highly condemnable." The prime minister said Netanyahu was out to destroy Palestine. Despite clear verdicts of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and resolutions of the United Nations, Israel could not be stopped from its barbaric acts. He expressed gratitude to the countries from the West such as Ireland and Spain who had openly supported the Palestinian cause and its two-state resolution.

Calls for revenge Haniyeh's funeral prayers held in Iran, led by Khamenei

Foreign Desk

TEHRAN: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has led funeral prayers for Hamas's Political Bureau Chief Ismail Haniyeh and his security guard, who were assassinated during his visit to Tehran on Wednesday. During a ceremony held at Tehran University on Thursday, Ayatollah Khamenei paid homage to the Hamas chief and his bodyguard, identified as Wasim Abu Shaaban. Massive crowds of Iranian mourners took part in funeral procession for the assassinated Hamas official. Haniyeh was in the Iranian capital to attend Tuesday's swearing-in ceremony of Iran's newly-elected President Masoud Pezeshkian, where he was accompanied by other Axis of Resistance leaders. The details of the assassination plot aren't known yet, but the preliminary investigation points to the direct role of the Israeli regime and the green light from the Joe Biden administration in Washington. Addressing the ceremony, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said the Israeli regime is

Next PTI power show in Swabi

PTI vows to form 'grand opp alliance' against govt

Asad Qaiser says PTI's August 5 power show aims to demand release of Imran Khan, other leaders

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: As the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is all set to hold a power show next week, the party's senior leader Asad Qaiser said Thursday that incarcerated party founder Imran Khan gave the nod for forming a "grand opposition alliance" by expanding the existing platform - Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Ayin-e-Pakistan (TTAP). "PTI decides to expand the opposition alliance in meeting with Imran Khan," said former National Assembly speaker while addressing the media alongside the party's Secretary-General Omar Ayub Khan and oth- ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommu-

ers oustide Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail today. He announced that the former ruling party would gather all opposition parties to run a that they would lift the ban on X, forpowerful anti-government movement. Qais- merly known as Twitter, whenever er said that the party's forthcoming power the government asked them to do so. show in Swabi was aimed at raising a "strong Rehman made the statement during a voice" for the release of PTI founder and meeting of the Senate's Standing Comother detained leaders. "This country will mittee on Cabinet Secretariat which only be governed in accordance with the Rana Mahmoodul Hasan chaired in law and the Constitution," he emphasised. Islamabad. The social media plat-During his address, Qaiser also censured the form has been suspended in Pakistan

Continued on Page 06

We will restore X whenever govt wants: PTA

"PTA is whitelisting VPNs after which only selected VPNs will be available in Pak," says official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

nication Authority (PTA) Chairman Hafeezur Rehman said on Thursday

Continued on Page 06

NATIONAL DAY OF SWITZERLAND



ISLAMABAD: Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal, Ambassador of Switzerland Georg Steiner and others cutting cake to celebrate the National Day of Switzerland. - DNA

UNSC report stance: FO

UN report pointed out that TTP operatives and its new recruits are being trained in Afghanistan, says FO

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) report has en-Pakistan's view regarding terrorists of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) taking refuge within hideouts and sanctuaries in Afghanistan. Addressing the weekly press briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said that the report mentions how

Continued on Page 06 24 killed in rain-related incidents

in KP

PDMA says monsoon spell has caused heavy downpours since July 29 in different areas of KP

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: At least 24 people have been killed and 17 others injured in various rain-related incidents during the last three days in different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Thursday, warning that more rains are likely in the coming days in the province.

Continued on Page 06

Ambassador Steiner says Switzerland one of the top foreign direct investments in Pakistan

Pak greatly values ties with Switzerland: Jam Kamal

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner has said Over the last 75 years, Pakistan and Switzerland have managed to engage in mutually beneficial relations in various domains. Today, Switzerland is one of the top foreign-direct investments in Pakistan. Thousands of jobs have been created in the country by a considerable number of Swiss companies. Ambassador Steiner expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of the 733rd National Day and 75 years of Diplomatic Relations between Switzerland and Pakistan. Federal Commerce Minister Jam Khan was the chief guest. The Swiss ambassador further said, financial trade has been significant and reaches a volume of hundreds of millions of Swiss francs every year. And most importantly, more and more people in Switzerland are getting aware and take note of the opportunities that Pakistan offers. That is also one of the reasons why we have the privilege to welcome the Swiss foreign minister in Pakistan a few months after I had arrived here, he added.

He said Switzerland and Pakistan will continue to move forward together and to grow together. 'We will continue to listen to each other and most importantly, we will continue to learn from each other. And wherever there is potential for even closer relations, we will keep out and do our best to deliver. I believe there are quite a few interesting areas that deserve further efforts from both sides. He also congratulated all Swiss companies operating so successfully in the Pakistani market. He added he had the privilege to meet most of you personally over the last 24 months. 'You form a very important bridge between Switzerland and Pakistan, and you contribute in so many positive ways to bringing our two

Briefs

Raoof Hasan's bail approved

PTI information secretary is behind bars since July 22

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: A court in the federal capital has granted bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Information Secretary Raoof Hasan in the anti-state propaganda case, but he will not be released. Duty Magistrate Abbas Shah, a judge of the special court recently formed to hear cases filed under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (PECA) Act, 2016, issued the verdict on Thursday. The PTI leader cannot come out of jail today as an anti-terrorism court had on Wednesday handed him over to the counter-terrorism department in a terrorism case for two days - the remand ends tomorrow.

JI to hold sitins in all four provinces

First sit-in in Karachi, then in Peshawar, Lahore, Quetta

ADIL SHAHEEN ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami decided to hold sit-ins in all four provincial capitals against electricity rates and revision of contracts with the IPPs. The Jamaat-e-Islami held a meeting regarding sitin plan C. The JI emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman presided over the meeting. All the leadership including the provincial leaders of the party participated in the meeting. It is said that Jamaat-e-Islami has completed all arrangements for the public sit-in. Iamaat-e-Islami will hold a sit-in in Karachi from Friday. Later, the sit-ins will be held in Peshawar, Lahore and Quetta. The sources further said that the protest would then be expanded to the divisional level.

Privatization process of DISCOs has begun: Attaullah Tarar

Tarar said that the matter of electricity tariff was the issue of the entire nation and a collective approach was needed to overcome this issue Reforms must to make

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said, as part of the present government's reform agenda, the process of privatization of DISCOs has been started after an amendment in the State Owned Enterprises

Act. Addressing a press conference along with Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Mustafa Kamal here Thursday, the information minister said that he pointed out that inefficiency and corruption of DISCOs span over several decades. Therefore, he said it was decided to bring competent and professional people from the private sector to run the DISCOs free from any political interference. He said a delegation of MQM Pakistan comprising Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Mustafa Kamal met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and matters related to elec-

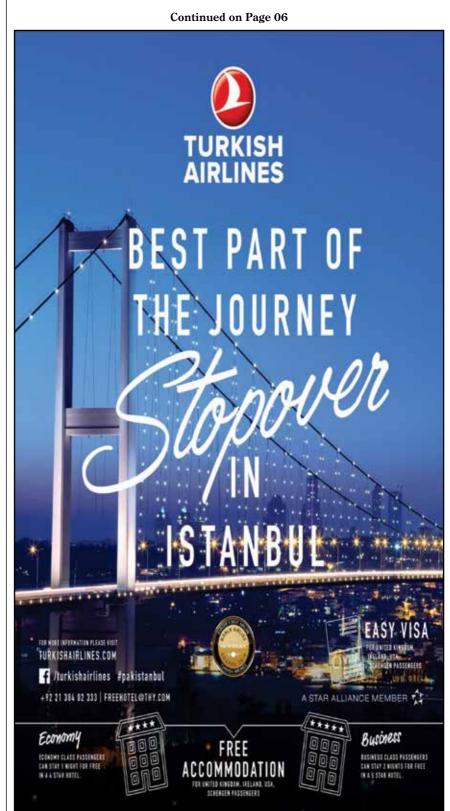
tricity bills and IPP issue were discussed. The minister ap-

Continued on Page 06

EFF last IMF programme SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Thursday reiterated the need for structural reforms to ensure the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the country's last programme, highlighting the importance of privatization, export-led growth, and foreign direct investment to sustainable macroeconomic stability. Addressing the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Head Office **Building of the Securities and Exchange Commission** of Pakistan (SECP), the minister said, the Staff Level Agreement (SLA) has been signed with IMF and it would go to fund's board for final approval. "So under the fund umbrella, it is not only getting the fund but making sure that this time we do the structural preciated the MQM for always showing responsibility and reforms," he remarked. "If we have to make it last

Continued on Page 06



Islamabad POST Friday, August 02 , 2024

Governor Sindh calls for non-political resolution of IPP issues

The Governor also revealed plans for grand Independence Day celebrations at the Governor House, which will be open to the public

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori announced on Thursday that the issues surrounding Independent Power Producers (IPPs) should not be politicized, as the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is actively working towards a resolution. He made these remarks while speaking to the media at the Governor House during the "First Sindh Plantation Day," an initiative led by the Governor. Addressing a question about the Jamat-e-Islami (JI)'s sit-in outside the Governor House, Kamran Tessori invited them to protest within the Governor House premises rather than blocking the roads, which he noted causes inconvenience to the

FOSPAH

striving for

gender

equality:

Fauzia

ISLAMABAD : Chairper-

assment and securing the

property rights of women

while Shehzad informed

the attendees about the

implementation powers of

ARCC

launched in

Polyclinic

Hospital

ISLAMABAD : The Feder

al Government Polyclinic

Hospital, with technical

support from UN Women

and funding from the U.S. Embassy's Office of In-

ternational Narcotics and

Law Enforcement (INL) on

Thursday launched the An-

ti-Rape Crisis Cell (ARCC)

as part of the Tahaffuz

here Thursday. The ARCC

represents a unified effort

to combat sexual violence

and empower survivors in

their pursuit of justice and

healing. These facilities will

serve as essential resource

centers, providing a range

of services to survivors, in-

cluding medical and psycho-

logical support, legal aid

and counseling. The ARCC

will operate around the

clock with robust security

measures in place.—APP

Hospital

project at the

FOSPAH-APP

public. "The doors of the Governor House are open for them. I would request Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman not to block roads and create difficulties for citizens," Tessori stated. The Governor also revealed plans for grand Independence Day celebrations at the Governor House, which will be open to the public. The event will feature a cake-cutting ceremony, fireworks, and a musical night with performances by renowned singers. Additionally, 100,000 flags and around 50,000 badges will be distributed. Regarding the plantation drive, Kamran Tessori emphasized its importance, announcing a large-scale initiative to plant trees across the province.He noted that the Consul General of the UAE has pledged to donate 1,000 trees to the Sindh Governor House. Kamran Tessori highlighted the importance

of not only planting saplings but also ensuring their growth and care. Some saplings will be distributed to educational institutions, hospitals, and other organizations, with a request that they are nurtured responsibly. The Governor stressed that the initiatives he has introduced are not merely symbolic but are followed through with continuous effort. He cited various projects, including IT courses offered at the Governor House, ration distribution, and laptop distribution, among others. The Sindh Plantation Day event saw the Governor inaugurate the drive by planting a sapling in the Governor House lawn. The occasion was attended by Consul Generals from the USA, China, Russia, Iran, Malaysia, Turkey, and Oman, as well as Vice Chancellors of various universities, prominent religious and social figures, and business leaders.

Chief Collector Customs briefed about hurdles in cross border trade

OUR CORRESPONDENT

son Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat for Protec-PESHAWAR: A delegation tion against Harassment of businessmen apprised (FOSPAH) Fauzia Viqar on newly appointed chief Thursday underlined efcustoms collector Khyber forts to create a Pakistan, Pakhtunkhwa regarding built on the ideals of gender hurdles and problems in equality and human dignity. the cross border trade and Ms. Fauzia Viqar held an gave a number of proposinteractive meeting with als for smooth for amicamediapersons covering the ble resolution of problems. Islamabad High Court at According to a statement the Federal Ombudsperson issued here on Thursday, a Secretariat for Protection delegation of the Frontier against Harassment (FOS-Custom Agents Associa-PAH), said a press release. tion Khyber Pakhtunkhwa The meeting was also atled by its president Ziaul tended by Rehman She-Haq Sarhadi held a meethzad, Registrar FOSPAH ing with newly appointed and Ms. Meher Jamy, Law custom collector Khyber Officer FOSPAH During Pakhtunkhwa Nasir Jamil the meeting Ms. Viqar elabin Model Custom House orated upon the need for Peshawar. The FCAA KP an institution like FOSPAH delegation consisted of the in the country where only association's senior vice 23% of women were in the president Khalid Shahzad, workplace and therefore vice president Imtiaz Ahrequired increased promad Ali, Secretary General tection. Additionally, Ms. Jamy explained the mandate of FOSPAH, namely, eliminating workplace har-

Mian Wahid Bacha and exures to remove problems ecutive committee member with trade routes including Ghulam Khan, Kharlachi, Shakeel Ahmad. Torkham and Azakhel Dry Sarhadi formally congratulated Nasir Jamil for asport and Bacha Khan Intersuming charge as Chief national Airport Peshawar Collector Custom KP and to streamline process and said that the business comcross border trade. Later, the FCAA KP delegation munity appreciated and expressed complete satisfacheld a separate meeting tion on this decision. FCAA with Director Transit Trade KP chief informed the sen-Custom Amjadur Reham ior custom official about and apprised him about the hurdles in Pak-Afghan bilattemporary admission docueral trade, especially probment (TAD) and issues in transit trade and suggestlems that were being faced by importers and exporters ed a number of ideas and and custom clearing agents' proposals for removal of all hurdles. Also, the delecommunity and gave various proposals for their gation called on Collector redressal. He said chief col-Custom Enforcement Ziaulllah Shams and Additional lector customs served on Collector D.I Khan Inamulvarious important positions

> Wazir here at Model Custom House Peshawar, during which, issues of business community and trade export were taken up with the senior official.

Govt deals major blow to education

in the past who had played

a pivotal role in resolution

of business community is-

sues. Sarhadi expressed

hope the newly appointed

chief collector customs KP

will take proactive meas-

Privatises 350 government schools in Rawalpindi despite severe backlash

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab government has completed the privatisation of 350 government schools in Rawalpindi and 5,863 across Punjab, striking a powerful blow to public education in the province. The decision comes despite protests and strikes by teachers' organisations. This week, all these schools will be officially handed over to NGOs, the Punjab Education Foundation (PEF), and various purchasing groups. In the second phase, an additional 7,137 government schools will be privatised. The process of scrutiny is currently underway following the receipt of applications. These schools are scheduled to reopen under private management from August 15. Teachers from the 5,863 privatised government schools have been given the option to transfer to other government schools. The new management will hire their teachers and headmasters. The salaries for administrators and principals in the privatised schools have been set at Rs50,000, while teachers will receive between Rs30,000 and Rs40,000. Recruitment based on these salaries has already begun. Official notifications transferring these schools to the private sector have also been issued. The second phase of privatisation is expected to be completed by August 14. Teachers' organisations have vehemently opposed the privatisation. Abdul Rauf Kayani, head of the Punjab Primary, Elementary, and Secondary Teachers Association, criticised the government, stating that it is constitutionally obligated to provide free education from primary to matriculation. He accused the Punjab government of violating the constitution by selling government schools, arguing that this move could lead to the acquisition of valuable land worth billions of rupees in commercial areas. Kayani warned of strong protests against the privatisation. Muhammad Shafiq Bhalwalia, Central Secretary of the Punjab SES Teachers Association, voiced concerns that privatisation would make education more expensive and increase fees across Punjab. He pointed out that the sale of primary schools would negatively impact children from poor families, who may be unable to afford the new fees. The decision to transfer teachers from the sold schools has also been met with criticism. Educators Association President Basharat Iqbal Raja warned that privatisation would lead to an increase in the number of out-of-school children. Currently, 27 million children are out of school in Punjab. Raja predicted that this number would rise to 30 million due to higher fees and the absence of free books, forcing children from poor families to drop out of school. The education department has issued instructions to all district education officers to reclaim government property from the schools being privatised. This directive has further fueled the controversy surrounding the privatisation initiative, which many believe will undermine access to education for underprivileged children and disrupt the public education system.-DNA



Minister for Science and Technology Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.-DNA

Plastic shoe manufacturers concerned over rising electricity bills

RAWALPINDI : A meeting of the standing committee of plastic shoe manufacturers was held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI).

The meeting was presided over by the acting president Muhammad Hamza Sarosh and the chairman of the committee Muhammad Akram. Group leader Sohail Altaf, Vice President Faisal Shehzad, Vice Chairman Mubasher Abbas, former presidents, members of the executive committee and other distinguished members were also present on this occasion. In the meeting, concern was expressed over the increase in electricity bills, MDI charges, due to the increase in bills and MDI charges, the business cost has increased many times, it has become difficult to do

During the meeting, important issues faced by the plastic shoe manufacturing industry, high cost due to high electricity bills, increase in MDI charges and suggestions regarding relocation of cottage industry (shoe makers) along the ring road were shared..

Furthermore, former President Asad Mushadi was nominated to survey the land around the Rawalpindi Ring Road for the establishment of an industrial estate and relocation of Rawalpindi's SMEs along with various markets and industries.

683 flour across Puniab

LAHORE: On the instructhe province.—APP

CDA Chairman, Danish envoy discuss Capital's development

Chairman Randhawa highlighted the launch of new projects and initiatives taken to make CDA a dynamic institution

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held between Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf on Thursday to discuss various projects aimed at making Islamabad a modern city. Chairman Randhawa highlighted the launch of new projects and initiatives tak-

en to make CDA a dynamic institution. He emphasized the efforts to transform Islamabad into a model city, with a focus on environmental sustainability. Ambassador Linulf commended the environment-friendly initiatives undertaken by Chairman Randhawa, particularly the Climate Change Fund and Margalla Hills Fund. He expressed his support for these initiatives, stating that they will play a crucial role in protecting Islamabad's natural environment. The meeting also touched upon solid waste management, with Chairman Randhawa expressing interest in utilizing Denmark's expertise in this area. Furthermore, Chairman Randhawa extended an invitation to Ambassador Linulf to participate in the Margalla Hills plantation drive, which the ambassador gladly accepted. The drive is expected to receive overwhelming participation.

Minister welcomes WHO collaboration on health initiatives

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafigue has expressed gratitude for the ongoing collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) on various health projects. The minister made these remarks during a meeting with a WHO delegation at the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) on Thursday.

Highlighting the provincial government's commitment to enhancing healthcare services, the minister stated, "Under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, we

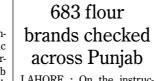
are striving to provide betpeople." He emphasized that raising public awareness is crucial for significantly reducing the prevalence of hepatitis in Punjab. "Teamwork is essential to achieve positive outcomes from our policies, and improving the health system is our top priority," he added. He also mentioned that the scope of hepatitis screening has been expanded throughout the province. He noted the growing challenge of controlling Pakistan's population and stressed the importance of intensifying screenings for Hepatitis B and C.

Dr. Meg Darthy, HIV Global Director from WHO, reaf-

ter health facilities to the commitment to supporting the Punjab Health Department in combating hepatitis. She highlighted that July 28 recognized globally raising awareness about hepatitis prevention.

The meeting focused on joint efforts and strategies to manage hepatitis in Punjab. The WHO delegation praised the public welfare initiatives led by Chief Minister Marvam Nawaz Sharif. The WHO delegation included HIV Global Director Dr. Meg Darthy from Geneva, Global Team Leader Dr. Olofnmila, Acting Regional Advisor from WHO EMR Cairo Dr. Shahid Jameel, Dr. Safdar Pasha from WHO Islamabad.

The Smooth Moving Connection



tions of Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin, strict monitoring of flour prices is ongoing across the province. Director Food Punjab Shoaib Jadoon visited various districts of Multan Division. He reviewed the availability of flour in the general market and checked prices. Across the province, prices of 10 and 20 kg bags of 683 flour brands were checked. In Lahore Division, 113, Rawalpindi 164, and Gujarat 49 different flour brands' prices were checked. In Gujranwala Division, 50, Faisalabad 69 and Sargodha 32 flour brands' prices were also monitored. In Multan Division, 76, Sahiwal 31, DG Khan 34, and Bahawalpur 65 flour brands' prices were checked. Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin said that this month, 5,126 trucks were used to transport wheat and flour across



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oon No.14 5/5, 3rd Floor, Kathkashun Mai



FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition was recently held under the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) to mark the completion of a six-month calligraphy course. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Ayub Jamali, the Director General of PNCA. The event featured active participation from students who showcased their artistic skills through calligraphy. A variety of outstanding artworks were displayed, demonstrating the talent and dedication of the participants. During the exhibition, certificates were distributed among the participants in recognition of their achievements. This exhibition will continue at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts until Monday, Au-

gust 5, 2024.



National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

AUGUST

Aug 01/China **Armed Forces Day**

Aug 01/Switzerland **National Day**

Aug 01/Lebanon

Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Syria

Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Bukino Faso **National Day**

Aug 09 / Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea **Independence Day**

Aug 15/India **Independence Day**

Aug 15/Poland **Armed Forces Day**

Aug 17 /Indonesia **Independence Day**

Aug 24/Ukraine **Independence Day**

Aug 25/Uruguay Independence Day

Aug 30 /Turkey

Armed Forces Day Aug 31/Kyrgyz Repub-

Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia **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



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



Hospitals

CMH	5611111	
MH	561116	
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11	
DHQ	5556311-4	
RGH	9290301-7	
Holy Family	9290322-7	
PIMS	9261170-79	
Polyclinic	9218300-09	
Shifa Internation	onal 4603666	

Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

CPEC 2.0 is making Pakistan an attractive investment destination

Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that CPEC has been a transformative force for Pakistan's economy, shifting it from the brink of collapse to an attractive investment destination

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A high-profile seminar was organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and emerging opportunities under the title, "CPEC 2.0: Prospects and Challenges". Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed along with Minister of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Yang Nuo, eminent economist Dr. Ashfaque Hasan Khan and other distinguished experts comprised the panel at the discussion attended by diplomats, academicians, intelligentsia and researchers.

In his keynote address on CPEC Phase 2.0, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that CPEC has been a transformative force for Pakistan's economy, shifting it from the brink of collapse to an attractive investment destination. He highlighted the strong bond of trust and shared vision between China and Pakistan, which has enabled them to overcome initial challenges. Now, as they enter the second phase of CPEC, the focus will be on industrial collaboration, regional connectivity, and socioeconomic development The minister also asserted that for CPEC to be successful, it is crucial to establish peace, political stability and continuity of policies while demonstrating a continuous commitment to reforms. CPEC 2.0



aims to enhance technologies, create job opportunities, and ensure food security through agricultural mechanization. As we embark on this journey, it represents a critical opportunity for Pakistan to build a brighter future for generations to come. We must unite as one nation and one team to ensure the success of CPEC 2.0. Earlier, in his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the IRS, stated that the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China had reached new heights with the launch of CPEC 2.0, which focuses on high-quality development, technological innovation, and sustainable growth. The upgraded vision prioritizes clean energy, IT, and agriculture amongst other things aligning with Pakistan's 2025 goals and China's 5Cs framework. CPEC 2.0 offers great opportunities for job creation, youth empowerment, and economic growth, provided security and institutional challenges are addressed to ensure productive investments. Mr. Yang Nuo, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, delivered special

remarks on CPEC. He stated that the second phase of CPEC is poised to generate new momentum for Pakistan's development, building on the project's success over the past 11 years, which has attracted \$25 billion in investments and transformed the country's economic and social landscape. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders have reached a consensus on advancing integration and enhancing Pakistan's economic and social development through the second phase of CPEC. The joint efforts will focus on developing Special

ating project implementation, and increasing Pakistan's agricultural exports to China, thereby contributing to both China's modernization and Pakistan's growth. Keynote speaker at the second session of the seminar Senator

Economic Zones (SEZs), acceler-

Mushahid Hussain Sayed, stated that the center of power is shifting from the West to the East. China is becoming a scientific super power, contributing 40 percent of research on AI and established top ranking universities. China's diplomacy and role in the world has also broadened, he added. He noted that China viewed its relationship with Pakistan as a strategic long-term partnership based on mutual trust and cooperation. He also discussed attempts by hostile elements to sabotage CPEC through strategies aimed at demonizing, destabilizing, and damaging the initiative. Senator Mushahid further stressed that there is a broad national consensus on CPEC in Pakistan, demonstrated by all parties unity on June 21 during meeting with the visiting member of the Communist Party Central Committee Liu Jianchao which reaffirms strong support to CPEC. Dr. Ashfaque Hassan Khan, Principal and Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities at NUST, emphasized that making CPEC a regional initiative involves more than just infrastructure development. He noted that CPEC is a comprehensive project aimed at promoting connectivity, regional cooperation, and integration

Cybersecurity

top most

priorities: Fatima

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommuni-

cation Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that data regulation and

cybersecurity are the topmost priorities of the present

government. She said that Ministry of IT & Telecom is committed for the growth of IT sector, as taking IT ex-

ing Roundtable on Open Data Flows & Pakistan's Digital

Economy held at Ministry of IT on Thursday. Managing

Director Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) Jeff Paine, Google

and Meta representatives attended the Roundtable ses-

sion. Convener Digital Pakistan Committee Tania Aidirus

and Secretary IT Aisha Humera Chaudhry were also pres-

ent. Shaza Fatima said that on the directives of the Prime

Minister of Pakistan, private sector is being fully support-

ed and facilitated. She said that steps are being taken for

transforming Pakistan into Digital Economy. Detailed dis-

cussion was held on data localisation, and the participants

also gave recommendations regarding data hosting and

data sensitivity. Authorities of Pakistan Software Houses

orts up to \$25 billion is our target. She wa

ILO committed to ensure safe, healthy working conditions

MoHR

Helpline Zainab alert

receives 688

open cases

during 2024

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of

Human Right's Helpline Zainab alert response and

recovery agency report

has received 688 open cas-

es and close cases of vio-

lence which include 3230

and 1704 child cases found

during the last six months,

revealed the data issued by

Ministry here on Thursday.

According to the report,

around 558 cases have been

resolved, the duplicate cas-

es were 285 and 683 cases

were fake. Around 2,589

cases were received of male

child and 1123 cases have

been received in which from

the age 0-5 years old age

2,820 cases were received,

from 5-10 around 261 cases

were received and from the

age 10-15 year, around 701

cases have been received

and from the age 15- 18

-year only 03 cases have

been received.-APP

ISLAMABAD: The International Labor Organization (ILO) is committed to ensure that all children, particularly those at risk from child labour, have safe and healthy working conditions, said ILO official Manawar Sultana here Thursday. She said that the ILO was developing and implementing policies and programs that would support the transition to safe and healthy work for children. They are doing this by collaborating with governments, employers, civil society and other partners. With the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7, the international community made a commitment to the elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025, said Munawar Sultana and added, while much progress has been made in reducing child labour over the years, recent years have seen global trends reverse and now more than ever it is important to join forces to accelerate action towards ending child labour in all its forms. She said that all stakeholders and media should create an awareness to eliminate the child labour across the country on social media platforms. –APP

CPI inflation decelerates further to 11.1 percent in July

ISLAMABAD: The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation decelerated to 11.1 percent during the month of July 2024 as compared to 12.6 percent recorded during June 2024, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Thursday According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (July 2023) was recorded at 28.3%. . On month-on-month basis, it increased to 2.1% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.5% in the previous month and an increase of 3.5% in July 2023. According to data, CPI inflation Urban, increased to 13.2% on year-on-year basis in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 14.9% in the previous month and 26.3% in July 2023. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 2.0% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.6% in the previous month and an increase of 3.6% in July 2023. CPI inflation Rural, increased to 8.1% on year-on-year basis in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 9.3% in the previous month and 31.3% in July 2023. On month-on-month basis, it increased to 2.2% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.3% in the previous month and an increase of 3.3% in July 2023. The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY increased to 15.7% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 16.6% a month earlier and 29.3% in July 2023. On MoM basis, it increased by 2.0% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 1.3% a month earlier and an increase of 2.8% in July 2023. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation on YoY basis increased to 10.4% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 10.6% a month earlier and an increase of 23.1% in July 2023. On MoM basis, it increased by 2.3% in July 2024 as compare to an increase of 0.4% in the previous month and an increase of 2.5% in corresponding month of last year i.e. July 2023. The urban core inflation, measured by non-food non-energy, increased to 16.9% on (YoY) basis in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 17.0% in the previous month and 24.6% in July 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 1.1% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.9% in previous month and an increase of 1.2% in corresponding month of last year i.e. July 2023. The rural core inflation, measured by non-food non-energy increased to 16.9% on (YoY) basis in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 17.0% in the previous month and 24.6% in July 2023. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 1.1% in July 2024 as compared to an increase of 0.9% in previous month and an increase of 1.2% in corresponding month of last year i.e. July 2023. -DNA

CPEC is bigger than Marshall Plan: Expert

ISLAMABAD: Prominent scholar and expert in Pakistan-China relations Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal advocate that CPEC hold importance greater than Marshall Plan of the Europe in terms of investment and importance. In an interview, he said "the Marshall Plan was a monumental initiative by the United States to aid in the economic recovery of Europe after World War II". He commented that it involved substantial financial assistance, but it was primarily focused on a specific region. In contrast, CPEC represents a broader and more complex investment strategy. He also added that CPEC is not only about financial investment but also includes infrastructure development, energy projects, and trade facilitation. The scale of investment and the range of projects under CPEC are unprecedented. For instance, the Chinese commitment to CPEC spans multiple sectors, including roads, railways, and energy, which collectively promise to transform Pakistan's economy. The sheer scale of this investment exceeds that of the Marshall Plan in terms of direct financial commitment and its potential impact on the regional economy. Responding to a question asked by anchor Mr. Abdul Ghani, Dr Jaspal who is expert in Pak-China Relations, said that there have been various concerns about security risks, but it's important to note that the Chinese government has expressed a strong commitment to ensuring the safety and security of CPEC projects. Pakistan, too, is actively involved in protecting these investments. Both countries are working together closely to manage and mitigate any potential threats. The collaborative efforts between China and Pakistan underscore the strategic importance both nations place on CPEC. Dr. Jaspal further explained that Pakistan has been working diligently on multiple fronts. The government is focusing on creating a conducive environment for investment, improving infrastructure, and addressing regulatory challenges. There are also ongoing efforts to enhance the efficiency of key projects within CPEC, such as the development of Gwadar Port. These steps are crucial for maximizing the economic benefits of CPEC and ensuring its long-term success. Highlighting the inexorable importance of CPEC, Dr. Jaspal elaborated that Gwadar Port is strategically located and has the potential to become an international business hub. Its deep-water capabilities and location at the crossroads of major maritime routes give it a significant edge. The port's development under CPEC aims to enhance connectivity between the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia, facilitating trade and investment. If fully realized, Gwadar could significantly boost Pakistan's trade and economic profile on the global stage.-DNA

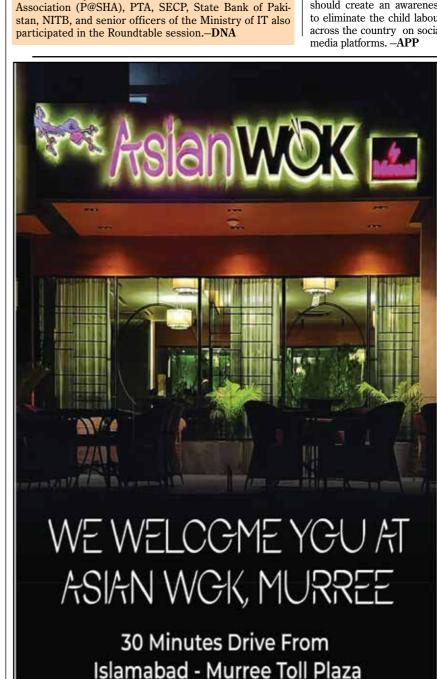
IRSA releases 412,600 **cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Thursday released 412.600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 523,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1530.00 feet and was 132.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 318,000 cusecs and 236,900 cusecs respec-The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1203.05 feet, which was 155.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 39,700 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 286,200, 194,800, 143,000 and 79,100 cusecs respec-

Special child protection centers in ICT demanded

ISLAMABAD: Civil society activists here on Thursday have demanded the government to ensure child protection and open special centers in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Talking to APP, child rights activist and former NCRC member Dr :Rubina Fareed said that it was very crucial to facilitate children and protect them. Psychologist Dr Bashir Ahmad highlighted that child abuse has created psychological issues protection

centers of higher quality can significantly benefit children, for instance, by supporting better social and academic performance.she added. Children out of home growth in cases involving multiple risk factors, including cases where children faced risks both inside and outside the home, or simply risks outside the home. He further added that domestic abuse was combined with other factors, particularly emotional abuse and parental mental health ('complex domestic abuse/risks at home'). There were complexities related to parental mental health, which often involved domestic abuse and substance misuse There were concerns relating to family members other than the child or parent ('concerns about another person'), which tended to co-exist with other risks including domestic abuse. -APP



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Briefs

Hunerkada concludes six-week long Children's Art Workshop with artworks showcase at IAT

ISLAMABAD: Hunerkada successfully concluded its six-week Children's Art Workshop on Thursday with an exclusive showcase of the artistics endeavours of the children at the Islamabad Art Gallery in F-9 Park today. The exhibition featured artwork created by the young participants, highlighting their creativity and progress. The event was graced by Chairman Mr. Jamal Shah and Hunerkada Director, Amna Shah, hosted the showcase. Over the past six weeks, children aged 5-15 participated in an enriching art workshop led by experienced instructors from Hunerkada. The workshop provided a comprehensive exploration of various artistic techniques, including drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media. The participants were encouraged to experiment with different materials and develop their unique artistic voices. The showcase displayed a diverse range of artworks, reflecting the creativity and talent nurtured throughout the workshop. The event offered a unique opportunity for families, friends, and the public to celebrate the young artists' achievements.—APP

Pakistan's exports to China increase by 33.67% in FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 33.67 percent during the twelve months of the fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$2.707 billion during July-June (2023-24) against exports of US \$2.025 billion during July-June (2022-23), SBP data revealed. On a vear-toyear basis, the exports to China also surged by 12.59 percent from \$136.546 million in June 2023, against the exports of \$153.745 million in June 2024. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to China decreased by 27.61 percent during June 2024 as compared to the exports of \$212.392 million in May 2024, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 11.53 percent in FY 2023-24, from US \$27.875 billion to US \$31.090 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the period under review were recorded at US \$13.506 billion against US \$9.662 billion last year.-APP

Trade counselors' role vital for attracting foreign investment

During his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Chaudhry met with President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and highlighted the significance of chambers worldwide in fostering trade and business relations

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Danyal Chaudhry, Member National Assembly and Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, emphasized that Pakistan has immense potential for foreign investment, requiring dedication and passion to showcase its products globally. Mentioning the government's initiatives to enhance foreign exchange earnings and economic growth, he stressed the crucial role of trade and investment Counselors in foreign missions for the cause.

During his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Chaudhry met with President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and highlighted the significance of chambers worldwide in fostering trade and business relations. He appreciated ICCI's efforts in exploring business opportunities and attracting foreign investors, saying, "Chambers play a vital role in promoting economic development, and ICCI is doing a commendable job in this regard." Bakhtawari briefed Chaudhry on ICCI's initiatives, including organizing trade delegations, hosting international events, and providing a platform for businesses to connect with foreign investors. He also shared ICCI's achievements, such as facilitating joint ventures and collaborations between Pakistani and foreign companies. Bakhtawari suggested linking

commercial counselors' promotions to their performance in meeting investment targets, saying, "This will incentivize them



to work harder and attract more foreign investment." He also proposed establishing business display centers in foreign missions to showcase Pakistani products to promote the country's export potential. Furthermore, Bakhtawari an-

nounced ICCI's plans to organize

events engaging youth in entrepreneurship and startups. He emphasized the need to equip young people with skills to become job creators rather than job seekers. Former ICCI President and United Business Group(UBG, FPCCI), Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari emphasized the importance of guiding the young generation, determined to contribute to the country's advancement, to secure a brighter future. He said, "Our youth is our asset, and with proper guidance, they can play a significant role in Pakistan's economic growth."

He also appreciated the role of

Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashood Ahmed Khan in empowering the youth of Pakistan.

Those present in the meeting also include Ameer Hamza, Faizan Shahzad, Zulqurnain Abbasi, Zia Chaudhry, Waseem Chaudhry and others.

Mohsin Naqvi visits development projects in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi conducted a detailed and sudden visit of ongoing development projects in Islamabad here on Thursday. He made four hours long visit of the three different development projects during the night. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa briefed the Interior Minister regarding these projects. He reviewed the progress of work on Islamabad Expressway and Park Road projects. He also reviewed the upgradation work at Jinnah Convention Center. Mohsin Naqvi inspected the 7 km long Expressway route and the ongoing construction work on Bhinder Bridge. Minister directed 100 percent completion of the Expressway project from PWD Chowk to T-Chowk within two months and also sought a plan to make the Expressway a controlled corridor. The FWO officials briefed the Interior Minister on the progress of the development work. Interior Minister planted a sapling in the lawn of FWO's camp office. Later, the Interior Minister also reviewed the 7.2 km long Park Road widening project and directed its completion before September this year. He also sought a plan for diverting traffic to other routes during the development work. DIG Operations and SSP Traffic were directed to visit the project and formulate a feasible plan. Interior Minister also inspected the ongoing upgradation work at Jinnah Convention Center and visited various sections of the center.-DNA

Bank Alfalah Reports Substantial Growth

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Bank Alfalah Limited (BAFL), in its meeting held on August 01, 2024, approved the Bank's financial results for the half year ended June 30, 2024. The Bank reported profit after tax of PKR 20.609 billion, representing Earning Per Share (EPS) of PKR 13.07. The Board of Directors declared an interim cash dividend of PKR 2.00 per share (20%) for the quarter ended June 30, 2024, bringing the total interim cash dividend for the year to PKR 4.00 per share (40%). The Board had earlier declared and paid an interim cash dividend of PKR 2.00 per share (20%). The Bank's deposit base closed at Rs. 2.102 trillion as at June 30, 2024; representing a 18.3% year-onyear (YoY) increase. CA and CASA ratios stood at 41.4% and 68.9% respectively. The Bank remains focused on strengthening its customer franchise by gearing towards its strategic pillars of expansion and innovation. The Bank reported its advances at Rs. 820.004 billion while upholding robust credit discipline amid challenging market conditions, and has sufficient provision against non-performing loans with a coverage of 118.5%, including general provision.-APP

AIOU to commence admissions in BA, B.Ed. from Sept. 1

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University(AIOU) will open admissions for its Teacher Training Programs, including the 1.5year, 2.5-year, and 4-year B.Ed programs, starting September 1st. According to AIOU, in addition, the university will offer a range of other programs in the second phase of the Fall 2024 semester, including associate degrees (BA/B. Com), Postgraduate Diplomas, and BS (ODL) programs. Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor of the university, highlighted the success of the Faculty of Education's teacher training initiatives. He noted that millions of teachers have been trained through these programs, with alumni serving in educational institutions across the country. "Our trained educators are making a significant impact in schools, colleges, and universities nationwide,' Dr. Mahmood remarked. The first phase of admissions for the Fall 2024 semester is currently underway. The deadline for Matric, FA, and I.Com program applications is September 5th, while applications for BS (Face-to-Face) programs, MS, MPhil.-DNA



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas, dressed in attire featuring the German and Pakistani flags, posed for a special picture to express the bonds of friendship between Germany and Pakistan on the occasion of World Friendship Day."—DNA

Pakistani youth with innovation key to brighten future: Patricia Scotland

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General, Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland on Thursday said the Pakistani youth full of rich potential in creativity and innovation are the key to brighten future and embrace climate resilience. She was addressing as special guest at the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) jointly held symposium, titled "Driving the Change: The Dynamic Role of Pakistan's Youth and Civil Society in Climate Resilience", in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination here at the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Studies (PIPS). Secretary General Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland said the courage and equity of the youth would drive the future of the world amid climate crises. She said it's the first generation to face the worst impacts of climate change and the last to take action against climate change risks.

She mentioned that the passion, energy, equity and knowledge at the symposium gives great hope. Commenting on her visit to National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), she said that she had

witnessed innovation, creativity and solutions that gave her joy, help and hope to fight climate crisis with the possibility of a bright future. "This youth bulge is the richest gold reserve in this part of the country. The Commonwealth nations represent one-third of the world whereas that demographic diversity give us a chance to grapple with the problems of tomorrow. AI will add \$15.7 trillion to the global economy, and we should ensure our youth take benefit of it," she mentioned. The Commonwealth had developed a consortium with the Silicon Valley to develop an AI Academy to train the youth as mankind amid AI revolution have the chance to be master or mastered by it. Chairman, PMYP, Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan in his keynote address commended the Commonwealth Secretary General, Patricia Scotland for forging alliances among the member nations. He also commended the donors and partners for their support. "Youth empowerment is the way forward and the Prime Minister Youth Programme is running Green Youth Movement under which green clubs have been established in 137 varsities out of the total 268 universities which will be further rolled out at all educational levels," he said. Under the PMYP, he said the programme is

educating youth and driving advocacy drive through them at the community level. "Youth of Pakistan has to take a stand to keep house in order. The government is going to launch the National Volunteer Corps whose logo will be launched today by the Commonwealth Secretary General," he added. He further mentioned that 200,000 youngsters would be trained under the Corps for disaster management activities due to rising natural calamities intensity and frequency throughout the country. It would also engage the community at large on the lines of Green Youth Movement, he said, adding, "Youth must visit Pakistan youth portal to see government initiatives being launched for the younger generation." On the occasion, guest of honour, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam said the symposium like forums play a crucial role in giving voice to the youth. "Youth of Pakistan has great will to do and are committed to achieve any task, whereas it's important to have effective communication between parliamentarians and youth to share ideas and give voice to the younger people for solutions," she said. Romina Khurshid said international youth should join hands for collective whereas the Commonwealth can play a great role in driving climate agenda. She suggested the Commonwealth Secretary General to collaborate on educational scholarships imparting knowledge and exposure to talented youth to drive solutions to climate change. Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Executive Director, SDPI, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri briefed the distinguished guests that the Institute is the oldest independent think-tank of Pakistan that represents itself as a shadow government due to its collaborative role as part of the solution and guiding the government for its course correction in the strategic and policy realms of economy, climate change, food security, international relations and others. Dr Suleri underlined that major challenge of how policies like Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will affect the future of nations like Pakistan as its exporters like other nations would be forces to share carbon emissions at every step of their export products. He also highlighted that it would affect countries like Pakistan having sovereign territories like EU as its export partners. Dr Abid Suler mentioned that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and climate change will affect the job market of the future as many present-day knowledge and disciplines will become irrelevant.



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Dominant trait of Israeli occupation army

e still remember the myth of the "invincible army" as marketed by both Zionist and Western media, which ingrained this belief in the collective memory of Arab nations, convincing generations that they are no match for Israel and its soldiers. This propaganda was accompanied by a misleading campaign portraying the Israeli occupation army as a "defense force" protecting a "democratic oasis" from "extremist" attacks, planting the idea of an "ethical army" in the subconscious of those influenced by such media. However, with the start of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation, this fabricated image of the occupation army began to fade. The myth of the invincible army was shattered by Palestinian resistance, exposing the moral degradation of the Israeli army. Soldiers recorded their sadistic actions-killing, destroying, burning, and vandalizing-motivated by revenge, boredom, or even for pleasure. Israeli officials have often claimed that "our army is the most committed to ethical standards in war," a statement contradicted by Egyptian writer Mohamed Osman Al-Ghazali, who described the occupation army as gangs turned into a regular army, an unmerciful tool of killing and theft. In his article titled "The Most Degraded Army," Al-Ghazali argues that the claim of ethical conduct is contradicted by the occupation army's actions during its aggression on Gaza, which is just one chapter in its bloodstained history. Al-Ghazali questions the ethical standards of an Israeli soldier who documents the destruction of Al-Azhar University in Gaza with his phone, sarcastically commenting, "For those wondering why there's no education in Gaza, we bombed it with a missile." The writer also mentions another soldier who, while bulldozing civilian cars on the sides of the road in Beit Lahia, mockingly said, "I've lost count of the cars I've crushed." In a report published by the French newspaper "La Croix," a reservist in the paratroopers' brigade named Yuval Green testified that he was ordered to enter homes in Khan Yunis to find and destroy tunnels. Yuval confirms that they arrived in ordinary neighborhoods and destroyed everything, often for military purposes, but sometimes out of revenge. There is a fine line between the two, as soldiers, driven by anger, destroyed and vandalized, graffiti was common, and they looted small souvenirs. According to the report, the reservist recounted another incident where their commander ordered them to burn down a house they had stayed in for several days. When asked why, the commander replied that it was to avoid leaving behind any military equipment and to send a message to the enemy about their combat methods. The desire for revenge and the abandonment of all ethical and religious standards is evident in the scenes of mosque bombings, especially when accompanied by hysterical laughter from the soldiers filming the destruction, revealing their sadistic nature. They target places of worship, which all heavenly and earthly principles have decreed should be protected. This vengeful attitude is confirmed by what the Israeli army radio reported earlier from the father of two prisoners held by the resistance, who said the Israeli government is acting out of a desire for revenge, comparing it to a guerrilla war organization, adding that Netanyahu lacks the moral authority to sacrifice his sons for his political survival

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Asia needs urgent help sia's oceans face heatwaves of increasing frequency and intensity.

These extreme events affect all marine life, creating a dangerous feedback loop that exacerbates the problem. Coral reefs, often called the rainforests of the sea, are particularly vulnerable. In Indonesia's West Nusa Tenggara province, a recent survey showed that up to 90 per cent of corals have experienced bleaching over the past four decades due to elevated temperatures. This devastation extends beyond corals, affecting the myriad species that depend on these complex ecosystems. Oceans are the lifeblood of Asians. They are vital to food systems, provide livelihoods for millions and contribute significantly to the economy. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Asia is home to 85 per cent of the world's fishing population and 71 per cent of the global fishing fleet. Additionally, these vast bodies of water play a critical role in carbon storage, absorbing an estimated 30 per cent of human-made carbon dioxide emissions since the beginning of the industrial era. There is an urgent need to protect Asia's oceans from warming and its associated challenges. The consequences of inaction are severe, including the intensification of tropical cyclones. A recent study revealed a significant increase in the destructive power of tropical cyclones across East and Southeast Asia between 1979 and 2016. Projections suggest a doubling of this destructive capacity in the Western North Pacific by the end of the century due to ocean heatwaves. China added nearly 350 gigawatts of renewable capacity last year, surpassing half of the global total while Japan's plan to phase out 100 inefficient coal plants by 2030 is a step in the right direction. While emissions reduction is crucial, we must also focus on strengthening ecosystem resilience, which provides the best chance of survival for environments and their inhabitants in warmer seas. The hazards of marine heatwaves can be reduced by taking steps such as cutting back on pollution and preserving more habitats like kelp beds and seagrass meadows, which hold enormous amounts of carbon. Indonesia has taken a progressive approach, as evidenced by its Seagrass Blue Carbon Mitigation Action Profile, which pledges to preserve its seagrass meadows to support significant carbon emission reductions by 2030. To mitigate the risks of marine heatwaves, accurate forecasting is paramount. Given the complex nature of marine ecosystems and the far-reaching impact of these events on natural habitats and human societies, comprehensive understanding is crucial. To this end, further research in marine heatwave science is imperative. This research should collect data on temperature, currents, salinity, pH levels and biodiversity. Moreover, the effects of heatwaves on factors such as food availability, ocean currents, chemistry and penetration depth must be investigated to refine forecasting models. China, for instance, recently launched a domestically developed marine heatwave forecasting system and plans to introduce monthly and quarterly forecasts. Additionally, China is establishing a collaborative platform with experts from France, the United States, Australia, Japan and Southeast Asia to investigate marine heatwave predictability and impact. As we work to understand and predict these events, we must not forget the human element. Educating coastal communities about the risks of marine heatwaves and providing them with resources to adapt their livelihoods can help minimise the economic impact.

Haniyeh's assassination puts a damper on Iran's military machismo

Ata Şahit

One end of the spectrum, Haniyeh's killing could push the region to the brink of a new comprehensive war. On the other end, Iran may present a muted response. Regardless of which scenario unfolds, it is clear that Haniyeh, the former prime minister of the Palestinian

National Authority, was assassinated by Israel while on a diplomatic mission in Tehran. This assassination, intended to escalate the conflict in Gaza to a regional scale and hinder peace efforts, highlights critical issues: Iran's security and intelligence failures and Israel's extensive operational capability within Iran. After the assassination of Qods Force commander Qassem Soleimani

he assassination in Tehran of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, celebrated as a hero for his struggle for the libera-tion of Palestine and revered by many freedom fighters worldwide for his political career, will spur a response, of which there are various scenarios. One end of the spectrum, Haniyeh's killing could push the region to the brink of a new comprehensive war. On the other end, Iran may present a muted response. Regardless of which scenario unfolds, it is clear that Haniyeh, the former prime minister of the Palestinian National Authority, was assassinated by Israel while on a diplomatic mission in Tehran. This assassination, intended to escalate the conflict in Gaza to a regional scale and hinder peace efforts, highlights critical issues: Iran's security and intelligence failures and Israel's extensive operational capability within Iran. After the assassination of Qods Force commander Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad by the US, Iranian officials, including the supreme leader somehow blamed Iraqi gov for "not being able to protect their guest". Now Tehran is in the same situation. They couldn't protect their guest. Is this a new development, or have similar situations occurred in the past? An analysis of the crises between Iran and Israel in recent years reveals that a significant portion of these have been caused by Israeli assassination and sabotage operations against Iran. The most recent Israeli air strike on Iran's consulate building in Damascus, Syria, on April 1, 2024, and Iran's retaliatory targeting of Israel with missiles and drones on April 13, 2024, brought tensions between Iran and Israel to the brink of war. However, effective crisis management prevented a full-scale conflict. When analysing the relations between Iran and Israel, it can be argued that this covert war between the two nations began with Israel's sabotage operations inside Iran and continued with its assassinations in Syria. Since 2020, Iran has witnessed various sabotage operations carried out by Israel on its territory. The most notable

of these operations was the explosion at Iran's Natanz Nuclear Facility on July 2, 2020. Iran's intelligence minister Esmail Khatib was asked five days ago about the highlight of his tenure. "The destruction of Mossad's infiltration network," the minister said before the reporter finished her question. In a statement, Iran's Supreme National Security Council said that the cause of the explosion had been determined, but would be announced at an appropriate time for security reasons, raising the likelihood that it was a sabotage operation. After this explosion, various allegations in the Iranian press claimed that Israeli intelligence agency Mossad has a strong intelligence and operational network inside Iran. Indeed, the claims that the chief of Israel desk in the Iranian Intelligence Ministry during the presidency of former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad turned out to be a Mossad spy; the theft of documents related to Iran's nuclear activities-considered Iran's cosmic secretsby Mossad in 2018 and their transfer abroad; and Mossad's role in the assassination of key figures in the Iranian nuclear program were presented as evidence of Mossad's high operational capacity within Iran. Most recently, former Iranian Intelligence Minister Ali Younesi stated in a speech that Mossad has infiltrated many locations in Iran and that the safety of the statesmen of the country is seriously endangered because of this. IRGC commander Mohammad Reza Zahedi who was reportedly killed in a Israeli airstrike in Damascus was in charge of the Qods force operations in Syria. He had previously served as the commander of IRGC's ground forces. He had also served briefly as IRGC's Air Force commander. Israel's operations against Iran have not been limited to sabotage and assassination operations inside Iran. High-ranking commanders of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force have also been targeted in Syria.

For example, Seyyed Razi Mousavi, Mohammad

Reza Zahedi, and Mohammad Hadi Haj Rahimi, all senior commanders of the Quds Force, were assassinated by Israel in Syria. In other words, such repeated sophisticated sabotage operations and pinpoint assassinations are evidence of the weakness of Tehran's counter-intelligence on one hand, and the ease with which Israeli intelligence can operate in Iran on the other. The assassination of Haniyeh in Tehran is yet another painful addition to this long list. The assassination of Ismail Haniyeh has been a hot topic of discussion on Iranian social media, with many leaders of Shia militias, who are close allies of Iran, not attending the swearing-in ceremony of Masoud Pezeshkian, who won the presidential election in Iran. Shia militia organisations constitute Iran's most important regional allies. In Iran's official literature, these Shia militia organisations are referred to as the 'Axis of Resistance' and are coordinated through the Quds Force. he most important of these organisations are the Lebanese Hezbollah, the Yemeni Ansarullah Movement, the Iraqi Badr Brigade, the Iraqi Asaib Ahl al Haq Organization, and the Iraqi Nujaba Movement., Considering the names of those who attended Masoud Pezeshkian's inauguration, it is noteworthy that Haniyeh and Secretary General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Ziad al Nakhalah attended the ceremony, while Secretary General of Lebanese Hezbollah Hassan Nasrallah and Yemen's Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al Houthi did not attend. Only Naim Qassem from Lebanese Hezbollah and Mohammed Abdulsalam from Yemen's Houthis were present. Additionally, it is noteworthy that the leaders of the Iraqi Badr Brigade, the Iraqi Asaib Ahl al Haq Organization, and the Iraqi Nujaba Movement, who frequently travel to Iran and are hosted at the highest level, were not present at the ceremony. In other words, it is very likely that the leaders of Shiite militia organisations close to Iran chose not to visit Tehran due to security concerns. The assassination of Haniyeh by Israel in the centre of Tehran showed that the concerns of those who did not visit Tehran were not unfounded.

Hard to crack

Dr. Muhammad Shahid

A number of State-Owned Enterprises were established in Pakistan over the decades. These SOEs include corporations, autonomous bodies, companies, authorities, funds and trusts. These entities are of several types registered as companies with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, established through special enactments, and registered as trusts, funds and foundations to undertake functions which were not deemed to be the routine business of the Federal Government to be executed through its ministries

nternational Financial Institutions (IFS) persistently prescribed privatization as panacea for developing countries including Pakistan. But economic reforms and Privatization are used to be really scary words in Pakistan. It's worth noting that while privatization in Pakistan has faced challenges and setbacks, there have also been instances where it has been successful, particularly in sectors like telecommunications and banking. The success of privatization depends on various factors including the government's commitment to reform, and the state's ability to manage political and social resistance to privatization effectively. A number of State-Owned Enterprises were established in Pakistan over the decades. These SOEs include corporations, autonomous bodies, companies, authorities, funds and trusts. These entities are of several types registered as companies with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, established through special enactments, and registered as trusts, funds and foundations to undertake functions which were not deemed to be the routine business of the Federal Government to be executed through its ministries and attached departments. Several subsidiaries were incorporated thereby further expanding the size of SOEs portfolio in the country. According to the report "State-Owned Enterprises Triage: Reforms & Way Forwards" published by the finance division back in 2021, there are around 212 SOEs incorporated by the federal government including the subsidiaries, trusts, and funds. Another consolidated report titled "Federal Footprint, State Owned Enterprises" published by the finance division back in December 2023 reveals that 88 commercially operated SOEs, out of which 71 are registered under companies' act 2017. The report further indicates that 44 non-commercial SOEs (not-for-profit entities as well as trusts, universities, training institutions and welfare funds), and 83 subsidiaries of the commercial SOEs are mainly not for profit social sector development entities. The 88 commercial SOEs have a total asset base of Rs. 30.5 trillion and generated a sum of Rs. 10.4 trillion in the fiscal year 2022. These 88 SOEs employed 349,573 people. These SOEs collectively incurred a net loss of Rs. 162 billion. The federal government provided them with financial aid worth Rs179 billion in the fiscal year 2022 to keep them afloat. The top 10 loss-making entities caused a total depletion of Rs. 650 billion in 2022. SOEs in Pa-

kistan have significant market presence particularly in key service sectors like power generation and distribution, energy, aviation, and railways sectors. The 85 commercial SOEs mainly operate in seven sectors including power; oil and gas, infrastructure transport and communication, manufacturing, mining and engineering, finance, industrial estate development and management, and wholesale, retail and marketing. The financial position of various SOEs deteriorated over time resulting into significant fiscal burden for the federal government in addition to poor service delivery to the end-users. There are multiple reasons including number of administrative, management and policy issues which led to the poor performance of state own entities. Moreover, the emergence of market-based solutions for efficient service delivery along with evolution of institutional arrangements like regulatory frameworks necessitated regular review of SOEs to ascertain their rationale or suitability for continued retention under government ownership and control. However, such process of review of SOEs remained slow and driven by exigencies instead of taking a holistic and continuous course. The report further revealed that more than 98 percent of the government's assets and almost 100 percent of the losses in the SOEs portfolio are related to commercial SOEs. The operational performance of commercial SOEs has a direct bearing on fiscal risks and fiscal deficit of the federal government. The non-commercial SOEs are either largely self-sustaining entities or established to achieve a social objective which falls within the social policy objectives of the government which otherwise private sector is unable to perform. Ironically, National Highway Authority has been the major loss-making entity for several years; it has been excluded from the triage examination due to its unique nature of operations. The losses of NHA mainly accrue due to its inability to generate revenues to service its loans. Furthermore, all regulatory bodies have been excluded from the triage examination like Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority etc. mainly because the regulatory functions are different from commercial operations and are primarily meant for efficient functioning of imperfect markets. The consolidated report further revealed that 31 stateowned commercial companies caused colossal loss-

es of Rs. 730 billion. National Highway Authority is the leading loss making SOEs which caused a loss of Rs168.5 billion, followed by Peshawar Electric Supply Company that suffered a loss of Rs. 102 billion while PIA was the third biggest loss-making entity, causing a loss of Rs. 97.5 billion to the national exchequer in 2022.

Privatization in Pakistan has faced several hurdles, including political opposition. Privatization efforts have often faced resistance from political parties, labor unions, and other stakeholders who fear job losses, reduced benefits, or loss of control over state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Complex legal frameworks, bureaucratic hurdles, and unclear regulations further slow-down or even halt privatization processes in the country. Corruption within the privatization process potentially undermines public trust and confidence. Lack of transparency in the decision-making, bidding processes and asset valuation leads to allegations of favoritism hindering successful privatization outcomes in the country. Economic instability, market volatility, and investor uncertainty are other factors which deter potential buyers from participating in privatization processes. Weak investor confidence, particularly due to concerns about political stability, security risks, and macroeconomic challenges, can limit the success of privatization efforts. Critics argue that privatization may lead to increased costs, reduced accessibility, or decreased quality of essential services such as healthcare, education, and utilities, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. The most important thing which hinders the process of privatization in Pakistan is the resistance from management and employees of SOEs. They resist privatization due to fears of job loss, changes in working conditions, or loss of influence and power. This resistance can manifest in strikes, protests, or sabotage, complicating the privatization process. Addressing these hurdles requires a comprehensive approach that includes clear legal frameworks, transparent processes, stakeholder engagement, anti-corruption measures, and efforts to mitigate social and economic impacts. Additionally, building investor confidence, promoting competitiveness, and improving governance are essential for successful privatization outcomes in Pakistan. The author has a PhD Degree in Economics from PIDE and has 18 years' experience as an economic editor. He also teaches Public Policy, Governance, Poverty and Development, Gender and Political Economy.

WORLD / SPORTS



Switzerland

one of the top foreign...

From Page 01

nations closer together. I would like to seize this op-

portunity to thank you all

for your wonderful contributions'. Ambassador Georg said we at the Swiss Embas-

sy will be happy to continue to stay in touch with you,

of course, to exchange with

you and to support you to

the best of our abilities. Of

course, you will always be

most welcome at the Swiss

compound in the diplomatic

inquiry. 'Secondly, I would

like to say to our esteemed

friends, and colleagues that

Switzerland is grateful for

the long-standing, friendly,

and good relations with Pakistan', he added. Federal

Minister Jam Kamal also

spoke on the occasion and

expressed the hope that

relations between the two

countries would further be

cemented. He said Pakistan

greatly values relations with

Switzerland and is looking

forward to giving new di-

mensions to these relations.

The minister also extended

congratulations to the Swiss

govt and the Swiss people

on behalf of the Prime Min-

counterparts,

Pakistani

Briefs

Haniyeh's funeral prayers held in Iran, led...

From Page 01 resistance fighters. He added that the Tel Aviv regime's crimes are rooted in its inability to counter the resistance forces. The top Iranian parliamentarian emphasized that Israel will commit a "strategic mistake" if it thinks that targeting the resistance front will have an impact on the ongoing developments in the region. Qalibaf said the era of "hit and run" for the apartheid Israel and its main ally US has come to end. "It is our duty to react in the right place and at the right time," he pointed out. The Iranian speaker warned that the Israeli regime will pay a "heavy price" for its act of assassination. He noted that the Israeli regime's move to assassinate resistance commanders in Iran and Lebanon is the outcome of its "weakness" and said, "Such acts of terror will have no impact on the [continuation] of our path." Pointing to the Tel Aviv regime's genocidal war against the people of Palestine in Gaza, particularly women and children, Qalibaf added, "We are witnessing the confrontation of humanity with crime there." Addressing huge crowds of mourners, Khalil al-Hayya, deputy chief of the Hamas Political Bureau in the Gaza Strip, said the Zionist regime is delusional to think that it can change the path of the resistance front or weaken its will through Haniyeh's assassination.

Privatization process of DISCOs...

From Page 01 constructive approach towards resolving national issues and played a positive role in the reforms agenda. He said that he was grateful to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement for raising its voice on this issue. Attaullah Tarar said that the matter of electricity tariff was the issue of the entire nation and a collective approach was needed to overcome this issue. "When the PML-N government came to power in 2013, it ended 18-hour load shedding," the minister said, adding at that time Punjab and Federal Governments had installed the cheapest power plants. Through this amendment, he added, the process of privatization of discos has started". He said that electricity consumers using 200 units were given a Rs 50 billion subsidy for three months and this amount was taken from PSDP budget to provide relief to the electricity consumers in summer, adding that steps were also afoot regarding the cases of over-billing, controlling power theft in collaboration with the provincial governments. The minister said that the deadline for payment of electricity bills had been extended by 10 days to facilitate the consumers.

PTI vows to form 'grand opp...

From Page 01 incumbent government over skyrocketing power bills, saying the bloated electricity bills were "un-acceptable" for the inflation-hit masses. The PTI leader also said that they support Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) sit-in - underway on Rawalpindi's Murree Road since July 26 - against the massive hike in power bills. Avub, while addressing the same press conference, appealed to the masses to attend the public gathering in Swabi on August 5 in large numbers from across the country to show solidarity with the ex-premier and the "most popular party". In his initial remarks, the politico said that during the meeting, the former prime minister strongly condemned the killing of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh and expressed outrage over the West for doing nothing to stop Israel's atrocities against Palestinians. Imran also urged the international community to take effective steps to ensure peace in Palestine and stop Israeli brutalities in Gaza, said Omar.

PCB responds to BD security consultant request for Test tour

BCB official stated they have requested security consultant from government for Pakistan Test tour

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) responded to Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) security consultant request for a tour of Pakistan later this month. The BCB official stated that they have requested a security consultant from the government for the tour of Pakistan. The Bangladesh cricket team is scheduled to arrive in Islamabad on August 17. The first Test match of the two-match series will be played from August 21. BCB Cricket Operations Chairman Jalal Yunus said that providing security is Pakistan's responsibility and we have been assured of state-level security "During the Asia Cup, the Bangladesh team was provided state-level security," he said. "Several international teams have toured Pakistan and were satisfied with the security. We are also concerned about security, but we have been given a lot of assurances. We have requested a security consultant from the government to ensure constant communication with the consultant. Meanwhile, PCB spokesperson on BCB's request said: "Security managers or consultants are now considered part of the player support personnel just like a media manager or a team doctor. Even at the ICC Men's T20 World



Cup and other bilateral series, teams have travelled with security managers. "If the BCB wants to include a security consultant as part of their team management for the upcoming Test tour, then it is their prerogative. But as of now, the BCB have not expressed any security concerns

with the PCB. "In fact, and as part of international norms, the PCB shared the security plan along with the MoU with the BCB last month and received no queries or additional requests," he added. It must be noted Bangladesh A cricket team is arriving in Islamabad on August 7. According

to sources, they will not have a security consultant or security manager with them. It must be noted Pakistan Shaheens and Bangladesh A will face off in two four-dayers from 10-13 August and 17-20 August in Pakistan (Venues TBC). The four-dayers will be followed by three 50-over matches on 23, 25, and 27 August. Schedule of upcoming development/ pathways events:

BANGLADESH 'A' IN PAKISTAN 10-13 Aug – 1st four-day match 17-20 Aug – 2nd four-day match 23 Aug - 1st 50-over match 25 Aug – 2nd 50-over match 27 Aug – 3rd 50-over match.

Top seeds Rublev

,Sabalenka tested

in Washington wins

World number eight overcame

Frenchman Luca Van Assche 4-6,

6-3, 6-4, firing 15 aces

WASHINGTON: Top seeds Andrey Rublev and Aryna Sa-

balenka struggled through determined challenges to avoid

upsets with three-set triumphs on Wednesday and advance

World number eight Rublev fired 15 aces and rallied after

a rain delay in dispatching 20-year-old Frenchman Luca Van

Assche 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the last 16 at the hardcourt

tuneup for the US Open, which starts on August 26. "The

first set I was playing really bad. I was missing without

reason sometimes out of nowhere," Rublev said. "When

you're playing horrible tennis, you feel like today is not

your day, somehow you're winning those matches, they are

much more special than when you're playing normal and

winning much easier." Two-time reigning Australian Open

champion Sabalenka outlasted 78th-ranked Kamilla Rakhi-

mova 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 to reach the quarter-finals. Third-ranked

Sabalenka, who had a first-round bye, is coming off a right

shoulder injury that forced her to withdraw from Wimbledon.

She fired 13 aces and 53 winners to win after two hours and

46 minutes. "Super happy to get this win," Sabalenka said. "It

was a really tough match for me, especially as I didn't play for

probably a month. That was a tough battle. She played such

incredible tennis. "I had to really fight through it." Top seed

Sabalenka will face either fellow Belarusian double Australi-

an Open winner Victoria Azarenka, seeded sixth, or China's

Wang Yafan in Friday's quarter-finals. Next up for Rublev will

be France's 68th-ranked Arthur Rinderknech, the 16th seed

who advanced when China's Shang Juncheng retired leading

3-2. Rublev is chasing his 17th career ATP Tour title after

triumphs this year in Madrid and Hong Kong. The 26-year-old

Russian won his second ATP Masters in May on Madrid clay,

the first coming last year at Monte Carlo. Van Assche, ranked

118th, broke Rublev to seize a 5-4 lead in the opening set and

held again on his fifth ace of the match to claim the first set

in 42 minutes. "First set, I was playing horrible," Rublev said.

"I missed a lot of easy balls without sense. In the end I start

to feel super tight. He start to feel confident." Rublev led 3-2

in the second set when rain halted the match and hours later

when play resumed broke in the eighth game and took the

set on his 11th ace. "The rain delay, I was able to calm myself

down, think about the match, understand what I was doing

wrong," Rublev said. Rublev broke for a 3-2 edge in the third

set and served out to win. Sabalenka broke in the 11th game

and held to capture the first set in 67 minutes. The 22-year-old

Russian Rakhimova broke in the final game of the second set

on Sabalenka's 41st unforced error to force a decider. Rakhi-

mova sent a forehand wide to surrender a break in the seventh

game of the last set and Sabalenka held twice to win."I was try-

ing to keep focusing on myself in those key moments, trying

to stay focused and aggressive and put as much pressure as I

can on her," Sabalenka said.-APP

at the ATP and WTA Washington Open.

UNSC report endorses...

ister Shehbaz Sharif.

From Page 01 the TTP - declared as 'Fitna al-Khawarij' by the Pakistani government - could "transform into an extra regional threat as well as and "umbrella organisation" of other terror groups. The UN report, according to Baloch, pointed out that the TTP operatives and its new recruits are being trained in Afghanistan. FO then urged Afghanistan to take immediate, effective and robust action against the terrorist groups including the 'Fitna al-Khawarij'. Baloch further maintained that the Afghan side must ensure that their land is not used for terrorist activities inside Pakistan.

24 killed in rain-related incidents...

From Page 01

The PDMA, district administrations and rescue teams are working in concert for rescue and relief activities in the affected areas. The News reported yesterday the deaths of at least 18 people while houses, bridges and roads were washed away in different parts of the province. The monsoonal spell has caused heavy downpours since July 29 in different areas of the province, the province's PDMA said in a report issued on Thursday. The disaster-management authority said that 73 houses were completely destroyed while 77 others were partially damaged due to rains in Kohat, Peshawar, DI Khan, Hazara and Malakand divisions.

We will restore X whenever...

From Page 01

since February 17 due to national security concerns. However, it can be accessed through a virtual private network (VPN). Following the ban, various petitions were filed in the Sindh High Court (SHC) against the restrictions on microblogging site and intermittent suspension of internet services in the country.

Reforms must to make EFF...

From Page 01 programme of the fund then whether it is on taxation side, energy side, or SOE reforms and the privatization side. we have to move forward because we do not have the space and room any more to dither on this agenda." the minister remarked. He said upgrade in Pakistan's rating by Fitch, an international credit rating agency, and the policy rate reduction by SBP were direct manifestations of macroeconomic stability that the government has been following under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif. He said, the economic team would continue to move forward with this agenda. However, he added there was need to bring permanence into it. "Stabilization would lead to growth, so we have to bring permanence," he said.

Olympic drama

Italy's Carini tearfully quits bout in just 46 seconds

Angela Carini abandons fight against transgender opponent Algerian Imane Khelif after intense punch

PARIS: Italian boxer Angela Carini tearfully abandoned her Olympic fight against Algerian Imane Khelif just 46 seconds into the bout on Thursday. The match, held at the North Paris Arena, sparked significant controversy due to Khelif's previous disqualification from the women's world championships for failing testosterone and gender eligibility tests. Khelif, along with Lin Yu-ting of Chinese Taipei, was controversially allowed to compete in the Olympics despite these issues. În a tense scene, Carini explained her decision to withdraw after being struck harder than ever before. A powerful punch from Khelif dislodged Carini's chinstrap, and a subsequent blow left her nose in pain and her shorts bloodied. "I am heartbroken," Carini said. "I went to the

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The Independence Day Inter-Pro-

vincial Basketball Cham-

pionship for Men and

Women will commence

from August 10 at the

ring to honour my father. I was told many times that I was a warrior, but I chose to prioritise my health. I have never felt a punch like this." The 25-year-old from Naples continued, "I didn't give up, but the pain was too much. I decided to stop, holding my head high." Despite her disappointment, Carini emphasised her desire to compete fairly and with dignity. "I wanted to face my opponent and fight," she said, "regardless of who they were or the controversy surrounding them." When asked if she should have beforehand. withdrawn Carini stated, "I don't give up easily. Even if it had been suggested not to fight, I wouldn't have accepted. I have a warrior's mentality, but the pain was too much this time."Carini described

entering the ring as a vic-

Independence Day

Basketball chip

starts from August 10

Islamabad. According to

the Secretary General

of the Pakistan Basket-

ball Federation (PBBF),

Khalid Bashir, the five-

day championship is be-

ing organized at Liaquat

Gymnasium under the

tory in itself, regardless of the outcome. She asserted that her decision to stop was not a defeat but a mature choice to preserve her dignity. "I was convinced I would win and was focused," she remarked. "But the punches hurt, and I said enough." Carini declined to comment on whether Khelif should have been barred from competing, saving, "It's not my place to judge. I did my job." Khelif, speaking briefly to the BBC, expressed her determination to win gold. "I am here for gold," she said. "I will fight anybody." The situation drew attention from Reem Alsalem, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, who expressed concern over the incident. "Angela Carini rightly prioritised her physical safety," Alsalem tweeted. "She and oth-

Basketball Association

(FBBA) with support

of the Pakistan Sports

Board (PSB). The event

is a celebration of Inde-

pendence Day and aims

to showcase the coun-

try's basketball talent.

er female athletes should not be subjected to physical and psychological violence based on their sex." Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni also weighed in, stating that athletes with male genetic characteristics should not compete in women's events to ensure fairness. "This isn't about (IOC) faced criticism for allowing Khelif and Lin to world championships after male characteristics. The concerns about competi-

feature men's and womteams from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan and Islamarangments of the championship have been finalized as Federal Basketball Association (FBBA) will supervise the event`` Khalid said, adding that the federation is doing their best to promote the basketball in the country.

discrimination but about competing on equal terms, Meloni said. The International Olympic Committee compete. Both had been disqualified from last year's DNA tests confirmed XY chromosomes, indicative of International Boxing Association (IBA) criticised the IOC's less stringent rules for the Olympics, raising tive fairness.-APP The championship will en's competitions, with bad will be competing for the championship title. Over 170 players and officials will take part in championship. 'All ar-

ISLAMABAD: DG Pakistan sports Board Yasir Pirzada in a group photo with player of Pakistan Hockey team, at Naseer Bundha Hockey stadium. Camp Commandant Olympian M Usman welcomed the DG. Team Manager Zeeshan Ashraf and international Umpire Sohail Janjua are also present.-DNA



Briefs

KE renewable energy projects attract broad interest

KARACHI: K-Electric (KE) completed another significant milestone in its ambitions to enhance its share of renewable energy in its generation mix, envisaged under the company's Power Acquisition Program (PAP). The company announced the receipt of a total of 15 bids for the first of its ambitious renewable energy initiatives of 150 MW solar projects at Winder and Bela, Balochistan. Aiming to harness 30% renewable energy solutions in its fleet by 2030, KE initiated a competitive bidding process for multiple renewable energy projects earlier this year following a successful nod of approval from NEPRA. This transparent approach is a testament to KE's commitment towards sustainable energy solutions. Over the next 5 years, KE aims to add a total of 1300 MW of renewable energy projects, furthering its commitment to sustainable energy solutions. Syed Moonis Alvi, CEO of KE, expressed his enthusiasm about this development, stating, "Garnering 15 bids for the first cohort of the solar energy project is a huge milestone for KE as well as for Pakistan. It represents local and international players' trust in KE as a brand, as well as growing confidence in Pakistan's economic potential. I am delighted to see several reputable firms share ing our vision to build a resilient, robust, and sustainable energy future for Karachi These projects, along with our company's future investment plans of almost USD 2 billion in transmission and infrastructure. distribution underscore our commitment to innovation and sustainable growth, ensuring reliable electricity for our customers." Shahab Qader Khan, Chief Strategy Officer, also shared his views, adding, "These renewable energy projects are in-line with KE's vision and NEPRA's directives to prioritize local fuels and green sources. We are optimistic that the success of these projects will encourage others to participate in the subsequent process as well. This will play a pivotal role in KE's pursuit for fuel mix diversification and simultaneously contribute towards catalyzing the economic progress of the country." KE extended invitations to reputable local and international companies with proven power project experience and sound financial standing to participate in the prequalification and bidding process of the projects. A total of 15 number of bids were received for the first of the mega

CCP recovers **PKR 32** million in penalties

projects.-DNA

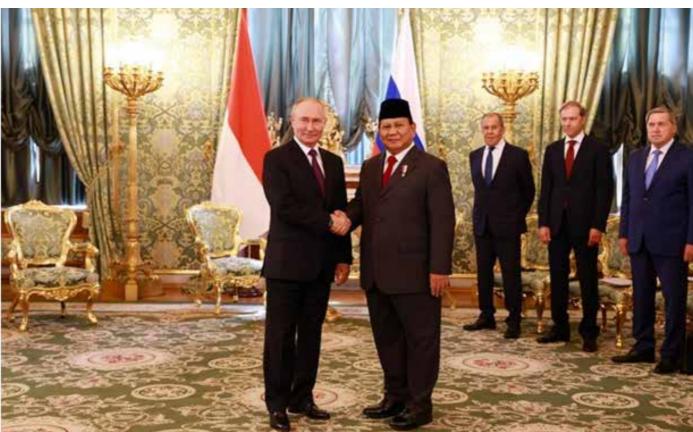
ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has made notable progress in its ongoing battle against cartelism, successfully recovering penalties amounting to PKR 32 million. This recovery is a testament to the CCP's commitment to upholding competition laws and ensuring that entities engaged in anti-competitive practices are held accountable. The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has played a crucial role by upholding CCP's decisions thus, facilitating the enforcement. Up to July this year, the CAT has dismissed 26 cases in favour of the CCP, while the Lahore High Court and the Islamabad High Court have dismissed 5 and 1 cases, respectively. These cases involved cartels, abuse of dominant position, and deceptive marketing practices. By reject ing appeals against the CCP's orders and upholding the penalties imposed, the CAT has bolstered the CCP's authority and ensured accountability for entities engaging in anti-competitive practices. Over the past years, the CCP has imposed cumulative penalties amounting to approximately PKR 74 billion in cases related to various sectors including sugar, cement, cooking oil and ghee, poultry, automo-(including tractors), paint, lubricants, real estate, steel, fast-moving consumer goods, milk, food and beverages, electronic goods, glass, and e-commerce, with. However, the actual collection of these penalties has faced significant legal hurdles, delaving justice and enforcement.-DNA

Prabowo seeks nuclear energy coop with Russia

Indonesia's President-elect Prabowo Subianto said that I come here to emphasize that I would like to enhance this relationship when I officially take over the presidency of the Republic of Indonesia

News Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesia's President-elect Prabowo Subianto said he wants to develop nuclear energy cooperation with Russia during a meeting with President Vladimir Putin, while on his first official trip to Moscow since winning the general vote. Subianto, who is still serving as Indonesia's defense minister before he takes over the presidency from Joko Widodo in October, met with Putin at the Kremlin on Wednesday. His visit to Moscow comes after a series of international trips - including to China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE - following his landslide victory in the presidential election in February. "We consider Russia as a great friend ... I come here to emphasize that I would like to enhance this relationship when I officially take over the presidency of the Republic of Indonesia," Subianto said during a broadcast from the meeting. "We are open for more Russian participation in our economy. In the field of nuclear energy, we have discussed with your institutions, with Rosatom, the possibility of cooperating in the field, even the small modular reactors and also the main reactors." Indonesia has been working to develop its nuclear power, as a part of the country's renewable energy mix plan, and efforts to reach net-zero emissions by 2060. In June, the country's coordinating minister for economic affairs,



Airlangga Hartarto, also pushed for nuclear energy collaboration during his visit to Moscow, citing it as an environmentally-friendly alternative. Russia generates about 20 percent of its power from nuclear energy, though natural gas still sup-

plies most of its electricity. Indonesia, on the other hand, relies heavily on coal to fulfill its domestic energy demand, and does not have any nuclear power plants. The Southeast Asian nation currently has three nuclear reactors used for

research. \$ubianto also discussed cooperation in food security, tourism and education during his meeting with Putin, who said his country was keen on furthering ties with Indonesia. "The Indonesian market, a country with almost 300 million people, is also of great interest to Russia," Putin told Subianto. "We

are ready to continue to increase the supply of agricultural products, carry out investment projects in the field of energy, transport and infra-

Maduro: Venezuela won't fall to imperialism, fascism

WEB DESK

CARACAS Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro has said they would not allow a civil war to break out, blaming the foreign hand for targeting the economy and behind recent protests, and pledging that the country will not be allowed to fall into the hands of "im-

the Miraflores Palace in the capital Caracas, Maduro warned that there would be no tolerance for malicious protesters who cause acts of violence and that they knew who was financing them. His remarks came after opposition parties rejected Sunday's election results, which trig- er means to carry out a gered violent protests that left 12 dead, two of perialism, fascism, and them minors, as well as criminals." Speaking at hundreds injured, with

ed by authorities. The country's economy was being targeted, Maduro said, vowing that "Venezuela will not fall into the hands of imperialism, fascism, and criminals. "We want everything to be within the constitutional framework. "We do not want to resort to othrevolution," he said. 'We will protect all our people' Without naming specific countries, Maduro frequently implies that the US is behind the street protests, saying, "The people know this." "However, if the empire wants to advance its criminal plan, we will defend our homeland to the end. "We will protect all our people. Whatever we do, we are doing to protect our workers, employees, traders, and people," Maduro said. "For this, I want to thank our security forces," the president

Malaysia: Meta should stop being 'Israel's' mouthpiece

Jakarta: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim demanded that US-giant Meta stop acting as "Israel's" tool after Instagram deleted his comments on the assassination of the head of Hamas' Political Bureau Ismail Haniyeh. "Let this serve as a clear and unequivocal message to Meta: Cease this display of cowardice and stop acting as instruments of the oppressive Zionist Israeli regime!" the prime minister said, and published screengrabs of notifications he received from Instagram claiming his posts and comments went against the platform's community guidelines. Hamas confirmed on Wednesday the martyrdom of the Hamas leader, noting that the head of the political bureau was killed in a "treacherous Zionist airstrike on his residence in Tehran." Iran's Foreign Ministry described the US as an "accomplice" to the Israeli assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, which it described as a "heinous act of terrorism."-APP

Report confirms Israeli crimes against prisoners

RAMALLAH: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates confirmed the report issued today by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on cases of detention from October 7, 2023 to June 30, 2024 confirms the escalation in cases of systematic arbitrary detention. including administrative, carried out by the Israeli occupation forces since October 7, 2023. , whether in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, or in the Gaza Strip, so that the number of Palestinian prisoners detained by the Israeli occupation authorities reached 9,440 male and female prisoners as of June 30, 2024, including 3,377 cases of administrative detention, including women, children, and medical personnel. Journalists, patients, UNRWA staff and human rights defenders. The Ministry stressed that the inhumane and degrading treatment to which Palestinian prisoners are subjected in the occupation prisons, and systematic torture, including severe beatings leading to death and other crimes, require urgent international action to compel Israel, the occupying power, to stop its flagrant violation of the provisions of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. It is a collective punishment that amounts to a war crime. The Ministry also appreciated the report's conclusions that arresting Palestinians and depriving them of their freedom without knowing their fate or whereabouts amounts to the crime of enforced disappearance. The Ministry indicated that the policy of arbitrary detention is part of the broader crimes and violations of the rights of the Palestinian people in light of genocide, collective punishment, and ethnic cleansing.-DNA

Sri Lankan FS plants a tree in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Mrs. Aruni Wijewardena who is visiting Islamabad, Pakistan for Foreign Office consultations took part in tree plantation drive and welcoming Monsoonal rainy season in Islamabad by planting a Marple sapling at newly acquired land (1.75 acres) for the new Sri Lanka High Commission and residence complex in Diplomatic Enclave Islamabad.

Director General South Asia and Public Diplomacy in Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry, Mr. Niluka Kadurugamuwa and Deputy Director South Asia Mrs. Prashanthi Krishnamoorthy, High Commissioner Admiral (Retired) Ravi Wijegunaratne, Defence Advisor Brigadier Kaminda Silva, High Commission officials and their families also joined the event.



Zelensky says most of world wants him to talk to Russia

Moscow has frequently stated that it is open to conversations with Kiev, but there are problems that must be resolved before any real discussion can begin, including Zelensky's legitimacy as a leader

FOREIGN DESK

KYIV: According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, a majority of the international community wishes to see a diplomatic resolution to the war in Ukraine, which he told French media was only possible with Moscow's participation in negotiations. Switzerland had its first peace conference in June which Zelensky said Russia was intentionally excluded from. In his Wednesday interview, Zelensky expressed that Moscow should have a place at the table. "The majority of the world today says that Russia must be represented at the second summit, otherwise we will not achieve meaningful results,"Zelensky stated, adding that "The first conference was snubbed by several countries, including China, which demanded talks that would allow both sides of the conflict to participate." Moscow has frequently stated

that it is open to conversations with Kiev, but there are problems that must be resolved before any real discussion can begin, including Zelensky's legitimacy as leader. His tenure expired in May, and no elections were held owing to martial law. According to Zelensky, by November, Kiev aims to present a plan based on the findings of the first meeting that would cover "territorial integrity, sovereignty, and so on." When asked if Ukraine's restoration to its 1991 boundaries would be a necessary prerequisite for peace negotiations with Russia, Zelensky said that it is desirable but not imperative. The preferable course of action for ending the war in Ukraine is the peace process, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stated last week. At a meeting with participants

of the New Media Festival, Peskov said, "Russia has never abandoned the peace process, and we remain ready. We have the task of ensuring our security both for us and for future generations. Of course, the peace process is preferable." It is challenging to discuss the specifics of potential talks with Kiev without being aware of the specifics of the statement of Dmytro Kuleba, the foreign minister of Ukraine, said Peskov. Kuleba stated earlier in the day when speaking with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing that Ukraine is prepared for discussions with Russia, but that they must be reasonable and realistic in order to bring about a fair and durable peace. Back in April, Peskov himself had warned that in the near future, many across the world, including people in Ukraine, are likely to raise doubts about the legitimacy of Zelensky, insisting that he will have to "justify himself," while Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Kiev's

indications regarding its desire to begin peace negotiations with Moscow were not genuine. Hungary's Orban says Trump has Russia-Ukraine peace plan if re-elected After private negotiations with Republican candidate Donald Trump, Hungary's Viktor Orban declared that if he wins the US presidential election in November, he will quickly demand peace talks between Russia and Ukraine and that he has "well-founded plans" for achieving so. According to Financial Times, the Hungarian prime minister wrote a confidential letter to EU leaders after consulting with Moscow and Beijing, suggesting that in order to find a peaceful end to the war in Ukraine, the EU should resume direct diplomatic relations with Russia and begin "high-level" talks with China. In the letter, Orban added that the "general observation" based on his recent talks with presidents

Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, Xi Jinping of China, and Vladimir Putin of Russia was "that the intensity of the military conflict will radically escalate in the near future." His visits with Trump, Xi, and Putin during the last month while serving as the rotating president of the European Union startled his partners in the alliance and the bloc. Orban visited Russia last week on a peace mission that began with his earlier visit to Kiev and continued to China. Sources familiar with the matter told the newspaper that the EU's legal service informed member states on Wednesday that Orban's actions violated agreements that prohibit any measures "which could undermine the achievement of the Union's objectives." At the same time, the Hungarian leader has reportedly violated an EU provision that mandates all members to conduct foreign policy "unreservedly in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity.

Italy opens controversial migrant centre in **Albania**

PARIS: Italy, which receives the most migrant arrivals in the European Union, is partially outsourcing the challenge from today, as it opens the first of two planned camps in neighbouring Albania. The centres will be used to house up to 3000 migrants per month rescued en route to Italy as part of Europe's first "offshoring" scheme, while the continent grapples with how to respond to the challenge of irregular migration. The camp that opens today is located in the northern Albanian port of Shengjin. The opening of a second centre, on a former air force base in nearby Gjader, has been delayed. The structures will be entirely managed by the Italian government, which paid for their construction. They will be used for migrants picked up in international waters - though not women, children, or those deemed vulnerable. Once there, they will be allowed to request asylum in Italy. If refused, they will be sent back to countries deemed safe to return. "Italian and European legislation will be applied in these centres," Fabrizio Bucci, Italy's ambassador in Albania, told me. "It's like having a centre in Italy - but in Albania.-Agencies

Kenya rolls out poison in bid to cull a million crows

NAIROBI : Invasive alien birds" sounds like the strapline to a scary Hollywood blockbuster but for the people of coastal Kenya it is not a matter of fiction. The authorities there are so worried about the nuisance created by Indian house crows that they have begun the process of culling a million of them. They have not targeted humans, as in the Alfred Hitchock horror film The Birds, but these ones have for decades caused widespread disruption, by preying on wildlife, raiding tourist areas and attacking poultry farms. Poison is now being used in the towns of Watamu and Malindi to kill the first tranche of the ruthless sub-species. This ambitious poisoning campaign is aimed at halting the crows' advance towards the capital, Nairobi. The birds, known on the coast as "kunguru" or "kurabu", originated from India and other parts of Asia, often spreading elsewhere by travelling on trading ships. But they are believed to have been intentionally introduced in East Africa around 1890s in a bid to tackle a mounting waste problem on the Zanzibar archipelago, then a British protectorate. From there, they spread to the mainland and up the coast to Kenya. -APP

Nigeria tightens security for hardship protests

ABUJA: Nigerian troops

and police tightened securi-

ty in Lagos and the capital Abuja on Thursday as they prepared for planned protests over the cost of living. Africa's most populous country is struggling with soaring inflation and a sharply devalued naira currency after President Bola Ahmed Tinubu introduced reforms a year ago that aimed to revive the economy. Tagged #EndbadGovernanceinNigeria, protest movement has won support with an online campaign among Nigerians who are battling with food inflation at 40 percent and fuel prices that tripled since Tinubu introduced his urgent reforms. In Abuja, security forces blocked off roads leading to Eagle Square - one of the planned protest sites - while in Lagos, police and soldiers were placed at strategic points, including at the Lekki tollgate, where protests in 2020 ended in bloodshed. Early turnout in the capital and in Lagos was slim, with only a few dozen protesters outside the national stadium in Abuja and police outnumbering the dozens more demonstrators in the Ikeja area of Lagos.-

Agencies



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Briefs

PTI should shun politics of vandalism: Ahsan Iqbal

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal said on Thursday that Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) must abandon its politics of instability and apologize to the nation for the vandalism of state institutions and sensitive installations of the armed forces if it wanted to integrate into the national mainstream. In an interview with Voice of America (VOA), he said no democracy in the world could support a party that engaged in destructive politics and undermined national interests for political gain. When asked about the possibility of banning PTI, the minister mentioned that recent information suggested PTI's social media had connections with anti-state elements abroad. 'surfaced information,' he said, was currently being thoroughly examined by the relevant departments to determine the appropriate legal and constitutional actions. Ahsan Iqbal said the PTI was banned or not, but it was evident that the party's politics were a 'direct attack' on national interests. He added that some political parties were also trying to exploit the current situation while the country was recovering economically

5 major IPPs given tax free payments

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: An annual report of Independent Power Procedures (IPPs) payments revealed that five major powerhouses were given tax-free payments. According to the report, Hub Power was paid Rs 260 billion at 16 percent capacity by the government. Engro was given Rs 74 billion at 54 percent capacity while Lucky Group was paid Rs 62 billion at 28 percent capacity. Similarly, Sapphire was given Rs 34 billion at 34 percent capacity, Mian Mansha's pow-erhouses operated at 13 percent capacity and were paid Rs 25.6 billion. The sources said these companies are paid annually under agreements and the audit department is responsible for the rest The Ministry of Energy sources maintained that if there is any irregularity, strict action will be taken. Earlier, former Caretaker Minister Gohar Ejaz said that the government is paying two trillion rupees to IPPs, which are generating 30 percent of their capacity. Addressing a press conference, he said that 70 percent payment being taken without generating electricity. "The Independent Power Producers should be paid as much amount according to their power generation," Gohar Ejaz said.

Pakistan keen to foster deeper ties with Ethiopia: Aurangzeb

Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan meets the Minister for Finance & Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Pakistan H.E. Mr. Jemal Beker Abdula to Pakistan called on Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb at Finance Division. The Finance Minister extended a warm welcome to Ambassador Abdula and provided an overview of the economic reforms currently underway in Pakistan. These reforms are part of a broader home-grown agenda aimed at achieving economic stability. The Minister highlighted recent positive developments, including improvements in foreign exchange reserves, state-owned enterprise (SOE) reforms, and advancements in the power sector. Internation-al Rating agencies have started acknowledging the economic stability as a result of Government's eco-nomic decisions. Country's economic outlook has improved as confirmed by recent Fitch reports and now government aims at achieving economic sustainability. Ambassador Abdula praised and appreciated Pakistan's macroeconomic stability and shared insights on Ethiopia's similar approach to home-grown economic reforms. He detailed Ethiopia's initiatives in-spired by Pakistan's experience, particularly in stabilizing its currency and fostering economic resili-ence. The discussion also encompassed the potential for enhanced bilateral trade and financial collab-orations to foster mutual prosperity.

Ambassador Abdula proposed the exploration of educational cooperation, specifically the promotion of student exchange and scholarship programs.



opian students with opportunities to study in Pakistan, fostering educational and cultural ties between the two nations. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb agreed on the importance of fostering deeper ties between the two nations and welcomed the proposed collaborations. Both parties acknowledged the

mutual benefits that can be derived from such partnerships and expressed commitment to further strengthening the bilateral relationship.

Three men accused of plotting 9/11 reach plea deal

WASHINGTON: Three of the men accused of plotting the 11 September 2001 at-tacks on the US have entered into a pre-trial agreement, the Department of Defense says. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarak Bin Attash, and Mustafa Ahmed Adam al-Hawsawi have been held at the US Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for years without going to trial. Details of the deal have not been announced, but US news outlets say the men will plead guilty in exchange for the prosecution agreeing not to seek the death penalty. Nearly 3,000 people in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania were killed in the attacks, which sparked the "War on Terror" and the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. Brett Eagleson, the president of 9/11 Justice, an organisation that represents 9/11 survivors and relatives of victims, said in a statement provided to the BBC that the families are "deeply troubled by these plea deals". He said the process lacked transparency and urged the authorities to pursue more information on the role of Saudi Arabia in the attacks. Terry Strada, who lost her husband Tom, told the BBC's Today Programme: "It was a gut-punch to hear that there was a plea deal today that was giving the detainees in Guantanamo Bay what they want." Ms Strada, the national chair of the campaign group 9/11 Families United, added: "This is a victory for Khalid Sheikh Mohammad and the other two, it's a victory for them," she said. - Agencies

Ethiopian envoy calls on Chairman

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia H.E. Mr.Jemal Beker Abdula called on Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa at CDA headquarters on Thursday. Chairman CDA briefed the ambassadors about number of ongoing initiative and projects for beautification as well as converting Islamabad into a modern and green city. During the meeting, H.E Ambassador of Ethiopia has expressed his keen desire to be an active part of the Margalla Hill plantation drive. He appreciated the efforts for boosting the planation campaign through active involvement of diplomatic community. He expressed his strong resolve for full support for the green initiative from the embassy of Ethiopia. The H.E Ambassador of Ethiopia also shared the details of the Green Corridor Project at Addis Ababa undertaken by Ethiopian Government along with the bank of river and stressed the need to undertake such project along with the water channels and streams of Islamabad as well. In this connection, the basic concept of the green corridor project at Addis Ababa would be shared as a best practice. During the meeting, the Ethiopian Ambassador also put the proposal for entering into a MoU for declaring Addis Ababa and Islamabad as sister cities.

Gohar lashes at power producers

ISLAMABAD: Former caretaker Minister of Commerce Dr Gohar Ejaz has crit-icised the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for allegedly charging the gov-ernment Rs 200 billion without generating a single unit of electricity. In a press conference in Islamabad, Dr Ejaz called for a forensic audit of these transactions and questioned the efficiency of the country's energy policies. According to Dr Ejaz, three power plants were paid a substantial sum of Rs 200 billion despite producing zero units of electricity. He highlighted the frustration of the business community, which demands transparency and accountability in the energy sector. "The business community stands with the 240 million people of Pakistan, not with the 40 people who have set up these IPPs," he said. – **DNA**

Israeli military confirms death of Mohammed Deif

News Desk

GAZA: The Israeli military said Thursday that it has confirmed that the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, was killed in an airstrike in Gaza in July. Israel targeted Deif in a July 13 strike that hit a compound on the outskirts of the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, but the military said for weeks it was working to determine if he died in the blast. Hamas has denied he was killed. More than 90 other people, including displaced civilians in nearby tents, were killed in the strike, Gaza health officials said at the time. In a statement Thursday, the Israeli military said that "following an intelligence assessment, it can be confirmed that Mohammed Deif was eliminated in the strike." There was no immediate comment from Hamas. The Israeli confirmation came a day after an apparent Israeli airstrike in Tehran killed Hamas' top political leader, Ismail Haniyeh. Israel has not confirmed or denied being behind the attack, but Iran has vowed retaliation. Along with Deif and Haniyeh, Israel has vowed to eliminate Hamas' top leader in Gaza, Yehya Sinwar, but he has so far remained elusive. Israel says Sinwar and Deif were the masterminds of the Oct. 7 attack in which Hamas-led militants rampaged in southern Israeli communities, killing around 1,200 people and taking some 250 others hostage. Deif was one of the founders of Hamas' military wing, the Qassam Brigades, in the 1990s and lead the unit for decades. Under his command, it carried out dozens of suicide bombings against Israelis on buses and at cafes and built up a formidable arsenal of rockets that could strike deep into Israel and often did. As the US-backed Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip entered day 300 on Thursday, aerial and artillery strikes continued to pound and target different areas and massacre more civilians. Palestinian Information Center (PIC) said that the Israeli occupation army continued to bomb homes and attack citizens in different areas of Gaza during the past 24 hours. According to media sources, Red Crescent crews evacuated one martyr and six wounded civilians to the Indonesian Hospital following an Israeli attack on a house in as-Salateen area in Beit Lahia, north of Gaza

Hassan Nasrallah asserts etaliation is inevitable

BEIRUT: The Secretary-General of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah confirmed on Thursday that the Israeli attack on Hareit Hreik in the southern suburbs of Beirut was an aggression targeting civilian buildings and killing civilians, not just an assassination operation. The aggression resulted in the martyrdom of five civilians, three women, and two children, in addition to Iranian military advisor Milad Bidi. In a speech delivered at a large funeral ceremony held for Hezbollah's assassinated top military lead-er Sayyed Fouad Shokor, Sayyed Nasrallah said that the Israeli regime tried to label its aggression as a "response" to the incident in Majdal Shams. He reiterated that the Resistance has rejected this accusation and denied responsibility after a thor-ough investigation, adding that "we have the courage to take responsibility if it was our attack, even if it was a mistake, and we have precedents in this matter." In this context, Sayyed Nasrallah also emphasized that what the Israeli occupation committed 'is not a reaction to what happened in Majdal Shams, but rather a claim, deception, and part of the war and battle," pointing out that the occupation "appointed itself as prosecutor, judge, and executioner." Hezbollah's chief pointed out that "Israel cannot accept the hypothesis that the incident in Majdal Shams was due to an Israeli interceptor missile" despite the massive evidence suggesting it, which was even put forward by numerous military experts. He affirmed that "the aim of accusing the Resistance is to incite sectarian strife between the [Druze] people of the occupied Golan and [Hezbollah] and behind it the Shiite sect, in order to undermine the most significant achievements of the al-Aqsa Flood" of unity and solidarity among Arabs and people of the region. - Agencies

Pak invited to Join Commonwealth Al consortium

PM expressed keen desire to evaluate the Commonwealth Performance Management System for further improving governance and transparency

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland, leading a 5-member delegation. called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House. The Prime Minister welcomed Secretary-General Scotland on her first official visit to Pakistan. Appreciating the Commonwealth's consistent support for Pakistan's socio-economic and democratic institu-tions, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the Government's desire to work with the Commonwealth on issues of common interest, particularly on youth empowerment, good governance and climate change. Noting that young people below the age of 30 accounted for two-thirds of Pakistan's population, the Prime Minister said providing modern education and technical training to the youth was one of the Government's highest priorities. He highlighted the various initiatives taken by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and reiterated the Government's commitment to working with the Commonwealth to help Pakistan's youth by enhancing access and opportunities for them in today's high-tech global economy. Secretary-General Scotland appreciated the Prime Minister's



Prime Minister's leadership and direct supervision of this Programme was reflective of his personal interest and commitment to youth empowerment initiatives. In order to further improve the performance of government departments and know progress in real time, Ms Patricia offered the Com-monwealth's

Performance Management System. She also invited Pakistan to join the Commonwealth Artificial Intelligence Consortium (CAIC). The Prime Minister expressed keen

desire to evaluate the Commonwealth Performance Management System for further improving governance and transparency in Pakistan's public sector. He also welcomed the invitation to join CAIC where Pakistan's youth will have opportunities for training and could benefit from global innovations such as cloud computing and generative AI and shall be more empow-ered to play their role in sustainable economic development. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also described combating climate change as a common priority for both Pakistan and the Commonwealth. He appreciated the Secretary-General's climate advocacy for Paki-stan, following the devastating 2022 floods. The Prime Minister said Pakistan wanted to work with the Commonwealth in helping mobilize more international support for climate-vulnerable countries like Pakistan at the forthcoming COP29 in Baku. Secretary-General Scotland appreciated the Government's efforts for post-flood reconstruction and hoped that the international community would provide more support in building Pakistan's climate resilience. Looking forward towards the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa later this year, the Prime Minister and the Commonwealth Secretary-General discussed ways in which the two sides could coordinate on building consensus on key issues of mutual interest and chart a roadmap for the Commonwealth.

