



Islamabad POST

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UK PM talks of 'standing army' to deal with riots

Detailed News On Page-08

August 5 steps violation of int'l laws: Ishaq Dar

Detailed News On Page-08

England cricketer Graham Thorpe passes away

Detailed News On Page-06



Opposition leader Khalida Zia freed

Public pressure forces BD PM Hasina to resign

Bangladesh army to manage country's affairs; interim govt to be formed: BD Army Chief

NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

DHAKA: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned on Monday and fled the country, as more people were killed in some of the worst violence since the birth of the South Asian nation more than five decades ago. Army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman announced Hasina's resignation in a televised address to the nation and said an interim government would be formed. Media reports said Hasina, 76, was flown in a military helicopter with her sister and was headed to India. An Indian television channel said she had landed in Agartala, the capital of India's north-eastern state of Tripura, across the eastern border of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has been engulfed by protests and violence after student protests last month against reservation quotas in government jobs escalated into a campaign for the ouster of Hasina, who won a fourth straight term in January in an election boycotted by the opposition. About 250 people have been killed and thousands injured in the violence. Army chief Zaman said he had held "fruitful" talks with leaders of all major political parties he had "invited" and would soon meet President Mohammed Shahabuddin to discuss the way ahead. "The country is going through a revolutionary period," said Zaman, 58, who took over as army chief only on June 23. "I promise you all, we will bring justice to all the murders and injustice. We request you to have faith in the army of the country. I take full responsibility and I assure you to not get disheartened," he said. "I request you all to be a little patient, give us some time and together we will be able to solve all the problems," Zaman said. "Please don't go back to the path of violence and please return to

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Sheikh Hasina meets Indian NSA, may seek asylum in UK

Hasina may not return to politics. Disappointed by the strong public sentiment against her govt, says her son

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh leader Sheikh Hasina met Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Monday evening after landing at the Hindon Air Force base in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad - around 30 km from Delhi. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been briefed on the situation in Bangladesh by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. There is no word yet if Mr Modi will meet Mrs Hasina. Indian Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Indian Lok Sabha, has also spoken to Mr Jaishankar. The two spoke briefly on the sidelines of the Parliament, his party said. Hours earlier the 76-year-old five-time Prime Minister had been forced to resign from her position after more than 300 people died in violent protests over a quota for government

Continued on Page 06



DHAKA: Anti-government display Bangladesh national flag as they storm Prime Minister's palace in Dhaka. - DNA

DPM Dar to attend OIC meeting in Jeddah

Meeting will discuss ongoing Israeli aggression against Palestine and other regional states

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to attend the Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will visit Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee being held on 7 August 2024. The Meeting is being convened at the request of the

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OIC calls for reversal of measures PM urges India to find peaceful solution to Kashmir dispute

"Day is not far away when India, Israel to be bound to give due rights to Palestinians, Kashmiris", says Shehbaz

KHAYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Emphasising that granting due rights to the people of Kashmir is the only way to maintain peace and stability in the region, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged New Delhi to resolve the long-standing dispute via dialogue as Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir being observed. In his televised address to the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, the prime minister said the day was not far away when both India and Israel will be bound to give due rights to the people of Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as all ways other than this lead to total destruction. He said Pakistan was a nuclear power and that was part of its defence. However, he said Pakistan had

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Pakistan to continue support for Kashmiris struggle, says Tarar

MEHAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said that Pakistan would continue to support Kashmiris' just struggle for right to self-determination till freedom from illegal Indian rule. He was addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister of Kashmir Affairs and

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Briefs

NACTA decides to launch joint IBOs

Decision was taken during NACTA's monthly CTI conference

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) decided on Monday to launch joint intelligence-based operations (IBOs) against terrorist organisations operating in Pakistan. In a statement, a spokesperson said the decision was taken during NACTA's monthly counter-terrorism intelligence conference. The conference was attended by representatives from police, law enforcement agencies, and intelligence agencies. The meeting reviewed the current security situation and potential threats.

PTI leader murder case: son behind killing: police

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore police on Monday claimed that the son of PTI founding member Dr Shahid Siddique has confessed to his alleged involvement in his father's murder. Dr Siddique, the owner of Iqra Medical Complex in Johar Town, was standing outside Khizra Mosque in Valencia Town after offering Friday prayers last week when an unknown man approached him and opened fire. The doctor succumbed to his injuries en route to a hospital. Police registered a case against four unidentified attackers and began an investigation, recording statements from the family and eyewitnesses and collecting video footage from CCTV cameras installed in nearby streets.

Demands to public IPPs agreement

JI warns to expand sit-ins to across country

Government should immediately remove tax slabs imposed on salaried class, it demands

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Hafiz Naeemur Rehman on Monday said that the citizens are fed up with the inflated electricity bills and want immediate relief, ARY News reported. Addressing a protest sit-in outside Sindh Governor House in Karachi, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman warned the government that if the nation's demands are not met, the situation in Pakistan could become like Sri Lanka or Bangladesh "We do not want confrontation, but we should not be forced to take the path (used by the protestors) of Sri Lanka or Bangladesh," he added. The JI chief asked the government to take immediate action to address the issue. Hafiz Naeemur Rehman also criticised the government's agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), saying that they are faulty and caused huge losses to the national exchequer. He demanded the government to reveal the details of the agreements made with IPPs and take action against those who have caused losses to the country. The JI chief also

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PM constitutes task force for structural reforms

Task force is being formed to reduce financial burden of power sector, says PMO

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday constituted a task force to oversee the implementation of structural reforms in the power sector amid the ongoing outcry by the consumers over exorbitant electricity bills. A notification issued by the Prime Minister's Office said that the task force is being formed to reduce the financial burden of the power sector being borne by the government and enable the establishment of an efficient, liquid,

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No visa restrictions for Pakistanis in UAE

Top diplomat's clarification comes after reports of visa-related issues being faced by residents of Sindh province

DNA

KARACHI: United Arab Emirates (UAE) Consul General Dr Bakheet Ateeq Al Remeithi has said there are no visa restrictions for Pakistanis in the gulf nation. The consul general's clarification came on Monday after reports of issues being

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No change in army's stance on May 9 protests: DG ISPR

Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry says Baloch Yakjehti Committee and its leadership are proxy of terror outfits



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry has stated that military's stance on May 9 violent protests remains unchanged that those involved in the riots must be brought to book. "Army's stance on [May 9] is clear, which was conveyed in the May 7 [2024] press conference. There has been no change in that nor

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BYC protesters fulfilling India's agenda: Minister

Langau highlights New Delhi's unsuccessful attempts to use Pakistanis against their own country

DNA

QUETTA: As supporters of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) continue to stage demonstrations despite reaching an agreement with the government, Balochistan Home Minister Zia Ullah Langau has said that the protesters were "unknowingly" fulfilling India's agenda. "Some people are unknowingly fulfilling the Indian agenda [...] India is trying unsuccessfully to use our people against us," Langau said in a video statement issued on Monday. The minister's

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Kashmir will fight for freedom until last breath: Yasin's daughter

ISLAMABAD : Kashmiri leader Mohammed Yasin Malik's daughter, Razia Sultan on Monday said that her father and other Kashmiri leaders will continue their fight for freedom until their last breath.

In an exclusive interview with Radio Pakistan, she said that the determination of the Kashmiri people had scared the Indian rulers.

India used every method to weaken the movement, but the Kashmiri people would not give up, she added.

Razia said that women and children were integral to the Kashmir freedom movement, standing with their leaders in their quest for independence. She urged Indian children to ask their elders why Kashmiri children were denied freedom. Modi government targeting Kashmiri children with pellet guns and destroying schools out of fear for Kashmir's future, she said. "Children of Kashmir are born to fight for their freedom," she said, highlighting the strong spirit of resistance in the youth. She urged the United Nations to see the difference between children worldwide, who are safe at home and going to school, and Kashmiri children, who are separated from their parents and denied education and freedom. Razia called on children in Pakistan to raise their voices for Kashmir through charity work, campaigns, and social media.—APP

Minister inaugurates "Monsoon Plantation Campaign 2024"

SIALKOT : Provincial Minister for Local Government Punjab Zeeshan Rafique handed over excavator and dumper to the local authorities of MC Daska on behalf of the Punjab government and formally inaugurated the Monsoon Plantation Campaign 2024 by planting saplings at the Municipal Stadium lawn. Assistant Commissioner Daska Anwar Ali Kanju and Chief Officer (CO) Municipal Committee Daska Ulfat Shahzad were also present on the occasion. Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that completion of development projects initiated in Daska will resolve long-standing problems of Daska city and improve the quality of municipal services, adding that the quality of life of the citizens will also be improved. The Minister said that along with the construction of sewerage and roads in Daska city, work is going on simultaneously on the project of park, playground, solid waste management and street lights. He said that quality is being ensured in all development projects and these projects will be completed within the stipulated timeline in public interest. He said that the dutiful officers will be encouraged while the officers and staff that will show negligence will also be held accountable. Zeeshan Rafique said that according to the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, work is being done to implement a uniform sanitation system in the districts across.—APP

The human body: A great miracle of divine nature

TANVEER HUSSAIN



ALLAH Almighty has blessed man with countless talents and blessings. Most of these innumerable blessings are unknown to man. The human body is like a most complex machine in which there are about one hundred billion cells. Each cell is a complete life. Allah has said in the Holy Qur'an: Indeed, We have created man in a very good manner.

Sindh govt, security agencies prevent catastrophe in Panu Aqil

Recently, OGRA has taken serious note of the illegal practice of mixing carbon dioxide (CO₂) with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Under the leadership of Chairman Masroor Khan, OGRA, alongside its enforcement, legal, and LPG teams, engaged law enforcement agencies, the provincial government of Sindh, senior district officials, the Attorney General, and provincial Advocate Generals to address this critical issue

DNA

KARACHI: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), in collaboration with the Government of Sindh, the District Government, and law enforcement agencies, has successfully halted the illegal mixing of CO₂ gas with LPG in and around Panu Aqil, Sukkur. A decisive action has been taken against those violating the law, with FIRs registered and court proceedings initiated. This prompt intervention has averted a potential catastrophe that could have resulted in massive explosions, significant damage to public property, and a substantial loss of human lives. Recently, OGRA has taken serious note of the illegal practice of mixing carbon dioxide (CO₂) with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Under the



leadership of Chairman Masroor Khan, OGRA, alongside its enforcement, legal, and LPG teams, engaged law enforcement agencies, the provincial government of Sindh, senior district officials, the Attorney General, and provincial Advocate Generals to address this critical issue.

OGRA is committed to utilizing all legal avenues available under its rules and regulations to eradicate such illegal activities, ensuring the safety of lives and properties of the general public. The mixing of CO₂ with LPG has been reported in various locations across the Sindh province, particularly in Panu Aqil near Sukkur. Background Notes:

LPG is highly flammable, and the illegal mixing of CO₂ poses severe risks, including adverse environmental impacts. CO₂ has a higher pressure than LPG, which can lead to serious safety concerns as equipment designed for LPG may not function properly.

ISSI holds seminar on "India's Illegal actions in IIOJK"

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a seminar, titled "India's Illegal and Unilateral Actions in IIOJK: Five Years On." The purpose of the seminar was to commemorate struggle and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people, especially in the backdrop of India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 in IIOJK. Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director ISC, delivered introductory remarks. Speakers included Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI; Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Spokesperson and Additional Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Pakistan; Ambassador Riffat Masood, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to Iran; Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director, CISS, AJK; Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR); and Mr. Mahmood Saghar, Leader All Parties Hurriyat Conference.

In his remarks, Dr. Khurram Abbas noted that India not only unilaterally changed the status of Jammu and Kashmir five years ago, but has also been seeking to alter its demographic structure in order to turn the Muslim majority into a minority. It was the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people and diplomatic efforts by Pakistan

that have kept the Kashmir issue fully alive. Citing the need for more productive contributions on the academic and literary fronts and effective global outreach, he announced that the ISSI's India Study Centre would establish a Kashmir Resource Centre in order to facilitate students, researchers, and academics working on different dimensions of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stated that today was an appropriate occasion to evaluate the role of India, Pakistan, Kashmiris and the world community, since India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. He elaborated that, on India's part, this period of 5 years has been marked by unabated repression, deceit, manipulation and misrepresentation. While IIOJK had remained the world's 'most militarized zone' as it was in 2019, the BJP government had peddled the falsehoods of 'normalcy' and 'progress' returning to the Valley. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood added that India's state-terrorism stretched beyond IIOJK as Indian state agents were found involved in extrajudicial killings and assassinations in Pakistan and parts of AJK. As for the Kashmiris, he commended them for writing yet another unforgettable chapter in their epic struggle for the right to self-determination in the face of India's brutal and inhuman occupation. Despite imposing prolonged curfews, information blockade, arbitrary arrests, indiscriminate use of force,

custodial killings and torture, heavy economic losses, psychological traumas, and denial of academic activities, India had not been able to break the will of the Kashmiri people.

On Pakistan's part, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted its steadfast support for the just cause of the Kashmiri people and the extensive diplomatic and outreach efforts to mobilize the international community to play its role in conflict resolution. He said that Pakistan remains determined to extend all possible support to the Kashmiris in their struggle for the right to self-determination. "Besides being a historic obligation, this is a moral and strategic imperative for Pakistan," he said. While noting that the international community could ignore the simmering situation in IIOJK only at its own peril, he advised to draw lessons from the Palestinian issue and take concrete steps to resolve the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in a timely manner. He concluded by stressing that there could be no peace in South Asia without justice for the Kashmiris. For this, faithful implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions was indispensable.

Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja shared a rich academic perspective on India's illegal actions in IIOJK and how they have affected the already deteriorating state of human rights in the Valley. She particularly highlighted the implications of non-resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute on strategic stability in South Asia.

ICJ should play role for delivering justice to Kashmiris: Fakhar

MULTAN : Chairman Kashmir Committee and former Speaker National Assembly, Syed Fakhar Imam, stated that by illegally occupying Kashmir in violation of its own constitution, India had shown the world that it was a brutal nation. In statement issued here in connection with Kashmir Exploitation Day on Monday, he informed that recently, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that what Israel was doing in Palestine was illegal, and India was doing the same in IIOJK. The ICJ should take action against the atrocities committed by India in Kashmir and play its part in delivering justice to the Kashmiris. The hearts of Kashmiris beat with Pakistanis and we are one soul in two bodies, he said adding Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir. Due to China's efforts, two meetings of the United Nations Security Council were held after 57 years, which proved that Kashmir was a disputed territory that India, in the context of the Shimla Agreement, called a regional issue. Ex Chairman Kashmir Committee explained that with China's cooperation, the Kashmir issue was high-

lighted internationally as a global issue. Debates on the Kashmir issue have taken place in major parliaments around the world, including the European Parliament. India has faced diplomatic, political, and moral defeat on all fronts. This is a significant achievement for Pakistan and the Kashmiris. On Kashmir Exploitation Day, Syed Fakhar Imam further said that despite the severe curfew in Kashmir for the past five years, the courage of the Kashmiris has not waned and they are still standing firm against the 900,000 Indian soldiers. They are fighting their own war for freedom Pakistan has always stood with the Kashmiris and will continue to provide moral, diplomatic and political support until the Kashmiris get their rights, he remarked.

He stated that Kashmir was the jugular vein of Pakistan and the Kashmiris were fighting for their survival, and, God willing, they will succeed. He added that the five-year curfew in Kashmir has made life unbearable, causing economic losses amounting to billions. The world must resolve the Kashmir issue according to the wishes of the Kashmiris.—APP

Civil Awards for Zafar Bakhtawari proposed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors and diplomats from various countries were in union to honor Zafar Bakhtawari of their countries highest civil awards for his unparalleled contributions in fostering Pakistan's relations with their countries.

At a dinner reception hosted in honour of prominent business leader, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group (FPCCI, UBG) Zafar Bakhtawari, the Dean of Diplomatic Corps, Ambassadors of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Algeria, Deputy Head of the Missions of Indonesia and Azerbaijan, and other dignitaries praised Zafar Bakhtawari's tireless efforts in promoting international cooperation and trade.

Business community was represented by Zaki Aijaz, acting President FPCCI, Zubair Ahmed Malik former President ICICI, FPCCI, Khalid Javaid, former President ICICI, Mian Shaikat Masud, former President ICICI, Nasir Qureshi, Malik Shabbir Awan, Nasir Chaudhry, Zia Chaudhry.

Islamabad to intensify anti-encroachment operations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held on Monday under the chairmanship of CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner of Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, regarding the ongoing anti-encroachments operations in Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the DC ICT, DIG Operations, Enforcement Wing, Environment Wing, Building Control, and relevant Assistant Commissioners of Islamabad. CDA Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa stated that a vigorous operations should be launched to eliminate encroachments throughout the city in order to strengthen the writ of the government. He emphasized that Enforcement Wing, Environment Wing and the relevant Assistant Commissioners should take ownership collectively and work in aid to one another in order to make the anti-encroachment operation successful. CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa also mentioned that the constant surveillance should continue even after the removal of encroachments.

IGP rewards Rs10m to 100 injured Ghazis'

LAHORE :Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar has provided outstanding recognition to the brave "Ghazi" officers of Punjab Police who were injured by bullets from criminal elements while safeguarding citizens' lives and properties. The IGP issued 10 million rupees for 100 Ghazi police officers, with each officer receiving 100,000 rupees. Spokesperson for the Punjab police on Monday said that among the recipients of this cash award, a courageous officer who sustained six gunshot wounds was at the top of the list. Nine Ghazi officers each suffered three gunshot wounds in the line of duty, while 25 Ghazi officers received two gunshots each during encounters with dangerous criminals. Additionally, 65 Ghazi officers were each hit by a bullet while performing duties. Dr Usman said that the police department was providing all possible support for the best treatment and swift recovery of the Ghazi officers. He noted that the brave officers were being awarded Ghazi Medals. Dr. Anwar emphasised that Punjab police was a guardian force of 1,638 brave martyrs and more than 1,700 brave Ghazi officers. He further said that the welfare of Ghazi officers and their families was a top priority, and all available resources were being utilised to ensure their excellent medical care and well-being. Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar on Monday instructed all regional police officers (RPOs) and district police officers (DPOs) to ensure prompt resolution of issues faced by police employees under personal supervision. He issued these instructions to officers during a meeting with police employees and their families at the Central Police Office. He said that resolving the problems faced by police employees and their families in a timely manner is a top priority. The IGP directed all officers to maintain close liaison with the force, take immediate action on welfare & discipline-related requests, and provide relief accordingly. He issued orders for providing relief after reviewing the requests submitted by police employees and their families. Dr Usman instructed the Additional IG Punjab to provide merit-based relief on the promotion request of Constable Muhammad Rafiq.—APP

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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 Republic Independence Day
- Aug 31/Malaysia National Day

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Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
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RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

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Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Ethiopia, Pakistan discuss bilateral political consultation agreement

The signing of the agreement came under discussion during a meeting between H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy & Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan, and H.E. Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary (Africa) Ministry of the Foreign Affairs

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have discussed signing of a Bilateral Political Consultation agreement by end of this year to foster deeper cooperation at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels for addressing global challenges.

The signing of the agreement came under discussion during a meeting between H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy & Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the FDR Ethiopia to Pakistan, and H.E. Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary (Africa) Ministry of the Foreign Affairs. Both sides agreed to sign the agreement at the earliest possible time which will help create an institutional mechanism for both the countries to work together at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels for dealing with global issues such as climate change, terrorism, cybercrimes, fake news and others.

On the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Jemal Beker briefed the Additional Secretary about the earnest desire of the Government of Ethiopia for signing the Bilateral Political Consultation agreement with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to further strengthen the



bilateral relations.

He highlighted the growing cooperation between the two countries in the realms of politics, economy, trade and culture

through consistent and constructive engagement between the governments, business community, academia and professionals of the two countries with the

delegations' exchange in the last two years. The Ambassador also briefed the Additional Secretary about Home Grown Economic Reform Programme

1.0 (HGERP) which has doubled size of its GDP, making it top economy in the East Africa and 3rd economy in the Sub Saharan Africa under the leadership and

guidance of H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed Ali, Prime Minister of Ethiopia. He said the Government of Ethiopia had now launched the HGERP 2.0 which is aimed at creating a stable macroeconomic environment, transforming investment and trade environment, boosting productive growth and improving public sector capability. The Ambassador informed the Additional Secretary about Ethiopia's initiatives for regional integration such as Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Green Legacy Initiative, Dine for Generation and others. He said South Sudan had signed the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement which would ensure equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile water and further integrate the region. He said Ethiopia had been forefront to ensure peace and security in the region by bringing the warring parties on the table for talks to end the conflicts in the region. On the other hand, the Additional Secretary reiterated the Government of Pakistan's commitment to further deepen the bilateral ties by enhancing bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. He informed the Ambassador that the Government of Pakistan had ratified the Bilateral Political Consultative agreement which was crucial to strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.

PNCA marks Youm-e-Istehsal to show solidarity with Kashmiri people

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan arranged a ceremony to mark Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir on Monday, showing solidarity with the Kashmiri people. The ceremony began with special prayers for the martyrs of Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IloJK) and the success of the freedom struggle, expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri people. The ceremony was attended by students from twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, Kashmiri leaders and civil soci-

ety representatives in a large number. The ceremony features, various competitions, tableaux, puppet show, painting exhibition and other activities to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir Day. Students from the educational institutions of the twin cities participated in various competitions held on the occasion. The participants of the event carried flags and banners inscribed with "Watan-e-Aziz Pakistan" and "Janat-e-Nazir Kashmir" while children carried placards depicting Indian atrocities. The students presented various tableaux highlighting different

aspects of Kashmiri culture while some others tableaux depicted the ongoing aggressions by Indian forces against the oppressed Kashmiri people. The students also exhibited extraordinary oratorical skills in the speech competitions through which the children exposed ongoing Indian brutality in Kashmir, making it clear that India is actually a cruel and oppressive state. A puppet show was also organized during the ceremony depicting the plight of Kashmiri people and their just struggle for achieving right to self determination. The students pledged solidarity with the

Kashmiri brothers and sisters and paid tribute to their sacrifices. Accordingly, the Pakistan National Council of the Arts also organized an important exhibition of paintings in which artists portrayed the Indian atrocities in IloJK in their art works. The artists skillfully depicted the struggle of brave Kashmiri men and women through their paintings, attracting a number of visitors. Earlier, the employees of PNCA participated in the rally held at the D-Chowk in connection with the Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir. The rally was held under the leadership of Director General, PNCA Muhammad Ayoub Jamali. —APP

Dysfunctional railways a major obstacle to development

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, National Business Group Pakistan, President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, along with former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Monday that the railway's dysfunction is a significant barrier to progress. He said that products delivered by vehicle are more expensive, which hurts the masses and businesses while compromising exports. According to Mian Zahid Hussain, railways have consistently faced conspiracies to advance influential road transport. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that until the railways are made to work, Pakistani products will have to be sent to different regions through expensive road transport, which increases their cost. Similarly, export goods also become expensive, which reduces their ability to compete in the global market. According to Mian Zahid Hussain, the railways in the neighbouring country of India, which have at least 22,000 trains and 7,112 stations and employ 1.3 million people, is the backbone of the economy. In India, they prepare the railway budget separately from the national budget. Meanwhile, China is rapidly completing railway projects and building a network of railways within the country as well as in many other countries, resulting in a flourishing economy. —DNA

ICT admin gears up for Independence Day with grand celebrations

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has set the stage for a grand Independence Day celebration on August 14 in the Federal Capital. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon stressed to finalize plans, focusing on smooth celebrations and robust security. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the city would shine with lights and decorations, while a special cleanliness drive would ensure a pristine environment on August 14. The district administration would host a major event, and schools would also participate with various activities. —APP

India's revocation of Kashmir status is serious

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries & Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri people and termed India's decision of revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir a serious violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. He stated this in an exclusive talk with APP on the occasion of "Youm-e-Istehsal (Day of Exploitation)", being observed in Pakistan against India's illegal and unilateral actions of revocation of Kashmir's special status on August 5, 2019. On this significant occasion, Rana Tanveer Hussain commended the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination, emphasizing that unilateral and illegal action taken by India is clear violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions which called for a final decision on the future of Jammu and Kashmir to be made according to the will of the Kashmiri people through a free, impartial, and UN-supervised referendum. Hussain further stated that the Kashmiri people have been making great sacrifices against India's illegal and oppressive occupation.

ڈیجیٹائزڈ ٹیکس نظام

معیشت مضبوط، خوشحال عوام

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انکم ٹیکس کے ترمیم شدہ رولز کے تحت مندرجہ ذیل کاروباروں اور سروسز فراہم کرنے والوں کیلئے

کاروباری لین دین کو ایف بی آر کے آن لائن نظام کے ساتھ جوڑنا لازمی ہے

<p>ریسٹورنٹس، ہوٹلز، مولز، گیسٹ ہاؤسز، شادی ہالز، مارکیٹ اور کلیز</p>	<p>پرنسپل کثیر سروس پرووائڈرز بشمول بیوٹی پارلرز، سلمنگ کلیٹیکس، مساج سینٹرز وغیرہ</p>	<p>پڈریج سڑکی انٹرسٹی سفری سروسز، کورنر اور کارگو سروسز</p>	<p>میڈیکل سروس پرووائڈرز بشمول ڈینٹسٹس، فزیوتھراپسٹ، پلاسٹک سرجن، ہنر امپلائٹ سرجن اور جانوروں کے ڈاکٹرز</p>	<p>پیتھالوجیکل اور تشخیصی لیبارٹریاں، برائیویٹ ہسپتال، میڈیکل کنسلٹنٹس اور کثیر سینٹرز</p>	<p>پرائیویٹ سکولز، کالجز، یونیورسٹیاں، پروفیشنل انسٹیٹیوٹس / ووکیشنل ٹریننگ سینٹرز</p>
<p>ریٹیلرز بشمول بول سیلر-کم-ریٹیلر، مینوفیکچرر-کم-ریٹیلر، امپورٹر-کم-ریٹیلر اور ریٹیل سیل کے ساتھ کوئی اور کاروباری سرگرمی کرنے والے ریٹیلرز</p>	<p>فاریکس، ایکسچینج ڈیلرز اور کمپنیاں</p>	<p>ریٹیلرز بشمول بول سیلر-کم-ریٹیلر، مینوفیکچرر-کم-ریٹیلر، امپورٹر-کم-ریٹیلر اور ریٹیل سیل کے ساتھ کوئی اور کاروباری سرگرمی کرنے والے ریٹیلرز</p>	<p>ریٹیلرز بشمول بول سیلر-کم-ریٹیلر، مینوفیکچرر-کم-ریٹیلر، امپورٹر-کم-ریٹیلر اور ریٹیل سیل کے ساتھ کوئی اور کاروباری سرگرمی کرنے والے ریٹیلرز</p>	<p>ریٹیلرز بشمول بول سیلر-کم-ریٹیلر، مینوفیکچرر-کم-ریٹیلر، امپورٹر-کم-ریٹیلر اور ریٹیل سیل کے ساتھ کوئی اور کاروباری سرگرمی کرنے والے ریٹیلرز</p>	<p>ریٹیلرز بشمول بول سیلر-کم-ریٹیلر، مینوفیکچرر-کم-ریٹیلر، امپورٹر-کم-ریٹیلر اور ریٹیل سیل کے ساتھ کوئی اور کاروباری سرگرمی کرنے والے ریٹیلرز</p>

کاروبار/سروسز کو ٹیکس نظام سے مربوط کرنے کیلئے ایف بی آر کے لائنس یافتہ انٹیگریشن سے بی سافٹ ویئر انسٹال کروانا لازمی ہے۔

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Briefs

Pioneering the Future of education through tech

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 6th InnoXera Summit took place at the Serena Hotel in Islamabad, marking its second consecutive year in Pakistan. The summit, one of the biggest in the education and technology sectors, began with a keynote address by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, underscoring the government's dedication to advancing these critical fields. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest of the event, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training Pakistan stated, "As Secretary Federal Education, I am thrilled to witness the collaborative efforts of government and private institutions in revolutionizing education in Pakistan through technology. Together, we are harnessing the power of innovation to create a future-ready generation, bridging the digital divide, and unlocking endless possibilities for our youth. This synergy marks a significant milestone in our journey towards a knowledge-based economy, and I am confident that it will have a transformative impact on the educational landscape of Pakistan."—APP

AIOU closes MS, MPhil, PhD admissions on Aug.20

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will close admissions to its BS (face to face), Ms/Phil and Ph.D programs for Autumn, 2024 Semester on August 20. According to the Directorate Admissions, prospective students can access admission forms and prospectuses on the university's website, application process being entirely online. Admissions to BS and MBA programs will be based solely on merit, while candidates for MS, MPhil, and PhD programs must pass an entry test. The entry test schedule, set for August 22 to 24, has already been released. Admissions for Matric, FA, and I. Com programs will remain open until September 5. Additionally, the second phase of Autumn 2024 admissions will commence on September 1, including associate degree (BA/B.Com), Associate Degree in Education, 1.5, 2.5 and 4-years B.Ed., BS (ODL) programs, and Postgraduate Diploma programs.

Deliverance of affordable electricity top priority: Minister

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Sardar Awas Ahmad Khan Leghari on Monday said that providing affordable electricity to the people through the implementation of energy reforms was a top priority of the government. In an interview with a private news channel, he said that the government was carefully reviewing the issues of independent power producers (IPPs) and would soon reduce electricity prices through dialogue and consultation with them. The government's priority was to look after the interests of the people, not of any elites or capitalists, he added. While talking about the hydropower projects, he said, "About 10,000 megawatts will be added to the system through these projects." "The government, through identifying and fixing the fault lines in the power sector, will be able to generate cheap electricity," he added. Replying to a query about talks with China, the minister highlighted, "The re-profiling of debt was the key aspect, which is expected to reduce electricity prices and increase demand for electricity." Another key component of these reforms involves converting electricity generation plants from imported coal to local coal, which could significantly lower the cost per unit of electricity, he added.—APP

Finance Minister says govt committed to economic reforms

Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue meets with the Managing Director of Jacobs, Cordova and Associates

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a meeting with the Managing Director of Jacobs, Cordova and Associates Mr. Scott Jacobs at Finance Division. Secretary Board of Investment and officials from relevant ministries/divisions were also present in the meeting. The meeting focused on the subject of regulatory reforms aimed at improving regulatory environment in the country to improve entrepreneurship, innovation and investment. Mr. Jacobs presented a comprehensive proposal to streamline the regulatory system, suggesting a thorough review of standardized



processes to achieve significant results. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb acknowledged the importance of these reforms and underscored the need for impact-driven assistance to ensure the successful implementation of these reforms. The discussions also centered on identifying specific areas where reforms are urgently needed to optimize operations and regulatory frameworks. Both parties agreed on the importance of a structured approach to regulatory reforms.

Kashaf Alvi Honored with UAE Golden Visa

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In an emotionally charged event that resonated with the power of resilience and steadfast spirit, Kashaf Alvi was honored with the esteemed UAE Golden Visa. According to a message received here on Monday, the ceremony, held in Dubai, was filled with tears and applause as Alvi's remarkable journey was celebrated by a standing ovation, paying tribute to his extraordinary talents and contributions. At just 20 years old, Kashaf Alvi has not only defied the odds but has also shattered countless barriers. Born deaf, he has risen to become a beacon of hope and a source of profound inspiration. As Pakistan's first deaf published author

and the youngest deaf author in the world, his literary works have touched hearts and minds globally. His prowess extends to the domain of technology, where he is a Microsoft certified tech enthusiast, showcasing his versatility and unyielding dedication. During the dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alvi's commitment to public service shone brightly as he volunteered on the front lines with the Pakistan Red Crescent, playing a crucial role in mass vaccination efforts. His advocacy work extends far and wide, serving as a former ambassador for the Pakistan Health Parliament and Brand Ambassador of Includovate, a global social enterprise dedicated to empowering marginalized communities. As a Global Shaper under The World Economic Forum,

Alvi engages in transformative dialogues and actions, driving positive change on a global scale. Alvi's powerful voice as a columnist in English dailies often challenges the so-called custodians of disability inclusivity, pushing for a more just and inclusive society. His activism spans peace, disability rights, and climate change, with his words echoing in the corridors of power. As a short film writer and actor, his creative talents have inspired countless individuals, and his motivational speeches continue to uplift spirits. Recognized as the Pride of Pakistan by the Government of Pakistan, Alvi stands as a respected peace activist, tirelessly promoting harmony and understanding. The UAE Golden Visa, awarded to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional abilities

and made significant contributions in their fields, is a poignant recognition of Alvi's remarkable journey. The ceremony in Dubai, attended by influential figures and admirers, was a testament to his achievements and the profound impact of his work. The standing ovation he received was a moving acknowledgment of the respect and admiration he has garnered worldwide. Kashaf Alvi's story is one of indomitable courage, relentless determination, and limitless potential. With dreams of becoming an astronaut and conquering alpine heights, his journey continues to inspire and motivate all who hear it. The UAE Golden Visa not only honors his past accomplishments but also supports his future endeavors, ensuring his lasting impact on the world.

PTI Lawmaker Advocate Mumtaz Mustafa passed away

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Member of the National Assembly (MNA), Advocate Mumtaz Mustafa on Monday breathed his last due to a heart attack. MNA, Mumtaz Mustafa was residing in Parliament Lodges, where he died due to a heart attack. Mumtaz Mustafa belonged to Rahim Yar Khan and had been elected an MNA from the NA-171 constituency. The National Assembly (NA) spokesman has also confirmed the death of Mumtaz Mustafa. He said, "Due to the death of the MNA, the NA session will be adjourned today without any proceedings." Moreover, NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq had expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of MNA Mumtaz Mustafa. He paid tribute to the political and social services of the deceased. Ayaz Sadiq said he was deeply saddened to hear about the sudden death of Mumtaz Mustafa, adding that his political and social services would be remembered forever. Deputy Speaker, NA, Ghulam Mustafa Shah also expressed his condolence over the sad demise of the PTI MNA. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also confirmed its MNA's death on its official X account. It wrote on the social networking site that PTI MNA Advocate Mumtaz Mustafa from Rahim Yar Khan NA-171 had passed away. "May Allah exalt his ranks high in the hereafter and bless his family with patience to bear his irreparable loss," it added.—APP

China's textile hub showcases opportunity for Pak businesses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Suzhou, China's traditional textile hub has showcased opportunity for Pakistani businesses, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. Once known as a city of textile in ancient China, Suzhou today has established itself as an industrial hub in China's economic landscape. This transformative image was featured during the recent Pakistan Investment and Trade Conference held jointly by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and local authorities and enterprises in Suzhou last Thursday, underscoring the city's potential for Pakistan-China collaboration across various sectors. Shehzad Ahmad Khan, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, said Suzhou, a historic treasure nestled beside Shanghai, has emerged as a beacon of

modern development and a key hub for international collaboration. "My initial encounter with Suzhou was impressive – it stands as a testament to China's rapid urbanization and economic strides," remarked the Consul General. "Suzhou's position as a manufacturing epicenter is undeniable, and the seamless flow of human resources between Shanghai and Suzhou underscores its strategic significance." According to recent statistics released by the Suzhou Statistics Bureau, the city's economy continued to thrive in the first half of 2024, with a gross domestic product (GDP) of RMB 1.2059 trillion, a significant increase of 6.2% year-on-year. The city's manufacturing prowess is also evident: in the first half of 2024, Suzhou achieved a total industrial output value of RMB 2.2253 trillion, up 5.5% year-on-year. The Consul General further emphasized

the strong synergies between Suzhou and Pakistani counterparts, particularly in the fields of textiles, renewable energy, electric vehicles and medical devices. "We see immense potential for cooperation, whether through industry relocation, joint ventures, or foreign direct investment from China to Pakistan," he said, adding that the existing ties between the two nations are rooted in their shared history of silk and textile production. The Consul General further emphasized the growing importance of Pakistan as a gateway to the European Union for exports, while noting its vast market for consumer products. The Conference culminated with a series of B2B networking sessions and individual meetings, presenting a golden opportunity for enterprises from both countries to delve into potential partnerships and discuss avenues for collaboration.—APP

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Naqvi condemns India's actions in Kashmir


ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday condemned India's "illegal and unilateral" actions in Jammu and Kashmir on Youm-e-Istehsal reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people's freedom struggle. Naqvi labeled August 5 as the "darkest day" in Kashmir's history, marking the fifth anniversary of India's revocation of Article 370 and 35(A). He denounced the move as a "crime against humanity" aimed at erasing the Kashmiri identity.—APP

Death anniversary of Shamim Ara observed

ISLAMABAD: The eighth death anniversary of the iconic diva of the film industry, Shamim Ara, is being observed on Monday. Actress Shamim Ara was born on March 22, 1938, in the Indian city of Aligarh, but settled in Karachi after the partition. Her birth name was Putli Bai, but she worked in films under the stage name Shamim Ara. Shamim Ara gives many superhit films of that time, including Devdas, Doraha, Bhoole, Ek Tera Sahara, Humraaz, and Naila. The actress has the honor of working with all the heroes of her time in the industry. She acted in a total of 503 films. Shamim Ara was honoured with the Nigar Award four times, and owing to her prodigious contributions, the Pakistani film industry will always remain incomplete without mentioning her. The actress passed away on this day in 2016 in London after a prolonged illness.—APP



Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan increase

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of goods and services to Afghanistan witnessed an increase of 4.12 percent during the twelve months of the fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall exports to Afghanistan were recorded at US \$544.008 million during July-June (2023-24) against exports of US \$522.271 million during July-June (2022-23), SBP data revealed. On a year-to-year basis, the exports to Afghanistan also surged by 5.53 percent from \$43.657 million in June 2023, against the exports of \$46.073 million in June 2024. Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports to Afghanistan decreased by 38.04 percent during June 2024 as compared to the exports of \$74.369 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 Afghanistan into the country during the period under review were recorded at US \$11.923 million against US \$15.277 million last year, showing a decrease of 21.95 percent in July-June (2023-24).—APP



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Peace at stake as Middle East tensions escalate

THE Middle East, a region perpetually on the brink of war, has once again been thrust into turmoil with the recent killing of Ismail Haniyeh, a prominent Hamas leader, inside Iran. This act, attributed to "Israel", marks a significant escalation in the region and is a blatant violation of Iran's sovereignty. The repercussions of this development threaten to destabilize the already fragile peace efforts in the region, further complicating the path to a sustainable resolution. The assassination of Haniyeh, following the recent killing of Hezbollah's top military commander Fouad Shokor, underscores the intensifying cycle of violence. Subsequently, negotiations for a ceasefire and captives deal may now be suspended for weeks or even months due to these successive assassinations. This interruption in diplomatic efforts further erodes the possibility of achieving a peaceful settlement in the near future as the trust necessary for meaningful dialogue has been severely compromised. These incidents are not just isolated acts of aggression but reflections of Tel Aviv's broader strategy that undermines diplomatic efforts. The Netanyahu-led government in "Israel" has audaciously flouted global efforts for a ceasefire and a peaceful resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli struggle. This flagrant disregard not only undermines global diplomatic efforts but also exacerbates the region's instability, revealing a disturbing pattern of obstinacy and escalation. The implications of "Israel's" actions extend beyond the immediate actors involved, namely Palestine, Hamas, and "Israel", to the broader Middle East region. Heightened tensions create a volatile environment that other nations may be drawn into. The interconnected nature of regional politics means that any escalation can have a ripple effect, drawing in countries with vested interests or historical alliances. Iran, in particular, may feel compelled to respond to "Israel's" incursions, leading to a cycle of retaliation. This tit-for-tat dynamic is perilous, as it risks spiraling into a broader regional war. The prospect of military engagements between Iran and "Israel" introduces new layers of complexity and danger, potentially involving other regional and global powers and further complicating an already intricate geopolitical landscape. Such a scenario would have devastating consequences. The human cost in terms of lives lost and communities disrupted would be immeasurable, compounding the existing humanitarian crises in the region. By ignoring global calls for resolution, "Israel's" actions worsen regional instability, indicating a preference for unilateral moves over cooperative solutions. "Israel's" response to the October 7 operation has resulted in the tragic loss of over 40,000 Palestinian lives, including 15,000 children, a disproportionate and devastating toll that underscores the urgent need for restraint. Yet, none of this is satiating for Netanyahu's administration. It is a disturbing reality that "Israel's" expansion of its war beyond its borders is clearly driven by a desire to boost petty ego and esteem rather than achieving genuine security. This mirrors the US post 9/11 global war, which in seeking retribution for the deaths of around 3,000 Americans, led to an estimated 4.7 million deaths in invasions across Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.



The Palestinian sports sector

SINCE the start of the destructive Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip in October 2023, Palestinian sports have paid a heavy price in human lives and infrastructure, without this being enough to exclude the Israeli occupation from the Paris Olympic Games, as Palestine had demanded. The latest victim of Palestinian sports was Ismail Haneeya, the head of the political bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, who was mourned by the sports community as one of their cadres. Another renowned victim was Professor Adnan Al-Barsh, the head of the medical committee of the Football Association in the Gaza governorates, and the head of the Orthopedic Department at Al-Shifa Hospital, who died of torture in the Israeli occupation prisons. According to estimates by the Palestinian Olympic Committee, 400 Palestinian athletes lost their lives in the ongoing aggression on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, in addition to the destruction of facilities and the suspension of sports activities, as stated by the committee's president, Jibril Al-Rajoub, during his meeting with Thomas Bach, the President of the International Olympic Committee, in the French capital Paris, on the sidelines of the Olympic Games. On more than one occasion, Rajoub called for the immediate suspension of the Israeli Football Association's membership in FIFA, citing "systematic violations of FIFA's laws and regulations, including the Israeli Football Association's inclusion of clubs from illegal settlements." Rajoub spoke about the destruction of facilities and the use of football pitches as detention camps to detain and humiliate thousands of Palestinians, who were almost naked, as seen on television screens around the world. A statistic published by the Palestinian Football Association in mid-July shows that among the martyrs are 240 football players and administrators, including 12 in the West Bank, and more than 33 from the scouting movement and about 70 from sports unions. The occupation army also destroyed 42 sports facilities, including 7 in the West Bank, according to the statistical report. The head of the sports section of the daily newspaper Al-Quds, Fayez Nassar, says that "the martyr Ismail Haneeya is one of the martyrs of the sports movement and was a well-known player and previously played in more than one club." He pointed out in an interview with the Aljazeera.net website that "the sports movement lost hundreds of martyrs, referees, administrators, coaches and players from youth football academies." The martyrs include "the coach of the national Olympic team, Hani Maasar, and national team players Ismail Al-Maghribi and Muhammad Barakat." It was also mentioned that there are hundreds of injured, including Rizk Kheir, who played for the Jordanian club Al-Faisaly in the 1970s, and is currently severely injured, with his house demolished and having lost most of his family members. Meanwhile, Naji Ajour, one of the greatest football stars of the century in Palestine, lost his brothers and relatives, and their home in the Al-Daraj neighborhood was reduced to ashes." Regarding sports facilities, Nassar said that 70% of them were deliberately destroyed, and some were converted into detention centers, including the best sports facility in Gaza Al-Yarmouk stadium, where prisoners were tortured.

A diplomatic balancing act in uncertain times

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Netanyahu's visit comes at a time of significant political change in Israel as well. Having recently returned to power, Netanyahu leads a government that includes far-right elements, raising concerns both in Israel and internationally. Issues like the proposed judicial reforms by his government have sparked widespread protests and criticism, showing a nation deeply divided on its future direction. Moreover, Israel's ongoing conflict with the Palestinians remains a central issue

THE Biden administration and Congress were getting ready to welcome Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a time of significant changes and uncertainty in U.S. politics. This visit happens as both countries face evolving domestic and international situations, making it challenging to manage their complex and long-standing relationship. In the U.S., President Joe Biden's administration is dealing with a divided political environment. The Democratic Party generally supports Israel but a growing group within the party that is more critical of Israel's policies, especially regarding the Palestinian territories and human rights issues. This division reflects a broader trend in American society, where younger and more progressive voices are increasingly against what they see as unbalanced U.S. support for Israel. On the Republican side, support for Israel remains strong, often influenced by evangelical Christian beliefs and strategic interests. However, the GOP is also facing its own internal challenges, with different groups competing for power after the Trump era. This political situation means that Netanyahu's visit will be viewed through these partisan divides, affecting the nature and outcomes of his meetings. For President Biden, Netanyahu's visit presents a complex diplomatic challenge. The Biden administration has been trying to adjust U.S. foreign policy after the turbulent Trump years, focusing on multilateralism, renewed alliances, and human rights. Balancing these goals with the strong U.S.-Israel relationship requires careful diplomacy. Biden is also dealing with the resumption of talks about the Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Netanyahu has strongly criticized the JCPOA, arguing that it threatens Israel's se-

curity. Therefore, his visit will likely bring these issues to the forefront, challenging Biden to balance the concerns of an important ally with broader international diplomatic goals. Netanyahu's visit comes at a time of significant political change in Israel as well. Having recently returned to power, Netanyahu leads a government that includes far-right elements, raising concerns both in Israel and internationally. Issues like the proposed judicial reforms by his government have sparked widespread protests and criticism, showing a nation deeply divided on its future direction. Moreover, Israel's ongoing conflict with the Palestinians remains a central issue. Netanyahu's hardline stance and the policies of his coalition partners have made efforts toward a peaceful resolution more complicated. This ongoing conflict continues to be a key issue in U.S.-Israel relations, especially under an administration that emphasizes human rights and diplomatic solutions. Despite these challenges, the strategic relationship between the U.S. and Israel remains a crucial part of American foreign policy in the Middle East. Issues like defense cooperation, intelligence sharing, and counterterrorism efforts highlight the mutual benefits of this alliance. Netanyahu's visit will likely emphasize these aspects, even as both sides navigate their complex domestic and international political situations. President Biden has six months left in office. He might spend more time on foreign policy, something he is passionate about from his time in Congress and as head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. With fewer campaign and domestic issues to deal with, Biden might focus on strengthening his foreign policy legacy. This leadership change in one of the US's main political parties comes at a hectic time for US foreign policy in the Middle East. The recent Houthi drone attack

on Tel Aviv and Israel's response in Yemen show that events continue even when US politics are focused inward. US military and diplomatic efforts in the Middle East are still active due to ongoing issues in the region. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to Washington this week, including a meeting with the Biden administration and a speech to Congress, will highlight the Middle East again. The context of his 2024 visit is different from his 2015 visit when US policy was more focused on the Middle East, such as with Iran nuclear talks and the fight against ISIS. Netanyahu may get a warmer reception from Republicans than Democrats, but unless he has surprising news about Israel-Hamas, Lebanon, or Iran, his visit might not get as much attention as in 2015. Ahead of Netanyahu's visit, Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized two key Middle East policies at the Aspen Security Forum. First, he highlighted the priority of achieving a cease-fire and hostage release deal in the Israel-Hamas conflict, which the US has been working on with Qatar and Egypt. Blinken said they are close to a deal. A successful Netanyahu visit would involve finalizing this deal and outlining a plan for Gaza, Israel, and Palestinians. Blinken reiterated the US goal of a two-state solution as a strong response to Iran and Hamas, despite Israel's parliament rejecting this idea. Secondly, Blinken stressed that the US is committed to preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. He mentioned that Iran could be weeks away from having enough material for a nuclear bomb, a critical point. Blinken's statements about a two-state solution and stopping Iran from getting a nuclear bomb show the US's need to focus on these goals, even with other pressing issues.

US sanctions-based foreign policy

Alex Lo

"Congress got in on the act, flooding the State Department and the White House with requests for sanctions that, in some cases, appeared intended to cut off foreign competition to home-state industries." Since many of those countries are already in economic dire straits, US sanctions only make life much worse for ordinary people. Forget "debt trap" diplomacy, this is outright economic war on the world's poor. According to "The Human Consequences of Economic Sanctions", a report put out last year by the Washington-based Centre for Economic and Policy Research, almost one in three countries around the world face...

VENEZUELA'S strongman Nicolas Maduro is autocratic and repressive. There is evidence that his government rigged the latest election. He certainly had the means and the motive to do it. His brand of bad socialist economics, much like that of his late predecessor, Hugo Chavez, dragged down the economy, caused hyperinflation and spread corruption. But having the world's largest oil reserves could have propped up the economy for a long time, if not for the devastating impact of the United States' decade-long economic warfare to bring down his regime. If you think Maduro and his regime supporters are odious, those in the opposition and their handlers in Washington are no angels, either. Their brand of neoliberal economics would inevitably start with the termination of government subsidies and services, and privatisation of state assets on the cheap. Its scale would likely dwarf the already extreme austerity of Argentina's far-right President Javier Milei. It will likely cause even more suffering to ordinary people. But domestic would-be oligarchs and American corporations, especially those in oil and natural gas, are already waiting in the wings and hoping for a bonanza if Maduro is ever ousted. US sanctions have effectively destroyed the entirety of the country's export revenue, of which 96 per cent used to come from oil sales. "Sanctions on Venezuela," the Washington Post reported, "contributed to an economic contraction roughly three times as large as that caused by the Great Depression in the United States." The destruction of the economy has meant depopulation in the country. More than 7 million are estimated to have left. Ironically, half a million have ended up at the US southern border, thus contributing to Washington's escalating migrant crisis. The US "war on drugs" across Central and South America - which has exacerbated gang violence, sometimes of civil war-like intensity such as that in numerous Mexican states - is another big factor causing the crisis. But Venezuela is not the first victim of America's economic annihilation in the western hemisphere; Cuba is. Year after year over many decades, practically the entire world has voted against the US economic stranglehold on Cuba in the United Nations General Assembly. Last year, it was 187 member states against two, guess who? - the US and Israel. Why the US obsession with these socialist countries of little global geopolitical significance? Imperialist arrogance! The message from Washington to people living in countries south of the US is clear: unless you have a government that we approve of, we will make your life hell. That's often

called "democracy promotion". Seriously! As Yale historian Greg Grandin has argued in Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States and the Making of an Imperial Republic, economic warfare, gunboat diplomacy, and state subversion were methods of US foreign policy first practised and perfected in Latin America before they were applied elsewhere. So what about the rest of the world? According to the same Washington Post report, "the United States is imposing sanctions at a record-setting pace again this year, with more than 60 percent of all low-income countries now under some form of financial penalty. "Congress got in on the act, flooding the State Department and the White House with requests for sanctions that, in some cases, appeared intended to cut off foreign competition to home-state industries." Since many of those countries are already in economic dire straits, US sanctions only make life much worse for ordinary people. Forget "debt trap" diplomacy, this is outright economic war on the world's poor. According to "The Human Consequences of Economic Sanctions", a report put out last year by the Washington-based Centre for Economic and Policy Research, almost one in three countries around the world face some form of US sanctions of varying intensity. Since they collectively account for almost a third of global GDP, the US is doing serious damage to the world economy. This is especially the case with so-called secondary sanctions, which punish bystander countries that do business with target countries under direct unilateral US sanctions. Some US or US-led sanctions such as those against Russia may seem more justified, for the latter's invasion of Ukraine. But attempts to confiscate Russia's foreign state assets would be clear breaches of international law, or even basic property rights. That has scared everyone as they worry they could be next. Other sanctions such as those against China may backfire on the US and its allies. Like decoupling, the curtailment of Chinese supply chains spanning the globe often amounts to self-harm by forcing Americans and US companies to buy more expensive non-Chinese products, assuming those alternatives are even available. The US global sanctions regime, as maverick US Republican Senator Rand Paul has argued, has become a substitute for skilful diplomacy and a well-crafted US foreign policy. That will ultimately be self-defeating. Much of it only works because the US dominates the global financial and internet infrastructure and architecture. Both were once created and championed by the US as global common goods, which helped create much of today's pro-

perity around the world, though the US benefited from it disproportionately. But when these are weaponised, it's being seen as an abuse by the US around the world. The linchpin of US global dominance is the US dollar, which enables it to borrow at cheap rates, even from adversarial states, like there is no tomorrow and run an unrivalled global military. No one would be suicidal enough to attack the US directly. That's why de-dollarisation as a backlash is all the rage outside the US alliance system. That movement attracting more and more countries may yet lack effectiveness to dethrone the US dollar at the moment, but it is rapidly gaining global legitimacy. Countries increasingly trade through each other's currencies, sometimes using the yuan as the intermediary. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Brics have become primary non-Western international groupings to champion de-dollarisation, with the latter especially attracting a long line of non-Western nations interested to join. Countries in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific may have border and maritime disputes with China, but they see benefits in such a de-dollarisation drive, at least as a longer-term goal. Many are afraid what has happened to Russia may one day happen to them. Defenders of the US like argue that dollar dominance is here to stay because there is no alternative currency to compete for the greenback's premier reserve currency status and as the essential currency in world trade. But they are arguing from the standpoint of US power, not its legitimacy, which is increasingly difficult to defend. Short-sighted US policymakers may think sanctions are no-brainers as they don't require the brain power of skilful diplomacy or the muscle power of putting boots on the ground. But the naked (abuse of) power without a legitimate cause, especially in financial matters, can collapse quickly and without warning. The dollar has been the source of unprecedented US power; it's becoming its Achilles' heel. Other people might have once been happy to go along because they enjoyed the benefits of global trade and internet technology as common public goods. But many of those benefits have turned into unpredictable risk or even outright threats, thanks to what has been called "how America weaponised the world economy", the subtitle of Underground Empire, by political scientists Henry Farrell and Abraham Newman. Unprecedented US military spending underpins the maintenance of the global US empire, which is only made possible by the dollar's unique status. Once that financial status is gone, the empire will crumble.

Briefs

Public pressure forces BD...

FROM PAGE 01 non-violent and peaceful ways." Television visuals showed thousands of people pouring into the streets of the capital Dhaka in jubilation and shouting slogans. Thousands also stormed Hasina's official residence 'Ganabhaban', shouting slogans, pumping fists and showing victory signs. Crowds thronged the drawing rooms of the residence, and some people could be seen carrying away televisions, chairs and tables from what was one of the most protected buildings in the country. "She has fled the country, fled the country," some shouted. Protesters in Dhaka also climbed atop a large statue of independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina's father, and began chiselling away at the head with an axe, the visuals showed. Student activists had called for a march to the capital Dhaka on Monday in defiance of a nationwide curfew to press Hasina to resign, after deadly clashes across the country on Sunday killed nearly 100 people.

JI warns to expand sit-ins to...

FROM PAGE 01 announced that his party would expand its protest movement across the country. Hafiz Naemur Rehman also demanded from the government to immediately abolish the taxes on flour, sugar, and stationery, and provide relief to the people. The JI chief said that the government, Chairman FBR, and Finance Minister are all giving different statements, which is confusing the people. The JI presented its 10 demands and sought Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's guarantee on the ongoing talks as the response from the government has been 'delayed'. The Hafiz Naemur Rehman-led party demanded a guarantee from the premier for any negotiations, insisting that any agreement reached must bear the PM Sharif's signature.

- Abolition of levy on Petroleum Development • 20% reduction in prices of food commodities, electricity and gas tariffs.
- Renegotiate agreements with IPPs, particularly end clause of agreement on making payments in US dollar.
- Reduction in taxes such as on agriculture and industrial sectors.
- Ensure incentives to industrial sector, trade and investment.
- Withdrawal of increase in taxes on the salaried class and imposition of taxes on privileged class.
- Cut in non-development expenses by 35%.
- Withdrawal of all taxes on stationary and other items used in education and training of children.

PM constitutes task...

FROM PAGE 01 and self-sustaining competitive power market. The development came as there have been multiple protests – including a sit-in being staged by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) – against the high cost of electricity. Pakistanis have been receiving high electricity bills which also include capacity payments being made to the independent power producers (IPPs). The power producers are paid capacity payment regardless of whether they generate electricity or not. Power Minister Awaiz Leghari has been appointed as the chairman of the task force, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Power Muhammad Ali is the co-chairman while Lt (Gen) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal is the national coordinator. The members of the task force are BS-21 officer Syed Zakaria Ali Shah, nominees of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra), Central Power Purchasing Agency, Private Power and Infrastructure Board and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

Australian, Malaysia and Brunei envoys honored



DNA ISLAMABAD: Olympian M. Usman, Coach and Commandant of the Pakistan hockey team camp presenting souve-

nirs to High Commissioner of Australia Neil Hawkins, High Commissioner of Brunei Kamal Ahmad and High Commissioner of Malaysia Dato Azhar Mazlan during a practice session of the Rising Stars Hockey Club. These diplomats are the active members of the Rising Stars Hockey Club.

President Rising Stars Hockey Club Mehmoed Ahmed and Secretary Ansar Bhatti, Asif Bhatti, Khyber Ali, Zia Shah, Imran were also present on the occasion. Pakistan team will leave for to take part in the Asian champion trophy.

PCB announces plan to improve domestic cricket

Initiative will offer players a platform to experience rigours and pressures of int'l cricket at home, says PCB chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced its decision to launch Champions domestic tournaments to revolutionise the country's existing cricketing ecosystem and bridge the existing gap with international cricket. Speaking at a press conference at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said that the board will organise the Champions One-Day Cup, T20 Cup and First-Class Cup which will bring together the most talented and consistent performers from domestic cricket with the board's centrally contracted players. The development comes as the board

has been under scrutiny owing to the men's side's poor performances in mega events including the Asia Cup 2023 as well as the team's early exit from this year's T20 World Cup 2024 where the Green Shirts even failed to progress to the Super Eight stage of the tournament. The PCB chief, in recent times, has held meetings with former cricketers to discuss various matters, including domestic cricket, to improve the country's cricket infrastructure and ecosystem. Flanked by PCB's Chief Operating Officer Salman Nasser and newly-appointed Adviser on Cricket Affairs Waqar Younis, Naqvi said that the team's current ranking in all three formats does not reflect the true potential and legacy of Pakistan's cricket.

Highlighting the need to innovate and strategically enhance, expand and strengthen our domestic structure, the PCB chairman said that the Champions tournaments will allow cricketers at the domestic level to experience an environment that mirrors the intensity of international cricket. He said that the initiative will feature broadcast matches, legendary mentors, elite coaching staff and extensive media coverage. The tournaments will provide necessary exposure and experience to the players and will revolutionise and rejuvenate the entire cricket ecosystem of the country as it will establish a clear pathway from clubs, schools and universities to intra-district, to inter-district, to regional and department competitions.

No change in army's stance on May 9 protests: DG ISPR

FROM PAGE 06

there will be," he said while briefing the media on the country's security situation at Rawalpindi's General Headquarters (GHQ). Riots broke out in many parts of the country, especially in the garrison town, with charged mobs vandalising private and public properties including military installations following Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's arrest on May 9. In a press conference after one year anniversary of the violent protests, the DG ISPR said that the perpetrators and facilitators of the May 9 riots need to be punished as per the Constitution and law to preserve the credibility and faith in the country's justice system. Today, Lt Gen Chaudhry stressed that there was no change in army's stance on the matter. He said that the elements involved in "digital terrorism" and spreading propaganda to drive a wedge between armed forces and masses will face the law. "First of all, the first line of defence against digital terrorism is the law. Unfortunately, the falsehood and propaganda are very high on social media, as fake news and doctored images are posted to create a confusion in the minds of the people," the chief military spokesperson said. "The law is not taking its course against it, but the armed forces take it very seriously," he said adding that legal action will be taken against those – either in Pakistan or abroad – involved in running propaganda against the military. Responding to a question about the US resolution, the top military spokesman said that the army knows "who is running this campaign, who is facilitating it and under what motives".

Sheikh Hasina meets Indian NSA, may seek asylum in UK

FROM PAGE 01

jobs in that country. Sheikh Hasina is expected to leave for London later, reported an Indian news channel citing sources, where she may seek political asylum. Sources told news agency ANI Sheikh Hasina's plane - a Bangladesh Air Force C-130 military transport - will be parked near the Indian Air Force's C-17 and C-130J Super Hercules aircraft hangars. Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina may not return to politics, her son and former Chief Advisor has said. Disappointed by the strong public sentiment against her government despite her efforts to transform the country, she has decided to quit, Sajeeb Wajed Joy said a British media outlet. "She has turned Bangladesh around. When she took over power it was considered a failing state. It was a poor country. Until today it was considered one of the rising tigers of Asia," Mr Joy said. Over the last month, more than 300 people died in Bangladesh amid violent protests, which though started over quota, shortly transformed into a call for the Prime Minister to step down. Sheikh Hasina's critics accused her not just of corruption and nepotism but also high-handedness and curtailing of civil liberties. These, many alleged, overshadowed the economic progress and development she had brought about. Her son rejected allegations that the government had been heavy-handed in dealing with the protestors as well.

Khelif wants end to 'bullying athletes' in Paris Olympics

They are worried about me. God willing, this crisis will culminate in a gold medal, and that would be the best response." Khelif was asked if she had undergone tests other than doping tests saying that she does not wish to discuss this topic

PARIS: Algerian female boxer Imane Khelif wants an end to "bullying athletes" after she made it to the headlines following her win against Italy's Angela Carini in just 46 seconds at the Paris Olympics 2024. Khelif, along with Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, were disqualified from the 2023 World Championships after failing International Boxing Association (IBA) eligibility rules. However, the IBA was stripped of its recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) last year over governance and finance issues. The IOC defended its decision to allow Khelif and Yu-ting to compete at the Olympics. During a recent interview, Khelif called for an end to the bullying of athletes saying that it can "destroy" people and their thoughts, spirit and mind. "I sent a message to all the people of the world to uphold the Olympic principles and the Olympic Charter, to refrain from bullying all athletes, because this has effects, massive effects," Khelif said. "It can destroy people, it can kill people's thoughts, spirit and mind. It can divide people." Khelif and Lin will now compete for Olympic medals after reaching the semi-final. Should they qualify for the final, they will fight for the gold. "I am in contact with my family two days a week. I hope that they weren't affected deeply," she said. "They are worried about me. God willing, this crisis will culminate in a gold medal, and that would be the best response." Khelif was asked if she had undergone tests other than doping tests saying that she does not wish to discuss this topic. The Algerian also thanked the IOC for allowing her to compete and letting the controversy discourage her efforts in the ring. "I don't care about anyone's opinion," Khelif said a day after beating Anna Luca Hamori of Hungary. "I came here for a medal, and to compete for a medal. I will certainly be competing to improve [and] be better, and God willing, I will improve, like every other athlete." - Agencies

England cricketer Graham Thorpe passes away at 55

"More than one of England's finest-ever batters, he was a beloved member of the cricket family and revered by fans all over the world. His skill was unquestioned, and his abilities and achievements across a 13-year international career brought so much happiness to his teammates and England and Surrey CCC supporters alike

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Former England cricketer Graham Thorpe passed away at the age of 55 after fighting an illness for almost two years, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed on Monday. Thorpe, 55, represented England in 182 international matches including 100 Tests and 82 ODIs and worked with the team as their batting coach. He was named Afghanistan's head coach in 2022 but couldn't continue as he was taken to the hospital due to a "serious illness". "It is with great sadness that we share the news that Graham Thorpe, MBE, has passed away," the ECB

said in a statement. "There seem to be no appropriate words to describe the deep shock we feel at Graham's death. "More than one of England's finest-ever batters, he was a beloved member of the cricket family and revered by fans all over the world. His skill was unquestioned, and his abilities and achievements across a 13-year international career brought so much happiness to his teammates and England and Surrey CCC supporters alike. Later, as a coach, he guided the best England Men's talent to some incredible victories across all formats of the game. "The cricket world is in mourning today. Our hearts go out to his wife Amanda, his children, father Geoff, and all of his family and

friends during this unimaginably difficult time. We will always remember Graham for his extraordinary contributions to the sport." Thorpe scored a hundred on his debut against Australia in 1993 and went on to become one of England's most important batters in red-ball cricket during the 1990s and early 2000s. Thorpe joined the ECB in 2010 as their batting coach and worked as assistant coach to Chris Silverwood. He was to become Afghanistan's head coach in 2022 but was hospitalised due to an illness. After he was admitted to the hospital, England's Test captain Ben Stokes wore a shirt with Thorpe's name during the toss at his first match as skipper against New Zealand in Lord's.

Japan's Oka wins third gold at Paris Olympics

The final was marked by several falls and fumbled dismounts, with Tang and in particular Japan's Takaaki Sugino hitting the deck to gasps from the crowd

PARIS: Shinnosuke Oka's fairytale debut Olympics got even better on Monday as the Japanese gymnast added horizontal bar gold to his team and all-around titles. The 20-year-old, who also has a bronze in parallel bars for good measure, scored the same 14,533 points as Colombia's Angel Barajas, but took gold on the strength of his higher execution mark. China's Zhang Boheng and Taiwan's Tang Chia-Hung shared bronze. The final was marked by several falls and fumbled dismounts, with Tang and in particular Japan's Takaaki Sugino hitting the deck to gasps from the crowd. Lyles bids for Olympic 100m glory as Djokovic faces Alcaraz. Belying his inexperience, Oka kept his nerve and crucially his grip on the 2.8 metre-high bar to top the standings. His score was matched by Colombian teenager Barajas, but he was awarded 7.933 for execution compared to Oka's 8.633. In contrast, Zhang and Tang were inseparable on 13.966 and an identical 7.466 execution mark left them tied for third. Defending champion from the Tokyo Games, Daiki Hashimoto, failed to qualify for the final. In a sign of how errors played their part in the 2024 final, Oka's score in Paris would only have won bronze at the Covid-delayed Games three years ago. - Agencies

PM urges India to find peaceful...

FROM PAGE 01 never thought of aggression with regard to its nuclear power. "Therefore the better option is to adopt the peaceful way and sit together to find out the peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute." The prime minister pointed out that this occasion reminded us of the grave consequences of India's illegal actions of 5 August 2019 vis-à-vis IIOJK when PM Narendra Modi-led government revoked the semi-autonomous status of the disputed valley. Ever since, he said today, in IIOJK, efforts were being made to silence the genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people and muzzle the media. "The number of political prisoners remains in the thousands, while 14 political organisations have been outlawed." Harassment of innocent people, arbitrary detentions, and the so-called 'cordon and search operations' have become a matter of routine. The Indian forces are operating with impunity, according to them under different draconian laws, he added.

Pakistan to continue support...

FROM PAGE 01 Gilgit Baltistan here Monday. He said that Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan under Amir Muqam had launched a historic campaign on the occasion of Youm-e-Istehsal to highlight Indian atrocities in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Tarar said on Aug 5, 2019, the special status of Kashmir was ended by the India's Modi regime through unilateral and illegal actions. He said India had unleashed a reign of terror in the occupied Kashmir by usurping all fundamental rights of hapless Kashmiri people.

DPM Dar to attend OIC meeting...

FROM PAGE 01 State of Palestine and the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss the ongoing Israeli aggression against Palestine and other regional states. As one of the staunchest supporters of the Palestinian cause, Pakistan has always been at the forefront in raising its voice at all international fora, including the OIC. At the Extraordinary Meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from other OIC member states.

No visa restrictions..

FROM PAGE 01 faced by residents of the Sindh province with regards to acquiring visas to visit the UAE. In a video, the top diplomat said: "All facilities are being provided to Pakistani businessmen, real workers, and those travelling for medical treatment in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and other cities." The envoy added that the Gulf nation has strong cultural, religious, and trade relations with Pakistan spanning over 50 years. "The UAE provides 100% facilities to Pakistani brothers and sisters for obtaining visas."

BYC protesters...

FROM PAGE 01 remarks refer to the ongoing sit-ins of the BYC in various places across Balochistan after it had inked an agreement with the local administration and had called off its protests on Thursday last week. However, despite the talks, the protests, calling for the recovery of missing persons, have continued with the demonstrations demanding the government to implement their agreement, release arrested protesters, and annul the first information reports (FIRs) filed against them.

Briefs

Japanese premier expected to visit Uzbekistan

TOKYO : Uzbekistan said on Monday that Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is expected to visit the country at the end of the week. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's press secretary Sherzod Asadov said on Telegram that the country's head of state returned from a short-term leave, indicating that a number of meetings are planned on important socio-economic issues. Asadov said Mirziyoyev is planning a visit to neighboring Kazakhstan, adding that his participation in an upcoming consultative meeting between Central Asian leaders is also planned. Astana will host the 6th consultative meeting of the heads of state of Central Asia on Aug. 9. Last Friday, the Kazakh presidency said Mirziyoyev will pay a state visit to the country on Aug. 7-8. Asadov said Mirziyoyev is planning to participate at a summit in the Central Asia-Japan format. "It is expected that at the end of the week, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will visit our country on an official visit," Asadov added. Japan's Kyodo News on Saturday said Kishida is expected to visit Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Mongolia on Aug. 9-12 in a bid to deepen the country's ties with the region's resource-rich countries. Tokyo, however, has yet to officially confirm the visit.—Agencies

EU may fully approve tariffs on Chinese EVs

BEIJING : EU nations are expected to back the proposed tariffs that would be imposed on Chinese electric vehicles in November, the media reported, citing European Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis. European Commission spokesperson Eric Mamer stated in July that the commission intended to apply import taxes on Chinese electric vehicles. Speaking to FT, Dombrovskis said, "It's clear that member states realise the need to protect the EU's car industry because this risk of injury is there. Chinese battery electric vehicle market share is growing very rapidly. That subsidisation is there," stressing the need for the matter "to be addressed." It is anticipated that member states will vote on the tariff proposal in late October, with the decision going into effect in November. China warned that additional EU tariffs on imports of Chinese electric vehicles would "harm Europe's own interests." "It goes against the principles of market economy and international trade rules, undermines China-EU economic and trade cooperation, as well as the stability of the global automobile production and supply chain," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian. In addition, the commissioner stated that future talks with Beijing will center on removing trade barriers and guaranteeing "more reciprocal trade," given that European markets are more accessible to Chinese goods and firms than the Chinese market is to Europeans. "That argument can be made on any trade-distorting subsidies. But the point is that we have a major EU car industry, and this car industry is at risk if we allow this kind of distortion of the level playing field," Dombrovskis said. Fear of retaliation. Last month, the European Union added extra provisional duties of up to 38% on Chinese electric car imports because of supposed "unfair" state subsidies, despite Beijing's warnings that such a move would unleash a trade war. A European Commission investigation... concluded that the battery electric vehicles produced in China benefit from unfair subsidization, which is causing a threat of economic injury to the EU's own electric car makers," Dombrovskis said at the time.—APP

Erdogan: Gaza crisis reveals global system's bankruptcy

Erdogan stressed in his speech while drawing attention to a 'serious power vacuum' in the international system, 'loss of morality, and conscience'

NEWS DESK

ANKARA : "With the Gaza crisis, the global system has become bankrupt. World politics is navigating one of its harpest turns," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stressed in his speech while drawing attention to a 'serious power vacuum' in the international system, 'loss of morality, and conscience'. "In the face of this oppression, which should normally awaken humanity, the UN Security Council remains silent," Erdoğan underlined by referring to Israel's genocidal attacks on the Gaza Strip. "Perpetrators of genocide should not be at the podiums of legislative chambers, but in courtrooms where they will account for their crimes," Erdoğan added. "Those who applaud lies of today's Hitler, Netanyahu, will never be able to wash off the

dark stain on their hands for the rest of their lives," the Turkish leader said in a statement while blasting the speech delivered by the war criminal Israeli PM in the U.S. Congress. "There is 'digital fascism that cannot even tolerate photos of Palestinian martyrs and bans them instantly, yet markets this as freedom. Social media platforms show great care in adhering to rules in the US, and Europe, but deliberately withhold the same diligence when it comes to Türkiye,'" Erdoğan underlined by especially hitting out social media giant Meta's pro-Israel policy. Flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by Hamas. Almost 10 months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of



food, clean water, and medicine. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which ordered it to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where more than 1 million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was

invaded on May 6. Meanwhile, Türkiye and Italy issued travel advisories Sunday for their citizens who are in Lebanon or plan to travel there amid an escalation of tensions following the assassinations of a top commander of Hezbollah and the political chief of Hamas. "Our citizens in Lebanon are advised to exercise caution and avoid traveling to the regions of Nabatieh, South Lebanon, Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel unless absolutely necessary," Türkiye's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The statement also advised citizens to leave Lebanon "if their presence is not essential" while commercial flights are still available. Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani urged Italians in Lebanon to avoid the south and return home by commercial flights in a statement on X. Similarly, Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised against

traveling to Lebanon, Iran and Israel, recommending the immediate departure from Lebanon and increased vigilance. All three countries cited safety and security concerns due to the deteriorating situation in the region. Earlier in the day, the French Embassy in Beirut urged French citizens to leave Lebanon as soon as possible. On Saturday, the US and UK warned their nationals to leave Lebanon immediately amid concerns over a wider escalation of the conflict with Israel. Tensions between the Lebanese Hezbollah group and Israel have risen since Tel Aviv killed senior military commander Fuad Shukr in an airstrike on a southern suburb of the capital Beirut on Tuesday. The following day, the Palestinian resistance group Hamas's political chief, Ismail Haniyeh, was assassinated in the Iranian capital Tehran, allegedly by Israel, though Tel Aviv has not confirmed or denied responsibility.

FAO urges urgent action on Sudan famine

LONDON : The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Monday called for action in Sudan as famine conditions were confirmed in parts of Darfur by the latest food security assessment report. In response to alarming new findings, FAO is urging "an immediate cessation of hostilities, rapid scale-up of life-saving food, nutrition, and cash assistance as well as of the emergency agricultural aid," the agency said in a statement. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has found that famine conditions are ongoing in the Zamzam Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp which hosts 500,000 IDPs outside of El Fasher town in Darfur. "We are witnessing horrific famine conditions in parts of North Darfur and an increasing risk of famine in other settlements and conflict-affected areas, especially in Darfur, South Kordofan, Khartoum and Al Jazirah," FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu said. "We have been raising the alarm about this looming catastrophe, yet due to the ongoing conflict and limited humanitarian access these communities are still not getting the immediate support they need," Qu said. "We need urgent, concerted action to prevent an even greater catastrophe from unfolding." Noting that famine can be halted, he said that the immediate cessation of hostilities could be an essential first step for that. "Peace is a prerequisite for food security, and the right to food is a basic human right," he added. Sudan is highly dependent on agriculture, with nearly 65% of its population engaged in the sector. And it is this sector, rural livelihoods and agrifood systems that are on the front line of the conflict, suffering severe damage and disruption — with cascading and worrying consequences for food security and nutrition. The agency underlined Sudan's "high" dependence on agriculture, with nearly 65% of its population engaged in the sector, and said that rural livelihoods and agrifood systems are on the front line of the conflict.—APP



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being briefed on the revamping of Gaddafi Stadium.—DNA.

Ukraine receives \$3.9bn grant from US: PM

KYIV: Ukraine has received a \$3.9 billion grant from the United States via the World Bank, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said on Monday. "This is the first tranche of direct budget support from the United States in 2024. In total, Ukraine will receive \$7.8 billion in direct budgetary assistance from the United States this year, which will allow us to confidently pass this financial period," Shmyhal said on the Telegram messaging app. The Ukrainian finance ministry, in a separate statement, said the funds would be directed towards wages for teachers, staff of the State Emergency Service and other public employees, as well as assistance for displaced persons, low-income families and people with disabilities. Ukraine finally deploying F-16 fighter jets, says Zelenskyy "The grant will help the Government of Ukraine to reimburse priority social and humanitarian expenditures without increasing the debt burden," Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko said in a statement. The ministry said that since February 2022, direct budget support from the United States had reached almost \$27 billion, the largest source of financial assistance to Ukraine. Marchenko said the grant was a part of a large \$60 billion package of support for Ukraine.—Agencies

Mali cuts diplomatic ties with Ukraine

KYIV : Mali has announced it is severing diplomatic ties with Ukraine, accusing a senior official of having admitted Kyiv's role in a heavy defeat in July that killed dozens of mercenaries from Russia's Wagner group as well as Malian soldiers. The northern Tuareg rebels say they killed at least 84 mercenaries and 47 Malian soldiers over three days of fighting late last month in the north of the West African country, in what appeared to be Wagner's heaviest defeat since it stepped into the conflict two years ago. On July 29, Andriy Yusov, the spokesperson for Ukraine's military intelligence agency (GUR), told the public broadcaster Suspilne that the Malian rebels had received "all the information they needed, which allowed [them] to carry out their operation against the Russian war criminals". Mali said it had learned "with deep shock" of the remarks and that Yusov had "admitted Ukraine's involvement in a cowardly, treacherous and barbaric attack by armed terrorist groups that resulted in the death of members of the Malian Defence and Security Forces". It said it would break off relations "with immediate effect", a statement from government spokesman Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga said. Mali also cited comments by Ukraine's Ambassador to Senegal Yuriy Pivovarov, who was summoned by Senegal on Saturday over a video published on Facebook in which Pivovarov provided "unequivocal and unqualified support for the terrorist attack" in Mali. Ukraine's actions violated Malian sovereignty and constituted unacceptable foreign interference and support for international terrorism, according to Maiga. People paying tribute to Wagner troops killed in Mali at a makeshift memorial near the Kremlin in Moscow. People stand near an improvised memorial to Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin who died in a plane crash last year, following heavy Wagner losses in Mali in late July [Pavel Bedyakov/AP Photo] Three days of intense fighting erupted near the Algerian border on July 25 at a military camp at Tinzaouatene. Mali's army has admitted it suffered a "large number" of deaths during the clashes but has not released figures. This week, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed his support for Bamako in a telephone call with his Malian counterpart Abdoulaye Diop.—DNA

Asian stocks topple amid fears of US recession

TOKYO : The Japanese stock market showed a huge decline on Monday across Asian and European equities following a recent weak US jobs report evoking fears of a recession in the economic superpower, and increasing speculation concerning Federal Reserve interest rate cuts. The recent US report published on Friday showed a decline in job growth, as only 114,000 jobs were added in June, while the unemployment rate rose to the highest level since October 2021. The lackluster economic data raised concerns that Fed officials may have maintained a high interest rate for over two decades, leading to speculation of a potential economic recession. Major tech companies such as Amazon and Microsoft experienced a decline in stocks following an AI-fueled rally, joining several firms facing red stocks, indicating heavy losses on Wall Street. In a recent meeting held on Wednesday, the US Central Bank stated that slowing inflation and a softening labor market would reduce interest rates, with traders forecasting two or three 25-basis-point reductions before January.—APP

Kim oversees transfer of missile launchers to border

North Korea has been expanding its short-range weaponry designed to overwhelm missile defences in neighbouring South Korea

WEB DESK

PYONGYANG : North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has presided over a ceremony to mark the delivery of 250 new tactical ballistic missile launchers to military units at the border. State media KCNA shared images of the Pyongyang ceremony, which took place after dark on Sunday, showing camouflage-coloured launcher trucks lined up on a floodlit square decked out with flags. Soldiers stood in formation for the event, which included a fireworks display. Addressing the crowds, Kim described the launchers as an "up-to-date tactical attack weapon" that he had "personally designed". North Korea has been expanding its range of mobile short-range weapons designed to overwhelm missile defences in neighbouring

South Korea, while also developing intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to reach the continental United States. Kim Jong Un handing a flag to a soldier in combat uniform. They are on stage at a ceremony, Kim is dressed in black. The soldiers are in combat uniform. There are other officials nearby. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with soldiers at the ceremony. The launchers will be delivered to front-line units. North Korea said it tested a new tactical ballistic missile capable of carrying a "superlarge warhead" last month. Tactical weaponry is a term usually used to describe systems capable of delivering low-yield nuclear weapons. "We believe [the missile launchers] are intended to be used in various ways, such as to attack or threaten South Korea... Deploying near the border would mean that the range is not long," Lee Sungjoon, the spokesperson for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a media briefing. In his speech, Kim blamed Washington for creating a "nuclear-based military block" that had forced his country to further strengthen its military capabilities. North Korea has long condemned joint drills between the United States and South Korea as a rehearsal for invasion. A spokesperson for Seoul's Ministry of Unification for handling inter-Korean affairs said it was North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes, pursued in defiance of United Nations sanctions, that were the primary threat to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years, with a 2018 military agreement designed to reduce tension in tatters.

Death toll from suicide bombing at Somalia beach rises to 37

MOGADISHU: The death toll from a suicide bombing late last week on a crowded beach in the Lido area of the Somali capital Mogadishu rose to 37 on Sunday. "As of now, the number of people killed in the heinous attack stands at 37, while nearly 70 others were wounded," said Ahmed Abdi, a police officer in Mogadishu who spoke by phone to Anadolu. He said an investigation into the attack is underway, while the government has named a ministerial committee tasked with coordinating the emergency response and support for the wounded. Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre, who visited Recep Tayyip Erdoğan Hospital in the capital, said security officials and soldiers in charge of the area where the attack took place were arrested due to negligence. "Rest assured, we are taking strict action against those responsible," Barre said in a brief statement on X. Barre did not elaborate further on how many soldiers and officials were arrested. Lido Beach is frequented by civilians, security officials and businesspeople. The Al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Shabaab terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack. The blast was one of the deadliest terrorist attacks so far this year in Somalia, which has been plagued by insecurity for years, with the main threats emanating from al-Shabaab and the Daesh/ISIS terror groups. Since 2007, al-Shabaab has been fighting the Somali government and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) — a multidimensional mission authorized by the African Union and mandated by the UN Security Council. Al-Shabaab has stepped up attacks since Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud declared an "all-out war" on the group.—DNA

Volker calls for urgent de-escalation in Middle East

UN human rights chief said that civilians—mostly women and children—have already endured "unbearable pain and suffering" as result of the bombs and guns over the past 10 months

FOREIGN DESK

GENEVA : The UN human rights chief on Monday said that he is "deeply worried" about the rising risk of wider conflict in the Middle East, and called for an urgent de-escalation. "I am deeply worried about the rising risk of a wider conflict in the Middle East and plead with all parties, along with those States with influence, to act urgently to de-escalate what has become a very precarious situation," Volker Turk said in a statement. Turk reminded parties that human rights and the protection of civilians must be the top priority. Stressing that civilians—mostly women and children—have already endured "unbearable pain and suffering" as result of the bombs and guns over the past 10 months, he said: "Everything, and I mean everything, must be done to avoid this situation

spiraling further into an abyss that will only have even more terrible consequences for civilians." Tensions have escalated between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel since Tel Aviv



assassinated the group's senior military commander Fuad Shukr in an airstrike on a suburb of Beirut on July 30. Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in the Iranian capital Tehran the following day in an attack blamed on Israel, although Tel Aviv has not confirmed or denied its responsibility. Hamas and Iran have vowed to retaliate for Haniyeh's assassination, while Hezbollah has pledged to respond to Shukr's killing. Fears have grown of a full-blown war between Israel and Hezbollah amid a months-long exchange of cross-border fire. The escalation comes against the backdrop of an Israeli onslaught on Gaza which has killed more than 39,600 people since last October following an attack by the Palestinian group Hamas. Meanwhile, at least 40 more Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, bringing the overall death toll to 39,623 since last Oct. 7, the Health Ministry

in the battered enclave said on Monday. A ministry statement added that some 91,469 other people have been injured in the assault. "Israeli forces killed 40 people and injured 71 others in two 'massacres' against families in the last 24 hours," the ministry said. "Many people are still trapped under rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them," it added. Flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by Hamas. Almost 10 months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water, and medicine. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which ordered it to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where more than 1 million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.

Briefs

ASF foils drug smuggling bid

DNA

MULTAN: The Airport Security Force (ASF) officials on Monday successfully foiled a drug smuggling bid at Multan airport. As per details, the ASF team recovered 804 grams of liquid ice heroin from a passenger traveling to Jeddah. The passenger, identified as Abdul Majid, had hidden the drugs in two shampoo bottles. However, the ASF team suspected the passenger's luggage and conducted a search, which led to the recovery of the drugs. The passenger was handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) authorities for further legal action. Earlier, the Airport Security Force (ASF) foiled a drug smuggling bid and arrested a foreigner traveling Colombo - a judicial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka from Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport. The ASF recovered a total of 4kg ICE heroin drug from the possession of the foreign national, identified as Shin Shin Yang, who cleverly hidden the drugs in milk packets. As per the ASF spokesperson, the security at Lahore airport searched the belongings of the Colombo-bound passenger and found the drugs in his possession. The ASF handed over the foreign suspect to an ANF authorities along with the recovered heroin after preliminary investigation.

Bulgaria faces another snap vote

SOFIA: Bulgaria is heading for its seventh parliamentary elections in three years after the last of three political parties tapped by President Rumen Radev to form a coalition government failed due to lack of support. The Balkan country has been plagued by revolving-door governments since anticorruption protests in 2020 helped topple a coalition led by the centre-right populist GERB party. The small populist ITN party, which was tasked with forming a new government by Radev a week ago, returned its mandate on Monday. In talks with other parties, it was unable to persuade 121 of the 240 lawmakers required to support the formation of a government. After a meeting with Radev, Toshko Yordav, chairman of the ITN parliamentary group, told reporters on Monday that the parties were unable to find common ground on forming a new government. "The political wisdom of one party was not enough to make a decision, ... so we return the mandate unfulfilled," said Yordanov, whose party came sixth in the last elections held in June, winning just 16 seats in the 240-member parliament. - Agencies

Fazl deplors response to India's act

Says victory in Kashmir movement will be fate of freedom fighters

DNA

DHIRKOT: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Monday that India by terminating the special status of Kashmir made a wrong decision and the rulers of Pakistan remained silent. He said the people of Pakistan were with the Kashmiris and victory in the Kashmir movement would be the fate of the freedom fighters. The JUI chief said the Kashmiris had a history. "Freedom movements do not reach their destination in months and years," he said. Maulana Fazl said "nations having perseverance and high determination reach their destination. Kashmiris are courageous as well as an oppressed nation." The war of independence was fought in the subcontinent for more than 200 years, Fazl said. "The idea of freedom reaches from one generation to another."

Aug 5 steps violation of UN resolutions, int'l laws: Dar

He said the people of Pakistan and Kashmir had a centuries-old association and were bound by unbreakable bonds of history, geography and religion and shared their joys and sorrows. The people of Pakistan could not accept or dissociate themselves from the situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday said that the illegal and unilateral steps India took on August 5, 2019, were blatant violations of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, international laws and the Fourth Geneva Convention. The deputy prime minister, addressing the participants of a walk, held in connection with the Yaum-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir, marking the fifth anniversary of the revocation of Articles 370 and 35 A by India in 2019 to revoke the special status of disputed

Kashmiri territory, said the Indian tactic to usurp the rights of Kashmiri people through such constitutional amendments was an act of folly. He said the people of Pakistan and Kashmir had a centuries-old association and were bound by unbreakable bonds of history, geography and religion and shared their joys and sorrows. The people of Pakistan could not accept or dissociate themselves from the situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The deputy prime minister said that India which claimed to be a champion of human rights and democracy, should grant access to human rights bodies to enable them to witness the ongoing human rights abuses in the territory.

He told the gathering of federal ministers, politicians, government officers, and men, women, and children from different walks of life, that Pakistan had been forcefully raising the Kashmir issue at all international forums be it the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), D-8 or Gaza conference held in Astana. Similarly, Pakistan has also raised the voice for the suffering people of Gaza where around 40,000 Palestinians had been killed by the Israeli occupation forces. Besides, he said this was for the first time, that OIC special envoy on Islamophobia was appointed consequent to Pakistan's

efforts on the subject. Reiterating Pakistan's continued political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people, the deputy prime minister urged India to announce a plebiscite in the occupied territory to make the Kashmiri people exercise their right to self-determination. He said the Indian tactics like the revocation of a special status of Kashmir could not suppress the commitment and passion of the Kashmiri people for freedom. Such measures were only meant to change the demography and settle Hindus and other non-Muslim communities there to convert the Muslim majority into a minority. He prayed to Allah Almighty that the Kashmiris get their due right of freedom to practice their religion and exercise their right to self-determination and concluded his address by raising slogans of "Kashmir banayga Pakistan" (Kashmir to become Pakistan). Earlier, Foreign Secretary Muhammad SyrusQazi led the walk which started from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and culminated at D Chowk, and was participated by the officers and personnel of the foreign ministry and people from different walks of life. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and other federal ministers also joined the walk and raised slogans to reiterate Pakistan's support for the Kashmiri people and condemn the unabated Indian brutalities in IIOJK. The participants carried the flags of Pakistan and Kashmir as well as the banners inscribed with "Abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, continuity of 77 years of occupation" and "Five years of Indian brutalities in IIOJK."

Senate passes resolution on Ismail Haniyeh's martyrdom

Israel is transforming into an international criminal and terrorist state, reads resolution tabled by Palwasha Khan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Senate, chaired by Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, convened on Monday to address the martyrdom of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. Senator Palwasha Khan presented a resolution, which was unanimously approved. The Senate expressed deep sorrow over Haniyeh's death in an Israeli Zionist attack and condemned the ongoing killings of Palestinians and violations of human rights by Israeli forces. The resolution stated that Israel is transforming into an international criminal and terrorist state. It called upon the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Pakistan, and all Islamic nations to unite against Israel's terrorist activities. The Senate urged Islamic countries to lift the blockade of Gaza to deliver emergency aid to the besieged Palestinians and to collectively work to halt the bombardment of Gaza immediately. PPP parliamentary leader Senator Sherry Rehman shared her thoughts on the resolution. "International bodies are also speaking out against Israel's brutality. We need to address Israeli aggression in every session," said Rehman. "Israel and India have been given a free hand to perpetrate atrocities worldwide. Children, the elderly, and women are being indiscriminately targeted by Israeli attacks." Senator Palwasha, speaking on the occasion, said, "Israel is openly violating war laws. This move by Israel has once again thwarted peace efforts. Two genocide projects are running in the 21st century: one in Kashmir and the other in Israel." Speaking on ongoing turmoil in Bangladesh, she said, "Today, Pakistan's enemy Hasina Wajid is forced to take refuge in India. Soon, Netanyahu might have to seek Modi's refuge as well." She continued, "Innocent children are being oppressed in both Kashmir and Palestine. When Zulfikar Ali Bhutto called the Islamic Summit Conference in 1974, he made historic statements that are still remembered. Similarly, during Benazir Bhutto's government in 1994, she intended to visit Gaza in solidarity.

Israel born in 'cradle of terror'

TEHRAN: The chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) calls the Israeli regime an entity that has been born out of terrorism, saying the regime will fall prey to its own transgressions. "The Zionist regime has been born in a cradle of terrorism, and is not in possession of any of the elements that constitute a nation," Major General Hossein Salami said during an event held in the capital Tehran on the occasion of National Journalists' Day on Monday. The commander was referring to the regime's creation in the West Asia region in 1948 that followed displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in a heavily-Western-backed war. Ever since that year, the regime has been engaging in daily acts of terror against the regional nations as means of both fighting back opposition to its forcible existence and expanding the areas under its occupation. Salami likened the Israeli regime's recurrent deadly acts to a "self-made vortex of fire" which has surrounded the regime. He enumerated some of the instances of aggression as the regime's killing of Iranian nuclear scientists, and its recent assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas's political leader, in Tehran. "They think that through these measures, they would succeed in prolonging their survival." "These [atrocities] are, however, holes that they (the Israelis) dug for themselves, and will gradually bury themselves in," Salami stated, adding, "Once they received a strong response, they would understand that they have committed another miscalculation." - Agencies

UK PM talks of 'standing army' to deal with rioting

False rumors spread online that the Southport killer was a Muslim and an asylum-seeker led to attacks on immigrants and Muslims

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Monday that a "standing army" of specialist police would be set up to deal with rioting and that the justice system would be ramped up to deal with hundreds of arrests after violent disorder rocked cities across the nation over the past week. Starmer convened an urgent meeting after lawlessness that he blamed on far-right activists and misinformation on social media that whipped up anger over a stabbing rampage at a dance class that left three girls dead and many more wounded. False rumors spread online that the suspect was a Muslim and an asylum-seeker led to attacks on immigrants and Muslims. "Whatever the apparent motivation, this is not protest. It is pure violence and we will not tolerate attacks on mosques or our Muslim communities," Starmer said. "The full force of the law will be visited on all those who are identified as having taken part in these activities." On Sunday, angry mobs attacked two hotels used to house asylum seekers, breaking windows and lighting fires before police dispersed the crowds and residents were evacuated. Dozens of police officers have been hospitalized for injuries in the past six days after being struck with bricks, bottles

and large wooden posts. Oliver Coppard, the mayor of South Yorkshire, where one of the hotels was attacked, attributed the violence to "far-right thugs." "As Keir said, as every decent person has said, I think these are far-right thugs who attacked some of the most vulnerable people in our communities and there is absolutely no excuse," Coppard told the BBC. "There can never be any excuse for trying to burn to death 200 of the most vulnerable people in our community." A Starmer spokesperson said no requests have been made to call in the army. The Home Office, which is responsible for law and order, has offered mosques greater protection under a new "rapid response process" designed to quickly tackle the threat of further attacks on places of worship. Starmer's spokesperson said after the meeting that social media companies have not done enough to prevent the spread of misinformation that has fueled far-right violence and vowed that anyone who stokes the disorder - online or on the streets - could face prison. Some of that false and misleading information has come from foreign states. "The disinformation that we've seen online attracts amplification from known bot activity, which, as I say, can be linked to state-backed activity," the spokesperson said in a read-out of the meeting.



Pakistan Post suspends parcel service to US

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Pakistan Post has stopped parcel bookings for the United States for a month, inflicting massive loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the country. Orders of the ones who sent goods through e-commerce were also cancelled due to the closure of the booking by the Pakistan Post. The development has not only suspended trade of Pakistani products in the US but also dented the national exchequer. "The reason for the closure of bookings is non-payment of compensation to American shipping companies," sources in the Pakistan Post said. The utility said the booking had been stopped because of the lack of proper parcel packing. In an inquiry report, the Directorate General of Pakistan Post has pointed out several flaws as a reason for returning mail from the US including deficiencies and missing Electronic Advanced Data (EAD) and wrong classification of letter mail. It said small-sized registered letters were being sent to the US without generating ITMATT messages or faulty/incomplete ITMATT messages causing errors and thus facing rejection of mail by the USPS.

IHC summons DIG on Bushra's plea

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought response from Rawalpindi DIG Operations by August 7 on Bushra Bibi's application seeking case details and moving to the relevant court to halt the arrest. IHC Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case today. Bushra Bibi's counsel Sardar Latif Khosa appeared before the court. Consul Sardar Latif Khosa informed the court that Bushra Bibi has been booked in May 9 cases and she had been arrested in one case despite the investigation not being initiated. CJ Aamer Farooq remarked that it had been one and a quarter years to the May 9 incident and Lahore High Court had issued a verdict which stated an individual arrested would be considered arrest in all cases.

Sharia bench commutes death sentence to life imprisonment

The five-member bench ordered the release of Taj Muhammad, a juvenile offender convicted of murdering his lawyer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's Shariat Appellate Bench, presided over by CJP QaziFaez Isa, delivered its first verdict in four years, converting a death sentence to life imprisonment. The five-member bench ordered the release of Taj Muhammad, a juvenile offender convicted of murdering his lawyer. The court ruled that Taj Muhammad, who has already served 20 years of his sentence, should be released if he is not implicated in any other cases. On August 1, the CJP-led five-member panel constituted the SC Shariat Appellate Bench after a long interval. Shariat Appellate Bench plays a crucial part in interpreting Islamic laws within the framework of Pakistan's legal system. During today's proceedings, Additional Advocate General K-P Nouroz Khan mentioned that the slain lawyer was his classmate, prompting CJP Isa to question the relevance of this statement, suggesting it could be perceived as an attempt to influence the court.

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