

# Islamabad POST

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## Amid opposition dissent

# Parliament passes election bill aiming to 'halt' SC verdict

PML-N's Talal Chaudhry presents bill in upper house amid strong opposition from PTI senators

FARRUKH SHEHZAD / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Hours after it sailed through the National Assembly, the Senate approved the controversial Elections (Second Amendment) Bill, 2024, on Tuesday. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry presented the amendment bill in the upper house of parliament amid strong opposition from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senators. The NA earlier in the day approved a bill proposing amendments to the Elections Act 2017 to bar lawmakers from changing their party affiliation amid strong resistance from opposition benches who termed the legislation "unconstitutional". Tabled by PML-N lawmaker Bilal Azhar Kiyani last month, the NA Parliamentary Affairs Committee approved the bill with the support of eight members, four members opposed it, and Shahid Akhtar, a Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) MNA, abstained from voting. The Senate witnessed hooliganism from the PTI senators as Chaudhry presented the bill to 'circumvent' the Supreme Court's ruling on reserved seats that favours the opposition party. The apex court on July 21 declared PTI a political party and eligible for reserved seats, which paved the way for

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## Opposition to challenge bill in Supreme Court

"This parliament is indeed supreme, but the authority to interpret lies with the Supreme Court," PTI chief Gohar says

FAISAL SHEIKH

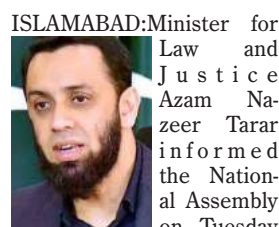
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar has announced the opposition's plan to challenge the newly approved Election Act Amendment Bill—which prevents independent candidates from joining political parties after a specified post-election period—in the top court. In a statement delivered on the floor of the National Assembly (NA), Gohar criticised the bill, asserting that it undermines democratic principles. The National Assembly (NA) passed the Election Act Amendment Bill with a majority vote earlier, despite strong protests and objections from opposition parties. "This parliament is indeed supreme, but the authority to interpret lies with the Supreme Court," Gohar maintained. He emphasised the PTI's commitment to challenging what he described as a "politically motivated" piece of legislation. The chairperson highlighted that PTI had submitted four petitions to the Election Commission Pakistan (ECP) regarding reserved seats, claiming that their electoral symbol was unjustly removed in a conspiracy to defeat the party. "Our nomination papers were submitted, but our electoral symbol was taken away, yet we won with a two-thirds majority," he stated. PTI lawmaker Ali Muhammad Khan echoed Gohar's concerns, arguing that the bill was being

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## Printing capacity of passports to be increased, says Tarar

He said orders were issued for the export of the new system

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar informed the National Assembly on Tuesday said that new machinery and software would be installed to increase the printing capacity of passports to 55,000 to 60,000 per day by the end of September. In response to a Calling Attention Notice regarding delays in issuing passports, the minister expressed optimism that the introduction of the new system would also help clear the existing backlog of passport applications. He said that during the PDM government, the orders were issued for the export of the new system, and the process has continued under the interim government.

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## Naqvi assures foolproof security for Chinese

Naqvi assured the implementation of feasible suggestions

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday assured foolproof security for Chinese citizens and staff working on projects in Pakistan. A high-level meeting between Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and a Chinese business delegation, led by Consul General Zhao Shirin, focused on improving safety measures for Chinese citizens and staff in Pakistan. The meeting, attended by top officials from law enforcement agencies, discussed suggestions from Chinese businessmen to enhance security protocols. Naqvi assured the implementation of feasible suggestions, prioritizing the safety of Chinese citizens. He announced that online visas for Chinese citizens would be available from August 14, facilitating their business travels to Pakistan. The meeting aimed to review and refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the convenience of Chinese citizens.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United Arab Emirates, Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi calls on Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Defence Minister of Pakistan. — DNA

## Economy heading towards stability IMF Board to approve staff-level agreement by month end: Aurangzeb

Finance minister indicates Pakistan will engage IMF management board on climate financing

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has said that he is confident that the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Board of Directors will approve the staff-level agreement by the end of August. Addressing the "Climate Action for Pakistan" event organised by Acumen Pakistan on Tuesday, the finance czar also indicated that there would be discussions with the IMF management board regarding climate financing. Last month, Pakistan and the IMF reached an agreement for a \$7 billion, 37-month loan agreement with tough measures such as raising tax on farm income. The staff-level agreement capped negotiations that started in May after Islamabad completed a short-term, \$3 billion programme that helped stabilize the economy, avert a sovereign debt default and set challenging revenue targets in its budget to get IMF approval. Touching on the macroeconomic situation, Aurangzeb also assured that Pakistan's "economy is on a path to stability", with ongoing reforms aimed at fostering sustainable economic growth and development. Pakistan has been struggling with boom-and-bust cycles for decades,

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## Governor announces 'overseas facilitation desk' at Governor's House

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has announced to set up 'Overseas Facilitation Desk' at the Governor's House to help overseas Pakistanis in resolution of their problems without hassle. During a meeting with a delegation of overseas Pakistani investors from various European countries including Italy, France and the United Kingdom led by Pakistan Business Forum Chairman Sardar Zahoor Iqbal at the Governor's House here on Tuesday, he reassured the businessmen to play his due role in facilitating the overseas Pakistani investors. "I will propose to the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to set up a desk in various provincial departments so that the problems of overseas Pakistanis are solved on priority basis."

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## Briefs

### ATC approves Raouf's bail

ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra approves PTI politician's bail petition against surety bonds worth Rs200,000

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court in the federal capital on Tuesday approved the bail petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Information Secretary Raouf Hasan in a terror financing case. ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra approved the PTI politician's bail petition against surety bonds worth Rs200,000. Hasan was named in the case in light of the statement of co-accused PTI International Media Coordinator Ahmed Waqas Janjua for his alleged role in providing financial support to terrorists. The court, on August 3, had dismissed the bail plea of Janjua.

### 'Democracy better than dictatorship'

Says Pakistan stands by the principled stance of the people of Palestine

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Democracy is better than dictatorship despite numerous shortcomings, stated Defence Minister Khawaja while addressing the National Assembly. "Every institution should operate within its defined boundaries, as overstepping these limits undermines democracy," said the minister. He asserted the supremacy of parliament, highlighting its role in law-making, with other institutions tasked with interpretation. "If you don't support the system, don't attack the institutions. If Constitutional limits are crossed, democracy will weaken," he said, underscoring the importance of reinforcing democratic principles.

## Imran warns 'govt'

# 'Oppression' key factor behind Bangladesh unrest

PTI founder meets with six lawyers in conference room at Adiala Jail for an hour on Tuesday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: Imran Khan, founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has called for an end to the ongoing crackdown on his party during a conversation with lawyers at Adiala Jail, citing oppression as a key factor behind the events in Bangladesh. Khan met with six lawyers in the conference room at Adiala Jail for an hour on Tuesday. The delegation included Intizar Panjutha, Zubair Kasana, Moazzam Butt, Sohail Sultan, Sameer Khosa, and Haroon Irshad Janjua. Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail after the meeting, Advocate Intizar Panjutha said Khan expressed gratitude to his supporters at the Swabi rally and urged them to display the national flag on the night of August 13. "Khan stated that the oppression witnessed before the February 8 election led to severe consequences. The narrative built on May 9 was answered by the public in the elections, and there is immense anger over the rigged elections," said Panjutha.

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## Govt has come up against a brick wall on IPPs: JI

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) emir Hafiz Naeem said on Tuesday that the government wasn't taking any steps instead only making announcements despite our multiple calls. Speaking to media, the JI emir said that they expected the government to resolve the issues of inflated bills, adding that the capacity payments given to the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) were unacceptable to the people and that the government was not serious in reforming this sector. He demanded forensic audits of all the IPPs, suggesting that chairman of the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) should also be a member of the forensic committee.

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# BD crisis: protesting students want govt of their choosing

Hasina, 76, had been in power since 2009 but was accused of rigging elections in January and then watched millions of people take to the streets over the past month demanding she step down

NEWS DESK

DHAKA: Bangladesh's president dissolved parliament on Tuesday, paving the way for the formation of an interim government, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country following a violent crackdown on a student-led uprising. A statement from President Mohammed Shahabuddin's office also said that Hasina's arch-rival, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, a former prime minister, had been freed from house arrest. Student protesters had threatened more demonstrations if parliament was not dissolved. The movement that toppled Hasina rose out of demonstrations against public sector job quotas for families of veterans of Bangladesh's 1971 independence war, seen by critics as a means to reserve jobs for allies of the ruling party. The unrest began last month in the form of protests against civil service job quotas and then escalated into wider calls for Hasina to stand down. Hasina, 76, had been in power since 2009 but was accused of rigging elections in

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## Nobel laureate Yunus likely to head interim govt

AGENCIES

DHAKA: The student leaders said they want Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus as the chief adviser to the interim government and a spokesperson for Yunus said he had agreed. Yunus, 84, and his Grameen Bank won the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for work to lift millions out of poverty by granting tiny loans of under \$100 to the rural poor of Bangladesh. He was indicted by a court in June on charges of embezzlement that he denied. "In Dr Yunus, we trust," Asif Mahmud, a key leader of the Students Against

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# No room for violence in any sect or religion: Kundi

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also said that peace, brotherhood, tolerance, inter-religious harmony are the teachings of Hajj

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has said that Islam is a religion of peace, love and tolerance and there is no room for violence in any sect or religion. In fact, Hajj is the message of unity, peace and security of Islam. He expressed these views while addressing the Message of Hajj Conference 2024 held here on Tuesday in collaboration with the Pakistan Ulema Council and the International Tazim-e-Haramain Sharifain Council. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Saad Al-Maliki, Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council and General Secretary of International Tahafuz-e-Haramain

Sharifain Council Maulana Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Deputy Ambassador of Palestine, Special Representative of Jordanian Embassy and a large number of scholars of different schools of thought participated. Addressing the conference, the Governor Faisal Karim Kundi said that peace, brotherhood, tolerance, inter-religious harmony are the teachings of Hajj, and we have to play an effective role in promoting inter-religious harmony for the development and prosperity of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He said that Governor House Peshawar role in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is dedicated to playing a leadership role in this regard. He said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have excellent and strong relations, adding the Saudi government has provided facilities to pilgrims under the Road to Makkah program is

an example. He said that at a time when Pakistan is facing difficulties, the government and people of Saudi Arabia stand with Pakistan. He said that the services of Saudi Arabia for Muslim countries and the Islamic world are not hidden from anyone. He said that Hajj is such an organized and purposeful grand gathering which, putting aside the differences of color, caste and language only for the sake of Allah's pleasure. The Governor paid tribute to Tahir Ashrafi and invited him and his team to visit the Governor House Peshawar where the inter-faith and inter-religious harmony conference will be held. Keeping the philosophy and purpose of the Muslim Ummah in front, practical steps will be taken for the unity of the Muslim Ummah and the exaltation of the religion of Islam.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor is selling national flags of Pakistani, Kashmiri, and Palestine at his roadside workplace in the Federal Capital, ahead of upcoming Independence Day on 14th August.— ONLINE PHOTO

## Youm-e-Istehsal marked across Sindh

KARACHI: The people and the government of Sindh stood in solidarity with the oppressed people of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to observe Youm-e-Istehsal or the Day of Oppression on Monday. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that on August 5, 2019, the special status of IIOJK was illegally abolished by India. By denying IIOJK status of disputed territory, India had openly violated UN resolutions and international laws, CM Murad said. He said that the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A in IIOJK exposed India's hideous face. "A peaceful and just solution lies only in the right to self-determination," said Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon.—APP

## ICT admin intensifies efforts to combat dengue fever

ISLAMABAD: In a decisive move to combat dengue, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has kicked off a city-wide dengue surveillance and control operations to tackle the rising threat of dengue fever. On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, all the Assistant Commissioners (AC's) have intensified operations, highlighting the city's commitment to tackling the dengue threat, said the ICT's administration spokesman. He said that daily inspections for dengue larvae were continued, with several individuals arrested for not following dengue guidelines. If dengue larvae were found, the area was immediately sealed. Meanwhile, the business outlets were also shut down for failing to implement the required anti-dengue measures. These closures were part of a broader effort to ensure compliance with health regulations aimed at preventing the breeding of dengue-carrying mosquitoes, he added. On the occasion, the DC emphasized the need for city-wide efforts to stop the growth of dengue larvae. He called for unbiased and comprehensive inspections to be carried out across all sectors of the city. Memon also stressed the importance of keeping citizens informed about ongoing operations and health measures.—APP

## British High Commission at the forefront of floods response in Chitral

ISLAMABAD : The British High Commission has been amongst the earliest organisations to provide relief interventions, following devastating floods in Chitral. Chitral suffered severe damages from torrential rains, flash floods and glacial lake outburst floods. 14 drinking water supply schemes, 15 jeepable bridges, 55 irrigation channels, 9 link roads, 3 schools building, protection walls (4,000 feet), and 20 local shops have been fully/partially damaged. The British High Commission used their existing presence in Chitral to respond to immediate needs through their partners, Concern Worldwide and the Agha Khan Foundation. They are supporting emergency relief and restoration of infrastructure and livelihoods. So far, the UK has funded essential items like kitchen sets,

hygiene kits, water storage containers and more for around 300 families. Partners continue to work on immediate restoration of damaged drinking water systems, the restoration of essential irrigation channels, and debris removal to re-enable access and livelihoods, UK support is expected to benefit over 20,000 people in Chitral. The UK are also considering on longer-term recovery plans for affected areas, in close coordination with government counterparts and humanitarian partners. Chargé d'Affaires of the British High Commission, Andrew Dalgleish said: "The recent floods in Chitral are devastating. Lives and livelihoods have been destroyed. The UK is here to support Pakistan. These floods are a stark reminder that there is much more to be done to improve Pakistan's climate resilience." Floods have

already led to 141 deaths, 266 injuries and damage to over 1,000 houses in Pakistan this year. Climate change is a priority for the UK Government. During the devastating floods of 2022, the UK helped over 2.3 million people, dedicating a total of £39 million in UK aid. The British public mobilised, and raised £41.5m as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal. Support included emergency cash assistance, shelter kits, nutritional support, learning kits and infrastructure repair. The UK's focus is on improving Pakistan's climate resilience long-term, rather than purely responding to disasters. The UK has already helped 1.5 million people improve their resilience to extreme climate events, and aims to support a further 3 million people in the next 4-5 years.

## Zimbabwean envoy gets briefing on upcoming Safari Park

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Tuesday briefed the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Pakistan Titus M.J. Abu Bastu on the upcoming Safari Park project in Islamabad, expected to boost tourism in the city. During the meeting, the CDA chairman told the Ambassador that the park will initially house 2,000 animals, with a total capacity of over 5,000. He invited Zimbabwe to contribute to the project by exporting animals from their country. Both the dignitaries discussed issues of mutual interest and explored potential areas of collaboration between the two nations. The envoy Abu Bastu commended Chairman Randhawa's efforts to beautify Islamabad, particularly highlighting the solid waste management initiatives. The ambassador expressed keen interest in learning from Pakistan's experiences in this sector. Furthermore, Bastu proposed relocating the Zimbabwean embassy to the diplomatic enclave, to which Chairman Randhawa assured a swift resolution by the Foreign Office.—APP

## Police trace out blind murder of a youth

KOHAT: The police on Tuesday arrested accused Muhammad Hasan and Ehsanullah residents of Orkazai, who were involved in the blind murder of a youth belonging Orakzai agency. The alleged suspects went into hiding after committing the murder in the hilly area of Landi Kachai at the confluence of Kohat and Orakzai in the past few days, the police spokesman said. A case of the incident was registered against the unidentified persons in Usterzai police station. Investigation Officer, Anar Gul and police team tracked down the accused involved in the blind murder after great efforts.—APP

## Teacher recruitments face tough scrutiny

Balochistan govt wants to ensure transparency in all hirings

QUETTA :In an effort to ensure transparency and fairness in the recruitment process, the Balochistan government has established interview and scrutinising committees to meticulously review the credentials and backgrounds of candidates who have passed the written tests conducted by the Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University. The provincial government has decided to recruit over 9,000 teachers for schools across the province. These measures are designed to uphold the integrity of the recruitment for the School Education Department under the Government of Balochistan, said in a notification obtained by The Express Tribune. Led by

senior officers Ghulam Ali Baloch, Saboor Kakar, Asfandyar Khan Kakar, Dostain Jamaldini, and Noorul Haq Baloch, the committees will crosscheck the family trees of candidates with NADRA records to verify their relationships with education authorities, testing service providers, and any alleged brokers involved in the recruitment processes. A key part of their mandate includes conducting forensic audits of 5-10% of randomly selected answer sheets. These audits will determine the date and time of the attempted papers, analyse the handwriting of candidates, and verify the results issued to both failed and passed candidates. The commit-

tees will also interview complainants informally regarding the screening tests and the behavior of officials and staff associated with the process. They will scrutinise individual and total bank deposits, disbursement receipts, and any relevant records to verify the distribution of fee amounts. To ensure thoroughness, the committees will collect and examine records of applications, roll number slips, date sheets, attendance sheets, answer sheets, and both individual and consolidated results. These records will be crosschecked using scientific methods and in accordance with the recruitment policy of 2019.—APP

## Transport system of entire province to be upgraded

LODHRAN :Punjab Minister for Transport, Bilal Akbar Khan on Tuesday said the transport system of the entire province would be improved and upgraded as per directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He expressed these views during visit to the main bus stand located in the center of the city and under construction vehicle stand. He further said that public transport was not allowed to come on the roads without fitness certificate. The minister informed that digital fitness system was being brought for the fitness of public transport for public safety under which fitness certificates and vehicle number plates will be attached together with QR code. He said that the fitness of the vehicle will be checked through the QR code. He said that vehicles emitting smoke will not be allowed on the roads to prevent environmental pollution. He further said that reduction in fares was also being ensured after reduction in the prices of petroleum products. The provincial minister urged the passengers to get their complaints registered by dialing the helpline in case of extra fare collection. He said that public transport will not be allowed to run on LPG and public transport and not without a route permit. The provincial minister said that the Punjab government was trying hard to provide facilities to the people. He said that serving the masses was top priority of the Punjab government. The Minister also checked the ticket counter, bus sheds, water coolers installed for supplying cold drinking water and compound washrooms for the convenience of passengers at the bus stand. Provincial Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan also reviewed in detail all the facilities provided to the passengers at the stand. He directed the district administration to ensure the provision of best facilities to the passengers. On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Syeda Anna Maududi and Additional Deputy Commissioner General Muhammad Asad Ali were present. Meanwhile, the provincial minister also met the transporters and inquired about their problems. He assured to solve the problems faced by the transporters on priority basis.—DNA

## Faysal bank's Amal women's account now digital

KARACHI: Faysal Bank has announced the launch of its 'Faysal Islami Amal Women Digital Account'. This account has been developed keeping in line with the State Bank's agenda of financial inclusion. With a considerable percentage of Pakistan's female population being financially excluded the digital account access represents Faysal Bank's commitment towards empowering women with financial enablement tools. With 'Faysal Islami Amal Women Digital Account', women can now open their bank accounts from the comfort of their home, completing the entire process including biometric verification, without the need of visiting a branch.—APP

## Women key in enhancing disaster risk strategies : Romina

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD : Coordinator to the Prime Minister (PM) on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam emphasized the importance of promoting gender equality and ensuring active participation of women and girls in all stages of disaster risk reduction (DRR). She stated that this is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of DRR strategies and for contributing to resilient communities in disaster-prone countries like Pakistan. Addressing as chief guest here on Tuesday at a national dialogue on 'Role of Women and Girls in Disaster Risk Reduction', the PM's climate aide highlighted that women, particularly those from rural or marginalized communities, hold invaluable local knowledge about environmental condi-

tions, traditional practices and risk management. However, she said that their leadership in these areas not only can help improve disaster management strategies but also fosters a more comprehensive understanding of community needs and vulnerabilities. The day-long event was organized by the National Disaster Management Authority, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in collaboration with international partner organizations involved in disaster risk reduction activities in the country. The PM's Coordinator told the participants of the event that as the world grapples with increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, it has become clear that women and girls are not just beneficiaries but pivotal players in DRR. She said that their unique contributions are essen-

tial for building resilient communities and ensuring effective disaster preparedness and response. To fully utilize the potential of women and girls in disaster risk reduction, Romina Khurshid emphasized the importance of increasing their involvement in decision-making and policy implementation at all levels. Additionally, she stressed the need to support and finance women-led disaster risk reduction initiatives and organizations, promote gender-sensitive approaches in disaster management policies and practices, and ensure that women and girls have access to education and training related to disaster preparedness and response. "The present government is highly concerned over the suffering of the communities, which are frequently affected by climate change-caused disasters, particu-

ly smallholder farming and marginalized communities with poor resources for post-disaster recovery and committed to building disaster resilience of them by providing them necessary knowledge, skill and resources," Romina Khurshid Alam informed the participants. She remarked that women and girls often serve as the backbone of their communities, particularly during disasters, particularly floods, cyclones and heatwaves. "When empowered with knowledge, technical and financial resources, they could play a central role in managing household preparedness, disseminating risk information and providing critical support systems", he said. Their involvement in disaster risk reduction initiatives could also enhance community resilience and ensures that disaster management strategies are

both inclusive and effective, Romina Khurshid Alam added. The PM's aide said further that recent case studies have demonstrated the significant impact of women-led initiatives in disaster scenarios. From grassroots organizations in various disaster-vulnerable countries to community-based programs in [another region], women have proven their capacity to drive positive change, enhance risk communication, and support long-term recovery processes, she added. "Empowering women and girls in DRR efforts can lead to innovative solutions and more responsive policies. Women's involvement in policy-making and advocacy ensures that disaster management approaches address the diverse needs of all community members, promoting greater equity and effectiveness in recovery efforts," she said.



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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

### Hotels & Restaurants



Serena Hotel.....111 133 133  
Marriott.....051- 2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15  
Bomb Disposal.....15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance.1122  
& Rescue Services.4451122  
Motorway Police...9266044  
Motorway Police.9270601-20  
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596  
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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Railway Inquiry.....117  
Railway Exchange 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489  
CAA.....9281092



### Hospitals

CMH.....5611111  
MH.....5611116  
Cantt Hospital...9270907-11  
DHQ.....5556311-4  
RGH.....9290301-7  
Holy Family.....9290322-7  
PIMS.....9261170-79  
Polyclinic.....9218300-09  
Shifa International 4603666



### Departments

CDA.....9221334-43  
CDA.....9208301-04  
Met Office.....9250360-6  
RDA.....5555864  
TMA.....5770886  
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Ethiopian Embassy and SDPI to jointly hold 'Green Legacy Forum'

The collaboration was agreed upon during a meeting between Special Envoy & Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Pakistan, H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula and H.E. Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI here at the Embassy of Ethiopia

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia (FDRE) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) have agreed to forge a mutual collaboration to jointly organize "Green Legacy Forum" to create awareness and mobilize all segments of society for massive plantation of fruits and vegetables, which will not only restore eco-system but also ensure food security and sustainable development.

The collaboration was agreed upon during a meeting between Special Envoy & Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Pakistan, H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula and H.E. Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI here at the Embassy of Ethiopia. The forum will have participation of Parliamentarians, diplomatic and business community, environmentalists, religious and media fraternity, youth and civil society. It is aimed at sharing success story of Ethiopia with Pakistan in environmental conservation, ecosystem restoration and food security under the Green Legacy initiative of H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia. Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Ambassador Jemal Beker lauded the services and capabilities of the SDPI as the premier independent think tank of Pakistan with its core capabilities in niche areas of economics, climate change, food security, human rights, health and social protection. He un-



derlined the importance of the Green Legacy Initiative which is the flagship project of the government of Ethiopia with the highest-level political leadership and public endorsement that has set an ambitious target of 7.5 billion seedlings to be planted across the country in 2024. The Ambassador

said since 2019, Ethiopia had planted more than 40 billion seedlings of vegetables, fruits and animal feed which had increased its capacity to address climate related challenges and reduced poverty, boosted job creation, and ensured food security. He underscored the need to rollout massive

nationwide campaign in Pakistan to address the growing vulnerability of its masses against climate change as 2022 floods' devastation left its communities bareheaded under the risks and devastation of unprecedented scale. "I have personally witnessed the flood-impacted areas across the

country that allowed me to assess the toll paid by masses despite their minimal contribution towards global warming and environmental degradation," he added. It is high time for all segments of Pakistani society to join hands to save the planet earth, he said, reiterating his resolve to work closely with them to take green initiatives for Pakistan. On the occasion, Executive Director, SDPI, Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri informed H.E. Ambassador Jemal Beker that the Institute used to hold an annual development and economic forum that convenes global, regional and local experts and dignitaries to share their valuable insights on critical global issue causing grassroots level impacts across the regions. He suggested the Ambassador of Ethiopia to forge a bilateral collaboration to host a high-level plenary at the Forum that will not only help engage relevant key stakeholders but also the international experts that could help in spreading the word on promoting Green Legacy and Climate Action. Dr Suleri who is also the member to the Advisory Committee of COP29 presidency in Baku informed the Ambassador that the SDPI will convene an international jurists plenary at COP29 under the title Green Justice to initiate dialogue among top-level judiciary of the developed and developing countries to build consensus on Climate Justice. He extended full support of the Institute to the Embassy to engage state-level dignitaries to participate in that plenary.

## Political ownership in merged districts critical to stem TTP resurgence

ISLAMABAD, The experts at the book launch event of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) on Tuesday underscored the need to ensure political ownership and economic integration amid rule of law in the newly merged tribal districts of ex-FATA to stem Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) resurgence. The IPRI hosted the book launch of "Recrudescence of TTP Violence - Its causes and possible remedies" which is the first of its kind research-based publication that probed the phenomenon of TTP and its recurrence in the tribal districts through ground-based surveys and interviews of local stakeholders hailing from different walks of life which were co-authored by IPRI Research Team under the leadership of Director, Research, IPRI, Dr Raashid Walid Janjua. In his opening remarks, President IPRI, Ambassador, Dr Raza Muhammad said Pakistan is facing continued violence and terrorism due to its partnership in the war on terror. This book started eight months back peer headed by Dr Raashid Walid Janjua involved interviews and surveys on the ground for quality evidence through stakeholder and community engagement, he added. Speaking on the occasion, Director Research, IPRI, Dr Raashid Walid Janjua explained that recrudescence meant the thing that was coming up again and again but this rise of TTP bedevilled Pakistan. The armed forces, he said conducted many military operations from Al Meezan to Zar-e-Azb that helped recoup 1,600 km area and kill 3,500 hardcore terrorists. The motivation behind the book was the fact that the terrorists' attacks had reduced from 1,214 in 2023 to 201 so far, he said. The book has six chapters that explore different facets of the crisis as post 2021 a great change in the social environment of ex-FATA areas was witnessed, he added. Dr Raashid noted that the book was less academic and more field-oriented easy to comprehend for everyone. The methodology was based on interviews, field surveys and focused group discussion with all stakeholders including the local populace, youth, KP civil administration, Police, Peshawar Corps and Frontier Corps (FC). The book, he said had identified three main causes of TTP resurgence mainly the vacuum created in the absence of administration, police and judiciary. However, these tribal territories were being managed under the FCR laws, traditions, Masharans or Malaks (tribal leaders), shariah law and Muftians (religious scholars), he added. He noted that practically constitutional merger had taken place but financially it did not happen, whereas lack of long-term vision and consistent policies about security integration and development of merged districts, lack of livelihoods, infrastructure development and economic integration of merged districts with other parts of the country paved the way for TTP filling in the vacuum in merged districts. He mentioned that some 86 coalmines in Darra Adam Khel had brought a decline in illicit arms sales which was the mainstay of that community to only a 10% share of the total income of that area that helped extend complete livelihood opportunities to the local populace and curbed any possibility of terrorism resurgence. "The altered environment of Afghanistan and proxy warfare along with ecosystem of crime and illegal activities provided a breeding ground for TTP that was splintered but it is essential to contain it," he said. Dr Janjua mentioned that the field survey helped gauge the perception of the local population, where over half of the respondents claimed that no substantial reforms were made in the newly merged districts and a large percentage expressed dissatisfaction over police and local judiciary, and the development progress.—Agencies

## Parliament holds authority to enact laws: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that Parliament is the supreme institution and it holds the authority to enact laws. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly on Tuesday, he said "We respect all institutions, but they have the mandate to interpret the constitution and not to rewrite." He expressed concern that interference from one institution into another would weaken the democracy. He said that democracy is far superior to dictatorship and that the respect and constitutional sanctity of the parliament must not be compromised. He stressed the importance of continuing the democratic journey, acknowledging that while democracy has its shortcomings, these are present even in developed democracies like the UK and the US. "The US and UK are also struggling; candidates are being attacked in the US," he added. He added that despite political differences, the institutions of the country must not be attacked. The minister said, "No system is flawless. We should be thankful that the system is operational in our country. Some people may have some reservations about it, but Parliament is respectable, and question marks should not be placed on it." He argued that questioning the legitimacy of Parliament would weaken the system and urged political parties to work towards strengthening democracy and the Parliament. Regarding the Kashmir issue, the minister highlighted national unity on the matter and reiterated Pakistan's stance that the Kashmir issue must be resolved in accordance with United Nations resolutions.—APP

## ANF recovers 204 kg drugs in seven operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting seven operations across the country managed to recover 204 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday. He informed that 2.8 kg heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for London at a courier office in Karachi. 980 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain at Peshawar Airport. 88.8 kg hashish and 31.2 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Kot Abdul Malik Toll Plaza Lahore and an accused was arrested during the operation. 72 kg hashish was recovered from a vehicle checked near Ravi Toll Plaza Lahore and an accused was arrested.—APP

## PARC in collaboration with KOPIA to establish seed complex

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), in collaboration with the Korean Program on International Agriculture (KOPIA), will establish a 'Seed Potato Complex' to produce virus-free potatoes and enhance local crop output. Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, will inaugurate the Seed Potato Complex at a ceremony

on July 7 (Wednesday) at the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC). The event will be attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, senior officials from PARC, NARC, KOPIA, national and international organizations, development partners, agricultural scientists, experts, private sector organizations, NGOs, and progressive farmers from across the country. Additionally, a KOPIA delegation, led by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pa-

kistan, Park Kijun, met with Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday. The Ambassador reaffirmed his commitment to supporting the transfer of modern agricultural technology and providing essential training on innovative technologies to Pakistani farming communities. During the meeting, Rana Tanveer Hussain emphasized the historic and friendly relations between the two countries and stressed the importance of further strengthening these ties for mutu-

al progress. He noted that both nations are working on agricultural technology transfer projects, and this bilateral cooperation will enhance local agricultural output and sector development. The Minister also highlighted that the establishment of an aeroponic greenhouse would improve the quality of seed potatoes and support modern research. He mentioned that KOPIA's assistance would help Pakistan address food safety and security challenges and achieve sustainable agricultural development.



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## Briefs

**China's inactivated FMD vaccine antigens pave way for Pakistan's FMD-free zone**

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: A dispatching ceremony held recently heralded the commencement of a partnership between China Agricultural University, China's Northwest A&F University, and Yangling Jinhai Biotechnology Co., Ltd. in exporting 100,000 doses of trivalent inactivated Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine antigens to Pakistan. The event, hosted at Yangling city, Shaanxi province, China, signals a leap forward in establishing FMD-free zones and bolstering meat exports from the South Asian nation, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. These antigens, which have undergone rigorous testing by the National Institute of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE) in Faisalabad, were transported via a cold-chain process. It will be utilized to manufacture local FMD vaccines adhering to the Chinese protocol, marking a step towards self-sufficiency in vaccine production and supply for domestic demand in Pakistan. The biotechnology transfer is underpinned by two key projects: "Demonstration and Promotion of Key Technologies for the Prevention and Control of Major Livestock Diseases in Pakistan" and "Demonstration and Promotion of Key Technologies for the Prevention and Control of Major Livestock Diseases in Pakistan and Afghanistan."

**Palestinian students to pursue studies in Pak**

ISLAMABAD: Two more Palestinian students including Amir S F Rasas and Soltan Nasser Mahfouz Barakah have arrived at University of Faisalabad to pursue their studies under COMSTEC Fellowship Program. The students will pursue their fully funded Bachelor's degree program at University of Faisalabad under the COMSTEC Fellowship/Scholarship Program for Palestine.

This program is part of a larger initiative by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Standing Committee for Science and Technology (COMSTEC) which aims to provide 5000 free fellowships to Palestinian students in collaboration with the Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP) and COMSTEC Consortium of Excellence member universities. According to the COMSTEC, the program was initially launched in June 2021 with 500 fellowships, but the number was increased to 5000 in April 2024 to support Palestinian students affected by recent circumstances in Gaza.—APP

**PTA, APNIC organize series of impactful workshops**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in collaboration with APNIC, organized a series of impactful workshops on "Incident Response and CERT" over three days in Lahore and Islamabad. The Lahore workshop was held in partnership with the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), said a news release. Adli Wahid, a Senior Internet Security Specialist from APNIC Australia with extensive experience in cybersecurity across the Asia-Pacific region, led the sessions. Cybersecurity experts from PTA, the National Cyber Emergency Response Team (NCERT), and various telecom operators participated, creating a dynamic exchange of knowledge and expertise. Throughout the workshop, participants delved into theoretical and practical aspects of CERT operations.—APP

# Chinese doctor treats patients in Pak with acupuncture

Pro, Dr. Jielian shared his experience in Pakistan. He initially came to Pakistan with his medical team as part of a China-Pakistan cultural exchange program, aiming to establish a small clinic to introduce traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture to Pakistani friends

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Jielian La, a Chinese doctor that has been providing acupuncture treatments to Pakistani patients for approximately 33 years, is promoting the philosophy of China Traditional Medicine in Pakistan. The Chinese Acupuncture Center and Chinese Clinical Lab, under his leadership, have been offering their services in Pakistan since 1991. In an interview with Gwadar Pro, Dr. Jielian shared his experience in Pakistan. He initially came to Pakistan with his medical team as part of a China-Pakistan cultural exchange program, aiming to establish a small clinic to

introduce traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture to Pakistani friends. Dr. Jielian explained that the acupuncture treatments they offer are primarily for pain relief and nervous disorders such as frozen shoulder, sciatica, and acute headaches. These treatments are also effective for conditions like tension, depression, and insomnia. The cost per session for local patients in Pakistan is Rs2500. Acupuncture involves inserting very thin needles into the skin at strategic points on the body. It is a key component of traditional Chinese medicine and is most commonly used to treat pain. However, it is increasingly being used for overall wellness, includ-

ing stress management. In traditional acupuncture, the points to be treated are determined by observing and questioning the patient to make a diagnosis according to traditional methods. In Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), the four diagnostic methods used are inspection, auscultation and olfaction, inquiring, and palpation. This involves examining the face, tongue, eyes, and pulse rate to diagnose and decide the treatment. Dr. Jielian emphasized their goal of promoting this treatment in Pakistan. He advised Chinese practitioners interested in working in Pakistan to promote such treatments, ensuring that traditional treatments available in China should also be introduced

to our Pakistani brothers. For training purposes, they have co-operated with Pakistan's Health Services Academy and jointly trained around 15 doctors and medical professionals, including physiotherapists. Their second training course is scheduled to start in October 2024. They are making efforts to train Pakistani medical specialists in acupuncture. Dr. Jielian also highlighted the potential of Chinese herbal medicine in Pakistan, noting its positive results after advanced trials. He is working to promote and import Chinese herbal medicines in Pakistan. Explaining the difference between acupuncture and acupressure, Dr. Jielian stated that acupuncture is more effective, especially for condi-

tions like paralysis and sciatica. One of the patients at the clinic, Muhaddisa Batool, shared her experience. She stated that her mother, who was suffering from myalgia and could not extend her shoulder, found relief after just two sessions at the China Acupuncture Centre. She expressed her gratitude to the Chinese doctors for the effective therapy. Chinese Acupuncture Centre is named by health and family planning commission of Gansu Province of China and Gansu Provincial Hospital of TCM as "Qi-Huang Chinese Medicine Centre of Pakistan". As a reputed international medical center of TCM, it is well integrated by western medicine with Chinese natural herb medicine.



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner-Designate H.E. Uz. Mohamed Thoha met with H.E. Mr. Tipu Usman, Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and handed over the copy of his Letter of Credentials.—DNA

## OGDCL announces discovery of gas

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Tuesday announced the discovery of gas condensate in the Razgir-1 exploratory well, in the Tal Block, located in the Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Razgir-1 exploratory well was spudded-in on January 9, 2024, and has been successfully drilled down to a depth of 3774 meters True Vertical Depth (TVD) according to news release of the OGDCL. Based on the interpretation results of wireline logs data, the Kawagarh-1 formation (Exploratory Target) was tested successfully at a rate of around 16.4 Million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas and 159 Barrels per Day (BPD) of condensate. This was achieved at a choke size of 40/64" and a Wellhead Flowing Pressure (WHFP) of 1874 Pounds per Square Inch (Psi). This significant discovery in the Tal Block de-risked further exploration play in the area, leading to new upside opportunities. The new-found hydrocarbon reserves will play a crucial role in enhancing the indigenous supply of hydrocarbons, thereby contributing to the country's energy security. OGDCL is committed to exploring and developing the country's hydrocarbon resources efficiently and sustainably.—DNA

## China-Pakistan chilli collaboration doubles farmers' income

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan chilli collaboration doubles farmers' income, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. According to the report, Chilli growers in Lodhran and Layyah districts of Punjab are reaping higher incomes after collaborating with a Chinese company, LTEC. The red chilli contract farming under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative has also stabilised the local market as it offers guaranteed income for the farmers. Moreover, the collaboration has generated thousands of farming jobs, especially for women, in rural areas of Sindh and Punjab provinces of Pakistan. Irshad Hussain, a graduate of the UAF (University of Agriculture, Faisalabad), told Gwadar Pro that he started growing chillies in 2017. "However, I was even unable to meet the production cost before collaborating with the Chinese company in 2023", Hussain said. Hussain got a contract with the LTEC for 100 acres, but he grew red chillies on 115 acres due to the better local market demand following China-Pakistan red chillies project.

He said the Chinese red and green chillies' seeds not only produced higher yields but also garnered higher prices in the local market because of their superb quality. It is a blessing for the farmers as their incomes have doubled, Hussain said. "Also, even being an agriculturist myself, I learnt a lot from the Chinese experts, so you can imagine how much the ordinary farmers would have benefited from this Chinese collaboration," he said. Malik Masood ul Haq cultivated 25 acres for the LTEC in 2023. This year, he has grown red chillies on 85 acres of land in Lodhran, Punjab, and plans to extend the farm to 100 acres next year. "My relatives and other villagers are also eyeing partnership with the LTEC in the future," he said. He also admired the quality of Chinese chilli seeds, both red and green. Sher Afghan Khan, a red chilli farmer in Layyah, Punjab, said that he had employed 200 women in his 14-acre farm. "Larger farms like 100 acres or above have provided jobs to thousands of local women," he said.—DNA

## 8 students from Pakistan to participate in Seeds finals

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani students will take part in the regional finals of Huawei Seeds for the Future 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from August 11 to 17. Building on the success of last year's edition, Huawei's flagship Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program brings together a record 157 students from 14 countries across the Middle East and Central Asia region, said a news release issued by the Huawei. The 2024 Seeds for the Future Regional Round is supported by the Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the IT Education Association. Many other telecom, regulatory, labor authorities and vocational training bodies from the Middle East and Central Asia countries have

also partnered with Huawei on this program. This backing reflects the initiative's global reach, which has seen the program gain recognition from more than 450 senior officials and heads of state worldwide. Since its launch in 2008, Seeds for the Future has made a significant impact globally, benefiting over 18,000 students from 141 countries, highlighting the program's importance in developing global ICT talent. Steven Yi, President of Huawei in the Middle East and Central Asia, said, "I want to congratulate the Pakistan team for making it to the regional finals being held in Uzbekistan for the first time. Huawei's Seeds for the Future program is dedicated to equipping these bright minds with the essential skills and

mindsets needed to thrive in our fast-paced world. We've designed this platform to offer a wide range of opportunities, including online courses, competitions, exchange programs, and scholarships. We aim to provide talented youth from the ME&CA region with unparalleled STEM experiences, empowering them to pursue their dreams and make meaningful contributions to the global community." Areeba Faheem and Muhammad Ahmad from COMSATS university Islamabad, Haider Irfan and Mian Akbar Jan from GIKI, Abtaal Aatif and Isaam Ansari from FAST NUCES, Zahra Nawaz from UET Taxila and Asfand Yar Jamali from NUST Islamabad were selected for the Seeds for the future program 2024.

## China to support for localisation of Pakistan's medical device industry

ISLAMABAD: Hangzhou Aiche Medical Technology Co., Ltd. (a subsidiary of Boyue Group) and Pakistan's Lab Diagnostic Systems (LDS) upgraded their strategic partnership. The two companies will engage in deep cooperation in POCT (Point-of-Care Testing), jointly developing and optimizing comprehensive solutions tailored to local needs, accelerating application research and development, and facilitating the transformation of outcomes. This will support continuous innovation in the in vitro diagnostics sector. Compared with its population size, Pakistan faces significant challenges due to insufficient healthcare personnel and facilities. Over 90% of the country's medical devices and diagnostic equipment are imported from the USA, UK, Germany, and China, costing approximately \$1.1 billion annually to meet domestic medical needs. Against this backdrop, some Chinese enterprises are focusing on technology transfer and deepening localized production. This collaboration marks an important step towards the localization of Pakistan's medical device industry, injecting new momentum into improving local healthcare standards and economic growth.—APP

## RDA inflows rise to \$8.255 bn in June 24

ISLAMABAD: The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$8.255 billion by the end of June 2024 as compared to US \$8.055 billion by May (2024) end, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The data showed that the inflows of remittances during June were recorded at US\$ 200 million as compared to US\$ 225 million in May and US\$ 171 million in April 2024. These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan. The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 10,168 to 712,778 in June 2024 from 702,610 accounts in May 2024.—APP

## Commissioner reviews progress on grand operation

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak here on Tuesday reviewed progress on ongoing grand anti-encroachment operation. Chairing a meeting, the Commissioner directed the authorities concerned to clear encroachments from both sides of Nullah Lai besides the main roads and markets on priority basis. In a briefing on the progress of the operation, the Commissioner was informed that Rawalpindi administration is striving to remove encroachments from all city areas. Strict action would be taken against the concerned area inspector if a complaint of encroachment is raised again after removal of encroachments, the Commissioner said. The shops and stalls established on Murree Road for a long time were confiscated during the operation. So far, Murree Road and Double Road have been cleared of encroachments. The operations were conducted on both sides of Murree Road and temporary encroachments were removed while 20 truckloads of goods were seized which would not be returned to the encroachers, the Commissioner was briefed. Engineer Aamir Khattak was further informed that a FIR is being registered in New Town Police Station on resistance of the encroachment mafia in front of Rabi Center. The Commissioner said that the operation is being intensified and would be started in other areas. The main reason for the failure of the anti-encroachment operation so far is its lack of continuity, he added. The Commissioner informed, "We will make surprise visits to different markets to assess the situation."—DNA

## NA offers Fateha for Mumtaz Mustafa

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Tuesday offered Fateha for the departed souls of Member National Assembly (MNA) Mumtaz Mustafa and 10 family members due to rainwater in Darra Adam Khel The House also offered Fateha for Pir Munawar Badsha. On the request of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) lawmaker Ali Muhammad Khan led the Fateha. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed souls in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanimity.—APP

## General Practice

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## Pond Life

It is a truth acknowledged by the residents of this small island – with only a nagging sense of embarrassment – that the course of contemporary American history continues profoundly to affect the politics, culture, economy, and society of the United Kingdom. For in the words of the great British singer-songwriter Billy Bragg, “the fate of the great United States is entwined in the fate of us all” – an inevitable corollary of the fact that “the world we live in is very small”. It should therefore have come as no surprise that the first official overseas visit made by Keir Starmer as the UK’s new Prime Minister gave him a high-end taste of life across the great big pond we call the North Atlantic. It would appear to have proven serendipitous for Sir Keir that during his first month in power, he was able both to host a summit of European leaders back home and to attend a NATO conference in Washington – although it had been rumored that his predecessor had timed the election so as to avoid the optics of having to host that European meeting, a scenario which might not have appealed to the more ardent Brexiters among his party’s most voluble supporters. It was at that Washington conference that President Biden had surprised NATO bigwigs when he’d confused the names of the Ukrainian and Russian leaders. He’d also, during that event, managed to mistake his Vice President for Donald Trump, and had called his chiefs of defense staff the “commander-in-chief” – a role he himself is of course supposed to hold as President. This came shortly after his catastrophic and sometimes incoherent performance at the first debate of the presidential election campaign – a TV spectacular which extraordinarily succeeded in making Donald Trump sound like the most sensible and rational person in the room. He’d also during an interview described himself as the first black woman to serve as his nation’s Vice President, apparently believing he was Kamala Harris. The political fallout from all of this, as we now know, resulted in Mr. Biden being forced to stand aside in the presidential race, and to make way for the Vice President he’d confused with both his Republican opponent and himself. His campaign team must at least have been relieved that he hadn’t accidentally endorsed the candidacy of Kim Jong Un to succeed him in the White House But, before Joe Biden had (eventually) agreed to withdraw from November’s contest, the new British premier had embarrassingly been quizzed by journalists in DC as to the American leader’s competence. He had charitably responded that the US President had been “on good form” and shown himself to be “across all the detail” of the summit agenda. But, then, if he had any hope of maintaining the much-vaunted “special relationship” between the United Kingdom and the United States, what else (as the BBC’s political editor then asked) could he say? Apart from the UK’s most wooden premier’s desire to become a real boy, it’s doubtless now Keir Starmer’s most heartfelt wish that Kamala Harris triumphs at the polls this autumn. The alternative for the Labour leader must feel almost unthinkable. A week after the Washington summit, the Republican Party held its national convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The event took place just two days after the failed assassination of its leader, and his devout followers treated his nomination as their presidential candidate not just as the coronation of a nearly martyred hero of American democracy.



## Trump's tariffs

Former US president Donald Trump wrongly believes America's trade deficit is an urgent economic problem. Worse, his preferred corrective – wide-ranging import tariffs – would damage the US and world economies, while diverting attention from the US deficit that matters. The external trade balance is what a country earns from exports minus what it spends on imports. Last year, the US trade deficit was nearly 3 per cent of its gross domestic product. For comparison, the trade deficit averaged 2.82 per cent of GDP during president Barack Obama's second term and 2.78 per cent over the subsequent three years of Trump's administration. It then swelled during the pandemic before returning close to pre-pandemic levels. A common intuition is that tariffs reduce the trade deficit by inducing people to import less. But this ignores that across-the-board tariffs (like what Trump has proposed) will affect much else in the economy. A better way to think about the trade balance is as the difference between everything we produce and sell throughout the world, which is our GDP, and everything we buy. When our purchases exceed our sales, that difference is our trade deficit. Thus, tariffs shrink the deficit only if they raise production or induce households, businesses and the government to cut consumption and investment. Without more investment, which would increase the deficit, production would increase only if unemployed or discouraged workers come off the sidelines. Tariff advocates – like Republican vice-presidential nominee J.D. Vance – believe tariffs make this happen. They reason that more and better jobs will be available if the United States produces more of the goods it now imports. Yet in an economy near full employment (according to conventional measures), this is a big leap of faith, reminiscent of the unfulfilled promises of supply-side economics. Moreover, tariffs raise costs and make the economy less efficient. A tariff forces households to pay more and increases the costs of intermediate inputs for businesses. It also reduces the need for domestic businesses to compete, which harms innovation and consumers. Tariffs are therefore likely to weaken consumption, investment and output. They will reduce productivity rather than ignite the productivity boom advocates are promising. A common rationale for tariffs is that they are negotiating tools to extract trade concessions. But large countries are as likely to retaliate as to submit, especially if the United States is seen to be violating trade agreements. Aside from the resulting economic damage, favourable effects on the US trade balance are not guaranteed. The record of the first Trump administration makes that clear. If tariffs are unlikely to increase production, is there value in compressing consumption and investment simply to reduce the trade deficit? Conservative commentators point out that when Americans pay for imports not with exports but with bonds and equities, they commit to providing a perpetual stream of interest and dividend payments to foreigners. America, they conclude, is failing to provide for the future, much like a profligate household that borrows to spend beyond its means. But this argument has three major shortcomings. First, if US households save too little or businesses invest too much, more focused and less disruptive policy tools than tariffs can correct these problems.

## Lesson learned from Bangladesh...

Qamar Bashir



The students should understand that if they perceive injustice, their genuine rights being usurped, meritocracy being trampled, or positions and vacancies being filled through nepotism and favoritism, they must come forward and demand justice, meritocracy, and a fair distribution of national resources in a peaceful and non-violent manner. They must remain steadfast in their demands, even if it requires enduring physical abuse, unconstitutional arrests, or even death at the hands of the state's

THE student protests in Bangladesh which began in June 2024, in Dhaka, quickly spreading to other cities such as Chattogram, Comilla, Rajshahi, and Sylhet have taught numerous lessons to all pillars of the state—political parties, civil society, and students. The students should understand that if they perceive injustice, their genuine rights being usurped, meritocracy being trampled, or positions and vacancies being filled through nepotism and favoritism, they must come forward and demand justice, meritocracy, and a fair distribution of national resources in a peaceful and non-violent manner. They must remain steadfast in their demands, even if it requires enduring physical abuse, unconstitutional arrests, or even death at the hands of the state's oppressive arms. They should bear in mind that if their demands are just, their narratives powerful, and their commitment unwavering, they can compel the government, the parliament and the judiciary to accede to their demands and force even the most powerful and entrenched rulers to step down or flee the country in total disgrace. In Bangladesh, the history of the student agitation against nepotism is very long and tortuous. Initially 50% of the job quota was reserved for the privileged groups and marginalized community, such as the descendants of freedom fighters from the 1971 Independence War, along with quotas for women, ethnic minorities, and disabled individuals. The breakup was 30% of the jobs reserved for the descendants of freedom fighters who participated in the 1971 Liberation War, 10% for women, 10% for disadvantaged districts, 5% for ethnic minorities and 1% for individuals with disabilities. The first mass scale agitation was started in 2018 by the students. Their narrative was simple; that the system was outdated and favored certain groups disproportionately, often those with connections to the ruling party; therefore, they demanded the quota system to be abolished altogether. The government of Hussina Wajid succumbed to the pressure and announced abolition of the quota. Later the government turned away from its commitment

and caved in to the pressure of the vested interests and did not translate its promises into reality.

The matter was later taken to the supreme court which also succumbed to the pressures and reinstated the quota system in its totality on 5th June, 2024. This move triggered widespread anger among students and young graduates, who felt the system undermined merit-based recruitment. The protests started at Dhaka University and quickly spread to other educational institutions across the country, gaining momentum through social media. By mid-June, tens of thousands of students were participating in demonstrations, blocking major roads and intersections, and disrupting daily life nationwide.

The government's response was harsh, deploying police and security forces to disperse the demonstrators using tear gas, rubber bullets, and batons. A nationwide curfew and internet shutdown were imposed to stifle the protests. This violent crackdown resulted in over 114 deaths, thousands of injuries and eleven among the protesters, with numerous arrests and reports of mistreatment. The death of Abu Sayed, a prominent protester, symbolized the brutality faced by the movement.

This unrest prompted the Supreme Court to expedite the hearing originally scheduled for August and, on July 21, 2024, reduced the quota of freedom fighters from 30% to 5% and maintained 2% for other disadvantaged groups. Even this move of the supreme court was rejected by the students and they further intensified their protests and demanded complete abolition of the quota system terming it against the meritocracy. In addition they demanded broader reforms, unconditional release of arrested students, accountability of the government and accountability of the state apparatus responsible for the violence on the students. The Supreme Court learned a bitter lesson about the importance of balancing public sentiment with judicial decisions, particularly regarding affirmative action and meritocracy. The court realized that it is not merely a tool

in the hands of those in power but has a greater responsibility to serve the public good. It understood that its duty is to protect the interests of the entire population, not just the vested interests of a few. The power of public wrath was also evident; when the public is determined to achieve genuine objectives, even the court must yield to their demands. The Supreme Court acknowledged that it exists because of the general masses, not because of a select few.

The government of Bangladesh learned several critical lessons. It realized that forgetting those who brought it to power was a grave mistake. The government came to understand that the very people who mandated it to power also had the capability to bring it down if their genuine demands were not met. The use of the kinetic arms of the government against its people would inevitably result in facing the people's wrath. The energy and determination of the populace could overpower even the most powerful arms of the government, leading to the administration stepping down in total disgrace. In Bangladesh, the institution that played an exemplary role was the army. It promptly recognized the popular sentiments of the people and timely realized that the government of Sheikh Hasina had lost the mandate of the people and no longer represented them. The army understood that once the populace, who had brought the government to power, withdrew their support, the government lost its mandate, legitimacy, and credibility to remain in power. The army aptly recognized that the entire state's power, including all its pillars and institutions, whether civilian or military, is subservient to the masses. If any pillar loses the people's support, it is doomed to fail and collapse. What the government and the judiciary did not realize, the army realized that once the government no longer had the people's support, it was not obligated to defend it anymore. It became imperative for the army to preserve its dignity and honor by facilitating a transition of power to a government chosen by the people, and the sooner this transition happened, the better.

## Could Japan and South Korea join nuclear club?

Shi Jiangtao

In a “seismic shift” in the regional security landscape, China, Russia and North Korea have inched closer to counter the US, prompting growing calls in Japan and South Korea for the two countries to acquire their own nuclear weapons to fend off a potential axis of nuclear-armed authoritarian regimes. The nuclear options used to be largely a taboo topic in the two US treaty allies after World War II, with Washington instead promising to keep both Seoul and Tokyo under its nuclear umbrella. However, there were doubts in South Korea

As Japan marked the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Tuesday, the country's prime minister noted a major shift towards nuclear weapons. Amid the spectre of superpower confrontation, Fumio Kishida warned that for the first time since the height of the Cold War, the momentum towards a world without nuclear arms was on the verge of reversal. Despite his pledge that Japan, “as the sole country to have experienced the use of nuclear weapons in war”, would continue to champion non-proliferation, Kishida admitted it had become “all the more challenging” due to conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza and divided views over nuclear disarmament. Tensions have been soaring on the Korean peninsula, in the South and East China seas and across the Taiwan Strait, with the emergence of two opposing cold war-style camps: one led by Washington and the other by Beijing. In a “seismic shift” in the regional security landscape, China, Russia and North Korea have inched closer to counter the US, prompting growing calls in Japan and South Korea for the two countries to acquire their own nuclear weapons to fend off a potential axis of nuclear-armed authoritarian regimes. The nuclear options used to be largely a taboo topic in the two US treaty allies after World War II, with Washington instead promising to keep both Seoul and Tokyo under its nuclear umbrella. However, there were doubts in South Korea in the 1970s about how far the US could be relied on in the event of an attack from the North, prompting Seoul to launch a secret nuclear weapons programme – only for it to be abandoned later under US pressure. But with the backing of China and Russia, North Korea has rapidly expanded its nuclear abilities to become a de facto nuclear power, fundamentally changing the nuclear balance on the peninsula and significantly raising the stakes for a US military intervention. A February poll by Gallup Korea showed that nearly 73 per cent of South Koreans said their country should have its own nuclear weapons, given the North's repeated threats of nuclear attacks. Another poll in late June found that 66 per cent of respondents were in favour of going nuclear, Yonhap News Agency

reported, citing a survey by the state-funded Korea Institute for National Unification. Over 44 per cent said they preferred to keep US troops out of the country and develop South Korea's own nuclear weapons, the first time public support for nuclear armament outran support for American troops, the news agency said. Fewer people also thought the North would not use nuclear weapons against the South, with the share of those respondents falling more than 23 percentage points to 31 per cent from a 2017 survey. Echoing the public sentiment, some South Korean politicians, including President Yoon Suk-yeol, have called for the development of the country's own nuclear weapons, a step Washington opposes. Yoon said in January last year that if North Korea's nuclear threat continued to grow, South Korea might consider building its own nuclear weapons or asking the US to redeploy tactical nuclear weapons on the peninsula – arms that Washington withdrew in 1991. While the Japanese public is generally more cautious about nuclear armament, there has also been growing support for nuclear generation despite the 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster. A poll by the Asahi Shimbun newspaper in March last year showed 51 per cent of respondents supported restarting nuclear reactors, while 63 per cent were open to discussions of a nuclear-sharing option with the US in the wake of the Ukraine war. Russia's invasion of Ukraine was also cited as a turning point in Chinese and Japanese views about the prospect of a nuclear war, with a rare survey showing more pessimistic perceptions in China than in Japan. The survey jointly conducted last year by China International Communications Group and Genron NPO, a Japanese think tank, said over 52 per cent of Chinese respondents believed the world could see a nuclear war “in the next few years” or “not-so-distant future”. In contrast, nearly 40 per cent of Japanese respondents said nuclear conflict was possible in the next few years or not-so-distant future. More worryingly for Beijing, Washington has strengthened its military alliance with Tokyo and Seoul, with commitments on “extended deterrence” that include providing nuclear protection in the event

of nuclear attacks. The Chinese foreign ministry last week slammed this extended deterrence as a “Cold War relic”, saying US-Japan collaboration on nuclear deterrence would “stimulate regional tensions and heighten risks for nuclear proliferation and conflict”. Kishida shot back in Hiroshima on Tuesday, claiming extended deterrence was “an extremely important means to protect the lives of the people”, and that nurturing trust with the US would help them work together towards a world without nuclear weapons. From the perspectives of Japan and South Korea, it is Beijing's worsening ties with Washington, its own nuclear ambitions and the indulgence of Pyongyang's nuclear brinkmanship that have brought Seoul and Tokyo closer to its American ally. In a survey by the Pew Research Centre last year, 76 per cent of Japanese adults said they saw China as a bigger threat than North Korea's nuclear weapons. A veteran South Korean analyst quipped: “If China is serious about denuclearisation and the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula as it has been saying, the Chinese leader should invite [North Korean leader] Kim Jong-un and Yoon to have reconciliation talks in Beijing.” Washington's attitudes on whether its regional allies should be allowed to have the nuclear option also appear to have shifted over the years. Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger said in an interview last year that Japan was “heading towards becoming a nuclear power in five years”. Some US experts have even suggested that Washington should use the threat of its support for a nuclear Japan and South Korea to force China to take part in meaningful arms control negotiations. They point to past success during the Cold War of Washington's use of coercion, such as the deployment of nuclear-tipped missiles in Europe, to compel the Soviet Union to stay at the negotiating table. Mainland experts also expressed frustration about Beijing's refusal to reflect on its own problems and missteps in handling ties with Seoul and Tokyo. “Realistically speaking, the best hope for China is that the US will block Japan and South Korea from developing nuclear weapons for as long as possible,” a regional affairs expert commented.



## Briefs

## Parliament passes election...

FROM PAGE 01  
The Imran Khan-founded party's return to the parliament but also effectively deprived the PML-N led coalition government of its two-thirds majority in the parliament. The legislation, once it comes into effect following the approval from the Senate and the president's assent, will prevent the individuals who contested the general election as independent candidates from changing their affidavit at a later stage to declare affiliation with any political party. The bill, when it becomes a law, might reverse the PTI's return to the parliament after its "resurrection" in the assemblies following the July 12 ruling. Since then, the ECP has notified as many as 93 lawmakers from three provincial legislatures as PTI members. The electoral body issued a notification of 29 members of the PTI from Punjab, 58 from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and six from Sindh.

## Opposition to challenge bill in...

FROM PAGE 01  
used to attack the apex court. "The Supreme Court granted us this right through its decision. How can you deny us this right after the Supreme Court's verdict?" Khan questioned, expressing his belief that the bill contains elements of "political fascism". A representative of the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Sahibzada Sibghatullah, also condemned the bill as an "assault on the Constitution" and the top court. He argued that the bill was bulldozed through the assembly based on a majority, labelling it as an attack on democracy that pits parliament against the judiciary. The session, chaired by NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, witnessed heated debates and disruptions as the government moved forward with its legislative agenda.

## BD crisis: protesting...

FROM PAGE 01  
January and then watched millions of people take to the streets over the past month demanding she step down. More than 400 people died as security forces sought to quell the unrest, but the protests grew and Hasina finally fled Bangladesh aboard a helicopter on Monday as the military turned against her. The decision to dissolve parliament was taken following meetings with the heads of defence forces, leaders of political parties, student leaders and some civil society representatives, the presidential statement said.

## IMF Board to approve...

FROM PAGE 01  
leading to 22 IMF bailouts since 1958. Currently, the IMF is the fifth-largest debtor, owing \$6.28 billion as of July 11, according to the lender's data. The federal finance emphasised the need for expanding the tax system, improving transparency, implementing energy sector reforms and enhancing governance. Under the IMF deal, the highest effective tax rate can rise to as much as 45% from the current 15%. It will be implemented from 2025, a move that was termed "unprecedented" by analysts.

## Governor announces...

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Governor Punjab Saleem Haider Khan added. Chairman PHEC Professor Dr Shahid Munir, Secretary Higher Education Dr Farukh Naveed, Secretary School Education Department Ehtsham Anwar and Principal Secretary to Punjab Governor Captain (ret'd) Saqib Zafar were also present on this occasion. Overseas Pakistani businessmen submitted various suggestions to the Governor Punjab regarding investing in Pakistan and informed about the problems faced by them.

## Paris Olympics

## Arshad Nadeem advances to medal round of javelin throw

*Nadeem launches massive throw exceeding 84 metres, securing his place in the medal contention*

AFZAL JAVED

PARIS: Pakistan's star javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem on Tuesday advanced to the finals of the Paris Olympics Javelin Throw event. In his qualification round, Nadeem launched a massive throw exceeding the 84-metre minimum qualifying mark, securing his place in the medal contention. Nadeem delivered a throw of 86.59 metres on his first attempt, instantly clinching his spot in the finals and showcasing his extraordinary talent. Athletes making a minimum throw of 84 metres will cement their

place in the final round where they will compete for the medal. Pakistan sent a total of seven athletes and six of them have been out of their respective events. The 27-year-old is Pakistan's last and biggest hope for a medal in the Olympics. This marks Nadeem's second consecutive Olympic final, following his impressive fifth place finish in Tokyo. The final of the Javelin Throw event will be played on Thursday, August 8, at 11:25pm Pakistan Standard Time (PST). Athletes to qualify for Javelin Throw Final: Neeraj Chopra (India) – 89.34m throw



Anderson Peters (Grenada) – 88.63m throw  
Julian Weber (Germany) – 87.76m throw  
Arshad Nadeem (Pakistan) – 86.59m throw  
Julius Yego (Kenya) – 85.59m throw  
Luiz Maurício da Silva (Brazil) – 85.91m throw  
Jakub Vadlejch (Czech Republic) – 85.63m throw

Toni Keranen (Finland) – 85.27m throw  
Andrian Mardare (Republic of Moldova) – 84.13m throw  
Olivier Helander (Finland) – 83.81m throw  
Keshorn Walcott (Trinidad and Tobago) – 83.02m throw  
Lassi Etelatalo (Finland) – 82.91m throw  
Any athlete making a minimum throw of 84 meters was to cement their place in the final round where they will compete for the medal.

12 athletes were to make their way to the final round. If 12 athletes could not meet the 84-meter mark,

the ones with the best throws were to qualify for the medal round. Pakistan sent a total of seven athletes and six of them have been out of their respective events. The 27-year-old is Pakistan's last and biggest hope for a medal in the Olympics.

Remember, Nadeem won a silver medal at the World Championship last year meanwhile in the Commonwealth Games 2022, he won the gold medal, becoming the first Pakistani athlete since 1962 to win gold at the competition, with a massive throw that covered 90.18m distance.

## Biles stunned by Andrade in floor final at Paris Games

PARIS: Simone Biles suffered a shocking defeat in the floor exercise final at the Paris Olympics on Monday after two costly errors allowed Brazilian gymnast Rebeca Andrade to snatch an unexpected gold at the Paris Games on Monday. Biles had to settle for a disappointing silver, while her American teammate Jordan Chiles claimed bronze. Biles was heavily favoured coming into the final given the difficulty of her high-flying routine but landed with two feet out of bounds on two of her four tumbling passes. She paid a heavy price for those mistakes as the deductions she incurred denied her what would have been her fourth gold medal of these Games. Andrade claimed the top prize for producing a near flawless, albeit less difficult, routine. The final day of the artistic gymnastics programme did not end the way Biles would have wanted as she also suffered disappointment in the balance beam final, finishing fifth after slipping off that apparatus. Despite the less than ideal finale, the Paris Games still mark a triumphant comeback for the 27-year-old Biles, who led the U.S. to the team title and won the all-around and vault gold medals. – Agencies

## Michael calls for lifetime bans for doping offenders

LONDON: Michael Phelps has reiterated his call for lifetime bans for athletes who test positive for banned substances, following a doping scandal involving Chinese swimmers. Phelps emphasized that stricter sanctions are necessary to maintain fairness in sports. "If you test positive, you should never be allowed to come back and compete again, cut and dry," Phelps told reporters at a recent sponsor event in Paris. "I believe one and done." His comments came after it was revealed that 23 Chinese swimmers tested positive for banned substances before the Tokyo Olympics, a fact that was only made public through media reports this year. The World Anti-Doping Agency and World Aquatics accepted the Chinese explanation that the positives were due to tainted food. Nine of these swimmers won medals, leading British swimmer Adam Peaty to assert that the playing field is not level. Phelps echoed these concerns, stating, "If everybody is not going through that same testing, I have a serious problem because it means the level of sport is not fair and it's not even."

Reflecting on his career, Phelps noted that he often faced accusations of doping and subjected himself to frequent testing to prove his innocence. "People called me a cheater throughout my career," he said. "I subjected myself to do more testing – blood and urine – weekly. Why? For the reason that I could say I'm not cheating and I am clean and here are the results. I did it the clean way. I won 23 Olympic gold medals the clean way. It can be done." Phelps also expressed his belief that he never competed on an even playing

field, suspecting that some competitors were doping. Since retiring, he has become more vocal on issues like mental health and anti-doping. He recently testified before US Congress, advocating for a unified global testing system and lifetime bans for doping offenders. "It does break my heart to see people put hard effort into four straight years to prepare for an Olympic Games, then to have it taken away from them by somebody who is cheating," Phelps said. "It's not right. I stand for that and I will always stand for that."

FROM PAGE 01  
He deplored that people living in rented houses were paying more electricity bills than their house rents. "The JI's Peshawar sit-in will be historic. We will also announce strike after Aug 14. We want to give you a message that we don't accept this bill. The tax net shouldn't be increased unnecessarily. The government has included those people in the committee who are responsible for the problem. We don't want committees and announcements rather actions. Our committee can fight the case of 250 million people. We won't retreat as we plan to move towards the Murree Road on Aug 8", he announced. Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Tuesday announced staging a sit-in outside the Chief Minister's House in Lahore on August 11.

## 'Oppression' key factor behind...

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Khan emphasised the need to reconsider these decisions, noting that inflation has weakened the economy. "The deteriorating conditions in Bangladesh were also due to such oppression, and the crackdown on PTI should end," he added. Panjutha also highlighted Khan's zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, mentioning the formation of a committee in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to address the issue. "[K-P CM] Ali Amin Gandapur is doing commendable work in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and his efforts in the Swabi rally have been noteworthy," he said.

## Govt has come up against...

FROM PAGE 01  
He deplored that people living in rented houses were paying more electricity bills than their house rents. "The JI's Peshawar sit-in will be historic. We will also announce strike after Aug 14. We want to give you a message that we don't accept this bill. The tax net shouldn't be increased unnecessarily. The government has included those people in the committee who are responsible for the problem. We don't want committees and announcements rather actions. Our committee can fight the case of 250 million people. We won't retreat as we plan to move towards the Murree Road on Aug 8", he announced. Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Tuesday announced staging a sit-in outside the Chief Minister's House in Lahore on August 11.

## Printing capacity of passports...

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"We hope the new system will be installed soon, and the daily capacity for issuing passports will increase from 26,000 to 60,000," he added. The minister highlighted that the number of missions has increased from 20 to 92, and with the increase in passport offices, there is a pressing need for upgraded machinery and advanced printers to meet the demand.

## Naqvi assures foolproof...

FROM PAGE 01  
Consul General Zhao Shirin expressed optimism about the meeting's outcome, highlighting the "ideal relations" between Pakistan and China. The meeting was also attended by senior officials from Punjab, including the Inspector General of Police and the Interior Secretary. This development underscores Pakistan's commitment to fostering a secure environment for Chinese investments and businesses, further solidifying the bilateral relationship between the two nations.

## Yunus likely to head interim govt

FROM PAGE 01  
Discrimination (SAD) group, wrote on Facebook. "Any government other than the one we recommended would not be accepted," Nahid Islam, one of the key organisers of the student movement, said in a video on Facebook with three other organisers. "We wouldn't accept any army-supported or army-led government." "We have also had discussions with Muhammad Yunus and he has agreed to take on this responsibility at our invitation," Islam added. Yunus himself has not commented on the call, but in an interview with India's The Print, he said Bangladesh had been "an occupied country" under Hasina. "Today all the people of Bangladesh feel liberated," it quoted Yunus as saying. The Nobel laureate told Indian broadcaster Times Now in a recorded interview that Monday marked the "second liberation day" for Bangladesh after its 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. But he said Bangladeshis were angry with neighbour India for allowing Hasina to land there after fleeing Dhaka.

## Nick Hockley to quit Cricket Australia as CEO in March 2025

'This was a difficult decision,' said Hockley following his resignation

London: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Cricket Australia (CA), Nick Hockley, will step down from his post in March 2025, confirmed the Australia's cricket board on Tuesday. Hockley worked within the Australian board in various roles, he started his journey within the board during COVID-19 after Kevin Roberts resigned. He became a full-time member in May 2021 as he helped Australia successfully organize a Test series against India at home despite the border closure due to the pandemic. According to The Sydney Morning Herald, he advised CA's board of his decision after chair Mike Baird and other directors indicated that they did not envision him serving as CEO for 10 years.

During his tenure, Hockley played a key role in guiding CA through the challenges of the pandemic, implementing a five-year strategy, and securing significant seven-year media deals with Seven West Media, Foxtel Group and Disney Star in India. "This was a difficult decision, however following what promises to be a blockbuster summer and with our five-year strategic plan well progressed, this is the right time to pursue another challenge, while giving the Board plenty of time to find its next CEO to build on the strong foundations now in place," Hockley said. "This is not the time for goodbyes, as I remain completely focused on the season ahead and supporting the Board on succession and a

smooth transition." This is Hockley's final season in charge as CA CEO and he will once again see India visiting the country for a five-Test series in November. Hockley oversaw a new player memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Australian Cricketers' Association which included a 66% uplift in pay for women professional cricketers and Australia won six ICC World Cup titles during his tenure. His successes also include Australia's first tour to Pakistan in 24 years, retention of the women's and men's Ashes, a women's Commonwealth Games gold in Birmingham in 2022 and a men's Under-19s World Cup earlier this year. – Agencies

## Kenya's Chebet wins Olympic 5,000m gold

PARIS: Kenya's Beatrice Chebet produced a masterful display of tactical running to win gold in the Olympic women's 5,000m on Monday, ending defending champion Sifan Hassan's dream of a long-distance treble. Chebet – nicknamed "the smiling assassin" – bided her time before accelerating past compatriot Faith Kipyegon down the home straight to take gold in 14min 28.56sec at the Stade de France. Kipyegon, the reigning 5,000m world champion, was initially disqualified from the silver medal position for an alleged shove on Ethiopia's Gudaf Tsegay with two laps to go. However, she was later reinstated after an appeal from Kenyan officials. Following that appeal, Dutchwoman Has-

san was bumped back down from silver into bronze after finishing in a time of 14:30.61. Hassan, 31, had been aiming to become the first woman in history to win 5,000m, 10,000m and marathon gold at the same Olympics, emulating the feat achieved by men's distance-running great Emilie Zatopek at the 1952 Helsinki Games. But after deploying her favoured tactic of staying at the back of the field for most of the race, Hassan was unable to live with the pace of Kenya's Chebet and Kipyegon in the final stages of a thrilling race. Kipyegon edged just clear of Chebet coming down the home straight but was unable to respond when her compatriot found an extra gear and swept past her. "I knew Faith is very strong so I had to go hard from 400 metres out," Chebet said afterwards. "When she pushed, I thought, 'Let me follow her and see if I can secure second.' If I followed Faith, I thought I would get the silver. "Then at 400 metres to go I felt strong, so I pushed, then kicked again at 300 metres. Luckily I was able to win." Chebet's victory was the latest milestone in a dazzling season for the 24-year-old Kenyan, who set a world record in the 10,000m in Eugene, Oregon in May. Chebet will now look to seize Hassan's Olympic 10,000m crown when the race takes place on Friday. – Agencies

## Australian swimmer Titmus to take 'extended break'

PARIS: Four-time Olympic gold medallist Ariarne Titmus said Monday she will take an "extended break" from swimming with the aim of being back to her best for the 2028 Los Angeles Games. The Australian, who won two golds and two silver medals at the Paris Olympics, said she may spend up to a year away from the sport as she looks to recharge her batteries. "I'm definitely having a very extended break. I haven't planned when I'm going back to swimming. I want to go back when I feel ready to go back. Could be up to 12 months," she told news agency reporters on Monday. Titmus, who won gold in the 400 metres freestyle and the 4x200m freestyle relay in Paris, along with silver in the 200m and 800m freestyle, will turn 24 next month and is keen to be fresh and ready in four years time. "I just want to make sure I'm ready to go in LA. I don't want to come back too early and, you know, lose that fire, I guess," she said. "I think four years is a long time, so I want to prepare myself the best for those Olympic Games. For me, that's the priority, not world championships in the years prior. "So I just want to really have time to let the hunger build back up and enjoy myself for a little while," she said. Titmus' great rival, American Katie Ledecky, has said she aims to continue on for a fifth Olympics which would set up another series of their contests. While Titmus has beaten Ledecky to gold in the past two Olympic 400m events, the American, who is 27, has won four straight golds in the 800m. The Tasmanian said she was glad their duel looked to set to resume. "It's always exciting racing the best in the world and I think we get the best out of each other," she said. "You know, it's more satisfying racing a champion like her and being successful than not. So I think it'd be crazy for her not to try and keep going for her home games. "And yes, it's another challenge, it is always a challenge racing her so I look forward to it," she added. With Canadian teenager Summer McIntosh having emerged as a major star, with two golds in Paris, Titmus feels women's swimming is in a golden era. "I think that at the moment, it's probably, since I can remember, the best it's ever been in terms of how fast we're swimming, the depth we have across the world, the depth in Australia," she said. – Agencies

## Netherlands down Spain 4-0 to reach men's hockey final

*They will play in their first Olympic final since London 2012 as they bid to end a 24-year gold medal drought*

PARIS: Top-ranked Netherlands reached the men's hockey final at the Paris Olympics on Tuesday with a much more comfortable 4-0 win over Spain than in the pool stage when they had to fight back from two goals down. Cheers erupted from the sea of orange blanketing the crowd just before the final whistle as Dutch fans showed up in force. They will play in their first Olympic final since London 2012 as they bid to end a 24-year gold medal drought. India and Germany meet in the second semi-final later on Tuesday - a rematch of their Tokyo Games bronze medal clash. Spain, who lost 5-3 to the Dutch in their Pool A match, will get their first chance to compete for a medal since 2008 in the bronze medal match. Netherlands defender Jip Janssen opened the scoring with a converted penalty stroke in the 12th minute after goalkeeper Luis Calzado kicked the legs out from under forward Tjep Hoedemakers while going for the ball. Captain Thierry Brinkman got the second in the 20th after collecting a rebound off Spain defender Ig-



nacio Rodriguez's stick and blasting the ball into the net for his first goal of the Paris Games. "I was waiting for that moment for the whole tournament because I had a bit of bad luck in the nine yards. All the balls were not coming to my stick, so I was waiting for this moment," Brinkman said. "You have to keep the patience always as an international striker. The most important ball is the next ball, the next chance you get." The scoring continued in the opening minutes of the third quarter as forward Thijs van Dam sank his shot with plenty of space in the circle after two Spain defenders collided trying to collect a deep pass by the Netherlands skipper. The crowd again erupted in the 50th minute when forward Duco Telgenkamp scored the Dutch team's fourth. "We didn't do a lot of things wrong, but the small details killed us," Spain skipper Marc Miralles said. "They did not have that many chances I think, but they were very efficient and that's definitely what we need to improve for the next game." – Agencies



## Briefs

## Youn-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir observed in ANKARA

ANKARA: Youn-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir was observed in Ankara with a commemorative event at Pakistan Embassy and a photo exhibition organized by the embassy in collaboration with Kecioren Municipality. The day is observed throughout the world on 5 August every year as a somber memory of the heinous actions taken by India in August 2019 to perpetuate its illegal occupation of the Jammu and Kashmir region. Chairperson Pakistan Turkiye Parliamentary Friendship Group, Member Parliament Ali Sahin, Member Parliament Burhan Kayaturk, prominent Kashmiri leader Abdur Rasheed Turabi, President Strategic Foresight Institute Dr. Guray Alpar and representatives of media, think tanks and civil society attended the event. In his speech, Chairperson Pakistan Turkiye Parliamentary Friendship Group, Member Parliament Ali Sahin stated that resolution of Kashmir dispute is vital for the peace and stability in South Asia. Turkiye has always supported peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute according to the will of the Kashmiri people and will continue to do so. While expressing concerns over lack of fairness in international system, he stated that the international system serves the interests of few selected and unfortunately there is a lack of will and intention when it comes to Kashmir and Palestine.—Agencies

## Extreme heat kills 14 in South Korea this year

SEOUL : At least 14 people have died so far this year due to heat waves in South Korea after two more women lost their lives on Sunday, local media reported on Tuesday. According to the Interior Ministry, two women in their 70s died from heat on Sunday, Seoul-based Yonhap News reported. A 71-year-old woman was found unconscious in her home in Seoul and subsequently died from a heat-related illness, while another 78-year-old woman died the same day while working on a farm in Goheung area south of Seoul, according to the report. Nearly 1,700 people were also admitted to hospitals due to heat-related illnesses this year. About 303,000 livestock have died due to extreme heat, including 277,000 poultry, since June 11. Some parts of South Korea are still under heat warnings as the local weather agency said that current heat will continue till mid of August. On Sunday, the country recorded 12 tropical nights so far this summer, surpassing the previous peak of about 10 days set in 2018. Tropical nights refer to nighttime temperatures staying above 25C (77F) between 6:01 p.m. and 9 a.m. the following day, according to the agency. Last week, South Korea issued its highest heat warning when the temperatures soared to around 40C (104F) in some regions.—APP

## 75 migrants rescued off Greece

ATHENS: The Greek coastguard on Tuesday said it had rescued 75 migrants in an area where one of the Mediterranean's worst migrant shipwrecks occurred last year. They were on board a sailboat southwest of the Peloponnese coastal town of Pylos and will be taken to the port of Kalamata, the coastguard said, without mentioning the nationalities or port of origin. In June 2023, a rusty and overloaded trawler sailing out of Tobruk in Libya believed to be carrying more than 750 people sank southwest of Pylos. There were 104 survivors, but more than 600 people are considered to have perished. Dozens of survivors have filed a criminal complaint against the Greek coastguard, alleging that they took hours to respond despite warnings from EU border agency Frontex and the NGO Alarm Phone.—APP



BAKU: Qasim Mohiuddin Pakistan new ambassador of Azerbaijan posing for a picture with the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev after presenting the credentials.— DNA

## ICCI discusses EU climate regulations' impact on exports

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI highlighted the importance of understanding and adapting these new regulations.

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) convened an interactive session 'Dialogue on Climate Regulations by EU and their Impact on Exports', attended by exporters in large number and key government officials. It was addressed by Escipion Joaquin Oliveira Gomez, Director International Trade Centre, Geneva, Robert Skidmore, Chief Sector & Enterprise Competitiveness International Trade Centre, Geneva, Atif Aziz, Joint Secretary EU Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former President ICCI and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari, Mohammad Shoaib Advisor National Trade Centre, Adnan Yousuf Lodhi, Policy Advisor and other. In his opening remarks Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI highlighted the importance of understanding and adapting these

new regulations. He emphasized that Pakistani businesses need to proactively align with EU's environmental standards to maintain their market access and competitiveness. He said that our exports to the EU are crucial therefore it is imperative that we should not only be aware of these changes but also ready to comply with these regulations. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari went on to say that Pakistan's carbon emissions are significantly lower as compared to the neighboring countries. Its share of global greenhouse gas emissions is only

0.93% but is one of the worst sufferers of the impacts, therefore, it definitely deserves benefit of the situation. He by mentioning the highest power tariffs in the country said that Pakistani exporters are already passing through the difficult times and implementation on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will surely add their distresses, he pleaded for gradual and phase-wise implementation of the mechanism. He also urged the International Trade Centre delegation to visit Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Sialkot Chambers

of Commerce and Industry to get the firsthand knowledge of the exporters and industrialists' ambitions to enhance their exports to EU and the difficulties they are confronting in the matter. On his part, Zafar Bakhtawari by terming the session as very useful for the entire business fraternity underlined the need for some concessions for the developing and least developed countries vis-vis the implementation of the mechanism to enable the entrepreneurs to adopt the same conveniently. Robert Skidmore moderated the session and highlight the support available to help them transition to more sustainable practices. He outlined Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project of ITC that how this project is supporting SMEs through capacity building and policy initiatives. Escipion Oliveira thanked the participants and provided an overview of the new EU regulations, focusing on how they will impact Pakistani exports. He stressed the importance of sustainability in global trade and how the EU's regulations are de-

signed to encourage more sustainable production practices worldwide. The Ministry of Commerce's representative, Atif Aziz, addressed the government's role in facilitating this transition. He mentioned that the Ministry is actively working on developing policies and frameworks to help Pakistani exporters comply with international environmental standards. The discussion focused on the EU's stringent new trade regulations, which are part of the European Green Deal, a comprehensive policy initiative aimed at making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Mr. Adnan Lodhi from ITC briefed the participants that as major trading partner, Pakistan's exports, especially in sectors like textiles, agriculture, and manufacturing are expected to be directly affected by these changes. Former President ICCI Mian Shaikat Masood also highlighted the difficulties facing the Pakistani exporters by suggesting some remedial measures. The dialogue underscored the urgency of adapting to the EU's new trade regulations and highlighted the critical role of awareness.



## China initiates Starlink rival project

BEIJING : China's state-owned Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology (SSST) successfully placed 18 satellites into orbit, CCTV reported, as China seeks to rival the United States SpaceX's Starlink. According to CCTV, the launch took place at Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in the northern Shanxi province, after the satellites boarded a Long March 6 rocket. The launch marks the first of many "Thousand Sails Constellation" projects. The state-sponsored initiative is China's response to Starlink, SpaceX's expanding commercial broadband constellation, which has around 5,500 LEO satellites providing near-global internet coverage to consumers, businesses, and government agencies. Since 2022, following the Ukraine war's revelation of Starlink's critical role in battlefield communications, PLA-affiliated media (People's Liberation Army) released multiple editorials highlighting the threat Starlink poses to China's interests. These editorials characterized Starlink and SpaceX as contributors to the "space hegemony" the United States is attempting to establish, granting it a "unilateral space military advantage." China plans to launch 12,992 satellites into orbit shortly after, in April 2023, amid calls from the Chinese military community to accelerate the creation of a national network. China announced that it would launch 12,992 satellites into orbit. The Washington Post cited a Beijing academic familiar with the Chinese project as saying, "The Starlink constellation has finally shown its military colors in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.—APP

## WHO: COVID-19 cases surge, vaccine coverage declines

GENEVA : The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday said the circulation of COVID-19 is rising in all countries while an "alarming decline" in vaccine coverage has been observed. "The virus is circulating in all countries," Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO director for epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention told a UN press briefing in Geneva. "Data from our sentinel-based surveillance system across 84 countries reports that the percent of positive tests for SARS-CoV-2 has been rising for several weeks." Overall, test positivity is above 10%, but this fluctuates per region, Kerkhove said, adding that in Europe, percent positivity is above 20%. Wastewater surveillance suggests that the circulation of the virus is 2-20 times higher than what is currently being reported, she said, and warned: "This is significant because the virus continues to evolve and change, which puts us all at risk of a potentially more severe virus that could evade our detection and/or our medical interventions, including vaccination." "Such high circulation is not 'typical' for respiratory viruses that tend to increase in circulation in the colder months," she said, noting that in recent months, regardless of season, many countries have experienced surges of COVID-19. She added that even at the Olympics, currently, at least 40 athletes have so far tested positive. These surges, which resulted in increases in hospitalizations and deaths in many countries, need to be prevented, she said. Vaccination decline needs to be reversed Kerkhove recommended all countries to consider co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines with seasonal influenza vaccines due to the decline in COVID-19 vaccination. "Over the last two years, we have seen an alarming decline in vaccine coverage, especially among health workers and people over 60, two of the most at-risk groups," she said. "This urgently needs to be turned around." She reminded people in the highest-risk groups of WHO's recommendation that they receive a COVID-19 vaccine within 12 months of their last dose. She also called on governments to continue to invest and support a global understanding of circulation and impact and provide their populations with the tools to protect themselves and care for people suffering from acute and long-term effects of COVID-19, including post COVID-19 condition. "WHO urges countries to continue to sharpen their pandemic preparedness, readiness, and response systems on which they have worked so hard during COVID, to be ready for surges of COVID-19 as well as other emerging and re-emerging pathogens, like avian influenza H5N1, mpox, dengue," she said.—Agencies

## EU council approves \$4.58bln aid to Ukraine

The Council of the European Union approves the payment of a whopping 4.2 billion to Ukraine as part of a broader 50 billion aid plan.

## WEB DESK

BRUSSELS : The Council of the European Union approved Tuesday an initial payment of nearly 4.2 billion (\$4.58 billion) under the Ukraine Facility mechanism. This decision, announced by the Hungarian Presidency of the Council, marks the first disbursement in a broader plan to provide up to 50 billion in financial assistance to Ukraine from 2024 to 2027. "The Council has adopted an implementing decision today, authorizing the first payment of nearly 4.2 billion under the #UkraineFacility. This decision supports Ukraine's macro-financial stability and the functioning of its public administration," the presidency stated on X. The approval for this initial payment was granted by the ambassadors of the EU member states in late July, as noted in another post by the

presidency on X. This funding, which is part of the EU's larger Ukraine Facility mechanism, is allegedly aimed at helping Ukraine meet various reform targets. The Council of the EU emphasized that Ukraine had met the necessary conditions and reforms stipulated in the Ukraine Plan to qualify for the funds. The reforms in question include improvements in public financial management, governance of state-owned enterprises, the business environment, energy, and demining efforts. The Council highlighted the urgency of disbursing the funds "as soon as possible, given the difficult fiscal situation in Ukraine." The establishment of the Ukraine Facility Plan in February 2024 by EU leaders set the stage for this financial support. The plan enables the EU to provide Ukraine with substantial financial aid over four years, coupled with mechanisms to ensure accountabili-

ty and annual approval of the funds. Following the Ukrainian government's approval of the four-year program in late March, the Council of the EU completed the final approval of Ukraine's reform plan in mid-May, thereby enabling access to the 50 billion aid package until 2027 under the established mechanism. Kiev must continue enacting reforms EU Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi said last week that Ukraine needs to continue advancing reforms required for its European Union accession in order to secure additional financial aid from Brussels. "To fully comply with all membership criteria, Ukraine must remain committed to this process and continue its reforms, and here I want to underline the key role that the rule of law fundamentals play," Varhelyi said in Budapest, adding, "Enlargement

is and remains a merit-based process." The European Commission plans to increase its financial support for Ukraine, providing the country with up to 50 billion euros (\$54.2 billion) in loans backed by frozen Russian state assets from 2024-2027, the Hungarian diplomat said in a conference on the State of Play of the Western Balkan and Eastern Enlargements of the European Union. "Two weeks ago, on July 17, the Commission made a positive assessment to release the first regular installment under the Ukraine Facility, which was close to 4.2 billion euros. All in all, we plan to pay 16 billion euros to Ukraine's budget in 2024, subject to the country fulfilling the reform conditionalities," Varhelyi said. Ukraine's EU status Ukraine is one of the nine countries in Europe that does not have official membership in the European Union, identifying

as a candidate state alongside Moldova, which was granted by the bloc in June 2022. However, both countries have to abide by several strict conditions to begin accession talks for potential EU membership. Brussels held the first accession negotiations with Ukraine in June, a year after Kiev's candidate status was granted symbolically to showcase support for it amid its ongoing war with Russia. In March, the European Council increased its budget for Ukraine, granting an additional \$5.4 billion in military aid through lethal and non-lethal military equipment and weapons by establishing the Ukraine Assistance Fund funded by the European Peace Facility. Since the beginning of Ukraine's conflict with Russia in February 2022, Kiev has received significant military and financial aid from Western countries, which Russia's Kremlin has warned against due to the potential escalation of the war.

## Malnutrition cases surge 300% in Gaza

GENEVA : The UN on Monday reported a surge in malnutrition cases among children in northern Gaza as the humanitarian crisis there continues to deepen. "Our partners reported a surge in malnutrition cases among children in northern Gaza last month. They noted a more than 300% increase in July when more than 650 cases of acute malnutrition were diagnosed compared to May, when 145 such cases were detected," UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters during a news conference. Noting that the nutrition conditions are deteriorating, Haq said the reason is "due to access constraints, shortages in essential supplies, limited availability of fresh produce and meat, poor water and sanitation services, and spreading diseases." Citing the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), he said the Israeli bombardment of the enclave continues to "kill, injure and displace Palestinians." "In just the past 48 hours, three schools sheltering displaced people in Gaza City were reportedly hit, resulting in dozens of casualties," Haq told reporters. He further referred to Israel's recent evacuation order from southern areas of Khan Younis and northern Rafah and said the UN calls on "all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, including by taking constant care to spare civilians and civilian objects.—APP

## X to shut down San Francisco office

LONDON : Social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, plans to close its headquarters in San Francisco in the coming weeks, according to an internal email from CEO Linda Yaccarino seen by The New York Times. The company, which is owned by Elon Musk, will move employees to an existing office in San Jose and a new engineering center in Palo Alto, both in California, which it will share with Musk's AI company, xAI. The move follows Musk's recent criticism of California's leadership and his stated intention to move X's headquarters to Texas, according to The New York Times report. Musk cited a new California law on student gender identity disclosure as a key factor in his decision, the report said. The closure marks a significant shift for the company, which was founded in San Francisco in 2006. X did not respond to requests for comment on the office closure or potential job impacts as of 0800GMT, according to the report. The decision is in line with Musk's broader strategy of cutting costs and restructuring operations since acquiring the company in a \$44 billion deal in 2022, the report added.—DNA

## Meta apologizes for removing Malaysia PM posts

LONDON : Tech giant Meta Platforms apologized Tuesday for removing social media posts by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim about the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, in which he expressed his condolences. The apology came a day after Anwar's office summoned Meta representatives to seek an explanation on why the leader's Facebook and Instagram posts about Haniyeh's death had been removed. Meta is the parent firm of the two popular social media platforms. "We apologize for an operational error that resulted in the removal of content from the Prime Minister's Facebook and Instagram Pages," Meta said in a statement emailed to Agence France-Presse (AFP). "The content has since been restored with the correct newsworthy label." The political leader of the Palestinian resistance group Hamas was killed in the Iranian capital, Tehran, on Wednesday in an attack blamed on Israel. Anwar's posts included a video showing the premier on a phone call with a Hamas official, offering his condolences.—APP



**Briefs**

**Achakzai opposes anti-India resolution in NA**

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP) chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai has opposed the resolution against India in the National Assembly. A resolution related to the amendment to the Indian Constitution was presented in Pakistan's National Assembly on Tuesday and was approved with a majority vote. Achakzai said the workers of the Peoples Party made sacrifices for the constitution and parliament. He said they would not let the House proceed if it continued on the same trajectory. He said he opposed the resolution related to Kashmir because he wanted to amend it. He said his party always supported freedom movements. He said the Kashmiris should be asked where they wanted to go. Achakzai asked who arrested assembly member Haji Imtiaz? He also criticised the speaker who, he said, failed to produce the disappeared member. National Assembly Speaker Ayaz-Sadiq said, "you have called me havaladar. Havaladar is the first line of defence." He said the resolution could be opposed but it could not be discussed this way.

**CJP donates ancestral land to government**

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and his family on Tuesday donated their land to the Balochistan government on the 77th Independence Day. The chief justice announced the donation of 31,680 square feet of land in the Ziarat district to the government through a letter. In a letter sent to the provincial government through the chief secretary of Balochistan, the CJP said, "It was stated that on the occasion of the completion of 77 years of the country's independence, they wish to donate 31,680 square feet of their owned land adjacent to the Quaid-e-Azam Residency in Ziarat for public benefit to be used as an Environmental Center." The letter further stated that they wish to grant a licence for this land to the Balochistan government free of charge, and they have attached documents related to the terms and conditions of the licence. They expressed that if the government agrees, they would like to present this gift to the people on the joyous day of August 14, 2024.

**Three arrested for robbing German tourist**

DNA

LAHORE: The police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested three suspects who manhandled and robbed German tourist Florian Berg in Cantonment near the Allama Iqbal International Airport. In a statement, the police said that the three suspects were apprehended from Ghaziabad and Burki areas. They also recovered the stolen mobile phone and camera from their possession. Meanwhile, the suspects have confessed to robbing the German tourist. The police have initiated an investigation into the incident and are questioning the suspects. A day earlier, the Punjab government, on directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, provided Rs500,000 in aid to German tourist Florian Berg. Punjab Home Secretary Nourul Amin Mengal met with the tourist at his office and gave assistance of Rs500,000. The German tourist was robbed while sleeping on the roadside in Lahore a few days ago. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz took notice of the incident and issued orders to the police to arrest the accused.

**Israel has stolen 2,000 bodies from Gaza graves**

The statement added that "the Israeli occupation army desecrates the dignity of the bodies of 89 martyrs, handing them over as skeletons and decomposed corpses"

NEWS DESK

GAZA CITY: Israeli forces have abducted more than 2,000 bodies exhumed from various cemeteries across the Gaza strip, with reports from the Gaza government media office saying some corpses have been returned after Israeli forces "desecrated the bodies" of the deceased. Gaza's Government Media Office in a statement on Monday said that Israel has stolen 2,000 Palestinian bodies since the beginning of Israel's genocidal war on Gaza on October 7 and returned some in an inhumane manner. "Over the course of 304 days of the genocide, the occupation has kidnapped more than 2,000 bodies of martyrs from dozens of cemeteries in the governorates of the Gaza Strip, which the occupation bulldozed with bulldozers and military vehicles and turned their graves over, in a scene that violates humanity and human feelings," the statement reads. The statement added that "the Israeli occupation army desecrates the dignity of the bodies of 89 martyrs, handing them over as skeletons and decomposed corpses." Meanwhile, director of the Palestinian Civil Emergency Service in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza, Yamen Abu Suleiman, said on Monday they had "received 80 bodies inside 15 bags, with more than four martyrs in each bag, each wrapped in a single shroud." Abu Suleiman added that Israeli forces did not provide any information about the bodies, including their names or where they were found or taken

**Putin asks Iran to avoid civilian casualties in attack**

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has asked Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for a restrained response to Israel's suspected killing of the leader of Hamas, advising against attacks on Israeli civilians, two senior Iranian sources said. The message, according to the sources, was delivered on Monday by Sergei Shoigu, a senior ally of the Kremlin leader, in meetings with top Iranian officials as the Islamic Republic weighs its response to the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh. Tehran also pressed Moscow for the delivery of Russian made Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets, the two Iranian sources, privy to the meeting in Tehran, the sources told Reuters. In Moscow, the Kremlin did not respond to a request for comment. State-run RIA news agency reported on Tuesday that Shoigu said he discussed Haniyeh's killing on his Tehran visit. The two sources with knowledge of the matter did not provide further details on the talks with Shoigu, who was defense minister before becoming the secretary of Russia's security council in May. They said Shoigu's visit was one of several avenues Moscow had used to relay to Iran the need for restraint while at the same time condemning Haniyeh's killing as "a very dangerous assassination," in a bid to prevent a Middle East war. The Middle East, the sources said, was on the brink of a major war and those behind the assassination were clearly trying to trigger such a conflict. Russia has cultivated closer ties with Iran since the start of its war with Ukraine and has said it is preparing to sign a wide-ranging cooperation agreement with Tehran. There was no immediate comment from Iran's Foreign ministry. On Monday it said Tehran did not seek to raise regional tensions but needed to punish Israel to prevent further instability. In Washington, an official from the Biden administration warned on Monday of the risks of a major regional conflict. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, emphasized that the scale of Iran's and Hezbollah's response would be a key factor in determining the extent of a potential conflict. Despite efforts by Western and regional states to persuade Iran to retaliate in a measured way, or not at all, Tehran has told foreign officials it will respond "severely" to the killing of Haniyeh in Tehran, where he attended President Masoud Peshkian's inauguration, four Iranian sources independently confirmed. In Lebanon, a prominent Lebanese source close to Hezbollah said "a retaliatory strike is inevitable and diplomacy is no longer a viable option," adding Iran wants the strike to be "severe" but not lead to a regional war. - Agencies

from, which he said is "a war crime, a crime against humanity." "We do not know if they are martyrs (killed by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip) or detainees who had been tortured and killed in (Israeli) jails", he said, adding that the bodies will be screened and examined in an attempt to identify them and determine the causes of death. Palestinian resistance group Hamas in a statement reacted and said the fact that 89 decomposed bodies have been released by the Israeli military further highlights the "unprecedented crimes" committed in Gaza. "They kill unarmed civilians in hospitals and shelters, kidnap their bodies, and exhume graves of martyrs and the dead, transferring them to occupation centers," Hamas said, adding that this doubles the pain of Palestinian families who only wish to know the fate of their killed loved ones and bury them with dignity. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reported that an estimated 10,000 Palestinians remain missing or under the rubble in Gaza, a number that includes individuals reportedly abducted by Israeli forces as well as the bodies of those exhumed from various cemeteries throughout the region. Due to the ongoing bombing campaign by occupying forces, medical facilities in Gaza are severely constrained, which makes them unable to perform DNA tests on the bodies returned for identification purposes. At least 39,623 people have been killed and 91,469 wounded in Gaza since the Israeli regime launched the genocidal war on Gaza in early October.

**Hamas appoints Darwish as new interim leader**

WEB DESK

DOHA: The successor to Ismail Haniyeh at the head of Hamas's political wing will be Muhammad Ismail Darwish, the Saudi-based news channel reports, citing unnamed sources, Hamas official denied media reports. Darwish, who lives in Qatar, will lead the group's politburo until new elections are held, sources said. Mohammed Ismail Darwish, known as "Abu Omar Hassan", is the chairman of the movement's Consultative Council. He will temporarily assume this role after the movement agreed to choose a provisional replacement, pending the election of a new leader. Hamas, the group that runs the Gaza Strip, issued a statement on Saturday saying that it has initiated a broad consultation process to select a new leader of its movement following the assassination of its former leader Ismail Haniyeh. According to the movement's charter, the members of the Central Consultative Council, which comprises around 50 members, including members of the movement's central political bureau, are those who elect the president. Haniyeh was head of the movement's political bureau until his assassination. His deputy, Saleh Al-Aroui, killed in an Israeli raid in Beirut in January, was in theory to replace him automatically. Al-Aroui's post has remained vacant since his death.

**Swabi rally heralds govt's ouster: Saif**

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Advisor Barrister Saif said on Tuesday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Swabi rally was a herald of fake government's ouster and release of incarcerated PTI chief Imran Khan. Mr. Saif stated that Swabi rally led by KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur rubbed opposition the wrong way, stressing that the PTI founder was in the hearts of the people of Pakistan and they had given the government last warning. "If this crowd moves towards Islamabad, then the government won't be able to survive itself."

**Punjab govt, world bank join hands to eradicate poverty**

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab government joins hands with World Bank to eradicate poverty and promote economic and social development in the province. The World Bank delegation under the chair of Director Najib Benhassine called on Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb to discuss cooperation in various areas. Besides Senior Minister, the provincial ministers of education, health, industry, agriculture, local government, irrigation participated in the meeting. 'Country Framework' is an international program of the World Bank in which the global leaders partners with country of the province to boost growth in agriculture, health and education. Punjab government's inclusion in the World Bank's special program 2024-2027 aims at accelerating the overall development in agriculture, health, education, IT, youth employment and skills. During the meeting, Punjab Senior Minister said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has launched the largest and comprehensive program to improve the overall health system in the province. She said 300 health centers and 250 primary health centers in villages were being upgraded as per international standards. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that it village or city, government treatment center will ensure the supply of doctors, medicine, medical staff and machinery. She said Punjab government with the help of world Bank wanted to train lakhs of Punjab's youth in IT and various skills.



**MADINAH:** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar arrives in Saudi Arabia. He was received by Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia, Ahmad Farooq and Director General of the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs Madinah Branch Ibrahim bin Muhammad Saeed Alsobhi. - DNA

**Kamala Harris picks Tim Walz for vice president**

WASHINGTON: Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to be her running mate on Tuesday, choosing a progressive policy champion and a plain speaker from America's heartland to help win over rural, white voters, US media have reported. Walz, a 60-year-old US Army National Guard veteran and former teacher, was elected to a Republican-leaning district in the US House of Representatives in 2006 and served 12 years before being elected governor of Minnesota in 2018. As governor, Walz has pushed a progressive agenda that includes free school meals, goals for tackling climate change, tax cuts for the middle class and expanded paid leave for Minnesota workers. Walz has long advocated for women's reproductive rights but also displayed a conservative bent while representing a rural district in the US House, defending agricultural interests and backing gun rights. Harris, the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, is adding a popular

Midwestern politician whose home state votes reliably for Democrats in presidential elections but is close to Wisconsin and Michigan, two crucial battlegrounds. Such states are seen as crucial in deciding this year's election, and Walz is widely seen as skilled at connecting with white, rural voters who in recent years have voted broadly for the Republican Donald Trump, Harris' rival for the White House. The Harris campaign hopes Walz's extensive National Guard career, coupled with a successful run as a high school football coach, and his Dad joke videos will attract such voters who are not yet dedicated to a second Trump term in the White House. Harris, 59, has revived the Democratic Party's hopes of an election victory since becoming its candidate after President Joe Biden, 81, ended his failing reelection bid under party pressure on July 21. Walz was a relative unknown nationally until the Harris "veepstakes" heated up, but his profile has since surged. A popular member of Congress, he reportedly had the backing of powerful former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was instrumental in persuading Biden to leave the race. Harris and Walz will face Trump and his running mate JD Vance, also a military veteran from the Midwest, in a Nov. 5 election. Stumping for Harris, sometimes in a camouflage baseball hat and T-shirt, Walz has attacked Trump and Vance as "weird," a catchy insult that has been picked up by the Harris campaign, social media and Democratic activists. - Agencies

**Russia says foiled Ukrainian attacks, captured village**

Russia has pushed back against the attacks but has sometimes needed to deploy artillery and aviation. In May, Russian forces launched a new offensive, crossing the border into Ukraine's Kharkiv region

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russia said Tuesday it had repelled land and sea attacks by Ukrainian forces and claimed the capture of another village in eastern Ukraine. The governor of Russia's Kursk region said a woman was killed after Ukrainian forces attempted border incursions. "Today we are getting information from the Sudzha and Korenevo districts about attempts by Ukrainian armed forces to break through into the Kursk region," acting governor Alexei Smirnov wrote on Telegram. He said that border guards and Russian soldiers "had prevented the border from being breached." Sudzha and Korenevo are close to Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region. Ukraine did not comment on the reports but the head of the Sumy region military administration, Oleksiy Drozdenko, told residents to pay attention to air raid alerts. Combatants from Ukraine have made several brief incursions into Russia since the beginning of the conflict. These have involved units of Russians fighting in support of Kyiv - the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Freedom of Russia Legion. Russia has pushed back against the attacks but has sometimes needed to deploy artillery and aviation. In May, Russian forces launched a new offensive, crossing the border into Ukraine's Kharkiv region and taking a

string of settlements. The Mash Telegram channel, seen as close to Russian security forces, wrote that the Ukrainian attack on Kursk began in the early hours involving small groups of Ukrainian soldiers and fighters from the Russian Volunteer Corps. Russian authorities also said that Ukrainian "saboteurs" had attempted a landing by sea on the Russian-held Tendra Spit in southern Ukraine. "According to preliminary information, 12 high-speed craft were used - eight of them with the saboteurs and four with fire support," Moscow-appointed governor Vladimir Saldo said on social media. "Russian marines opened fire as the boats were approaching the Tendra Spit. Three boats were destroyed with their crews and sank. The others turned back," Saldo said. Russia's defense ministry said its forces had captured another village in eastern Ukraine, the latest in a series of gradual advances in recent weeks. Russian units "liberated the settlement of Timofeevka," it said on social media, using the Russian name for the village which is known as Timofiyivka in Ukrainian. The head of Russia's General Staff, Valery Gerasimov, visited troop positions in occupied parts of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, the defense ministry said. The general "heard reports from the commanders of units... summed up his conclusions and set tasks for future actions," the ministry said, posting video of Gerasimov meeting soldiers in underground locations.

**Sizzling WOK**  
ASIAN CUISINE

**OPENING SOON**

PAN ASIAN CUISINE  
F-6/3, Kohsar Market, Islamabad