



Islamabad POST

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Rafael Nadal says he will not compete at US Open 2024

Detailed News On Page-06

Ukrainian army knows how to surprise

Detailed News On Page-07



Talal dismisses Imran Khan's apology offer

Detailed News On Page-08



Mafias providing patronage to terrorism

No one would be allowed to create anarchy in Pak

“Anarchy is spread through social media,” says COAS Gen Munir while advising people to remain peaceful during protests

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday pledged to stand resolutely against any attempt to create chaos in Pakistan, asserting the military's commitment to safeguarding national integrity and upholding the principles of Shariah and the Constitution. Speaking at the Ulema and Mashaikh Conference in Islamabad, General Munir highlighted the severity of corruption, describing it as the greatest crime in the eyes of Allah. He assured that the Pakistan Army is dedicated to eliminating unrest and disorder by divine guidance. “We will stand before anyone who tries to create chaos in Pakistan, by God,” declared the Army Chief, reinforcing the military's dedication to preserving peace and stability in the country. General Munir emphasised Pakistan's longstanding support for Afghan refugees and urged them to maintain peaceful relations with Pakistan. He acknowledged the sacrifices of the Pakhtun community and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in combating terrorism, expressing the Army's solidarity with them. Addressing extremism, General Munir reiterated the Islamic teaching that “there is no coercion in religion” and condemned the backing of terrorism by criminal mafias. He warned against the spread of anarchy through social media platforms. Highlighting the sanctity of the Prophethood, General Munir asserted the protection of religious values as paramount. “Pakistan is built to last,” he affirmed, emphasising the nation's resilience against external threats. Drawing lessons from conflicts in Iraq, Syria, and Libya, he called on religious scholars to promote tolerance and unity. He criticised Western civilisation, encouraging national pride in Pakistani culture. Concluding his address, the COAS touched on the long-standing Kashmir issue and expressed sorrow over the ongoing atrocities in Palestine and Gaza, urging Pakistan to strengthen itself against global challenges.

Govt-institutions' coop at historic highs, says PM

“I have never seen level of collaboration between govt, constitutional institutions that exists today,” he says

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Thursday that the cooperation between the government and institutions was at unprecedented levels. “I want to say this without hesitation that in my 40-year long political career, I have never seen the level of cooperation between the government and the constitutional institutions that exist today,” PM Shehbaz said while speaking at the Ulema, Mashaikh Conference in Islamabad. The premier's remarks come as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led coalition government has been working closely with various institutions, including the army, as it strives to tackle the plethora of challenges including those on the economic and security front. The military, in its 265th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) last month, reaffirmed its resolve to continue full support of ongoing efforts in uplifting socioeconomic growth and wholeheartedly assisting the government in curbing all illegal activities that hamper investors' confidence,

Continued on Page 06

57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASEAN DAY



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Mussadaq Malik, Chairman of ASEAN Islamabad Committee Haji Kamal Bashah High Commissioner of Brunei, Heads of missions of the ASEAN states cutting cake to celebrate the 57th Anniversary of the ASEAN Day, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. —DNA

Yunus-led Bangladeshi interim govt sworn in

Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud, two key organisers of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, are also part of the council

AGENCIES

DHAKA: The interim government of Bangladesh headed by Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus was sworn in. Earlier, Yunus, who was named chief adviser of the interim government by President Mohammed Shahabuddin late on Tuesday, returned to

Continued on Page 06

ASEAN Day celebrations Pakistan eyeing deeper relations with the ASEAN

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar says Pakistan remains steadfast in its support for ASEAN's vision and looks forward to contributing to its ongoing success

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has said Pakistan's relations with ASEAN are underpinned by a shared commitment to principles of mutual respect, non-interference, and constructive engagement. “We have been an active partner in ASEAN's dialogue mechanisms and have sought to deepen our cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, education, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. Our engagement with ASEAN has been further strengthened through our active participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), where we contribute to discussions on re-

gional security and cooperation”. He expressed these views on the occasion of ASEAN Day. Ishaq Dar further said, “as we celebrate ASEAN Day, Pakistan reaffirms its desire to enhance its partnership with ASEAN in its quest for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous region. Let us take this opportunity to reflect on our shared achievement and renew our commitment to the principles that guide ASEAN's Mission”. Pakistan remains steadfast in its support for ASEAN's vision and looks forward to contributing to its ongoing success, he added. The foreign minister said, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) stands as a model of regional integration and

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Govt approves Rs2.56 per unit hike

Fresh hike in electricity tariff will not apply to lifeline and K-Electric consumers

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Adding to the financial troubles of inflation-hit masses, the federal government on Thursday jacked up the power tariff by Rs2.56 per unit in terms of fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for June, which would be reflected in the August billing. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) issued a notification regarding the fresh hike in electricity tariff, however, it would not apply to the lifeline and K-Electric consumers.

PTI MNA Haji Imtiaz rearrested

MNA Haji Imtiaz Ahmed who had escaped from Anti-Corruption custody has been re-arrested

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Haji Imtiaz Ahmed, who had previously evaded anti-corruption custody, was re-arrested at the Multan airport while he was attempting to flee to Qatar. The spokesperson for the Anti-Corruption Establishment Punjab said on Thursday MNA Haji Imtiaz Ahmed was apprehended at the Multan airport. A few days ago, during an incident where shots were fired at the Anti-Corruption team, MNA Haji Imtiaz Ahmed had been forcibly freed.

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ISLAMABAD

Government left with only two months in power: Imran Khan

“Govt is plunging into quagmire, however, they [rulers] are fool and unable to understand,” says PTI founder

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Despite waiting for talks with stakeholders in power, jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has predicted that the incumbent government led by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is only left with two months in the government. “The government is plunging into quagmire, however, they [rulers] are fool and unable to understand,” he said this in an informal conversation with journalists in makeshift courtroom setup inside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Thursday. “I am predicting this from prison that this government has only two months,” the PTI founder said adding that he has enough time but the incumbent rulers are running out of time.

Referring to his Wednesday statement on conditional apology over the May 9 riots, the former premier stated that a wrong perception was created that he had sought an unconditional apology. The PTI founder reiterated that he would apologise if the PTI activists were found involved in the violent protests that broke out in the country last year following his arrest from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises in a corruption case. The violent protests saw attacks on public properties including military installations in many parts of the country, prompting the civil and military leadership to try the rioters under the Army Act. The cricketer-turned-politician said that his party “only wants justice in the May 9 [events]”. Elaborating on his offer to initiate dialogue, Khan said that he made the offer to hold talks only for the sake of the country. “I will not strike

Continued on Page 06

Imran Khan should apologize for conspiring against institutions

Mian Javed Latif responded to Imran Khan's conditional apology regarding the events of May 9

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and former Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif has accused Imran Khan of ruining Pakistan's economy and society. In a press conference, Mian Javed Latif responded to Imran Khan's conditional apology regarding the events of May 9. He criticized Khan for claiming that he had suggested protests outside the GHQ. He also talked about Khan's previous statements that people would respond if Rangers or the army made arrests. Latif questioned the status of individuals like Hassaan Niaz, Yasmin Rashid, Hamad Azhar, and Sharyar Afridi in this context. Latif further said that they did not attack institutions when Nawaz Sharif was arrested. He said everyone knows who was responsible for

Continued on Page 06

Amna Baloch to be appointed 'foreign secretary'

Baloch — who serves as envoy to EU, Belgium, and Luxembourg — is set to assume her duties on Sep 11

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Major appointments are expected at the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the post of foreign secretary and spokesperson of the Foreign Office, reported a private news channel

Continued on Page 06

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Minister inspects work on flood protective embankments

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Labor, Fazal Shakoor Khan Thursday directed authorities to expedite construction work on protective embankments of River Khayali situated in areas of Dagi Mukaram Khan UC Turnab. He issued these directives during his visit to different areas of River Khayali PK-65 after receiving slow pace of work on embankments. The provincial minister was accompanied by deputy commissioner, executive engineer of Irrigation Department Charsadda and concerned officers. He was also briefed about ongoing construction work on protective walls of Khayali River and other ongoing flood protection projects. —APP

IESCO notifies 2-day power shutdown programme

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Thursday issued 2-day power suspension programme for Friday and Saturday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from on Friday from 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, E-Block, Chakra Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, CBR-II, Qureshiabad, Garja-I, Hayal, Gulistan Fatima, Ranyal, Mourat Feeders, Attock Circle, Garhi Afghan Feeder, Chakwal Circle, Maingan Feeder On Saturday From 06:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, Isolation Hospital, Rahara, CM Pak Zong Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Saidpur Road, Siham, Badhana, Bajniyal, I&II Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Major Riaz, Lalazar, Lalkarti, PWD-II, Mehboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, PAF, MES, Gracie Line, Rahimabad, VVIP Feeders, Attock Circle, Masood Shaheed Feeder, Chakwal Circle, Dhoda Feeder and surrounding areas.

Int'l lawyers' delegation calls on governor Punjab

LAHORE: A delegation of International Lawyers Association (ILA) UK (Lahore Chapter) led by its President Ahsiq Ali Rana called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at the Governor's House here on Thursday. The delegation presented suggestions to Governor Punjab about overseas desk to solve the problems of Pakistanis living abroad, free legal aid for prisoners involved in minor crimes, training of law students in Punjab universities. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the overseas Pakistanis are rendering great services to the country in terms of sending valuable foreign exchange. The delegation comprised Ishaq Briar, General Secretary ILA, Senior Vice President Malik Jalil Awan, Sheikh Adeel Shahid, ILA Finance Secretary Lahore, Abdul Latif Rana, ILA Finance Secretary Punjab, ILA (Pakistan Chapter) General Secretary Zohabur Rehman Zubair and others. —APP



KARACHI: Federal Information Secretary Ambreen Jan in a group photo with the office bearers of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society during her recent visit to Karachi. The APNS President and Secretary General briefed the Secretary about the challenges facing the print industry. The Secretary assured to address APNS concerns. —DNA

SIDB launches tree plantation drive in estates

PESHAWAR: Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with a welfare organization (Khidmatul Ebad) launched a tree plantation drive at Small Industries Estate here on Thursday. In this connection, a ceremony was held here with Managing Director (MD) SIDB Habibullah Arif as chief guest on the occasion while Deputy Managing Directors (DMDs) Engineer Zulfikar Ali Sahibzada, Nauman Fayaz, Director (Finance) Muhammad Sher and members of social organization attended the ceremony at large. The board has planned the plantation of 500 saplings in the Peshawar Industrial Estate and later the campaign will also be extended to the industrial estates of Charsadda, Mardan, Haripur, Havelian, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Kalabat, D.I. Khan, Karak and Bannu. Speaking on the occasion, MD SIDB Habibullah Arif said that tree planting is an ongoing charity in which everyone should actively participate. He further said that if we do not show responsibility, the environmental pollution will continue to increase in the same way, so every Pakistani should play his role in eliminating environmental pollution. —APP

IGP listens to problems of police employees

LAHORE: Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar met the police employees and their families at the Central Police Office here on Thursday. He heard the requests and problems presented by the police employees and issued orders for immediate relief. The IG Punjab directed Additional IG Training to provide relief on contract renewal request of former PTC Lahore's psychologist Aqsa Safdar. He issued instructions to the AIG Admin to provide relief to the recruitment requests of the sons of Head Constables Jamshed Ali and Muhammad Tufail on family claims basis. —APP

Government should partner with Unilever to boost exports: Ahsan

President ICCI said that Pakistan is not a poor country but the poorly managed country and the only need is to exercise determination, commitment and loyalty

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Prominent business leader, Chairman, CEO Unilever Pakistan Ltd and former President Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) Amir R. Paracha has said that we can unlock Pakistan's vast economic potential, drive sustainable growth and create a prosperous future for generations to come through conviction, hope and prosperity. He said this while addressing the ICCI ceremony held to honour with the prestigious Business Role Model Award in recognition of his services for Pakistan's economy here at the Chamber House on Thursday evening. Amir Paracha underlined the need for the promotion of positivity with regard to the country instead of negativity to pull it out from the existing painful situation through talent and intellect towards the progress and prosperity. He said that Pakistan is not a poor country but the poorly managed country and the only need is to exercise determination, commitment and loyalty. He cited the examples of a neighboring country and Indonesia, which in 90's were facing the worst economic crunch but today have emerged as economic giants. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (ICCI) impressed upon the government to take on board the multinational companies like Unilever for enhancing the tax base and success of the Tajir Dost like Schemes. He also said that these companies should also be taken on board for the promotion of country's exports by giving them the targets. He added that as CEO Unilever, Amir R. Paracha enhanced Unilever's reputation and brand value through effective stakeholder engagement and communication, fostered a culture of innovation, driving R&D and digital transformation within the organization. He also said that

the multinational companies like Unilever should not supply their products to the business entities having no NTN in the best interest of the country. Dr. Anila Kamal, Vice Chancellor Rawalpindi Women University commended the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for its instrumental role in fostering university-industry linkages, bridging the gap between academia and industry. She particularly praised Amir Paracha, former President of the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry, for his outstanding contributions to promoting entrepreneurship,

innovation, and economic growth. Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari congratulated Amir Paracha on receiving the ICCI prestigious award by saying that this recognition is a testament to his tireless efforts and commitment to driving positive change in Pakistan's economic landscape, highlighting that he was also decorated with the 'Shan-e-Pakistan' award to acknowledge Unilever's endeavors against Corona war. He also sought Unilever's support for the procurement of

necessary equipment to establish an FM Radio in the Chamber for the promotion of businesses in the country. Senior Vice President ICCI Faad Waheed said that by prioritizing business excellence and growth, the ICCI aims to contribute meaningfully to Pakistan's socio-economic progress, improving the lives of citizens and strengthening the nation's global standing. Council member Nasir Qureshi said that vision, sincerity and hard work are the only way to move forward for the economic wellbeing of the country adding that ICCI will continue to play the role of a bridge between the government the business community with the same determination and zeal.

President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan Ajmal Baloch by extending congratulations to the awardee underlined the need for the provision of necessary facilities to the business community especially reduction in high taxes and power tariffs. A large number of business community members, academia, government officials, ICCI executives, Market Committees' Presidents attended the ceremony including Akhtar Abbasi, Rizwan Chheena, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Irfan Chaudhry, Ch. Mohammad Ali, Maqsood Tabish, Imtiaz Abbasi, Ikhtlaq Abbasi, Naeem Awan, Ahmed Khan, Ch. Zafar Gujjar and other.



Uzma Bukhari slams Imran's May 9 apology

"On one hand, he burns the house of Pakistan's founder, and on the other, he shamelessly seeks a conditional apology"

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Uzma Bukhari has criticised former Prime Minister Imran Khan over his offer of a conditional apology, and labelled him as the 'mastermind behind the failed May 9 insurrection.' In a statement made on Thursday, Uzma revealed that for a year, people had been systematically brain-

washed and incited. She explained that on the day of Imran Khan's arrest, his key associates caused alarm among supporters by claiming that their leader's life was in danger. It prompted people to take to the streets, she added. The Punjab information minister further explained that prior to May 9, Imran Khan had himself warned that if he was arrested again, his supporters

would react similarly. International media had also reported that PTI members attacked military installations, she further said. Uzma stated that the 'mastermind of the May 9 insurrection is now shamelessly asking for a conditional apology.' "On one hand, he burns the house of Pakistan's founder, and on the other, he shamelessly seeks a conditional apology."

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, who belongs to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) that also rules in the centre, recently stated that there can be no apology for an act of terrorism. The CM further said that an apology is for a mistake, while a crime warrants punishment. "Attacking one's own country is terrorism, not a mistake."

E-centers to provide one-stop solution for land records

LAHORE: Senior Member of the Board of Revenue (SMBR) Punjab Nabeel Javed on Thursday said that state-of-the-art E-Arzi Centers being established across Punjab, will provide a one-stop solution for obtaining land records (Fard), stamp papers, and the payment of all relevant government fees. During his visit to review various developmental projects in city and Raiwind areas, he said that bank branches will also be available at these centers to facilitate transactions. Nabeel Javed said that the model E-Arzi Center will offer comprehensive services related to revenue matters with the first center in Raiwind becoming operational by September 15. Later, Nabeel Javed accompanied by the Director General of the Walled City of Lahore Authority and other senior officials visited the Mausoleum of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Badshahi Mosque. He remarked that Badshahi Mosque and the Mausoleum of Allama Muhammad Iqbal are national heritage sites and their renovation is being carried out up to the international standards. A modern drainage system is being installed around Badshahi Mosque and Allama Muhammad Iqbal's Mausoleum to protect the buildings from rainwater damage. Additionally, the canteen within the mosque's premises will be relocated outside the mosque area. Nabeel Javed also instructed the use of high-quality stone to restore the original structure of Badshahi Mosque, ensuring its beauty is preserved. Furthermore, he directed the DG of the Walled City to initiate audio and video recitations at the Mausoleum of Allama Muhammad Iqbal as soon as possible. —DNA

Chinese delegation keen to invest in Capital's development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese delegation in a meeting with Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Thursday expressed their keen interest to invest in development projects of Islamabad. The meeting focused on exploring avenues for collaboration and investment in key sectors. During the briefing, the delegation expressed desire to invest in the project of transferring CDA offices and streetlights to solar energy. This initiative aligns with country's goal of promoting renewable energy sources and re-

ducing carbon emissions. Muhammad Ali Randhawa welcomed global investors, particularly from China, to invest in Islamabad's development projects. He assured the delegation that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) would extend full support to facilitate investments. The meeting also discussed other upcoming projects of CDA, including the Silicon Valley and Four Tier Data projects for IT. The delegation was briefed on the details of these projects, highlighting their potential for growth and investment. Following the meeting, Muhammad Ali Randhawa announced that work on the

feasibility plan for the discussed projects would commence soon. He appreciated China's initiative to invest in various projects in Pakistan, further strengthening the bond between the two countries. Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Thursday emphasized the importance of connecting cycle tracks with metro and other bus stations in Islamabad. The consultants from Asian Development Bank (ADB) gave a detailed briefing to Chairman CDA on proposed cycle tracks in Islamabad. The meeting was held via Zoom aimed at introducing an af-

fordable and alternative mode of transportation and recreation in the Capital City. Chairman Randhawa stressed that the project should be developed according to international standards while being cost-effective. He directed to consult environmental experts to ensure the design is eco-friendly and preserves the city's green belt. The ADB mission shared international best practices and experiences from various countries, providing valuable insights for the development of cycle tracks in Islamabad. Suggestions were made to complete the project, incorporating these international standards.

KP Govt, PESCO sign power acquisition contract

PESHAWAR: The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has entered into an agreement on Thursday to sell the electricity generated from 2 hydropower projects of 12.8 megawatts built from its own resources with Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO). In this regard, a ceremony was held in the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) House Peshawar regarding the sale of electricity generated by 10.2 MW of Jabori Hydro Power Plant in Mansehra District and 2.6 MW of Machai Hydro Power Plant in Mardan District to PESCO, in which Secretary Energy and Power Nisar Ahmad Khan, Chief Executive Officer (PEDO) Riaz Jan, CEO PESCO Engineer Akhtar Hameed, Chief Engineer Development Eng. Habibullah Shah, Project Director Jabori Eng. Mustafa Kamal and other senior officials participated. —APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

- Aug 01/China Armed Forces Day
- Aug 01/Switzerland National Day
- Aug 01/Lebanon Armed Forces Day
- Aug 01 /Syria Armed Forces Day
- Aug 4/Bukino Faso National Day
- Aug 09 /Singapore
- Aug 15/DPR Korea Independence Day
- Aug 15/India Independence Day
- Aug 15/Poland Armed Forces Day
- Aug 17 /Indonesia Independence Day
- Aug 24/Ukraine Independence Day
- Aug 25/Uruguay Independence Day
- Aug 30 /Turkey Armed Forces Day
- Aug 31/Kyrgyz Republic Independence Day
- Aug 31/Malaysia National Day

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Law and order in KP: Naqvi assures cooperation to Kundi

Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi Meets Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at the Ministry of Interior. Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa upon his arrival at the Ministry. During the meeting, the overall situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, law and order, and the unfortunate incident in Kurram were discussed. Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi and Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa expressed grave concern over the incident in Kurram and agreed to formulate a multi-faceted joint strategy to prevent such incidents in the future. The Interior Minister assured full cooperation for the establishment of peace in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that the establishment of peace and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the top priority of the Government. He expressed deep grief over the loss of precious human lives due to land disputes in Kurram. He noted that some elements gave a wrong perception to the clash between the two groups, which increased the tension. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that he met



with the dignitaries of the area led by MNA Hamid Hussain of Majlis-e-Wahdat-e-Muslimeen and took immediate steps to normalize the situation. He highlighted

that the security forces also took effective measures in view of the situation. He assured that every possible effort is being made to improve the law and order situa-

tion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Kurram. He stated that the role of external elements in sabotaging peace efforts cannot be ruled out. Governor of Khy-

ber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi thanked Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his cooperation in establishing peace in the province.

‘Khan advised to rethink his strategy

ISLAMABAD: The parliamentary leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) in the Senate Senator Irfan Siddiqui Thursday urged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Imran Khan to adopt a mature approach and appealed to Khan to seek constructive dialogue to address his grievances rather than resorting to immature political tactics. Talking to a private news channel, Siddiqui emphasized that by engaging in dialogue, Khan can harness the collective wisdom of stakeholders and find solutions that benefit the country as a whole. Senator Irfan Siddiqui has urged Imran Khan to take a step towards reconciliation by accepting responsibility for the 9th May incident and apologizing to the nation for any harm caused. Siddiqui emphasized that this gesture of goodwill is essential for creating a conducive environment for meaningful dialogues with the government. Furthermore, Siddiqui advised Khan to refrain from criticizing the Army and other institutions, as such rhetoric only serves to further divide the nation, he added. By putting aside differences and engaging in constructive talks, Khan can work towards finding solutions to the country's pressing issues, he added. Senator Irfan Siddiqui criticized Imran Khan for his inconsistent stance and statements, emphasizing that Khan's lack of maturity and serious strategy has hindered his ability to resolve issues with other political parties. Siddiqui stressed that dialogue is the only solution to Pakistan's political challenges, and that without it, Khan will never achieve his goals. He pointed out that Khan's propensity for changing his stance and statements has eroded trust and credibility, making it essential for him to adopt a more consistent and serious approach. In response to a question, Senator Irfan Siddiqui expressed his concern that Imran Khan is heading in the wrong direction, citing his recent alliance with Mahmood Achakzai as a misguided move. Siddiqui believes that seeking support from Achakzai will not yield any positive results for Khan, he needs to reassess his strategy and seek more constructive partnerships if he hopes to make progress.—APP

Dastgir lauds PML-N for respecting state institutions

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Khurram Dastgir on Thursday praised that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)'s respect for institutions is rooted in its belief in the importance of democratic norms and the rule of law. Talking to a private news channel, Dastgir argued that this

approach has allowed the party to maintain a positive relationship with the army and other institutions, even when they have been in opposition. On the other hand he criticised that the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had set up precedent of taking U-turns and maligned the state institutions' image solely for his personal gains. Dastgir's scathing

remarks exposed the PTI leader's alleged hypocrisy and self-serving agenda and argued that such flip-flopping has become a hallmark of the PTI's politics, undermining the trust of the people and the integrity of the political process. Dastgir urged the people to recognize this reality and reject the PTI's divisive and negative politics, which have hindered Paki-

stan's progress and stability. The PML-N leader questioned the PTI founder's credibility, asking how someone who has consistently denounced the establishment can now seeking their favor. Dastgir reaffirmed the PML-N's commitment to serving the people and promoting democratic values, rather than pursuing power at any cost.—APP

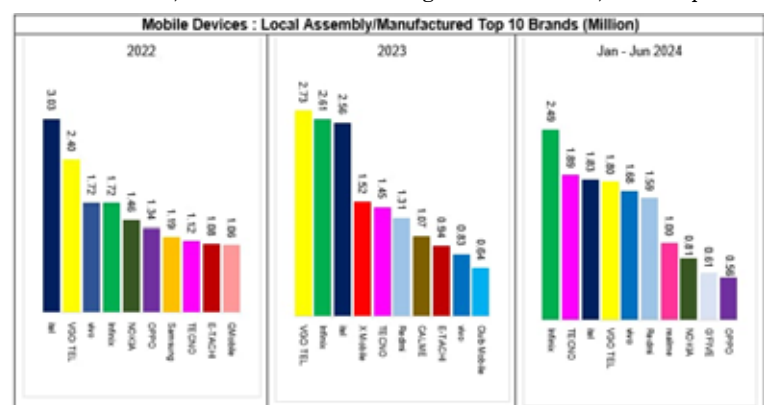
Pakistan's mobile phone industry thrives with Chinese company involvement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's mobile phone industry thrives with Chinese company involvement and Local Assembly/Manufactured now top 10 mobile brands in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). Since the launch of the Mobile Device Manufacturing Policy 2020 (MDMP-2020), Pakistan has significantly advanced its local mobile phone manufacturing industry. As a result, since July 2020, the share of locally assembled/manufactured mobile phones has sharply risen, with the vast majority of the mobile phones sold in the country now being "made in Pakistan". "The share of locally manufactured mobile phones has sharply risen and currently almost 95% of all mobile phones sold in Pakistan are "made in Pakistan", Aamir Allawala, Vice-Chairman of the Pakistan Mobile Phone Manufacturers Association (PMPMA), during an exclusive interview, told Gwadar Pro. He

said that most of the global big brands such as Xiaomi, Oppo, Samsung, ZTE, Vivo, Tecno, Infinix, iTel, Nokia, Realme, etc are being produced in the country. According to Mr. Allawala, the reason for this transformation from import to local production is the 15% gap in duties and taxes between complete mobile phones vs their parts/components. "However, the industry is disturbed that this gap is now below 10%, due to which the import of complete mobile phones will start increasing this year," he said. As per the MDMP-2020, "Chinese investors are looking for an alternate manufacturing base—Pakistan can become a hub for Chinese manufacturers if an attractive policy and predictability are ensured for at least five years." So the MDMP policy was envisaged with goals such as technology acquisition and localization of mobile devices through local investment, joint ventures, partnerships, and to attract foreign direct investment (FDI). It also aimed to create multiple direct and indirect jobs and reduce prices for consumers. According to Aamir Allawala, over the past four

years, a total of 40,000 direct and indirect jobs have been created, and the "industry is looking up to the prospects of relocating the Chinese mobile phone industry to Pakistan for export of mobile phones." As per Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA)'s latest statistics, Pakistan locally assembled and manufactured a total of 17.34 million mobile phone sets in the first half of 2024 while during the same period, the country merely imported 0.84 million smartphones. The PTA's statistics show that of the 17.34 million mobile phones manufactured in Pakistan, 11.15 million were smartphones while 6.19 million were Second Generation Mobile (2G)/GSM phones. The data highlights a significant shift towards smartphones from GSM phones in 2024. In comparison, in 2023, Pakistan locally manufactured or assembled a total of 21.8 million phones, which included 13 million 2G phones and 6.19 million smartphones. In the first six months of 2024 alone, the country produced 11.15 million smartphones, nearly doubling the total smartphone production of the entire previous year. Chinese companies continue to spearhead the mobile phone manufacturing sector in Pakistan. From January to June 2024, several Chinese brands led the market. Infinix manufactured/assembled 2.49 million smartphones, TECNO 1.89 million phones, iTel 1.83 million phones, VGO TEL 1.80 million phones, VIVO 1.68 million phones, Redmi (Xiaomi) 1.59 million phones and Realme 1 million phones. The Finnish's Nokia assembled 0.81 million phones, while Chinese brands Oppo and G'FIVE manufactured 0.61 million and 0.56 million phones, respectively, securing the ninth and tenth positions among the top phone producers.



WASA drains rainwater in low-lying areas

RAWALPINDI: Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi here on Thursday drained the rainwater in low-lying areas. According to a WASA spokesman, following heavy rain in the twin cities, the water level started receding from Nullah Lai at 11.30 AM.

The highest rainfall was recorded 89 MM at PMD, H-8 today, the spokesperson said. He further informed that 68 MM rainfall was recorded at Shamsabad, 36 MM at Kutchery, 40 MM at Saidpur, and 73 MM at Bokra. Drainage of rainwater from low-lying areas of the city had been completed, the spokesperson said adding, traffic was normal on city roads as water was not stagnant anywhere. The WASA spokesman informed that the Meteorological Department had forecast more rains. He said that the agency had completed all the arrangements to cope with urban flooding. The leaves of the staff had been canceled and heavy machinery was deployed at vulnerable points, he added.—APP

ANF recovers 188 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover 188 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 800 grams ice was recovered from a Jeddah-bound passenger at Multan Airport. 52.8 kg opium and 61.2 kg hashish were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near North Bypass Peshawar and two accused were arrested during the operation. In third operation, 48 kg hashish was recovered from a parcel sent to Karachi from a courier office in Ring Road Peshawar. 18 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near Chenab Toll Plaza, Gujarat. 4.8 kg hashish was recovered from a drug pusher, arrested in Bahria Phase 4, Islamabad. 2.4 kg hashish was recovered from a drug dealer netted in Badami Bagh Lahore. Investigations have been started to register cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act against the arrested accused.—APP

OPF set up PGFRC to assist returned Overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development has set up a Pakistani-German Facilitation & Reintegration Centre (PGFRC) in Lahore with an advisory desk at Overseas Pakistanis' Foundation (OPF) here at head office. An official source told APP here on Thursday, the objective was to facilitate the returning Overseas Pakistanis in terms of their skill development in Pakistan's social and economic fabric for gainful employment. It is being implemented in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and supported by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development on technical assistance to the facilitation & reintegration centre for Pakistani workers has been signed. This initiative is helping in creating more job opportunities/employability of Pakistani workers, that will improve economic development in the long run. The centre is providing various services including advice on training and skills development Technical and vocational training, advice on job market trends and opportunities, advice on finding a job in Pakistan Entrepreneurship and start-up support, psychosocial support and information on the health system in Pakistan and information on living conditions, advice on getting microfinance and loans.—APP

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Briefs

Pulses worth \$293,000 exported in FY 2023-24

ISLAMABAD: Over 269 metric tons of leguminous vegetables (pulses) valued at \$239,000 were exported during the financial year that ended on June 30, 2024, as compared to the exports of 50 metric tons worth \$49,000 in the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-June, 2023-24, the pulses exports witnessed about 383.90 per cent increase as compared to the exports of the same period of the last financial year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Meanwhile, the imports of pulses into the country during the last financial year decreased by 18.10 per cent as it was recorded at 1.165 million tons costing \$774.959 million as against the imports of 1.135 million metric tons worth \$946.176 million in the same period of last year. In order to reduce the reliance on imported pulses, the government has set a target to produce about 410 thousand metric tons of grams and 4.56 thousand tons of lentil pulses during the financial year 2024-25 to fulfill the domestic requirements of legumes as well as for exporting. During the year 2024-25, chillies to be cultivated over 73.40 thousand hectares as the crop output has fixed over 191.10 thousand tons. —APP

Green energy key to unlocking Pak digital potential

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Telenor Pakistan Khuram Ashfaq has underscored the critical role of shared network infrastructure and green energy initiatives in managing business costs and fostering innovation. During a panel discussion at the GSMA Digital Nation Summit he emphasized the necessity of collaboration and innovation to bridge the gap and unlock Pakistan's economic potential through accelerated digital transformation. He said, "By investing in shared network infrastructure and prioritizing green energy solutions, we can manage costs more effectively and drive the innovation needed to connect the unconnected, thus propelling Pakistan towards its digital aspirations." As Pakistan continues its journey towards becoming a digital nation, Telenor Pakistan's initiatives in shared networks and green energy stand as pivotal components in achieving this vision. Telenor Pakistan has already made significant strides in reducing its carbon footprint. The company has implemented energy-efficient solutions, and reduced power consumption across its operations. —APP

Phase one of Parliament Lodges expansion

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's special efforts have borne fruit as the expansion project of the Parliament Lodges is now nearing completion. Upon assuming office, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq immediately ordered the swift completion of the project. Both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker held multiple meetings with the relevant institutions to ensure progress. Taking strict notice of the increased costs of the project, the Speaker ordered that the project may be completed as soon as possible with minimal expenses. He warned that further delays in construction and costs will not be tolerated. Due to the Speaker's efforts, the required funds for the project's construction have been provided. He has also directed legal action against all relevant institutions in the event of further delays. The delays have caused significant difficulties for the Members of Parliament, with many expressing their concerns on multiple occasions. Capital Development Authority (CDA) has assured the Speaker that Phase One of the Parliament Lodges expansion will be completed during the current fiscal year. Ayaz Sadiq has instructed that Phase Two of the expansion be completed by the next fiscal year. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Information Service Academy organised an Independence Day quiz competition amongst federal educational institutions in Islamabad. The quiz was based upon questions relating to the independence of Pakistan. 06 school participated. Winners were given awards and cash prizes. Director General ISA Arshad Munir in a group photo with the participants of the competition. —DNA

Govt committed to welfare of poor, youth, women: Musadik

He criticized the Opposition for focusing on negativity, destruction and divisive politics. He lamented that the Opposition has not offered any constructive suggestions for the progress, prosperity or development of the country

FASIAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Masood Malik on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to the welfare of the poor, youth and women of Pakistan. Addressing a press conference, he said, "We are following the vision of 'One Pakistan,' working towards the uplift of the poor people and creating opportunities for the youth and women of the country." He criticized the Opposition for focusing on negativity, destruction and divisive politics. He lamented that the Opposition has not offered any constructive suggestions for the progress, prosperity or development of the country. He said that the people of Pakistan have elected their



representatives to highlight their issues and resolve problems. The minister highlighted the positive impact of the government's economic policies under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz

Parents advised to educate children regarding dangers of smoking

ISLAMABAD: Pulmonologist/Lung Specialist Dr. Matiur Rehman of Ali Medical Hospital advised parents to educate their children about the dangers of smoking and passive smoking and help them improve their quality of life. Talking to APP scribe on Thursday, he said that Children who breathe passive smoking may have weaker and more sensitive lungs, leading to respiratory distress. He further added that the Pakistan currently holds the highest proportion of young people, as 64% of the total population of Pakistan is below the age of 30. While 29% is between the ages of 15 and 29 years. Approximately, 1200 children initiate smoking every day in Pakistan. This num-

ber is growing rapidly every year and as responsible citizens and stakeholders we must all take action to protect our future generations from addiction. These children can also have symptoms such as coughing, excess phlegm, wheezing, and breathlessness. Children whose parents smoke around them are more prone to bronchitis and pneumonia. "Passive smoking can cause asthma-like breathing problems without an official diagnosis, where the bronchial tubes swell, making it difficult for the child to breathe", he added. The primary causes of mortality for children under 5 years of age are varied. The top causes include neonatal disorders and lower respiratory infections. He further

added that the Tobacco is deadly and tobacco-related illnesses are a significant burden on healthcare systems, annually taking lives of around 166,000 people in Pakistan. So reducing tobacco consumption can alleviate some of this burden, freeing up resources for other areas of healthcare, he added. Children who are exposed to passive smoking from their mother, father, or anyone else in the family have a greater chance of dying from SIDS during the first year of life than children who are not around secondhand smoke. Dr. Matiur Rehman has also said that "It is imperative to quit smoking and keep the home smoke-free. Don't allow any relatives or visitors to smoke at home. —APP

PML-N advocates dialogue for national betterment: Minister

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said on Thursday the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has repeatedly initiated dialogues for the country's betterment and strengthening democracy. Speaking to a private news channel, he said that PML-N had proposed a charter of the economy as a solution to pull the nation out of the economic crisis that worsened during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) regime. He said that the government was also engaging with the protesters of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) because their demonstrations follow lawful procedures. The purpose of these negotiations, he said, is to resolve issues through democratic means. Sheikh also condemned the events of May 9, labeling them as terrorist acts that cannot be tolerated and should be regarded as an attempt to rebel against the state. He further pointed out that recent statements by the PTI founder acknowledged these anti-state activities. —APP

Railways to restore Sir Syed Express on September 1

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has decided to restore Sir Syed Express (35UP/36DN) between Karachi Cantonment to Rawalpindi from September 1 under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP). The Sir Syed Express (35UP) will depart from Karachi Cantonment at 9:00 PM via Hyderabad, Khanpur, Khanewal, Faisalabad, Sangla Hill, Wazirabad, Gujrat,

and Jhelum, before arriving in Rawalpindi at 8:55 PM the following day, an official told APP. Likewise, he said the Sir Syed Express (36DN) will leave Rawalpindi at 1:30 PM and follow the same route, reaching Karachi Cantonment at 1:50 PM the next day. He said the train will comprise one AC Sleeper, one AC Business class, one AC Standard class, four Economy Class

coaches, a Dining Car, a Brake Van, and a Power Plant. The official said that the scheduled stops include Drigh Road, Hyderabad, Rohri, Bahawalpur, Khanewal, Faisalabad, Sangla Hill, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Gujrat, and Jhelum. Additionally, he said that on its journey from Rawalpindi to Karachi, the train will make a stop at Landhi Railway Station. —APP

MYP intends to cooperate with ADB

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth's Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Thursday said that PMYP

was interested in creating more opportunities for youth with the help of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in various sectors. Talking to a del-

egation of ADB, he said that the Government of Pakistan wanted to give more scholarships to youth in skill development programmes. Rana said that youth comprising 65 percent of the population was the hope of Pakistan and empowering youth with required resources. —

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Gilani pays tribute to Major Tufail

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani paid tribute to Major Tufail Muhammad Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider) on his 66th martyrdom anniversary. "Major Tufail Muhammad has sacrificed his life fighting bravely against the enemy in 1958," he said. He said that Major Tufail Muhammad was awarded the highest military honor, Nishan-e-Haider, in recognition of his bravery and valor. "The entire nation salutes Major Tufail Muhammad on his 66th martyrdom anniversary," he said, emphasizing that the sacrifices of the martyrs have allowed us to breathe freely. "The nation takes pride in its brave sons," said Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani. "The sacrifices of the Pakistan armed forces for the motherland will never go in vain." He said that the sacrifices of the martyrs teach us lessons of unity, brotherhood, and patriotism. Yusuf Raza said that May Allah Almighty elevate the ranks of Shaheed Major Tufail Muhammad. —APP

NPO to organize webinar

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar on "Sustainable Industrial Automation Techniques" on August 21. Industrial automation involves utilizing advanced technologies like computers or robots, and information systems to control and manage various industrial processes and machinery, thereby reducing the need for human intervention, according to an NPO document shared here on Thursday. The webinar aimed to improve production by increasing efficiency, productivity, and quality, while reducing costs and environmental impact, by automating repetitive tasks and minimizing human intervention, thus helping to combat climate change. The workshop provides information about industrial automation, industrial revolutions, sustainability, SDGs, sustainable automation techniques, sustainable intelligent manufacturing, scale up for minimal bulk production variation techniques and techniques of conflict management and negotiations. The workshop is designed for chief executive officers, directors, investors, senior management, middle management, team leaders and supervisors. —APP

Global market volatility

THE United States is a relatively closed economy. Its exports and imports of goods and services as a proportion of economic output stood at just 27 per cent in 2022, one of the lowest shares among the world's largest economies. US exports as a percentage of gross domestic product are even lower, standing at 11.6 per cent, according to data from the World Bank. Yet when it comes to one particular kind of export – financial volatility – the US is punching well above its weight. While it stands to reason that the world's biggest economy exerts strong influence over the rest of the world, it is supposed to be a safe haven. Not only is the US dollar the world's dominant reserve currency, US Treasury bonds are the bedrock of the global financial system and the risk-free benchmark to price many other assets. This makes the role of the US as a source of the turbulence in global markets this week all the more troubling. The Topix, one of Japan's main stock market indices, fell a staggering 12.2 per cent on August 5, its steepest daily decline since the savage "Black Monday" sell-off in October 1987. The plunge, which was followed by a sharp bounceback the following day, dealt a severe blow to confidence in one of the world's most popular equity markets. While the Bank of Japan (BOJ) could not have picked a worse time to start raising interest rates, especially given how fragile the country's economy is, the sell-off had more to do with what was happening on Wall Street. The rally in the US dollar stemming from the US Federal Reserve's determination to keep borrowing costs higher for longer contributed to the collapse in the yen, eroding Japanese households' purchasing power and heaping pressure on the BOJ to tighten policy to help shore up the currency. However, the central bank's decision last week to raise its benchmark rate to 0.25 per cent coincided with a weaker-than-expected US employment report. This heightened expectations that the Fed will soon begin cutting rates and accentuated the divergence between US and Japanese monetary policy. All of a sudden, speculative bets on a further depreciation of the yen were rapidly unwound. The disorderly unravelling of the yen-funded "carry trade", whereby investors borrow cheaply in yen to make higher-yielding investments elsewhere, amplified the volatility. This unleashed havoc on Japan's stock market but inflicted more damage on one of the main beneficiaries of the carry trade: the "Magnificent Seven" group of giant US technology firms. Although tech-heavy Asian stock markets, such as South Korea and Taiwan, suffered heavy losses earlier this week, the overriding concern was the profit margins and outside influence of the Magnificent Seven, whose combined market capitalisation would make the group the world's second-largest national stock market after the US. The news last weekend that Warren Buffett's conglomerate sold nearly half its stake in Apple, currently the most valuable company, was the last thing investors needed to hear. The main catalyst for the rally in equity markets this year – the hype around generative artificial intelligence – has come under intense scrutiny. Many investors believe AI is overrated and will not be as transformative as its champions claim, at least not in the short term. Questions abound about "how much profit can be generated from the massive [capital expenditure] that's going into the building of AI infrastructure," HSBC noted.

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Sinwar's appointment as Hamas leader

YAHYA Sinwar's recent appointment as the political leader of Hamas marks a pivotal moment in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, signaling both a strategic victory for the resistance movement and a significant setback for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government. This leadership change, nearly eleven months after Netanyahu vowed to obliterate Hamas in Gaza, underscores the resilience of the Palestinian resistance and the miscalculations of Israel and its allies. Sinwar is no ordinary leader. He is believed to have masterminded Operation Al-Aqsa Storm on October 7, a significant event in the ongoing conflict. His ascension to the role of chief of staff within Hamas not only consolidates his power but also represents a symbolic victory for the resistance, which has faced relentless Israeli military campaigns aimed at its destruction. Despite Israel's efforts, which have included the devastation of Gaza and the deaths of nearly 40,000 people, Hamas remains unbroken, and Sinwar's rise to leadership is a testament to this endurance. The Israeli strategy, which included the assassination of key Hamas leaders like Ismail Haniyeh, was predicated on the belief that decapitating the leadership would weaken the organization. However, this approach has repeatedly proven ineffective. Hamas has not only survived these assaults but has continued to reorganize and strengthen its leadership. Sinwar, who spent 23 years in Israeli prisons and speaks fluent Hebrew, has an intimate understanding of Israeli society and military tactics, making him a particularly dangerous adversary for Israel. Sinwar's leadership style is shaped by his experiences in Israeli prisons, where he learned to navigate the complex dynamics of the conflict and developed a deep understanding of his enemies. His time in captivity did not weaken his resolve; instead, it steeled him for the struggles ahead. Now, as the political leader of Hamas, he is poised to guide the organization through one of the most challenging periods in its history. The appointment of Sinwar is not just a blow to Israel; it also challenges the narratives of its allies, particularly the United States. Washington, like Tel Aviv, has often underestimated the resilience and determination of the Palestinian resistance. The assumption that Hamas would lose power and influence following the assassination of its leaders has been proven wrong time and again. Sinwar's rise is a clear indication that the resistance is not only surviving but also adapting and evolving in the face of extreme adversity. This leadership transition also highlights the strategic miscalculations of the Israeli military. After more than 300 days of waging a war on Gaza, with the aim of defeating Hamas, Israel finds itself in a position where its primary target is now more powerful than ever. The Israeli military's inability to completely suppress the Palestinian resistance, despite its superior firepower and technology, is a clear indication of the limits of military force in resolving this deeply rooted conflict. Sinwar's influence extends beyond the battlefield. As the political leader, he is now the key decision-maker for Hamas, particularly in matters of negotiation and diplomacy.

Exiled by the People: Global leaders forced from power

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



In Africa, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was another leader who fled his country due to public pressure. Mobutu's regime was notorious for corruption, human rights abuses, and economic mismanagement. His rule, which began in 1965, was supported by Western powers during the Cold War due to his staunch anti-communism stance. However, by the 1990s, the Cold War had ended, and internal dissent grew

IN the annals of political history, the phenomenon of leaders being forced to leave their countries due to public pressure and protest is not uncommon. This often occurs in response to widespread dissatisfaction with governance, economic turmoil, corruption scandals, or human rights abuses. Notable among these leaders is Sheikh Hasina Wajid of Bangladesh, who faced significant opposition at various points in her political career. However, she is not alone in this regard. A closer examination of global history reveals a number of Prime Ministers and Heads of State who have had to flee their countries due to the ire of their populace. The cases of leaders fleeing their homelands are diverse and span across Continents. In Asia, for instance, Mohammad Najibullah of Afghanistan, who served as President during the Soviet occupation, was ousted in 1992. After the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the rise of the Mujahideen, Najibullah took refuge in a United Nations compound in Kabul, where he remained until 1996 when the Taliban captured the city and executed him. His downfall was precipitated by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the ensuing power vacuum, which his government could not withstand. A prominent figure from the Middle East is the Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. He left Iran in January 16, 1979 amidst the Islamic Revolution spearheaded by Ayatollah Khomeini. His tenure was characterized by swift modernization and secularization, which estranged many in Iranian society, notably religious factions and conservatives. The economic inequality and oppressive tactics employed by his administration incited widespread demonstrations, leading to his departure. The Shah sought refuge in various countries, such as Egypt, Morocco, and the United States, but he never made it back to Iran, passing away in Egypt on 27 July 1980. In Latin America, Anastasio Somoza Debayle, the Nicaraguan dictator, was forced to flee his country in 1979 following the Sandinista revolution. His family's rule had been characterized by severe repression, corruption, and economic inequality. The Sandinista National Liberation Front, a

leftist revolutionary group, garnered substantial support from the disillusioned populace and successfully overthrew Somoza. After his departure, he lived in exile in Miami, then The Bahamas, and finally Paraguay, where he was assassinated in exile in September 1980. South America also witnessed the ousting of leaders like Juan Domingo Perón of Argentina. Although Perón initially fled the country in September 1955 after a coup d'état, he returned to power in 1973 only to die in office a year later. His initial exile was a result of increasing opposition from the military and various sectors of society disenchanted with his policies. Perón's departure marked a significant period of instability and military rule in Argentina. In Africa, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was another leader who fled his country due to public pressure. Mobutu's regime was notorious for corruption, human rights abuses, and economic mismanagement. His rule, which began in 1965, was supported by Western powers during the Cold War due to his staunch anti-communism stance. However, by the 1990s, the Cold War had ended, and internal dissent grew. Laurent-Désiré Kabila led a rebellion that eventually toppled Mobutu's government in 1997, forcing him into exile in Morocco, where he died in 1997. Closer to the 21st century, we have the example of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who fled Tunisia in 2011 amid the Jasmine Revolution, which sparked the wider Arab Spring. Ben Ali had ruled Tunisia for over two decades, during which his regime was marked by economic prosperity for some, but also by significant corruption, censorship, and human rights abuses. The self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi, a street vendor protesting police corruption and ill treatment, ignited widespread protests that led to Ben Ali's departure. He fled to Saudi Arabia, where he lived until his death in 2019. In Europe, we can consider the case of King Constantine II of Greece, who was forced into exile in 1967 following a military coup. Although he initially attempted to negotiate with the junta, his efforts failed, and he left the country.

Constantine's exile lasted for decades, and it wasn't until 2013 that he was allowed to return to Greece, albeit without regaining any political power. Another European example is Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine, who fled to Russia in 2014 following the Euromaidan protests. Yanukovich's decision to abandon an association agreement with the European Union in favor of closer ties with Russia sparked massive protests. The government's violent crackdown on protesters only intensified the public outcry, leading to his eventual ousting and flight from the country. Yanukovich remains in Russia, and his presidency is often cited as a critical moment in Ukraine's modern history, contributing to the ongoing conflict in the region. The pattern of leaders fleeing their countries continues to this day, reflecting a global reality where public discontent can force significant political changes. These instances underscore the crucial role that public opinion and protest play in shaping political landscapes. They also highlight the vulnerability of even the most entrenched regimes to the collective power of their citizenry. In many cases, the departure of these leaders paved the way for significant political and social transformations, though not always for the better. Sheikh Hasina Wajid's experience adds another layer to this narrative. As the daughter of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding leader of Bangladesh, her political journey has been fraught with challenges. She has faced multiple assassination attempts, military coups, and widespread political opposition. While she has managed to remain in power through various crises, her tenure is emblematic of the turbulent nature of leadership in countries grappling with complex socio-political landscapes. The stories of these leaders, from Asia to Africa, Europe to Latin America, serve as powerful reminders of the dynamic and often unpredictable nature of political power. They reflect the ongoing struggle for democratic governance, human rights, and social justice worldwide. While the exile of a leader often marks the end of an era, it also signals the potential for new beginnings and the resilience of the human spirit in the quest for a better future.

Escalating political temperature...

Qamar Bashir



The reason behind the impression of these two nexuses is a big question mark. The government and the establishment should seriously consider turning the tables. This can be achieved by repositioning the government in direct opposition to its current approach. It should transform its perception from hiding behind the state's brute power, the power of the parliament, or the nuisance of the Election Commission...

DURING my close association with various governments, including those of PML(N), PPP, martial law regimes, and PTI, I observed a troubling pattern among ruling parties. These parties tend to treat the opposition as adversaries, countering every move, rhetoric, and narrative put forth by opposition parties. This approach is highly counterproductive for the government, as it escalates tension, increases political temperature, creates uncertainty, and heightens anxiety and worries among the populace. Such a scenario ultimately undermines the government while benefiting the opposition. Governments conveniently forget that engaging constructively with the opposition tends to result in more stable and productive governance, while adversarial approaches often lead to political gridlock and inefficiency. Presently, the power chessboard laid out in the country reflects an interesting positioning. The government, the establishment, the parliament, and the Election Commission are aligned. They also have on their side co-opted traditional media and gagged social media, whereas PTI, the people, and the judiciary seem to be on the other side of the table. This layout suggests that the government has at its disposal the weapons of the state's brute power, which it is using to intimidate, harass, and control opposition leaders, their activists, and their most trusted mouthpiece, social media. It is armed with legislative tools, which it is using aggressively. For example, it is delaying and sabotaging the constitution of election tribunals and making amendments to the Election Act 2023 to frustrate the majority judgment of the Supreme Court. Additionally, the Election Commission turned PTI's victory based on form 45 into a defeat using form 47. In this scenario, though the opposition does not have a kinetically equipped institution, it is still proving to be an equal match to the government. Despite its hands being tied, its leadership incarcerated, and state power fully unleashed to obliterate the party, the opposition remains resilient. The big question is why the opposition, seemingly without power pieces, is proving to be a formidable opponent. Perhaps it is due to the strategic use of pawns, which, when moved cleverly, can trump even the most powerful pieces like the queen or the king. We

have seen the power of the pawns during the military coup in Turkey when fighter jets, guns, and tanks were rendered ineffective. Similarly, in Bangladesh, pawns defeated the highly entrenched government, forcing the queen to flee the country in total disgrace instead of resigning and staying to defend her honor and dignity or even laying down her life rather than abandoning her own motherland. This perceived nexus may be altogether untrue and built upon the wildest imagination, not grounded in facts. However, it remains a matter of great concern for the state, minus the judiciary, which the government claims supports the opposition. The opposition nexus of PTI, the judiciary, and the people is a potent combination and resonates well with PTI's main notion of equal justice for the people. The reason behind the impression of these two nexuses is a big question mark. The government and the establishment should seriously consider turning the tables. This can be achieved by repositioning the government in direct opposition to its current approach. It should transform its perception from hiding behind the state's brute power, the power of the parliament, or the nuisance of the Election Commission, to standing with justice and the people of Pakistan. The government should realize that once the people rise against it, all those towing the government's boat will disappear, letting it sink into total misery. Ceasing to react and oppose every move made by the opposition, and refraining from counter-blame and hurling accusations, would be a constructive step. For example, instead of countering the opposition's criticism of government policies with past comparisons, the government should acknowledge the issues, empathize with the people, and highlight its strategies to address these challenges. To start with, the government should abandon its belligerent posture and hawkish approach. Being in power should mean demonstrating humility, forgiveness, benevolence, and consideration. It should stop reacting to and opposing every move made by the opposition, and refrain from counter-blame, touting, and hurling accusations. For example, in response to the opposition's criticism of government policies and lack of good governance,

such as "high inflation," higher electricity costs, exorbitant prices of essential kitchen items, higher unemployment rates, and other such allegations, the government often counters by arguing that inflation was even higher during the opposition party's tenure or that inflation was much lower during their previous term in power. Instead, the government should acknowledge the unprecedented inflation, express empathy with the people of the country, and highlight its strategies, plans, and efforts to control inflation. It should invite all opposition parties for dialogue and take them into confidence regarding the government's efforts to address the issues and challenges faced by the people. The government should also avoid giving knee-jerk reactions to every political move made by the opposition. It is a proven strategy of the opposition to counter every move the government makes, aiming to unnerve the government and provoke knee-jerk reactions that lead to mistakes and errors. The opposition will gladly seize upon these lapses, amplify them, and increase their impact by isolating slips of the tongue, wrong phrases, or mistakes from their context. The government in general, and the establishment in particular, should desist from holding counter press conferences to bash and name-call the opposition. This is exactly what the opposition wants and thrives on. Soon after the conference, all phrases and sentences that suit the opposition's narratives will be clipped, given added value, and presented in the most sensational contexts across all forms of media, both traditional and social. A new round of bashing on the government, and especially on the establishment, will then begin, eroding the political capital of the government and conversely increasing the political capital of the opposition. In this scenario, the ideal approach for the government and establishment would be to adopt a more collaborative and less confrontational stance, focusing on governance and addressing the people's concerns rather than engaging in constant political warfare.

– Former Press Secretary to the President
Former Minister to the
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former MD, SRBC, CEO, ATV

Briefs

Govt-institutions' coop at historic...

FROM PAGE 01 economic stability and growth. Praising the partnership between the of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir and the government in the country's best interest, the prime minister termed it a role model for the times to come. Stating that he would not talk about previous regimes, the premier underscored the need to address social and economic challenges faced by the country today. Lamenting the collective shortcomings of the 77 years, the PM called for the need to learn from past mistakes and highlight collective successes that have been achieved. Noting that the country hasn't achieved the status it was destined to, the premier said that "it is still not too late" and that much could be done "if we decide to live our lives according to the guidelines of the Holy Quran". Without naming anyone, PM Shehbaz fired a broadside at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) while referring to the May 9 riots, which saw military installations including the General Headquarters (GHQ), Lahore's Corps Commander's House and other military installations being vandalised by angry mobs after the arrest of party founder Imran Khan.

Pakistan eyeing deeper...

FROM PAGE 01 collective progress, demonstrating remarkable achievements in economic development, social cohesion, and diplomatic engagement. Pakistan holds in high regard the significant role ASEAN plays in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity within the Asia-Pacific region. The celebration of ASEAN Day not only reminds us of the vital importance of regional cooperation but also highlights the rich cultural diversity and historical heritage of the region. He extended warmest congratulations and best wishes to the governments and peoples of the ASEAN member states on ASEAN Day. "I would like to take this opportunity to felicitate Secretary General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn for his exemplary leadership and tireless efforts in advancing the ASEAN agenda." This day symbolizes the enduring spirit of unity and cooperation among the Southeast Asian nations. It is a privilege to celebrate this milestone alongside our ASEAN friends.

Yunus-led Bangladeshi interim...

FROM PAGE 01 the country from Paris. Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud, two key organisers of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, were also part of the 16-member advisory council. The advisory council members are: Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of BELA; Farida Akhtar, women's rights activist; Adilur Rahman Khan, founder of Odhikar; AFM Khalid Hossain, Hefazat-e-Islam naye-beameer and Islami Andolan Bangladesh adviser; Nurjahan Begum, Grameen Telecom trustee; Sharmeen Murshid, freedom fighter; Bir Pratik Faruk-e-Azam; Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud, DU students and key organisers of the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement; Salehuddin Ahmed, former governor of Bangladesh Bank; Prof Asif Nazrul, Dhaka University law professor; Hasan Arif, former attorney general and adviser of Fakhruddin Ahmed-led caretaker government; Brigadier General (retired) M Sakhawat Hossain; Supradip Chakma, chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB); Prof Bidhan Ranjan Roy, director of the National Institute of Mental Health & Hospital's Department of Psychiatry (not sure); Touhid Hossain, former foreign secretary. Supradip Chakma is outside the capital and so he could not be sworn in ceremony.

Paris Olympics

India beat Spain 2-1 to win bronze medal in Hockey

India won successive medals in hockey for first time since Munich 1972

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: The Indian men's hockey team overcame a one-goal deficit to defeat Spain 2-1, securing the bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics on Thursday. Spain took the lead through their captain Marc Miralles in the 18th minute, but India responded swiftly with a brace from skipper Harmanpreet Singh in the 30th and 33rd minutes. The triumph at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium saw India extend their record with a 13th Olympic hockey medal, marking their second consecutive bronze. India, in fact, won successive medals in hockey for the first time since Munich 1972. Coming into Paris 2024, India were the most successful hockey team in Olympic history, boasting eight gold, one silver, and three bronze medals. At Tokyo 2020, the team ended a 41-year medal drought by securing a historic bronze. Against world No. 8 Spain, who had upset defending champions Belgium in the quarter-finals, the fifth-ranked Indian hockey team



started cautiously but gained momentum as the match progressed. Despite India's nine circle penetrations in the opening quarter, they couldn't convert any clear chances, while Spain managed only a couple of circle entries.

Spain took the lead early in the second quarter with a penalty stroke from Marc Miralles, awarded after a foul by Manpreet Singh. Spain had further chances to extend their lead through penalty corners, but

excellent defending by Amit Rohidas and PR Sreejesh kept them at bay. India equalised just before half-time with a penalty corner goal from Harmanpreet Singh. He scored again after the break to give

India the lead. Spain thought they had equalised, but the goal was disallowed after video review. In a tense final quarter, India's defence, supported by crucial saves from Sreejesh, held firm to secure the victory.

Rafael Nadal says he will not compete at US Open

Last month at Bastad, Nadal reached his first ATP final since 2022, losing to Portugal's Nuno Borges

PARIS: Rafael Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam champion, will not compete in the US Open, he said Wednesday, with the 38-year-old Spaniard adding he did not feel he could perform at his best. "I don't think I would be able to give my 100 percent this time," Nadal posted on X, formerly Twitter. Nadal, a four-time US Open champion, said his next event would be at next month's Laver Cup in Berlin. Missing out on the US Open will mark his sixth absence in the past seven Grand Slam tournaments, the lone exception being his first round ouster at

this year's French Open. "Hi all, writing today to let you guys know that I have decided not to compete at this year's US Open, a place where I have amazing memories," Nadal posted. "I will miss those electric and special night sessions in NYC at Ashe. "Thanks to all my US fans in particular, will miss you all and will see you another time. Best of luck to all for the always amazing US Open!" Nadal competed in the Paris Olympics at Roland Garros, where he has won 14 French Open singles titles. The Spaniard, who won Olym-

pic singles gold in 2008, lost to eventual champion Novak Djokovic in the second round in singles, and alongside Carlos Alcaraz fell in the doubles quarter-finals. Last month at Bastad, Nadal reached his first ATP final since 2022, losing to Portugal's Nuno Borges. Nadal's most recent Grand Slam title came at the 2022 French Open. He last captured the US Open crown in 2019 but now will have missed four of the past five US Opens, the exception being his run to the fourth round in 2022. - Agencies

Naseem calls for unity in Pakistan cricket team

Shah has been named in the 17-member squad for Pakistan's upcoming two-Test home series against Bangladesh, marking his return to red-ball cricket after a 13-month absence due to a shoulder injury sustained during the 2023 Asia Cup

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan fast bowler Naseem Shah has urged the national team to learn from past mistakes and unite as a cohesive unit. Speaking at Islamabad Club on Thursday, Shah emphasised the need for the team to play collectively and improve from previous shortcomings, acknowledging recent struggles but noting that such phases are common in cricket. Shah also addressed his personal return from injury, stating the importance of fitness in international cricket and his commitment to performing well. He highlighted the necessity of maintaining high fitness levels while representing the country. Shah has been named in the 17-member squad for Pakistan's upcoming two-Test home series against Bangladesh, marking his return to red-ball cricket after a 13-month absence due to a shoulder injury sustained during the 2023 Asia Cup. Series will commence with the first Test in Rawalpindi from August 21-25, followed by second Test in Karachi from August 30-September 3. - DNA

BD all-rounder pulls out of Pakistan tour

DHAKA: Bangladesh pace bowling all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin has requested a two-month break from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) due to mental health struggles. Saifuddin has been contending with depression and has withdrawn from the Bangladesh 'A' team's tour of Pakistan. The all-rounder's decision is a setback for Bangladesh, as he was scheduled to play in the second four-day match and the subsequent one-day series against Pakistan Shaheens. The 27-year-old made this request after being selected for the Bangladesh A team. Saifuddin's absence from the Global T20 Canada, where he had been signed by the Montreal Tigers, has worsened his distress. He couldn't take part in the Global T20 Canada, as he was unable to obtain a visa due to the political turmoil in Bangladesh. He was due to play for the Montreal Tigers in the league. Saifuddin communicated his decision through an email sent to the selectors earlier this month. In his message, he expressed his frustration over being excluded from the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 squad and his inability to participate in the ongoing Global T20 Canada 2024 league. A BCB selection panel member was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz: "He sent me an email on July 30, after the A team was announced, expressing his mental distress over missing the Global T20 and the last World Cup. He requested not to be considered for any form of cricket for the next two months and to view his letter positively. I replied 'noted' and mentioned we need to talk when he returns to Dhaka to understand what he's going through." Meanwhile, the BCB has confirmed that Saifuddin sustained a rib injury on 26 July during a gym session in Mirpur, shortly before his planned travel to Canada for the T20 league. Consequently, the board did not permit the all-rounder to participate in the tournament. BCB physiotherapist Muzaddad Sany reported that Saifuddin experienced persistent pain following his gym session, which led to consultations with the BCB medical team. Dr Debashish Chowdhury, the chief physician, assessed the injury and provided treatment, emphasising that the injury could be aggravated by the long flight. - Agencies

PARIS: One of the two boxers who have sparked a gender eligibility row won again at the Paris Olympics on Wednesday to ensure she has a shot at a gold medal. Taiwanese fighter Lin Yu-ting called it "a tough journey" after claiming a unanimous points decision victory over Esra Yildiz Kahraman of Turkey at 57kg in her semi-final. That win came 24 hours after Algeria's Imane Khelif reached her final. After the decision came through, the Turk made an X sign with her fingers, just as another of Lin's beaten opponents had done in a previous bout. Kahraman refused to say afterwards what it meant. In most cases, males have both an X and Y chromosome, while females have two X chromosomes. Lin and Khelif are competing in Paris despite being disqualified from the world championships last year by the International Boxing Association (IBA) after reportedly failing gender eligibility tests. On the track, American sprinter Quincy Hall lunged at the line to win a gripping men's 400 metres. Hall became the fourth fastest one-lap runner in history when

Lin moves into Olympic gold medal fight, Hall lands 400m track title

he denied Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith gold in a time of 43.40sec. It ended a 16-year drought for the USA in the event. Zambia's Muzala Samukonga took bronze. "I don't give up," said Hall. "I just got grit. I grind. I got determination. "Anything that I can think of, that's what gets me to that line. I think of all the hurt, all the pain." Noah Lyles put himself in a position to go for an Olympic sprint double on Thursday, looking comfortable in finishing second in his semi-final behind Botswana's Letsile Tebogo. Lyles, who won the closest 100m final in modern Olympic history by just five thousandths of a second on Sunday, will be hot favourite to become the first man since Usain Bolt at the

2016 Rio Olympics to achieve the 100m-200m double. Noah Lyles chases Olympic double as LeBron eyes basketball final In other athletics action in the Stade de France Morocco's Soufiane El Bakkali joined an elite group of Arab double gold winners by taking his second consecutive 3,000m steeplechase title. Only his Moroccan compatriot Hicham El Guerrouj, who won 1500m and 5,000m gold at Athens 2004, and Tunisian swimmer Oussama Mellouli (1500m freestyle in Beijing 2008 and 10km marathon in London 2012) have achieved the feat. Jamaica's Roje Stona achieved an upset men's discus win and Nina Kennedy took Australia's first ever pole vault Olympic title. - Agencies

Manchester United welcomes Shaheen to Old Trafford

LONDON: Shaheen Shah Afridi, Pakistan's premier pace bowler, recently visited Old Trafford, the iconic home of Manchester United, while enjoying a break in the United Kingdom after a gruelling cricket season. Afridi, who has recently faced a demanding schedule on the field, is using this time to recharge and

unwind. During his stay, Afridi had the opportunity to explore the rich history and legendary status of Old Trafford. What seemed like an impromptu visit turned out to be a thoughtfully arranged event by the football club. At Old Trafford, Afridi was warmly welcomed and seen in the dugout of the famous stadium, where he

posed with a personalised Manchester United jersey. The jersey, bearing his name "Afridi" and the legendary No. 10-worn by football greats like David Beckham, Ruud van Nistelrooy, and Wayne Rooney—emphasised the special nature of the visit. Manchester United recently shared photos of Afridi on their social media plat-

form, showing him exploring the stadium while wearing the team's kit. The club captioned the image with "The eagle has landed," accompanied by an eagle emoji. This exclusive gesture highlighted Manchester United's appreciation for the cricket star and made the occasion memorable for both Afridi and his fans. - Agencies

Osaka defeats Jabeur to advance in WTA Toronto opener

Osaka has won all seven of her WTA titles on hardcourts, including the 2018 and 2020 US Opens and 2019 and 2021 Australian Open crowns

TORONTO: Former world-number-one Naomi Osaka advanced to the second round of the WTA Toronto Masters on Wednesday with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Tunisia's Ons Jabeur. The round-robin Grand Slam champion from Japan needed only 72 minutes to eliminate ninth-seeded Jabeur and collect her fifth triumph this year over a player ranked in the top 20 in her return from maternity leave. Osaka has won all seven of her WTA titles on hardcourts, including the 2018 and 2020 US Opens and 2019 and 2021 Australian Open crowns, and hopes to add this US Open hardcourt tuneup to the list. "Everyone knows I really love hard courts. I wasn't thinking too much. It was very instinctual," Osaka said of her victory. "When I play the best players, like Ons, I tend to play better. I'm feeling quite confident in myself as a person and as a player, and I think that showed a little." Djokovic inspires Osaka at Wimbledon ahead of daughter's birthday Osaka took



her first triumph in Canada since reaching the 2019 quarter-finals with 14 winners and 13 unforced errors while Jabeur made 27 unforced errors in her first match since Wimbledon. Next in Osaka's path is Belgium's Elise Mertens, with whom she has split two matches this year. Mertens won at Indian Wells. Osaka won on grass at 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands. Washington Open winner Paula Badosa of Spain eliminated Denmark's Clara Tauson 6-1, 6-4, stretching her win streak to five matches and setting up a second-round match with fourth seed Jelena Ostapenko. Olympic doubles silver medalist Diana Shnaider, the 14th seed from Russia, was down a break three times in the final set before rallying past Britain's Harriet Dart 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2). China's Yuan Yue ousted Spain's Cristina Bucsa 6-3, 6-3 to reach a second-round match against second seed Aryna Sabalenka, the two-time and reigning Australian Open champion. - Agencies

Amna Baloch to be appointed...

FROM PAGE 01

citing sources on Thursday. According to the sources, Amna Baloch — a Grade 22 officer of the Foreign Service of Pakistan — will be appointed for the office of the foreign secretary, replacing Dr Syrus Sajjad Qazi following his retirement. Baloch is set to assume her duties on September 11, sources said. She is, interestingly, the second woman federal secretary appointed by the government in a month after Ambreen Jan, who was appointed information and broadcasting secretary this month. Meanwhile, Qazi has been tipped to get an ambassadorial slot in an important country post-retirement. FO spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, on the other hand, is being appointed as Pakistan's ambassador to France where she will be replacing Asim Itikhar Ahmad, as per the sources, but her replacement has not yet been reported. Ahmad, meanwhile, has been designated as Pakistan's permanent representative for the United Nations to replace veteran Munir Akram. Mumtaz is currently serving as spokesperson and AFS (Strategic Communications Division and Public Diplomacy) in the FO. She had served as ambassador for South Korea and minister/deputy head of Mission at the Embassy of Pakistan in China prior to her posting at the headquarters.

Imran Khan should apologize...

FROM PAGE 01

Nawaz Sharif's disqualification in 2017. He claimed that Khan's apology cannot erase his past actions, including the 2014 D-Chowk agitation. Javed Latif said that it was another matter that who facilitated the events of May 9. He asked whether the facilitation to Imran Khan and his party has ended. Latif also pointed out the irony of Khan seeking conditional forgiveness for his role in the events of May 9 while also questioning if Khan would apologize for his previous actions, such as writing a letter to the IMF and speaking publicly against the institutions. He demanded to know if Khan would apologize for calling those who brought him into power 'Mir Jafar' and 'Mir Sadiq'. He also alleged Imran Khan of training terrorists in Zaman Park. Addressing Khan directly, Latif said that Khan had destroyed Pakistan's economy and society. He questioned whether Khan's apology would provide jobs or basic necessities for the people suffering from the current economic conditions. Latif further criticized Khan for inviting foreign intervention, contrasting it with the sacrifices made by the people of Bangladesh to prevent foreign interference.

Government left with only two...

FROM PAGE 01

any deal no matter how many cases they register against us," he said adding that a deal is sought by those who had committed any wrongdoing. He also clarified that he has not received any offer for negotiations so far. The politico claimed that he would present a witness in the Al-Qadir Trust case — also known as the £190m National Crime Agency (NCA) scandal which reportedly caused a loss of £190 million pounds to the national exchequer. However, he did not disclose the name of the witness, fearing that the witness would be abducted if he disclosed his identity. He further said that his party would not accept election if held under the supervision of the incumbent government. A day earlier, the PTI founder had linked seeking apology over the May 9 riots with the video of evidence of the May 9 incidents, stating that he would not only apologise but also sack party members if their involvement is established through CCTV footage. The PTI chief, who has been incarcerated in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, has time and again distanced his party from the protests, alleging that the riots were pre-planned and staged to launch a crackdown on the opposition party.

Briefs

Turkish deputy FM criticises Netanyahu govt

ANKARA : Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Nuh Yilmaz has strongly condemned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government for regional chaos, calling it extremist and racist. During a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah on Wednesday, Yilmaz accused Netanyahu's administration of being extremist and racist, saying it has deliberately thrown the region into chaos for political gain. He pointed to the assassination of Hamas Political Bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh as an example, stating that this act undermined efforts towards peace. Yilmaz expressed his condolences for Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Iran on July 31, and denounced the killing as a shameful act that violated Iran's sovereignty. He argued that Israel's actions were threatening the region and fragile international order. Yilmaz also reiterated Türkiye's support for Palestinian resistance and emphasised that the Palestinian cause remains strong, despite continued Israeli aggression. Highlighting Israel's ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories, Yilmaz insisted that true peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by ending this occupation and implementing a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders. He criticised Israel's rejection of international calls for a ceasefire in Gaza and blocking of humanitarian aid, noting that the Israeli parliament has recently passed laws that reject the establishment of a Palestinian state and designate the UN's agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) as a terrorist organisation. —APP

US announces \$424M in DRC aid

WASHINGTON : The United States has announced \$424 million in aid and humanitarian assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is facing disaster as a result of armed violence in the east. The aid announcement was made by Lucy Tamlyn, US ambassador to the DRC, and Jeffrey Prescott, US representative to the UN food and agriculture agencies, while on a visit to the DRC on Wednesday. According to the press release from the US Embassy, \$414 million of this package will be allocated to "humanitarian assistance". The remaining \$10 million is earmarked for "health assistance" to respond to the current outbreak of the mpox virus in the DRC and other affected countries in the region, according to the statement. The US Agency for International Development is also donating 50,000 mpox vaccines to the DRC, the country most affected by the epidemic, it added. As of August 3, the African Union's health agency counted 14,479 confirmed and suspected cases and 455 deaths in the country, representing a case-fatality rate of around 3 percent. —APP

20 killed as boat explodes on Nigeria river

YENAGOA, Nigeria: At least 20 people were killed when a wooden boat caught fire and exploded on a river in Nigeria's coastal state of Bayelsa on Wednesday, a police spokesperson said. The boat was carrying traders taking goods to coastal communities, Bayelsa police spokesperson Musa Muhammed said on Thursday. Traders make weekly trips between coastal settlements and the state capital Yenagoa. At least 200 people were reported killed in boat accidents in Nigeria last year, with authorities regularly blaming overcrowding and poor maintenance. (Reporting by Tife Owolabi in Yenagoa; Writing by Elisha Bala-Gbogbo; Editing by Andrew Heavens). —APP

Ukrainian army knows how to surprise: Zelensky

President Volodymyr Zelensky praised the Ukrainian army for its ability "to surprise" and achieve results

NEWS DESK

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky praised the Ukrainian army on Thursday for its ability "to surprise" and achieve results, making no direct reference to the situation in a Russian region where Moscow says Kyiv has launched a cross-border assault. The Ukrainian military appears to have adopted a strategy of strict silence for now on activity in Russia's Kursk region, where Moscow said Kyiv's military has been operating since Tuesday. "Everyone can see that the Ukrainian army knows how to surprise. And knows how to achieve results," Zelensky said at an event to unveil a new digital app to cut paperwork for the mili-

tary. "This is demonstrated by the battlefield, where our soldiers not only withstood the overwhelming force of the occupiers, but also are destroying it in the way necessary to protect Ukraine — our state and independence," he said in a video from the presentation posted on Telegram messenger. Meanwhile, Ukraine's foreign ministry said on Thursday Niger's decision to cut diplomatic ties with Kyiv was "regrettable" and that Kyiv saw the move as based on groundless and untrue allegations. Niger's junta said on Tuesday it was acting in solidarity with Mali which earlier broke off ties with Kyiv over remarks by a Ukrainian military intelligence official that



it said showed Kyiv's support for rebels fighting in northern Mali. Advertisement • Scroll to continue "It is regrettable that the authorities of Niger have decided to terminate diplomatic

relations with Ukraine without conducting any investigation into the incident in Mali or providing any evidence as to the reasons for such a step," the Ukrainian foreign ministry said. Tuareg rebels said they killed at least 84 Russian Wagner mercenaries during fighting in July in what appeared the heaviest defeat for Wagner since it stepped in two years ago to help Mali's military authorities fight insurgent groups. Advertisement • Scroll to continue Wagner, a private army, played a major role in the war in Ukraine until last year when its forces mutinied in Russia and its leader died in an air crash a month later. It still has operations in a number of African countries. The

row stems from televised remarks by Andriy Yusov, a spokesperson for Ukraine's military spy agency, who said that Malian rebels had received the "necessary" information to conduct their attack. In its statement, the Ukrainian foreign ministry said Kyiv rejected any allegations of its support for "international terrorism". "The accusations against Ukraine cited in the statement by a representative of the government of (Niger) do not stand up to any criticism, are groundless and do not correspond to reality," it said. Ukraine is locked in heavy fighting with Russia in the third year of Moscow's full-scale invasion, and trying to win over international support, in particular in the Global South.

President Maduro accuses WhatsApp of 'spying'

WEB DESK

CARACAS : Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has accused WhatsApp of being a spying system and advised people to switch to other applications. During a meeting with representatives of the fishing and agriculture sectors at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas, Maduro commented on current issues. Maduro said: "WhatsApp gave the list it has in Venezuela to the Colombian drug traffickers and they did a spying job for months." He noted that the social network was used for "psychological, cognitive warfare, threatened millions of leaders, communities, street leaders, military and police families, athletes, artists and anyone who did not speak out in favor of the coup d'etat and violence." Recommending WeChat and Telegram to Venezuelans, Maduro called on people to voluntarily leave WhatsApp and switch to other networks. Despite

the unfair economic embargoes and difficulties imposed on Venezuela, Maduro claimed they had achieved miraculous successes in agricultural production. Meanwhile, Chile declared Wednesday that it does not recognize the reelection of Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro, expressing doubts about the legitimacy of the recent presidential election's official results. Speaking to reporters, Chilean President Gabriel Boric accused Venezuela's National Electoral Council of withholding official records related to the July 28 polls which he said raises suspicions of electoral fraud. "Neither I, nor the Chilean government have any doubt that the Maduro administration attempted to manipulate the election results. If they had genuinely won, they would have released the records publicly," Boric said. He also addressed claims by the fellow Latin American country's opposition that they had won the election, emphasizing that his govern-

ment would not accept any side's declaration as official until the results were confirmed by impartial international bodies. Referring to Chile's previous administration, which had recognized former opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's president, Boric noted, "I believe it is crucial to learn from past mistakes. We should avoid repeating the same errors, as most countries now understand." "Let me be clear. We do not recognize Maduro's self-proclaimed victory and do not trust the neutrality of the current Venezuelan institutions," he added. The Venezuelan government responded to Chile's stance by demanding on July 30 that Santiago immediately withdraw its diplomatic personnel from Caracas. According to Venezuela's National Electoral Council, Maduro secured a third term last month with 51.2% of the vote. However, opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado have rejected the results.

Russian shelling kills 5 in Ukraine

KYIV: Russian shelling and aerial bomb attacks killed at least five civilians in frontline Ukrainian regions Thursday, officials said. As Ukraine continues a major cross-border offensive in the north, a Russian attack killed two people in the northern Sumy region, the head of the regional military administration said. Guided aerial bombs killed a 22-year-old man and his six-year-old sister in a school playground in the border village of Mognitsya, Volodymyr Artiukh said on national television. In the eastern Donetsk region, "two people were killed by shelling" in Kostyantynivka, near the battleground town of Chasiv Yar, said the head of the region's military administration, Vadym Filashkin. Civilian killed in Ukrainian shelling of Russia's Belgorod region, governor says. He said artillery attacks had hit private houses and posted a picture of shrapnel holes through a garden wall. In the southeastern city of Nikopol, located on the Dnipro River across from Russian-controlled areas, Russians "aimed artillery at a hospital", killing a 50-year-old man, said Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration chief Sergiy Lysak. —DNA

Indonesia to send military health personnel in Gaza

The Indonesian health workers will serve four months on the mission, rotating their shifts between the floating hospital in Egypt and the field hospital in Rafah

JAKARTA: The Indonesian military is dispatching 40 health workers to Gaza as a part of its humanitarian assistance to the enclave's people, with the first group set to reach a UAE floating hospital in Egypt on Friday, before transfer to Rafah. Indonesia has been one of the most vocal countries opposing Israel's ongoing deadly invasion of Gaza and demanding an end to its occupation of Palestine. Since the beginning of Tel Aviv's daily bombardment of the besieged enclave in October, Indonesian authorities and people have sent several shipments with hundreds of tonnes of aid. The first group of healthcare workers includes 25 doctors, nurses, midwives and other medical staff. "What is happening in Gaza, in the Middle East, pierces our humanity," Indonesian President-elect and Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto said at a pre-departure briefing in Jakarta on Wednesday evening. "Indonesia must show solidarity, its humanitarian responsibility to defend the spirit of independence, the right for a nation to live and determine their own fate, free of oppression." "I thank you all for your willingness to serve. Good luck everyone," Subianto said. While there is a plan to transfer more than a dozen of the military health personnel to the UAE field hospital in Rafah, that part of the mission depends on the security situation in Gaza's southern city, said Maj. Gen. Ujang Darwis, the ministry's director-general of defense strategy. The Indonesian military will dispatch the second group of personnel from Jakarta after the first "safely arrives" at the Rafah field hospital, Darwis said in a report to Subianto. The Indonesian health workers will serve four months on the mission, rotating their shifts between the floating hospital in Egypt and the field hospital in Rafah. —DNA

Sudan's Ministry calls for halting arms supply to RSF

KHARTOUM: Sudan's Foreign Ministry called Wednesday for an immediate halt to the supply of weapons to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in response to growing international calls for urgent humanitarian intervention to address a famine and war between the Sudanese army and RSF. The call followed a statement from the United Arab Emirates' Foreign Ministry on Tuesday which emphasized the urgent need for a humanitarian response to the crisis in Sudan. The UAE condemned the use of famine as a weapon of war and called for a cease-fire to facilitate the swift delivery of humanitarian aid. The Sudanese Foreign Ministry denounced these calls as "an infringement on Sudan's sovereignty under the pretext of humanitarian aid delivery." It stressed that "stopping the arms supply to the RSF, which has been used to kill civilians and impede food production and aid delivery, is crucial for achieving peace and alleviating the humanitarian crisis." In April, Sudan filed a formal complaint against the UAE with the UN Security Council, accusing it of aggression against Sudan's sovereignty. The UAE has denied the accusation, asserting its commitment to supporting a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Last December, Sudan expelled 15 Emirati diplomats following the summoning of the acting ambassador of the UAE. Since the conflict began in April 2023, the war between the Sudanese army and RSF has killed around 18,800 people and displaced nearly 10 million, according to the UN. —APP



ADDIS ABABA : Ambassador Atif Shrif Mian received Sarfraz Sheikh, ex-President Gujrat Chambers and Ali businessman. Sheikh plans to set up engineering services in power sector in JV with local players and Ethiopia Govt. Amb assured him of full support. —DNA

Philippe calls for accountability for Palestinian detainees

"Humanity at its worst," UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said on X

FOREIGN DESK

GENEVA : The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said Wednesday that accountability must be ensured for violations against Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. "Humanity at its worst," UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said on X, noting that the agency drew attention to "inhumane practices" in Israeli detention centers in April. Recalling the UN human rights office's recent report on such practices as well as a report by the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (B'tselem), Lazzarini said: "A systematic and deliberate policy of dehumanization and torture

against the Palestinian people is described. It's very hard to read it." "No one seems to be spared: no one is safe even in Israel," he said. "Those responsible must be held accountable. The survivors must have justice." Several Israeli media outlets circulated a video involving Israeli soldiers allegedly raping a Palestinian detainee at the Sde Teiman Prison in the Negev desert in southern Israel. Late last month, 10 soldiers were arrested for the alleged rape of a Palestinian detained in the detention center, with three of them being released Sunday after new evidence emerged. Several reports have emerged of severe abuses against Palestinian detainees since the start of Israel's offensive on the Gaza



Strip Israel's Supreme Court is considering a petition filed by Israeli human rights organizations regarding the treatment of Palestinian detainees at the prison, where detainees from Gaza face torture and medical neglect. Israeli authorities often claim to

investigate such incidents, but tangible results are rarely seen. The incident sparked actions from far-right Israeli groups, which included a member of parliament, a minister and demonstrators raiding a military court building to protest measures against the soldiers. Meanwhile, The Israeli army killed 22 more Palestinians in attacks in the Gaza Strip, taking the overall death toll to 39,699 since last Oct. 7, the Health Ministry in the enclave said on Thursday. A ministry statement added that some 91,722 others have been injured in the assault. "Israeli forces killed 22 people and injured 77 others in four 'massacres' against families in the last 24 hours," the ministry said. "Many people are still trapped

under rubble and on the roads as rescuers are unable to reach them," it added. Flouting a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza since an Oct. 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian group Hamas. Over ten months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which ordered Tel Aviv to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.

Kenyan police fired tear gas to disperse protesters

NAIROBI : Police have fired tear gas to clear pockets of anti-government demonstrators from the centre of Kenya's capital Nairobi, as their protest movement sought to capitalise on earlier concessions and compel President William Ruto to resign. The "Nane Nane" march, meaning "eight eight" in reference to the date on Thursday, follows weeks of similar pre-form protests that saw Ruto scrap planned tax hikes and overhaul his cabinet. Shops were shut and streets left deserted after riot police set up road blocks and threw tear gas canisters to disperse handfuls of protesters across Nairobi's financial district. Police fired tear gas at one group of a dozen protesters chanting "Ruto must go", a Reuters journalist reported. In what has been the biggest crisis of his two years in office, Ruto bowed to pressure and shelved the new taxes in June after some demonstrators briefly stormed parliament. Ruto fired his entire cabinet apart from the foreign minister last month, a victory for activists and protesters who had demanded sweeping changes. Ruto then named opposition members to his cabinet, but activists criticised the move as a corrupt deal and reiterated demands that he resign. They called for far-reaching reforms to tackle corruption and for regional county and national governments to improve service delivery. Ruto has said the new cabinet reflects national unity and will address the demands of the protest movement. —APP

Türkiye's intel organization 'neutralizes' PKK terrorist

ANKARA : Türkiye's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) "neutralized" a PKK terrorist, who was preparing to attack a Turkish Armed Forces base in northern Iraq, according to security sources. Serdar Sonmez, codenamed Eziz Gabbur, was targeted in the Hakurk region. Donmez, who had an arrest warrant for terrorism-related offenses, was planning to carry out a terrorist attack with a sniper rifle, according to the sources. Under the orders of the so-called "senior" leaders of the PKK/KCK, Sonmez was tasked with infiltrating the base area in Hakurk, conducting reconnaissance, and executing an attack using a sniper rifle, the sources said MIT's operation neutralized him during the preparation phase. Sonmez joined the PKK/KCK in 2014, and received armed and ideological training in the Gara region of northern Iraq in 2015, according to the sources. —DNA

'Flying animals' adorn Cappadocia's sky

ANKARA : The sky over Türkiye's fairy-tale-like destination of Cappadocia has come alive with a vibrant display of hot air balloons as part of the Culture Road Festival, which started on Thursday. The festival, organised by the Culture and Tourism Ministry, showcases a spectacular array of figurative hot air balloons floating above the region's iconic fairy chimneys. Festival-goers from more than a dozen countries, including Austria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, England, the Netherlands and Switzerland, have gathered to watch the spectacle. Over 60 figured balloons, including designs like frog, elephant, turtle, rocket, heart, wolf, and windmill, took off from the Goreme district of Nevsehir, and flew over the valleys for approximately 45 minutes. More than half a million tourists went on balloon tours last year, and that number is expected to surge 30 percent this year, officials say. "Cappadocia is the global center for hot air ballooning, with 150 balloons flying daily in a festival-like atmosphere," says Mehmet Halis Aydogan, president of the Anatolian Hot Air Balloon Operators Association, adding the city will soon host the largest such festival in the world. — Agencies

Briefs

Talal dismisses Imran's apology offer

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry on Thursday fired back at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's offer to tender a conditional apology for the May 9 incidents, terming it a "face-saving tactic" that comes too little, too late. Talking to a private news channel, Chaudhry slammed Khan's attempt to justify the violent clashes that erupted on May 9, which resulted in widespread property damage and injuries to several individuals. The PML-N leader demanded an unconditional apology from Khan, holding him squarely responsible for the chaos and destruction unleashed by his party's supporters. He said that the person who 'confessed' to the crime is now demanding evidence.

SC acquits death sentence convict

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court's Sharia Appellate Bench heard an appeal regarding a death sentence for double murder and fornication. After 21 years, the Supreme Court's Sharia Appellate Bench acquitted the convict due to lack of evidence and benefit of the doubt. In 2004, Additional Judge of Wazirabad sentenced the accused, Imran, to death and seven years in prison. The Federal Shariah Court upheld these sentences in 2012. Imran, also known as Mani, filed an appeal against the Federal Shariah Court's decision in the Supreme Court in 2012. The Supreme Court's Sharia Appellate Bench accepted the appeal for hearing six years later, in 2018.

Imran, Bushra's physical remand extended

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: The physical remand of PTI founder Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi was extended in new Toshakhana reference. According to details, the physical remand of both the suspects was extended for 11 days. Earlier, the hearing was held at Adiala Jail and National Accountability Bureau (NAB) submitted the record of its investigation conducted so far. An Accountability Court judge Nasir Javed Rana conducted the hearing. Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were arrested in a NAB Toshakhana reference, hours after their acquittal in the illegal marriage case last month. According to the NAB inquiry report, the PTI founder is accused of taking and selling seven precious watches which include Rolex, diamonds, and gold watches.

President Zardari for unity among Muslim countries

He urged the need for promoting cultural and people-to-people relations to bring the two brotherly countries further closer. Reiterating Pakistan's support to KSA, President said that KSA was a close friend and Pakistan would always stand with it

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has underlined the need for greater unity and cooperation among Muslim countries to overcome the challenges being faced by the Muslim Ummah. He expressed these views while talking to the Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi, Dr Salah bin Mohammad M Al-Bdeer, who called on him, at Awan-e-Sadr, on Thursday. Welcoming Dr Salah bin Mohammad M Al-Bdeer, the President said that Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) enjoyed excellent relations, based on common faith, history, and brotherhood. He expressed satisfaction that relations between two brotherly countries were growing stronger, and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further boosting bilateral ties. He urged the need for promoting cultural and people-to-people relations to bring the two brotherly countries further closer. Reiterating Pakistan's support to KSA, the President said that KSA was

a close friend and Pakistan would always stand with Saudi Arabia. The Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi said that the leadership and people of KSA highly valued their relations with Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan and KSA enjoyed strong partnership and both countries should work together to address the challenges faced by the Islamic World. He lauded the contributions of the Pakistani community towards the development of Saudi Arabia. He also highlighted that the reforms initiated by the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud would bring further development and prosperity to KSA. The President appreciated the courage and vision of Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who was spearheading the process of reforms for the betterment and welfare of the people of KSA. He expressed the hope that the visit of the Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi would further boost bilateral relations. The Imam of Masjid Al-Nabvi also prayed for the peace and prosperity of Pakistan.



Experts call for enhancing Pakistan-Iran cooperation

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad, organized an event titled "Pak-Iran Economic Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities" in Islamabad. Mr. Fraz Naqvi of the Iran Program, initiated the session by discussing trade relations between Pakistan and Iran. He noted that despite cultural similarities, geographical proximity and a common border, both Pakistan and Iran could not fully utilize their trade potential, primarily due to the imposition of US sanctions on Iran. Mr. Naqvi proposed that Pakistan might benefit from drawing inspiration from the development models of China, South Korea, Japan and other countries to establish alternative mechanisms for enhancing economic ties with Iran. Mr. Mohsen Shahshargi, an expert on South Asian economy from Tehran, stressed that economic cooperation between Iran and Pakistan was essential to cultivating the partnership on the basis of comparative advantage. Taking a cue from the \$10 billion trade goal set between Pakistan and Iran in April this year, Mr. Mohsen emphasized on exploring alternative solutions such as establishing a systemic barter mechanism or conducting trade in third-party currencies like the Chinese Yuan. Adding on, though the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was still in place, it remained unimplemented for several years which further restricted the signing of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries, Mr. Mohsen noted. To evade the US sanctions, Mr. Mohsen highlighted

certain areas where the cooperation could be carried out without invoking the US response. Those areas included the transportation, agriculture and services sectors. Lastly, he concluded by stating that developing border markets, revising visa requirements and ensuring the development and safety of Baluchistan province on both sides could significantly enhance trade and offshore investments between Pakistan and Iran. Ms. Noor Fatima, Senior Research Associate at the Research Society of International Law (RSIL), examined the legal dimensions of trade relations between Iran and Pakistan. She asserted that sanctions had been significant tools of foreign policy employed by states or organizations to influence the behavior of other states or entities without resorting to armed conflict. In Iran's case, sanctions had been mostly applied unilaterally by countries like the US, UK, Canada, and Australia etc. Subsequently, the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project which aimed to supply Pakistan one billion cubic feet gas per day was stalled due to US unilateral sanctions on Iran, she added. Ms. Noor further elaborated that in any case, Pakistan had to comply with the sanctions. However, Pakistan could adopt the transit mechanism of Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) with Iran on which sanctions do not apply, Ms. Noor recommended. Lastly, Ms. Noor concluded that both states must develop a coherent policy prioritizing economic security in line with international trading regimes, ensure uniform policy application and build internal capacity for deeper economic engagement with each other

UK PM vows no letup in stopping far-right riots

He also noted the criminal justice system would continue "working speedily" to convict those already arrested

FOREIGN DESK

SOLIHULL: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed on Thursday not to ease up efforts to stop further far-right riots in English towns and cities, after more anticipated street violence failed to materialize overnight. The UK leader said despite a largely peaceful Wednesday evening, he would chair another emergency meeting of senior ministers and police leaders later on Thursday to plan for potential trouble in "the coming days." He also noted the criminal justice system would continue "working speedily" to convict those already arrested during a week of near nightly riots across England and in Northern Ireland. It came as a judge in Liverpool,

northeast England, jailed several more participants in the violence, which has seen mosques and migrant-related facilities attacked alongside police and other targets. "It's important that we don't let up here," Starmer told media outlets as he visited a mosque and met community leaders in Solihull, western England. "That's why later on today, I'll have another... meeting with law enforcement, with senior police officers, to make sure that we reflect on last night but also plan for the coming days." Starmer credited "police deployed in numbers in the right places, giving reassurance to communities" with helping to ease the unrest overnight. Instead of rumored far-right gatherings at dozens of sites linked to immigrant support services, thousands of anti-racism and anti-facism protesters took to the streets. They massed in considerable numbers, holding rallies in cities including London, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool and Newcastle. "Whose streets? Our streets!" thousands chanted in Walthamstow, northeast London, where hundreds of pro-Palestine supporters joined the rally under a heavy police presence. However, Northern Ireland saw another night of disturbances — its fourth in a row. There were five arrests and a police officer was injured during disorder in Belfast. The UK government had put 6,000 specialist police on standby across England to deal with scores of potential flashpoints, after far-right social media channels called for a string of immigration-linked sites to be targeted. The violence has been fueled by misinformation spread on social media about the suspected perpetrator of a knife attack on July 29 which killed three children.

Pak, Turkiye reiterate resolve to expand trade

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkiye have reiterated the dedication to strengthening bilateral relations and expanding trade volume. The commitment was expressed by Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and Trade Minister of Turkiye Dr. Omer Bolat during their meeting

in Islamabad today. The Finance Minister warmly welcomed Omer Bolat and his delegation and emphasized the robust and longstanding brotherly relationship between the two nations, which has potential for further bilateral economic and trade development. Omer Bolat highlighted the shared commitment of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Erdoğan to strengthen bilateral ties, with a particular focus on increasing

trade and investment. He identified key sectors for potential investment, including services, health, education, medicine, and fashion. The Trade Minister also proposed measures to facilitate investment for Turkish companies to enhance investor confidence and recommended increasing flight connectivity between Pakistan and Turkiye to support greater economic exchange. Senator Aurangzeb acknowledged the significance of historical and cultural ties between Pakistan and Turkiye and provided an update on Pakistan's improving economic indicators. He informed Omer Bolat of a recent Staff Level Agreement with the International Monetary Fund, aimed at ensuring long-term stability and outlined ongoing reforms in taxation, energy sector and state-owned enterprises. The Finance Minister also highlighted the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council in streamlining investment processes and attracting foreign direct investment. Senator Aurangzeb assured Minister Bolat of the Pakistani government's commitment to supporting investors by streamlining regulations which support ease of doing business. Omer Bolat expressed gratitude for the support and constructive dialogue. The meeting marked a significant step toward deepening economic ties and fostering closer cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye.



PDMA reports 61 deaths in KP

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: PDMA reported 61 deaths in various incidents due to the recent rains. According to the data, 22 men, 12 women and 27 children were among the dead. As per the report, 102 people were also injured since July 1. Also, 36 men, 26 women, and 40 children were injured in various accidents due to the rains. Moreover, 500 houses were partially damaged and 203 were completely collapsed, as per the authority report. It is said that the disaster management department imposed an emergency in Chitral till August 30. Also, Rs11.5 million have been released to the administrations of the affected districts for relief activities.

Any effort to extend CJP's tenure will be resisted

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser has rejected the Election Amendment Bill, labelling it an attack on the independent judiciary. He warned the government against creating rifts between parliament and judiciary. Asad Qaiser stated that the Election Amendment Bill was a violation of the constitution to halt the implementation of the Supreme Court reserved seats verdict. He reiterated that the constitution has mandated the jurisdiction of state institutions. He asserted that all state institutions including Parliament and judiciary must operate in their respective jurisdictions. The PTI leader alleged that the chief justice of Pakistan's extension in office was meant to make the judiciary and CJP office controversial. He asserted that his party rejected efforts for CJP's extension. PTI leader Asad Qaiser demanded a notification of appointment of the most senior judge in the CJP office. President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday signed the 'controversial' Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 which becomes a law. The gazette notification will be issued today (Thursday) as the bill has been sent to the Senate Secretariat. The Senate passed the Election Act Amendment Bill by a majority vote despite protest by the opposition PTI on Aug 6.

Israel kills 25 amid fears of wider war

NEWS DESK

CAIRO: Israeli forces stepped up strikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing at least 25 people, Palestinian medics said, in further battle with Hamas-led militants as Israel braced for potential wider war in the region. Israeli airstrikes hit a cluster of houses in central Gaza's Al-Bureij camp, killing at least 15 people, and the nearby Al-Nuseirat camp, killed four, medics said. Nuseirat and Bureij are among the densely populated enclave's eight historic camps and seen by Israel as strongholds of armed militants. Israeli aircraft also bombed a house in the heart of Gaza City in the north, killing five Palestinians, while another airstrike in the southern city of Khan Younis killed one person and wounded others, according to medics. The armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad said they were firing anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs at Israeli forces operating across Gaza, causing deaths and injuries among them. Israel's military said it had struck dozens of military targets across Gaza over the past 24 hours, including rocket launching pads. Hamas-led militants set off the Gaza war on Oct. 7 last year with a shock, cross-border rampage into Israeli communities, killing 1,200 Israelis and foreigners and seizing some 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Since then, at least 39,699 Palestinians have been killed, including 22 within the past 24 hours, and 91,722 injured in Israel's devastating air and ground war in Gaza, the Gaza health ministry said in an update on Thursday. The ministry in the Hamas-run territory does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its death lists. As Gaza's war churns on, Israel has been batten down for another attack expected in the coming days following vows from Iran and its Lebanon proxy Hezbollah to retaliate for the assassinations last week of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut.

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