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Türkiye renders huge importance to ties with Pakistan: envoy

Detailed News On Page-08

JUI-F ready to work with all stakeholders

Detailed News On Page-08



Shan shares strategy to win WTC final

Detailed News On Page-06



Arshad returns to hero's welcome in hometown

Arshad Nadeem arrived in a convoy to his hometown

DNA

MIAN CHANNU: National hero Arshad Nadeem on Sunday reached his home after more than 12-hour journey from Lahore his hometown of Mian Channu. Arshad's mother, sisters and relatives received him with open arms when he reached home. His mother told media that she was grateful to Allah for the success He bestowed on her son. She thanked the countrymen who prayed for her son. Streets in the area were over crowded to have a glimpse of the hero. Earlier, Arshad arrived in a convoy to his hometown. His friends and family, along with a large crowd of locals, greeted him at the Mian Channu bypass with flower petals and cheers. Upon arriving in his hometown, Nadeem was adorned with floral garlands, and celebrations included drum performances, fireworks, and the distribution of sweets. Welcome banners with his name were displayed at the city's entrance.



LAHORE: Imam Masjid-e-Nabawi (SAW) Doctor Salah Mohammed Al Badeer calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. – DNA

US trying to control St Martin

Hasina alleges US behind her govt removal

Sheikh Hasina accuses US of ousting her for refusing to surrender Saint Martin Island

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: Former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now residing in India, has accused the United States of playing a role in her removal from power. In a statement quoted by the Indian newspaper, Hasina claimed she could have remained in office had she been willing to compromise Bangladesh's sovereignty, particularly by surrendering Saint Martin Island and allowing US influence over the Bay of Bengal. "I resigned so that I did not have to see the procession of dead bodies. They wanted to come to power over the dead bodies of students, but I did not allow it", the ousted Bangladeshi PM said. "I could have remained in power if I had surrendered the sovereignty of Saint Martin Island and

Continued on Page 06

Iranian president names moderate and female ministers

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has nominated a moderate diplomat as foreign minister and a female official as urban development minister as he presented his new cabinet. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf announced on Sunday the names of the 19-member cabinet presented by the president during an assembly session broadcast live on state television.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan condemns Israeli attack on school

Israel must be held accountable for these war crimes and genocide in Gaza

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan condemned the Israeli attack on Al-Tabeen School in eastern Gaza yesterday, which led to the death of over 100 civilians and injuring many more. In a statement on Sunday, the Foreign Office said attacking an overcrowded school sheltering displaced persons, particularly when they were performing morning prayers, is a horrific, inhuman, and cowardly act. The indiscriminate targeting of civilian populations and facilities is a grave violation of international humanitarian law and constitutes war crimes. The Foreign Office said Israel must be held accountable for these war crimes and genocide in Gaza. It said Pakistan calls on the international community, especially the United Nations and backers of Israel, to take immediate steps to bring an end to the Gaza genocide and to protect the people of Gaza

PTI gears up for local govt polls

Forms coordination committee

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has intensified preparations for the upcoming local government elections in Islamabad by forming a coordination committee. According to the channel report, the five-member committee includes PTI Islamabad leaders Chaudhry Ilyas Mehrban, Malik Amir, Tanveer Qazi, Shiraz Kiyani, and Qamar Inayat Raja. The committee will oversee the process of receiving and scrutinising applications from PTI candidates for the elections. Additionally, the committee will ensure the provision of a legal team to assist candidates during the nomination, scrutiny, and other related matters.

Ops continue against Khawarijs

Officer embraces martyrdom after succumbing to wounds

ISPR says security forces engaged fiercely with 'Khawarij' at three different locations in Tirah Valley

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A young Pakistan Army officer embraced martyrdom at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Peshawar, succumbing to wounds sustained in a fierce gunfight with Khawarij insurgents in Tirah Valley of Khyber District, the military's media wing reported on Sunday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said 24-year-old Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik, a resident of district Attock, was under intensive medical treatment at the CMH. The ISPR said the fire exchange took place between security forces and "Khawarij" at three different locations in Tirah Valley.

Continued on Page 06

6 passengers arrested over fake visas

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) immigration on Sunday conducted a major operation and arrested six Saudi-bound passengers from Islamabad airport. As per FIA spokesperson, the arrested individuals – identified as Rizwan Ali, Mazhar Abbas, Usman Ali, Tanveer Khalid, Fanwat Azim and Yasir Iqbal – were traveling to Saudi Arabia on Umrah visa.

Continued on Page 06

'Stolen polls undermine political stability in country'

Today every Pakistani is worried, people demanding solution to the country's problems: Former Premier

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former Prime Minister and Awam Pakistan Party Convener Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that rule of law was need of the hour if Pakistan does follow it then economic, social and political affairs of the country will aggravate further. Addressing a moot in Karachi on Sunday, Abbasi said today every Pakistani is worried. He said in every party, people ask what is the solution to the country's problems. He said there are no dignified solutions. The governments were meant to serve the people. He said basic facilities should be provided to the people. He said, "unluckily 'our current system always supported corrupt people'. Abbasi said it was need of the hour that employment, health, education and other facilities should be given to the people of the country. He said the solution to the problems of Pakistanis lies in the constitution.

Continued on Page 06

Judges, generals imposed an 'amateur' leader: Ahsan Iqbal

Says sit-ins, long marches, and court decisions have put Pak in difficult situation

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, has accused a group of judges and military generals of derailing Pakistan's progress by imposing an "inexperienced" leader on the country. Speaking at the media at the Expo Centre in Lahore, Iqbal said, "Pakistan was on the development path when a few judges and

Continued on Page 06

Reassures equal opportunities for minorities

Israeli atrocities in Gaza dull 14 August celebrations: Shehbaz

Premier says Netanyahu orchestrating systematic violence against Palestinians

ABID RAZA / DNA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed deep sorrow over the ongoing violence in Gaza, lamenting that the upcoming Independence Day celebrations in Pakistan have been overshadowed by the atrocities being committed against Muslims in the region. Speaking at a special ceremony in Lahore commemorating National Minorities Day, the premier highlighted the grave situation in Gaza, where Israeli forces have continued their aggression against Palestinians. "The joy of our Independence Day has faded due to the barbaric actions being inflicted on our Muslim brothers and sisters in Gaza," he said, adding that the international community's silence on the matter was deeply concerning. PM Shehbaz referenced the historical significance of August 11th, recalling the address made by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1947, where he emphasized equal rights for all citizens, regardless of their religion. "Today, we are celebrating the contributions of minorities to Pakistan's development. Our minority communities have played a pivotal role in the nation's progress, and today's ceremony is a testament to their invaluable contributions," he remarked. PM Sharif condemned the Israeli government and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accusing them of orchestrating systematic violence against Palestinians. "Yesterday at dawn, innocent Muslims, including children, were martyred in brutal bombardments. These attacks continue unabated, yet the world remains a silent spectator," he said. He criticized international organisations, ostensibly established to maintain peace, for their inaction.

Continued on Page 06

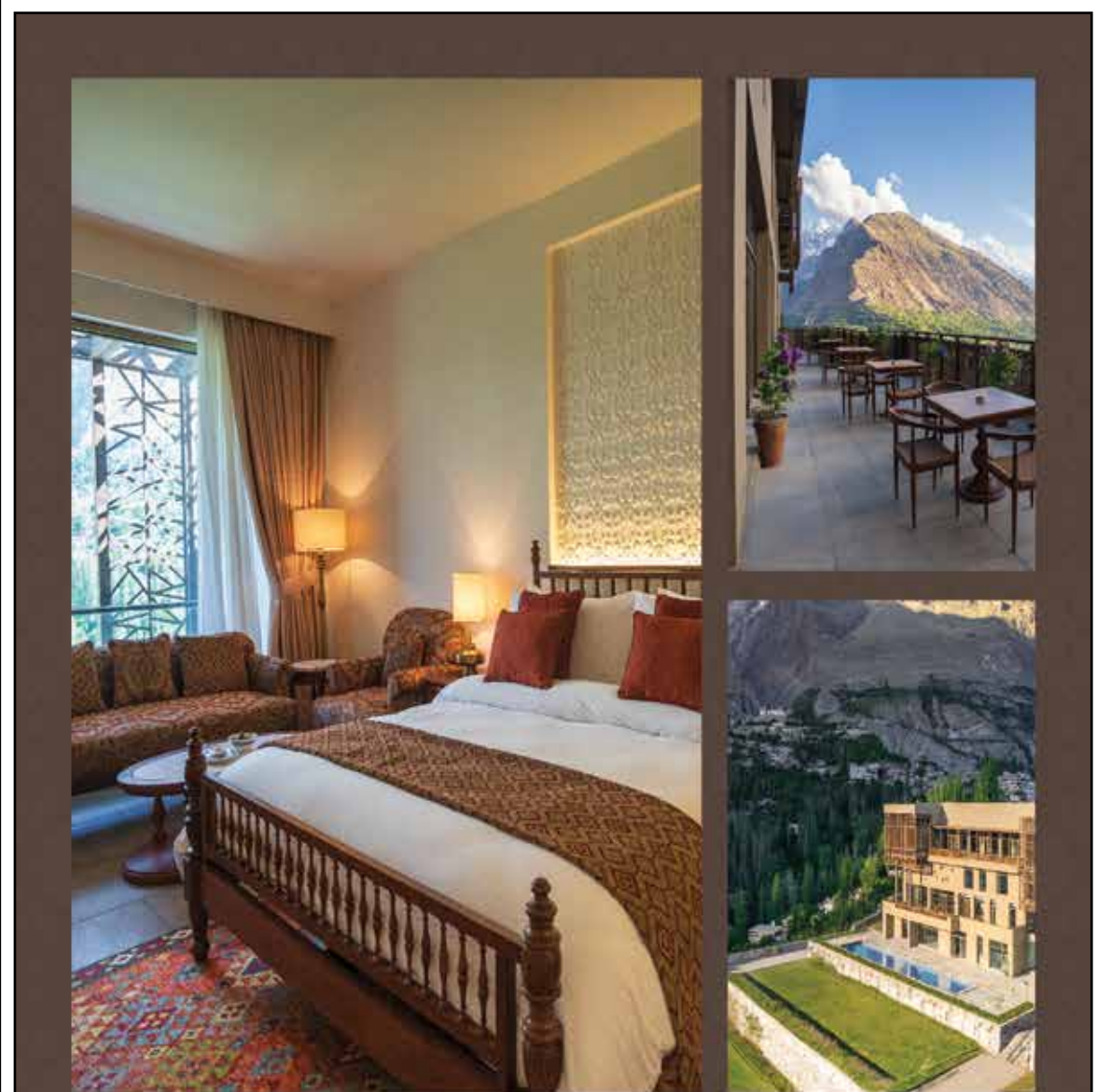
President Zardari vows to protect minorities' rights

"Occasion serves as a poignant reminder of the diversity, inclusivity, and harmonious coexistence," says ISPR

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan observes Minorities' Day today, President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed the country's commitment to protect the rights and religious freedoms of minorities, urging the promotion of interfaith harmony across the nation. "On this day, we reaffirm our commitment to the promise made by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, on August 11, 1947, to the country's minorities to protect their rights and religious freedoms," said the president in a message shared on the occasion. President Zardari maintained that Islam, too, fully recognises and advocates the protection of the rights of minorities.

Continued on Page 06



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ICCI President urges govt to increase minority job quotas

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD : All minorities including Muslims have equal rights in Pakistan, Ahsan Bakhtawari. The enemy is erecting a wall of hatred between us in the name of religion, we have to unite and thwart these conspiracies, Zafar Bakhtawari. The services of the minority community for the development of the country are appreciable, said the speakers at the ceremony held on the National Day of Minorities in ICCI.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Bakhtawari has demanded from the government to increase the quota of jobs for the minority community in CDA and other institutions and said that all nations and minorities living in Pakistan have equal rights. The treatment of minorities especially Muslims in India is in front of everyone. In India, Muslims and animals are forced to drink water from the same place. This is not the time to ask the country, but to give

something to the country. Let us pledge to do what we can for the country. He was addressing a crowded event organized on the occasion of National Minorities Day at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Sunday. In the event, tribute was paid to the role of the minority community for the development and prosperity of the country since Pakistan Movement till now and a special documentary was also shown in this regard. President ICCI Ahsan Bakhtawari further said in his address that the heart cried tears of blood over the tragedy of Jordanwala, who are these people who are dividing us. He said that there is no competition for the blessing of freedom. If you want to know the importance of freedom, then ask the innocent people of Palestine. Just like the role of Muslims in Pakistan movement, minorities have also made sacrifices. Yes, appreciate it Ahsan Bakhtawari said that today we all have to think about what we are giving to the country, let's take a pledge to do whatever we can for the country. He said that the children of the minority

community can be contacted for solving any problem including financial for higher education. Addressing the event, Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that my heart is filled with love for you people. According to the decree, after the formation of Pakistan, now we all have equal rights. First we all are equal as humans and Pakistanis then Muslims or Christians, we have to make our people human first. He said that unfortunately our enemy is erecting walls between us in the name of religion. In 1971, Indira Gandhi had said that the idea of Pakistan has been buried, but what is happening in Bangladesh today has revived the idea of Pakistan. Zafar Bakhtawari said that the chamber belongs to all of us, why can't someone from the minority community become the vice president or president of the chamber, you people should bring forward a talented person from among you, the chamber will make him vice president and president.



ISLAMABAD: -Eager passengers stand in line to board the newly launched electric bus in the Federal Capital.—DNA

Medium flood expected in River Chenab: FFC

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that medium flood is expected in River Chenab and medium to high level flows also likely in nullahs in catchments of rivers Ravi and Chenab in next 24 hours. According to daily FFC report on Sunday, at present River Indus is flowing in "Medium Flood" in Taunsa-Guddu reach. It is in "Low Flood" in Tarela-Kalabagh reach and at Sukkur Barrage while River Kabul continues to flow in "Low Flood" at Nowshera. All other major rivers in the Indus River System i.e. Rivers Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej are discharging normal flows, the report said. The current Combined Live Storage of the country's major reservoirs (Tarbela, Mangla & Chashma) stands at 10.353 MAF (77.53% of the total live storage capacity of 13.354 MAF). According to the Flood Forecasting Division (FFD), Lahore, Yesterday's trough of Westerly Wave over northern parts of Afghanistan lies over northern parts of the country and yesterday's upper air cyclonic circulation over central Jharkhand (India) lies over south Uttar Pradesh (India). Active monsoon trough extends from Bay of Bengal to Northeastern Punjab. Moderate to strong moist currents are penetrating upper parts of the country from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal up to 5,000 feet. Seasonal Low persists over northeast Balochistan. According to FFD, Lahore scattered to widespread thunderstorm rain of Moderate to Heavy intensity with isolated Very Heavy Falls is expected over the upper catchments of all the major rivers along with Islamabad during the next 24 hours.—APP

Efforts being made to bring investment in all sectors

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has said that an all-out effort is being made to bring investment in almost all sectors of the country. He said this while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the 9th Pakistan Footwear Material and Machinery Show held at a local hotel on Sunday. He said that the government was spending its energies to facilitate the business community in the real sense so that desired results could be achieved. He said that government was seriously about looking into certain policy matters and would solve them as well. Jam Kamal Khan said, "Regional access, increasing the country's potential and to expand the industry are highly important things. The government will provide all possible support to the Pakistan footwear industry and find solu-

tion to the problems facing it." He said there were challenges related to energy, tariff, duties and FBR, adding that the government was making efforts to overcome all these challenges under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He further said, "The government is focusing on promoting investment and trade opportunities." He thanked Chinese delegates for coming to Lahore and becoming part of this exhibition and added that the government was there to assist and facilitate investors in the country. Federal Minister for Privatisation Abdul Aleem Khan said that it was a good sign that the Pakistan Footwear Association was developing good ties with international brands. He said that the step to increase the number of trade officers would help the country establish good connectivity in terms of business-to-business activities. He said that the government's job was to facilitate

the business community, adding that it was high time for businessmen to grab opportunities as manufacturers were moving out from China and going to other places, like Taiwan, Bangladesh etc. Abdul Aleem Khan said that the business community should come forward, adding that potential was available in almost all sectors, not only in the footwear sector. He also thanked the Chinese delegates who came to attend the 9th Pakistan Footwear Material and Machinery Show and urged them to consider Pakistan as an ideal place for business. Responding to a question about PIA privatisation, Abdul Aleem Khan said that it was ongoing smoothly. He said that PIA had a very bright future ahead, adding that after its privatisation a good international level airline facility would be available to people.



ISAAR Academic Excellence Award ceremony held

SIALKOT : The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President attended the ISAAR Academic Excellence Award 2024 ceremony. The event was organized to honor and appreciate the top position holders in class 10 from the Gujranwala Board. The ceremony was attended by Group Leader Sialkot Business Community, Riaz-ud-Din Sheikh (Sitara-e-Imtiaz), Vice President SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh, Vice Chairman Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL) Faraz Akram Awan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Education Sialkot Javed Iqbal Babar, Chairman ISAAR Welfare Foundation Siddique Haider, Guard ISAAR Zulfiqar Mughal, In-charge Education committee Wasim Choudhry, Members Education Committee Manzoor Elahi Choudhry, M. Abid Advocate, Hafiz Naveed, position holders students, teachers and parents. Addressing to the participants, President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Abdul Ghafoor Malik, acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the students, encouraging them to continue striving for excellence in their future academic endeavors. He said that a child starts learning ethics from the mother's lap and a mother is the first teacher of any child. Without education, society cannot develop, he added. The Sialkot chamber started with a single room and today the best businessmen of Pakistan are born here and play their role in strengthening the economy of Pakistan.—APP

PIAF urges govt-business collaboration for economic strategies

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has proposed a collaborative approach between the government and the business community, stressing the government to engage with industry stakeholders to formulate successful economic strategies. The PIAF (Anjum Nisargroup) Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that this collaboration is especially crucial in this economic unstable condition. It is imperative that the government involves the business community in shaping economic policies, he asserted. He argued that aligning the interests of the

government and businesses is essential for creating an economic framework that is not only robust but also sustainable in the long run. At the core of national progress lies a well-defined economic agenda, he stated, underscoring the importance of a cohesive plan to put the economy on a track of sustained growth. He stressed that economic stability is paramount for addressing various societal challenges and fostering an environment conducive to prosperity. Media reports called for a fully-fledged and sound plan with a highly competent team to handle local challenges forthwith, but unfortunately, they have

no solid plans or directions. He foresees this year full of challenges for businesses and industries in Pakistan due to political uncertainty on global and local fronts. The government should come up with drastic measures to give confidence to local industrialists-cum-entrepreneurs and foreign investors through industry-friendly and investment-friendly policies. A cornerstone of the proposed economic initiatives is the advocacy for a comprehensive 5-year export policy. He emphasized that such a policy would provide a roadmap for enhancing the country's global competitiveness.—DNA

Pakistan-China launching electric motorcycle with swappable batteries

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD : In a significant development towards sustainable transportation, Pakistani and Chinese enterprises have collaborated to introduce an electric motorcycle with swappable batteries. This agreement is expected to pave the way for further advancements in the electric vehicle (EV) industry between the two countries, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. Hamad Khalid, a business consultant announced the exciting collaboration between Super Asia Motors Pvt Ltd of Pakistan and China's EGO

New Green Energy Technology Limited. Together, they are introducing an innovative Electric Motorcycle with swappable batteries. This motorcycle is designed to cater to both commercial and domestic customers. Additionally, their plans extend to introducing this technology to the 3-wheeler commercial market. Hamad said the swappable battery allows you to swap your empty battery for a fully charged one within 10 seconds. You can continue your trip without interruption, extending your range, and making it possible to bring your battery inside to charge. Dur-

ing long rides you can bring an extra battery with you which can be swapped at home or at the office. The newly introduced bike will boast several other key features including a top speed of 90 km/h, a range of 200 km with two batteries, swappable solar-powered batteries conveniently available at petrol stations, and the ability to save up to 70% per kilometer. Additionally, it offers strong, dependable, durable, and cost-saving pollution-free travel. "This cutting-edge project brings state-of-the-art technology to Pakistan, with a focus on locally developing components and parts. It also reflects our unwaver-

ing commitment to clean energy and job creation in Pakistan," hamad added. In recent years, Pakistan and China have been working together to introduce electric motorcycles in Pakistan, with the goal of promoting eco-friendly transportation and reducing carbon emissions. Numerous Chinese companies, in partnership with local Pakistani enterprises, are expanding Pakistan's electric vehicle industry. The introduction of these electric motorcycles is anticipated to significantly lower travel costs for consumers while contributing to a greener future by minimizing environmental impact.

BISP partners with banks for fund disbursement: Rubina

Senator Rubina Khalid said that the system involves engaging the services of six banks to minimize human intervention and ensure that beneficiaries receive their money efficiently

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR :Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, has announced the implementation of a new banking system to streamline the disbursement of funds to eligible women. She said that the system involves engaging the services of six banks to minimize human intervention and ensure that beneficiaries receive their money efficiently. She said the scope of BISP program is being expanded in accordance with the directions of President Asif Ali

Zardari. She said that the transparency of BISP has been recognized by international organizations including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank under which around 9.3 million deserving families are benefiting. "Our aim is that deserving women receive their money with dignity and respect without any deductions", she said while talking to media during her visit to Mardan district. Senator Rubina Khalid visited the offices of BISP in Mardan and Takht Bhai where she directly interacted with the deserving women and heard their problems. She also re-

viewed the registration process of the deserving women and directed the staff to guide the elderly women with dignity and respect. She instructed the women to come to BISP offices to collect the money only after receiving a message from 8171. Senator Rubina Khalid also planted a sapling on the premises of District Office Mardan under the Benazir Plantation Campaign titled "Sarsabz Pakistan, Benazir Pakistan" and prayed for the prosperity of the country. While addressing a gathering of women gathered for registration in the BISP Center, Rubina Khalid said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto laid the






foundation of this program while in exile in Dubai aimed at economic empowerment of poor women of Pakistan, which was implemented by President Asif Ali Zardari in 2008. She told the women that there is no fee to participate in the BISP survey adding that dynamic registry centers have been set up in the tehsil offices for enrollment in the programme. She directed the women to complete the basic documents for joining the survey so that they do not face any problems. Addressing a public gathering at Gulli Bagh in the outskirts of Mardan, Senator Rubina Khalid said, "we provide educational

scholarships to the children of deserving families under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif Program, in which more scholarships are earmarked for the education of girls". Under Benazir Nashonuma, pregnant women and their children are provided with scholarships and nutritious food, he added. She said that a unique skill program "Benazir Hunar Program" is being launched for deserving women and their family members to reduce the poverty of these families. Senator Rubina Khalid said that the impression regarding the program is wrong that people are being turned into beggars.

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Charge d Affaires, Embassy of Indonesia Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma briefs the Federal Petroleum Minister Musaddaq Malik about various traditional items of Indonesia on the sidelines of the ASEAN Day celebrations, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. —DNA

Minorities role in country's development important: Atif

The minorities living in Pakistan consider themselves safe, Karim Aziz Malik; The National Day of Minorities is celebrated in Pakistan, Malik Sohail

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Regarding the National Day of Minorities, FPCCI officials in their message paid tribute to the minorities living in Pakistan for their service to the country. President FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh has said in a message regarding the National Day of Minorities that the Constitution of Pakistan provides complete protection to the rights of minorities. Peace and stability in the country, unity and unity among religions is possible only through harmony. The founder of

Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his speech on August 11, 1947, declared minorities as equal citizens. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah wanted to make Pakistan a great country in the world. Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik has said that the minorities living in Pakistan consider themselves safe. Pakistanis follow the orders of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. In the wake of the August 11 speech, National Minorities Day is celebrated on August 11 every year. Vice President FPCCI Tariq Jadoon has said that minorities in Pakistan have full religious freedom.



The people of Pakistan, including the government, fully protect the

rights of minorities. Chairman Coordination Capital Office Malik Sohail said that the best legislation regarding minorities was made in Pakistan. The National Day of Minorities is celebrated in Pakistan in a grand manner. Meanwhile Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi has said that minorities in Pakistan have equal rights and the Constitution of Pakistan provides complete guarantees for the protection of their rights. In his special message on National Minorities' Day, Mohsin Naqvi said, "our religion and constitution teach us to treat minorities with kindness and respect". He stated that our Holy Prophet

(PBUH) and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah also emphasized the protection of minorities' rights. Interior minister said, "Minorities have played a key role in the country's progress and development. I pay tribute to all minority communities for playing a constructive role in the country's development as their role in this regard cannot be ignored." He said, "the government is striving to promote social harmony and egalitarian society". "On this day, we must reaffirm our commitment to take more effective and practical steps to protect the rights of minorities", the minister stressed.

'Exploding lithium batteries of solar panels erupted H-9 inferno'

The Directorate of Emergency and Disaster Management of Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI) in its report submitted to the Parliamentary Committee, revealed that there was no electricity supply to the Bazaar as it was a one-day operations trading hub

ISLAMABAD, The H-9 inferno erupted on July 10th that turned a large number of shops, makeshift stalls, pushcarts, and merchandise to ashes, occurred due to exploding Lithium batteries attached to solar panels after it got overheated owing to excessive charging. The Directorate of Emergency and Disaster Management of Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI) in its report submitted to the Parliamentary Committee, revealed that there was no electricity supply to the Bazaar as it was a one-day operations trading hub. The report revealed that as many as 625 stalls were affected out of the total 2,743 in almost all the sections of the Bazaar, even though there were trained individuals capable of undertaking fire fighting efforts the massive scale of fire left all helpless. The remaining 2,118 stalls were saved due to effective fire fighting operations conducted by the authorities that involved 31 fire tenders, 255 firefighting staff including 12 from MCI, four from Rawalpindi Administration, four from Pakistan Navy, two from Pakistan Air Force, nine from other departments and 16 water tankers in the entire operation. An official from the Directorate of Emergency and Disaster Management, MCI claimed that the department was working out proper solutions to address fire risks and was mulling over a centralized electricity supply system or complete wrap-up of operations at night to be ensured. Moreover, he said that a committee of the vendors was formed to ensure localized awareness and mitigation efforts against fire hazards in the bazaar. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration official claimed that the Rescue 1122 and the Emergency and Disaster Management wing of MCI had 10 fire brigades to manage the entire federal capital which was insufficient to manage the present scale of the metropolis' population and sprawling infrastructure. However, in 2022, two episodes of mass fire in H-9 Bazaar had occurred after the UPS batteries had blown off, he added. He informed that there was no insurance for the solar panels of shops that got impacted by fire and since it was a temporary bazaar, all electricity connections were removed after repeated fires. The Capital Administration was preparing a summary to place Rescue 1122 under the Capital Development Authority (CDA) with a complete autonomous Director General that would also involve a complete beef up in resources, capacities and personnel. Moreover, revalidated standard operating procedures (SOPs) for fool proof fire prevention arrangements as a professional team was engaged to create the system, the official said.—Agencies

QAU alumni & students join CDA in plantation drive

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, along with students and alumni of Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, participated in the Margalla Hills Tree Plantation Drive. The event took place in a designated area named Quaidian Enclave on Margalla Hills, where saplings were planted by Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Member Environment Talat Gondal, Member Finance Tahir Naeem, Wajahat Latif Pro-Rector Ibadat International University, Murtaza Noor National Coordinator Inter University Consortium, and Executive Director APSUP, along with the alumni and students. "The initiative is being carried out under the direction of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Interior Minister, and with the support of the Ministry of Climate Change," Chairman Randhawa emphasized. He highlighted the drive's goal of preserving the beauty of Margalla Hills through collaborative efforts with various stakeholders, including the corporate sector and civil society. "The involvement of students is crucial to the success of the tree plantation drive. In line with federal government instructions, the drive aims to ensure the preservation and conservation of the region's flora and fauna," he mentioned. Randhawa proposed awarding special marks to students who participated in the campaign and announced the launch of a mobile app to track the location of each planted tree. Furthermore, Randhawa assured that educational institutions, known for their excellence, were invited to take a leading role in the plantation drive, with CDA providing full support. The participating QAU alumni and students extended their thanks to Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, for inaugurating the special "Quaidian Enclave" at Margalla Hills for plantations. They hoped that such initiatives would have a positive impact on our environment and ensure a legacy of sustainability.—DNA

Salik commends minority contributions

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, eulogized the contributions of minorities in various national sectors, said their services are commendable. In a message on National Minorities Day, observed on August 11 every year, he emphasized that Pakistan's national flag symbolizes the clear representation of minorities, reflecting their integral role in the nation. "Our Constitution guarantees the protection of minorities and their social rights," said Salik underscoring the importance of fostering religious harmony to ensure peace and brotherhood within society. He further acknowledged the pivotal role of minority communities in the country's progress, affirming that they enjoy complete religious freedom in Pakistan. Salik reiterated that the protection of minorities is not only the responsibility of the government but also a religious duty of every Pakistani.—APP

Two held, huge amount of heroin crystal recovered

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), while conducting an operation in Karachi on Sunday, arrested two accused and managed to recover 30 kg of heroin (crystal) from their possession. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, in an operation carried out on Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed Road, Karachi, an ANF team intercepted a Hilux Revo vehicle and recovered 30 kg of heroin (crystal). Two accused residents of Kech district, Balochistan, were also arrested on the spot during the operation. The international value of the recovered drugs is \$6 million, he said. A case has been registered against the arrested accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act, while further investigation is in process.—APP

Police bust 13 gangs, arrest 32 criminals

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police managed to bust 13 gangs and arrested their 32 members besides recovering 1 stolen car, 48 motorcycles, Rs 1.3 million cash, 18 mobile phones, gold ornaments, weapons and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Rawalpindi district police on the directives of City Police Officer, (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani launched operations against organized and active gangs, drug dealers and criminal elements. 32 suspects, members of 13 organized and active gangs were sent behind the bars this month. Police also arrested 60 drug dealers and bootleggers and recovered 60 kg hashish, more than four kg heroin and 300 liters liquor from their possession. Police held 80 accused with illegal weapons this month and seized 40 pistols, six Klashnikovs, 16 rifles and a large number of bullets.—APP

Jashan-i-Azadi stalls attract buyers

ISLAMABAD As the countdown has started for the celebration of Independence Day, falling on August 14, a large number of stalls displaying national flags, bunting, dresses and other accessories of the capital city are attracting buyers. A large number of patriotic youngsters especially children can be seen around these stalls daily for buying flags, bunting, badges and Jashan-i-Azadi dresses to finalize their preparations. While to keep the interest of kids intact in these celebrations, the flag-coloured toys are also on display for the attraction. "The stalls carrying green and white coloured Jashan-i-Azadi accessories set up at different nook and corners have not only added a charm to the beauty of the capital but revived a patriotic spirit among the citizens", Shahzad Malik, a government employee said. "I have visited different Jashan-i-Azadi stalls with my children today to buy them flags, bunting and other stuff of their interest, taking advantage of the pleasant weather", he said while talking to APP. The capital has worn a green and white look with several Jashan-i-Azadi stalls as well as decorated vehicles with flags plying on different roads.—APP

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Briefs

Various outlets offer discounts on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: As a part of the upcoming Independence Day celebrations, various retailers of fashion brands and outlets in the federal capital have started offering good discounts on dresses, shoes and other accessories to attract buyers, especially women. Every year, famous brands offer good sales and discount offers on the occasion of Independence Day, like other important days, giving an opportunity to the people to buy good stocks for the next whole season. "Buying summer dresses and other seasonal accessories at full price has become difficult for the working class during the prevailing inflation so we always wait for such occasions to arrive", Shaheena Naz, a mother of two children said. Talking to APP, she said, "We always buy clothes for ourselves and kids during the sales offered on Independence Day and other such occasions for the next season". A government employee, Sanam Ali said, "I follow all the brands' pages on the social media platforms and whenever receive notification of discounts and sales on summer stuff, I rush immediately to buy these in bulk". However, online sales have also made shopping hassle-free while saving us from visiting markets during humid weather conditions, she added. A retailer at a famous brand shop, Sajid Kiyani said that the reason for offering end-season sales at this time is to sell maximum summer stock due to the change in weather. It is difficult to sell the old-designed items during the next year at a good price while keeping the stock for next year in good condition is also an uphill task. So it is best to sell out maximum stock even on reduced prices, he added.—APP

Students to explore universe through telescopes

ISLAMABAD: Students of the educational institutions run by Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) will be able to explore celestial objects through the use of telescopes and stimulate their interest in the space sciences. In this regard, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT) and FDE are launching an initiative to promote astronomy and STEM education among students. According to an official source, the Ministry of Education and Professional Training through FDE will provide support to the schools to purchase telescopes. The initiative will help promote STEM education and inspire the next generation of scientists and explorers. This initiative is a significant step towards nurturing scientific curiosity and interest in astronomy among students.—APP

IRSA releases 376,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 376,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 451,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1544.00 feet and was 146.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 277,300 cusecs and 219,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1209.35 feet, which was 161.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 26,500 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kala-bagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 352,300, 435,200, 401,200 and 315,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 65,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 64,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

ICCI, CDA join hands to promote sports in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has highlighted the crucial role of public-private partnership in building a robust sports ecosystem, emphasizing that this collaboration is vital for promoting a happier and healthier life-style for leading a pleasing life. During a meeting with Director Sports and Culture, Capital Development Authority (CDA) Malik Atta and his team here at the Chamber House, Bakhtawari discussed potential areas of co-operation to encourage sports development in Islamabad. The meeting focused on harnessing the collective strengths of both sectors to create a thriving sports culture in the capital city. ICCI President said that Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem made history by winning the first-ever Olympic gold medal for the country in athletics with an Olympic record of 92.97 meters in the javelin throw and that it will be



a matter of pride for the Chamber to celebrate this victory in collaboration with the CDA. He said that ICCI is interested in promoting athletics and other sports in the capital city and it will be a great favour if the CDA allocates any ground to the Chamber which will be developed and equipped with all the necessary modern facilities

under the Corporate Social Responsibility. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari further said that the ICCI also intends to establish a Sports Academy for the benefit of its members as well as the citizens and that it wish to organize a marathon in the capital with the collaboration of the Ethiopian Ambassador who himself is a marathon

runner and is desirous of bringing marathon runners in Islamabad which will surely contribute in the promotion of sports in the city as well as the country. Zafar Bakhtawari, former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Secretary General United Business Group (UBG) also emphasized the crucial role of col-

laborative efforts in promoting healthy activities in the city. He stressed that such initiatives are vital for the benefit of the youth, who are the future nation-builders.

Director Sports and Culture CDA Malik Atta, while highly appreciating the ICCI especially its President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for the continued support to the CDA with regard to the resolution of business community's problems for the ease of doing businesses pledged all out cooperation of the Authority for the purpose by adding that Chamber's collaboration will actually be a great service not only to the Department but the residents also.

He said that a Committee comprising ICCI and CDA representatives will be formed at the earliest to finalize the modalities and implementation on the plan. Those present in the meeting also include Chaudhry Maqsood Tabish, Dr. Usman, Malik Bashir Awan, Sajid Iqbal, Nasir Chaudhry, Imtiaz Abbasi and Chaudhry Irfan.

Massive financial irregularities worth billions found in Baitul Maal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Financial irregularities worth billions of rupees have come to light in Pakistan Baitul Maal, as revealed in the latest report by the Auditor General of Pakistan.

The report highlights objections totalling over Rs2 billion, raising serious concerns about the management and distribution of funds within the organization.

According to the auditor general, Pakistan Baitul Maal, an institution established to provide financial assistance to the poor, bankrupt, destitute, widows, and orphans, has been found misallocating funds earmarked for these vulnerable groups. Instead of reaching those in need, millions of rupees were reportedly distributed among government employees, the audit reveals. Specifically, the report documents that Rs28.1 million, which was designated for financial assistance to the poor, was instead allocated to government employees. This blatant misuse of funds contradicts the primary mission of Baitul Maal and raises questions about accountability within the organization.—APP

Effective strategy adopted to bring new investment: Minister

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skills Development Department Ch. Shafay Hussain, while addressing a ceremony held here, said that an effective strategy has been adopted to bring new domestic and foreign investment in the province. All possible facilities are being given to the investors to speed up the process of industrialization. Business facilitation centers have been established in 6 major cities of Punjab, he said and added that NOCs are being issued rapidly from these Business Facilitation Centers for establishing new factories.

He highlighted the strong interest and support from Pakistan's renewable energy sector.—APP

Govt must take measures to strengthen industry

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ferrozepur Road Industrial Association (FRIA) senior vice chairman Shahbaz Aslam has proposed the central bank to review its credit policies by fixing a special quota to finance the small and medium enterprises, contributing around 40 percent to the national gross domestic product (GDP). Shahbaz Aslam said that the government with a view to help grow the businesses will have to take solid measures to strengthen the industry, especially the SMEs, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with the small industries. The government will have to make a visible reduction in markup rate to help grow the businesses, particularly the SME sector, as Pakistan needs millions of jobs annually. We need to highlight the critical role of small & medium enterprises (SMEs) in driving sustainable economic development in Pakistan. With an estimated

5.2 million businesses, the SME sector is a cornerstone of our economy, fostering employment, growth, and export diversification. The FRIA senior vice chairman observed that despite their significance, more than 5 million SMEs face a significant credit gap, receiving limited credit, far below the neighboring countries. The State Bank of Pakistan is committed to increasing SME credit share to 17% by 2023. To achieve this, we must advocate for targeted and fixed SME allocations in concessional financing schemes, particularly those aimed at the export-oriented sector. Shahbaz Aslam said that the State Bank of Pakistan has launched various policies for the promotion of SME finance, but the required results were still awaited. It was unfortunate that banks were always reluctant to provide financing to SMEs as their financing continued to show negative growth.

In its endeavor to provide concessional financing to the export-oriented sector, the SBP has introduced the

Export Finance Scheme, offering financing as low as 3%, in stark contrast to the earlier Export Refinance Schemes' (ERF) markup rates that reached 21%. However, it is a matter of great concern that a substantial portion of this financing has been availed by large corporate industries, leaving no room for SMEs. The current economic challenges demand a targeted approach to support the SMEs, as they are among the hardest-hit and in desperate need of assistance. Shahbaz Aslam said that a small section of public sector and Islamic banks and few DFIs were active in financing SMEs sector. Despite significantly contributing to the GDP, exports and employment generation, the financing percentage of SMEs remained pathetic in general. He urged the government that SME policy should focus on addressing specific issues faced by the SME sector and help check reluctance of financial institutions to provide financing to SMEs. He called for early.

AIKO introduces high efficiency N-Type ABC modules

ISLAMABAD: AIKO, a global leader in photovoltaic technology, is expanding into Pakistan with the introduction of its top-efficiency N-Type ABC Modules. This move highlights AIKO's dedication to providing cutting-edge, sustainable energy solutions to growing markets. The launch event, held at a local hotel in Lahore on Friday 09th August and honoured by the presence of Ch. Shafay Hussain, the esteemed Minister of Industries, along with prominent government officials, leading importers, distributors, and key EPC companies, highlighted the strong interest and support from Pakistan's renewable energy sector. "AIKO's launch of high-efficiency solar modules represents a significant advancement for our renewable energy sector," said Ch. Shafay Hussain, Chief Guest and Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skills Development Department, Government of Punjab. "These innovative modules will be crucial in helping Pakistan achieve its renewable energy goals and enhance our energy infrastructure.—APP

Pakistan – a country with boundless culture, heritage

ISLAMABAD: The history of mankind is rich with countless occurrences – wars, conquests, rise and fall of dynasties renaissance, revolutions, bloodshed, religious or social extremism, attire, food and festivals evolving specific civilizations. Each era had its own dynamics, gains and losses, intolerance and rigidity, customs and traditions as well as religious practices. People in those eras used to abide by different, norms, laws and the religious practices in vogue then, strictly gluing to their traditions and verdicts of tribal rulers, kings or sultans. After the long eras of traditions, religion or creed based empires like Romans, Greeks, Babylon's, Ommiad's and Abbasids caliphates - the emergence of new codes transformed ancient system to pluralist societies. Ottoman Empire could be perhaps the last broader and diverse mention worthy empire, existing on basis of religion but housing people from different communities, caste and creeds. With its dismantling during early 20th century, a wave of nationalism emerged wherein people from different religion, caste, creed and races learnt to live together in one state. Then, the binding force among them was nationalism - over and above their caste, creed or religion. Pakistan is also a unique country, boasting of its decade long struggle to get independence purely on a religious slogan and sustain thereon as a separate nation with slight tinge of boundless cultures and heritage mingled with the tints of pluralism. Here the people of different caste, creed, customs and language live together and for them being Pakistani is the foremost recognition and a binding force as for them motherland comes first. "Every nation dreams of national strength and prosperity and for this, it needs rule of law, social justice and a peaceful society," remarked MNA Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani. "Countries or nations with discriminatory policies ultimately lose their identity as 'United They Stand and Divided They Fall.' Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah materialized the dream of great, poet and philosopher Allam Dr Muhammad Iqbal for an independent homeland for Muslims of sub-continent where people following different caste and creed could live together with harmony. "For us Pakistan is our mainstay. No matter to which religion, caste or creed we belong to. Our foremost identity and our top priority is, and must be, Pakistan," Vankwani said.—DNA

77th Independence Day preparations in full swings

RAWALPINDI: Like other parts of the country, preparations for the 77th Independence Day are in full swing here in the Rawalpindi region, as the day is approaching fast and national flags are selling like hot cakes. All the government and private departments are busy finalizing special programs regarding the 77th Independence Day. Different government and private organizations are arranging special programs. The departments will present a flower show, tableaux, dramas, speeches, etc. during five days from August 10-14. The Art Council will also present special programs regarding Independence Day. The district administration has also planned to arrange sports competitions on Independence Day. In Rawalpindi, preparations for the day are

spiking up while the vendors have set up stalls of colorful bunting, national flags, banners, and pictures of national heroes who struggled day and night to achieve a common goal—the creation and safety of the country with the start of August. National songs are being played in every nook and cranny of the city, which give the message that the whole nation is united. The national flag will be hoisted at important buildings to celebrate the day in a befitting manner. Sweets will be distributed among the poor on Independence Day. Special prizes will be awarded to those who best decorate and illuminate their buildings. The educational institutions will also conduct special programs on occasion.—APP

Chairman CDA visit F 9 Park to review Aug 14 preparations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, visited F-9 Park to review the preparations for the Independence Day celebrations, named AzadiFest. While briefing the Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, it was highlighted that various programs have been arranged in F-9 Park under AzadiFest. The Chairman

CDA also inspected the arrangements for musical concert and fireworks. He stated that various events have been arranged to celebrate AzadiFest in a grand manner. He directed that a campaign especially outdoor should be carried out across Islamabad regarding AzadiFest. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa mentioned that various programs have been made part of AzadiFest to make it all inclusive. He stated that Islamabad's first-ever drone show would also be a part of the AzadiFest celebrations. Additionally, he announced that a specific area in F-9 Park would be allocated for tree planting so that families, youth, and children attending the events can plant trees in the designated area. The Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad

emphasized the need for a better traffic plan during the Independence Day celebrations ensuring the best parking arrangements for the citizens participating in the events. Similarly, separate entry gates and areas should be designated in F-9 Park for families, children, and youth during the celebrations so that there could be less traffic congestion. Muhammad Ali Randhawa instructed the Islamabad Police to make foolproof security arrangements. Special areas will be allocated for the media to cover all events and fireworks during AzadiFest. On the instructions of the Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad will oversee the over all arrangements for AzadiFest related activities at F-9 Park.

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The real int'l sports scandal

IS Travis Tygart a political hack? The CEO of the United States Anti-Doping Agency (Usada) is looking exactly like one. After helping to manufacture a Chinese doping "scandal" where there isn't one, he has been busy covering for some American athletes who were caught cheating red-handed. His excuse? Those cheats weren't exposed because they had to work undercover to catch other cheats. Yeah sure, Travis, we understand. How many cheats were involved? How many other cheats were caught in those alleged undercover ops? He didn't say. Were there even such ops? Who knows? We don't even know their identities in three cases cited. All we know is that those American cheats were allowed to continue to compete, keep their prizes and retire with honour. Usada told no one. The World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) found out on its own. Now Wada has issued a statement. It said: "Wada is now aware of at least three cases where athletes who had committed serious anti-doping rule violations were allowed to continue to compete for years while they acted as undercover agents for Usada, without it notifying Wada and without there being any provision allowing such a practice under the [global] code or Usada's own rules." The suggestion that the code, the Wada statement continues, "can be used to justify a failure to prosecute a case for years while doped athletes are sent back into the field as undercover informants to compete against clean athletes is obviously wrong". Only three cases? There are more because Tygart has doubled down and said his agency would continue to use the same undercover tactics. Usada claims Wada is trying to smear its reputation, even though it admits the facts of the cases. Never mind that those US cases are, as Wada has made plain, against all international sports codes and Usada's own rules. That's assuming those "undercover" ops even existed, and were not fabricated out of thin air to cover up for US cheats. But assuming such undercover cases are real, just think about it - how convenient that would be for US athletes. You are caught cheating. So you say, OK, take it easy. I will help you catch big-time cheats and their agents and suppliers. In the meantime, let me compete, keep all my prizes and retire comfortably with my reputation intact. Who wouldn't do it? The real smear campaign comes from Usada and the mainstream Anglo-American media - and the US Congress - as Usada keeps feeding them stories about Chinese swimming "cheats", Congress is threatening to cut funding to Wada. And the FBI and the US Justice Department are investigating the Chinese swimmers. What? Put handcuffs on them when they come to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics? There was no Chinese doping scandal. The China Anti-Doping Agency reported to Wada before the Tokyo Olympics that trace amounts of a banned substance were detected in 23 Chinese swimmers. The Chinese said they likely ate contaminated food. Wada examined the evidence and agreed. So conspiracy! The Americans and some of their Western swimming allies have been shouting on rooftops! Never mind that the drug, trimetazidine (TMZ), is sometimes found in lean beef and pork. Wada said in a statement: "Apart from China, in particular, there have been several of these cases in the United States in the past few months alone, where highly intricate contamination scenarios were accepted."

Bangladesh's student-led uprising

THE events that occurred in Bangladesh, such as the student demonstrations that resulted in overthrowing the Hasina government, call for speculation as to whether such revolutionary movements are contagious for the region at large or not. The major countries in the region are India and Pakistan. Both countries are heavily populated, with India being the most populous country in the world and Pakistan coming in 5th. Thus, if a revolution spreads into the region, it can be devastating, firstly because of the massive population of the region and secondly because revolutions are unpredictable, chaotic, and could create a global-level humanitarian crisis. Bertrand Russel described them as, "Revolutions are born of hope, but they die of violence." In order to assess whether Bangladesh's student-led revolution is contagious or not, analysts tend to map revolts using the concepts of homophily, communication among different agents (groups), and the reactions of governments, as these variables are important indicators to measure the intensity of a revolt. The interaction of these variables can be explained as: when like-minded individuals with similar grievances come together, the feelings of discontent can become amplified, thus, creating a group united for a common purpose (Concept of Homophily). If the government or those in power attempt to violently quash this group, it does not work out well. Instead of pacifying the people, it can enrage them, radicalize them even further, and propel them to the precipice of rebellion. Once pushed against the wall, the groups tend to establish communication with other similar agents (groups) in the country and other parts of the world, which enhances the desire for change through the sharing of ideas, strategies, and hope. Altogether, homophily, violent suppression, and communication - coupled together - may produce the conditions that can be termed a perfect storm. This is exactly what happened in Bangladesh leading to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina and her government. As a means of examining India's case, it can be seen in the past that students have been a potent force for political action in India. Anna Hazare's 2011 movement against corruption and anti-CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act) protests are an example, among others. As in the case of the Bangladeshi incident, there are issues of grievances over employment, governance, and politics raised by students. If students in India feel that they are in a similar situation as students in Bangladesh, homophily could lead to the transmission of revolutionary attitudes, especially in the context of increasing unemployment rates and perceived injustice by the government. Pakistan has also witnessed student activism, however, the military and political authorities have always sought to crack down on such movements. Pakistan also has a less favorable economic outlook, and frustrations over governance and liberal political freedoms are high, which might just foster a similar uprising. If students in Pakistan recognize the Bangladesh settings, particularly about government oppression and limited political freedom, then the homophily principle will foster the transmission of revolutionary ideas.



A medal that save our country from humiliation

Qamar Bashir



Today, all our family members stood with pride once again before the TV screen, watching as the gold medal was garlanded around our hero's neck while our national anthem played in the background. This filled our hearts with overwhelming emotions and brought tears to our eyes. We were at a loss for words to thank Almighty Allah and Arshad Nadeem for giving us such an exalted moment of glory. His achievement saved us from feeling dejected, humiliated, gloomy, and sad

BEING a nation of 250 million people and experiencing one failure after another of our sportspersons in the Paris Olympics was heartbreaking. These defeats were not due to the failure of the players to perform in the sports arena but rather a reflection of our collective failure in almost every discipline compared to developing or developed nations. However, it was perhaps divine intervention that nurtured an honest, pure, dedicated, and talented soul for years, saving us from a total whitewash at the Olympic Games and giving the entire nation priceless moments to relish, celebrate, and cherish.

This moment, like for me and my wife, who did not even blink, fearing to miss the golden moments of glory yesterday, came when our only "HERO" Arshad Nadeem made history. He set a record in javelin throw that no one had ever achieved in the past and which will be difficult to break in the near future. His victory was a beacon of hope and pride, reminding us of the potential we hold as a nation when our talents are nurtured and supported.

Today, all our family members stood with pride once again before the TV screen, watching as the gold medal was garlanded around our hero's neck while our national anthem played in the background. This filled our hearts with overwhelming emotions and brought tears to our eyes. We were at a loss for words to thank Almighty Allah and Arshad Nadeem for giving us such an exalted moment of glory. His achievement saved us from feeling dejected, humiliated, gloomy, and sad. The Chinese Embassy's message which Congratulated its Pakistani brothers and sisters on Arshad Nadeem's historic win of first Olympic gold medal in 40 years and breaking the Olympic record of men's javelin in Paris was heart-warming. Now that the entire nation is fully geared to celebrate Jashan-e-Azadi and is preparing to receive our sole hero of the Olympics, we need to conduct a retrospective inspection. This reflection will help us understand the underlying issues that led to our collective failures in the sports arena and pave the way for future improvements. While being in the power corridors for most of my professional life, I can confidently say that we have

many talented, educated, and expert professionals in every field. However, we all know that our potential cannot be fully realized until we establish the rule of law, have clarity in our national objectives, and consistently respect our constitution and the people's mandate. This includes eliminating the existence of multiple centers of power within the country. Most importantly, it requires investing in our human capital. Pakistan's investment in education, health, vocational training, sports, professional training, and research and development significantly lags behind both developed and many developing countries. Pakistan allocates approximately 1.7% of its GDP (\$4 billion) to education, in stark contrast to the 6.2% and 5.5% (\$800 billion) spent by developed countries and around 9.6% and 9.1% of their GDP spent by some developing countries. In terms of healthcare, Pakistan's expenditure is also minimal, around 2.8% (\$6 billion) of GDP, whereas developed nations often spend between 10-12% (\$4 trillion) of their GDP on health. In research and development (R&D), Pakistan spends less than 0.3% (\$ 700 million) of its GDP, which pales in comparison to countries like South Korea and Israel, which invest over 4% (\$90 billion) of their GDP in R&D. Similarly, vocational training and sports in Pakistan receive minimal financial support. Pakistan's neglect in the sports arena is even more pronounced. The sports budget does not exceed \$40 million annually, which includes funding for the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), various sports federations, and infrastructure projects. There is a lack of a robust network of sports academies and educational institutions dedicated to nurturing young talent. Talent identification programs are sporadic and limited in scope. The economic model for sports in Pakistan is underdeveloped, making the sports economy unattractive and disorganized compared to successful sports nations. Enhanced training facilities and access to world-class coaching are virtually non-existent. Comprehensive athlete support programs, including nutrition, sports science, psychology, and medical care, which ensure athletes remain in peak physical and mental condition, are unknown in Pakistan. The integration of sports science and medicine to produce consist-

ently high-performing and medal-winning athletes is absent. This systemic neglect hampers the potential of Pakistani athletes and prevents the country from achieving significant success in international sports competitions. We know that investment in grassroots programs ensures a steady pipeline of talent by nurturing young athletes from an early age, and long-term investment in these programs will make our sportspersons a dominant force in their respective sports, enabling them to regularly win medals at the Olympics. Structured competitive platforms, such as the college sports system, provide athletes with the necessary experience and exposure, which is crucial for producing numerous Olympic medalists.

We are also well aware that financial support and scholarships allow athletes to focus on training without financial burdens, resulting in sports dominance. International exposure and exchange programs help athletes gain experience and improve performance, leading to consistent success in events like the Olympics and World Championships. These strategies, if implemented effectively, can transform Pakistan's sports landscape and elevate our athletes to international acclaim.

Ironically, despite knowing what needs to be done to create a sustainable sports ecosystem, our politicians, bureaucrats, both military and civilian, and businessmen have failed to take the necessary actions to lift our country from its abysmal despair. Instead, they have created a haven for themselves and their families in Pakistan and abroad. Their children receive quality education, healthcare, training, and capacity building comparable to the privileged in any developed country. Meanwhile, the masses are left to rely on divine mercy and special prayers, with little support or opportunity for improvement. This stark contrast highlights the deep inequalities and neglect that have hindered the nation's progress in every sector, including sports. This time around, divine intervention did the magic; next time, it may not.

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

Unraveling Pakistan's crisis: who is responsible and how did we get here?

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The post-9/11 alliance with the United States in the War on Terror further complicated matters. While Pakistan received substantial aid and support, it also faced severe internal strife and violence as militant groups targeted the state. The complex relationship with neighboring Afghanistan and the unresolved Kashmir issue with India have continued to drain resources and focus, detracting from development and governance

UNDERSTANDING the myriad factors that have led Pakistan to its current state is a complex endeavor, one that requires a multi-faceted analysis of historical, socio-political, economic, and international dimensions. The country's journey to its present condition has been influenced by various elements, each contributing in unique ways to the challenges it faces today. To begin with, any assessment of Pakistan's trajectory must consider its historical context. Since its inception in 1947, Pakistan has faced a series of existential crises, starting with the traumatic partition from India, which led to mass migrations, violence, and deep-seated animosities. The early years were marked by political instability, with frequent changes in leadership and a lack of coherent policy direction. The assassination of its first Prime Minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, in October 16, 1951 was a significant blow, setting a precedent for political violence and instability. As the new nation struggled to find its footing, the military began to play an increasingly dominant role in politics. The first military coup in 1958, led by General Ayub Khan, set a pattern that would be repeated multiple times. Military rule often came with promises of stability and development but frequently resulted in authoritarianism and repression, stifling democratic institutions and civil society. The military's involvement in politics has had long-term implications, including the undermining of civilian governance and the perpetuation of a security-centric state. Economically, Pakistan has faced persistent challenges, including periods of significant growth followed by downturns and crises. The 1960s under Ayub Khan saw substantial industrial growth and development, but these gains were unevenly distributed, leading to regional disparities and social tensions. The nationalization policies of the 1970s under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto further disrupted economic stability, as state control over key industries often led to inefficiencies and corruption. The economic liberalization in the 1980s and 1990s, driven by structural adjustment programs from international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank, aimed to integrate Pakistan into the global economy. However, these measures often led to austerity, reduced public spending on social services, and increased debt. The accumulation of external

debt has been a critical issue for Pakistan, limiting its fiscal space and making it vulnerable to external pressures and economic shocks. One must also consider the geopolitical context. Pakistan's strategic location has made it a focal point of international interests, particularly during the Cold War and the post-9/11 era. The alliance with the United States during the Soviet-Afghan War in the 1980s brought significant military and economic aid but also had unintended consequences. The influx of arms, the rise of militant groups, and the proliferation of narcotics trade destabilized the region and had lasting impacts on Pakistan's internal security. The post-9/11 alliance with the United States in the War on Terror further complicated matters. While Pakistan received substantial aid and support, it also faced severe internal strife and violence as militant groups targeted the state. The complex relationship with neighboring Afghanistan and the unresolved Kashmir issue with India have continued to drain resources and focus, detracting from development and governance. Corruption is a pervasive issue in Pakistan, often with accusations directed at political elites for placing personal gain above national welfare. This results in a persistent lack of accountability and transparency within governance, leading to the misallocation of resources and hindering development initiatives. Historically, each era has witnessed the emergence of new scandals, with the repercussions falling on the leaders of the time as well as the entire nation. Consequently, corruption has led to the deterioration of public trust and the legitimacy of institutions. Moreover, social factors cannot be ignored. Pakistan's population growth has put immense pressure on its resources and infrastructure. The education system has struggled to keep pace, resulting in a large, undereducated youth population. Health services have similarly lagged, contributing to poor human development indicators. Gender inequality remains a significant challenge, limiting the potential of half the population. Religious extremism and sectarian violence have contributed to instability. It has been observed that religion has been utilized by the state, either directly or indirectly, for political justification. However, this has occasionally had adverse effects, cultivating an environment of intolerance and hostility. Given this backdrop, the question of responsibility is com-

plex. There is no single entity or group that can be held solely accountable. Successive governments, both civilian and military, have made decisions that have contributed to the current state of affairs. Political leaders, by prioritizing short-term gains over long-term stability, have played a significant role. The military, with its repeated interventions in politics, has also contributed to the weakening of democratic institutions. International actors, through their policies and interventions, have influenced Pakistan's trajectory. The role of foreign aid, both as a lifeline and as a tool of influence, cannot be understated. The conditions attached to such aid have often dictated economic policies that may not always align with national priorities. The citizens of Pakistan also share in the responsibility. While numerous individuals have endeavored to better their nation, some have exacerbated its challenges through involvement in corruption, intolerance, and the perpetuation of divisions. Nonetheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that wider structural problems and systemic shortcomings frequently restrict personal choices. Addressing the debt crisis and the brink of bankruptcy requires comprehensive and sustained efforts. Structural reforms are necessary to improve governance, reduce corruption, and enhance transparency. Economic diversification is crucial to reduce reliance on external aid and loans. Investing in human capital through education and health services is fundamental to long-term development. Strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring civilian supremacy is vital for political stability. The role of civil society, media, and the judiciary in holding those in power accountable is also crucial. Public awareness and activism can drive change, as seen in movements for justice and rights. International cooperation, based on mutual respect and equality, can support these efforts without imposing undue burdens. In conclusion, Pakistan's current state is the result of a confluence of factors, both internal and external. Understanding this complex web is essential for crafting effective solutions. Responsibility is shared among various actors, including political and military leaders, international stakeholders, and the people themselves. By addressing the root causes and fostering a collective commitment to reform and development, Pakistan can navigate its way towards a more stable and prosperous future.

Briefs

Israeli atrocities in Gaza dulls 14 August...

FROM PAGE 01
"Resolutions are passed, but they hold no weight as Israel's aggression continues unchecked. History has not witnessed cruelty of this magnitude," he asserted. Turning to the contributions of Pakistan's minority communities, the Prime Minister lauded the Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Parsi communities for their dedication to the nation. He noted that millions of Pakistani youth have received education in Christian missionary schools over the past 77 years and acknowledged the significant roles that minorities have played in the judiciary, trade, and the country's overall development. However, the premier also acknowledged the unfortunate incidents in Pakistan's history that have caused harm to minority communities. "These incidents are a blot on our history, and we must ensure they are never repeated," he said, stressing the importance of continued efforts by both federal and provincial governments to protect the rights of minorities.

President Zardari vows to...

FROM PAGE 01
"I am glad to say that Pakistan has taken a number of steps for the political, social and economic empowerment of minorities," he added. He went to add that the government has allocated a 5% quota for minorities for jobs and separate seats in both houses of the Parliament to encourage them to play an effective role in the political and national development of the country. Additionally, President Zardari said steps are being taken to provide financial assistance to poor and deserving individuals, marriage grants, scholarships to students from minority communities for their education, besides the provision of funds for the repair/maintenance of their worship places.

Hasina alleges US behind...

FROM PAGE 01
allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal," Hasina stated, urging her countrymen not to be manipulated by radical elements. Saint Martin Island, a small 3-square-kilometer landmass in the Bay of Bengal, is situated near the southern tip of Bangladesh. Hasina expressed deep sorrow over the violence and unrest that followed her resignation on August 5, amid growing student protests against the controversial quota system for government jobs. The unrest, which included killings, harassment, and vandalism, led to concerns for Hasina's safety, prompting her to leave Dhaka on a military aircraft. She is currently under protection at an undisclosed location in India.

Iranian president names...

FROM PAGE 01
The nominations appear in line with the hopes that the election of Pezeshkian last month, to replace the hardline Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash in May, could lead to a thaw in Iran's relations with the West. However, the parliament, which is dominated by hardliners, will begin a review of the nominees starting on Monday, and then vote whether or not to confirm the lineup. For foreign minister, Pezeshkian picked Abbas Araghchi, a 61-year-old career diplomat. Araghchi, who has extolled open, yet critical, talks with the West, served as the chief negotiator in nuclear talks between Tehran and world powers from 2013 to 2021. He also served as Iran's ambassador to Japan and Finland, and as a deputy of then-Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who was instrumental in reaching the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Karachi City claims National Women's Football Club c'ship

The winning team received a cash prize of Rs 1 million, while the runner-up earned Rs 500,000. The third-place team, Karachi United, took home Rs 300,000, and the Fair Play award went to Hazara Quetta

USAMA ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Karachi City Football Club clinched the National Women's Football Club Championship 2024 title by humbling Legacy FC 4-0 in the final match played at Jinnah Stadium on Saturday night. The grand finale took place between the two top teams, with Karachi City FC showcasing their exceptional skills and strategy. In

the first half, Karachi City FC took a 2-0 lead over Legacy FC. Rameen Farid scored the first goal for Karachi City FC in the 14th minute, followed by Sarah's goal in the 28th minute. The team's momentum continued in the second half, with Zahmena scoring the third goal in the 52nd minute. Zulfia sealed the victory with the fourth goal in the 75th minute. The winning team received a cash prize of Rs 1 million, while the runner-up earned Rs 500,000. The third-place team, Karachi United, took home Rs 300,000, and the Fair Play award went to Hazara Quetta, who were awarded Rs 200,000. Nadia Khan from Karachi City was honoured as the best player of the tournament, Nisha Ashraf from Karachi City was named the best goalkeeper, and Eman Mustafa was recognized as the top scorer with 8 goals. The final was attended by a distinguished group of guests, including Haroon Malik, Chairman of the Pakistan Football Federation NC, Senior member of PFF NC Muhammad Shahid Niaz Khokhar, Lahore Qalandars CEO and owner Atif Rana, PHF President Tariq Bugti, MNA Jamal Raeesani and a large audience of football enthusiasts.



Shan Masood shares strategy to win WTC final

Captain says Pakistan will have to win most of matches from its nine games to win World Test Championship



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood has laid out a clear strategy for the national team to secure a spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) final. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Shan empha-

sised the critical need for victories in the remaining matches of the WTC cycle. Pakistan began their 2023-25 WTC campaign on a high note, securing a decisive victory in a two-Test series against Sri Lanka. However, despite commendable efforts, they were unable to clinch a win in their sub-

sequent three-Test series in Australia, leaving them ranked fifth in the WTC standings. With a packed schedule ahead, including series against Bangladesh, England, South Africa, and the West Indies, Masood stressed the importance of a proactive and positive approach in all facets of

the game—batting, bowling, and fielding. "If we need to compete in the World Test Championship, we need to secure victories, which requires showing intent and positivity in every aspect of the game," Shan stated. The captain also expressed optimism about Pakistan's upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh, set to begin on 21st August in Rawalpindi. He highlighted the advantage of playing seven out of their next nine Tests on home soil, where players are familiar with the conditions. "The positive thing is that we are playing at home and our players will be familiar with the conditions. We need to take advantage of it, but the key will be to handle mental and physical pressure," the Test captain concluded. With nine crucial matches remaining in this WTC cycle, Shan Masood's leadership will be pivotal as Pakistan strives to secure a place in the championship final.

Algerian boxer Imane Khelif files harassment complaint

Both Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting were in the spotlight at the mega sport tournament due to a dispute that remained in the headlines

PARIS: Algerian boxer, Imane Khelif — who was at the centre of a gender dispute following her win at the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024 — has filed a formal legal complaint, citing being an online harassment victim. According to her lawyer, the boxer clinched a gold medal in the women's welterweight category on Friday. Both Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting were in the spotlight at the mega sport tournament due to a dispute that remained in the headlines. The issue was incessantly debated on social media with netizens, including the likes of British author JK Rowling and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, raising questions over Khelif's gender after which she was alleged of playing a women's sport while being a biological man. The Algeria athlete's lawyer Nabil Boudi, in an interview to Reuters, said that the complaint was filed on Friday. "All that is being said about me on social media is immoral. I want to change the minds of people around the world," Khelif said on Saturday. On Friday, Khelif beat Liu to claim the gold medal in the women's welterweight boxing. The gold medalist, who won by unanimous decision, is the first Algerian woman to earn an Olympic boxing title and the first boxer from her country to claim gold since Hocine Soltani at Atlanta 1996. Women's boxing has been in the Olympics since London 2012. "I'm very happy. This is my dream. Eight years, my dream. I'm Olympic champion, gold medalist. I'm very happy. Eight years, I work," the 25-year-old Khelif. — Agencies

Dravid reveals his lowest point as India's head coach

NEW DELHI: Former Indian head coach Rahul Dravid has disclosed that India's Test series defeat in South Africa during the 2021/22 season is the lowest point of his tenure. In the 2021/22 series, under Virat Kohli's captaincy, the Men in Blue had a strong opportunity to secure their first-ever series win against the Proteas on South African soil. After an emphatic 113-run victory at Centurion in the first Test, India was expected to dominate the series. However, with two seven-wicket victories in the following two Tests, the Proteas staged a remarkable comeback, securing an impressive triumph despite India's dominance at various points during both matches. "If you ask me what is the lowest point, I would say that the South Africa Test series early on in my career. We won the first Test match in South Africa in Centurion, and then we were playing in the second and third Test match. We have never won a series in South Africa, as you know. It was a really big opportunity for us to win that series. Some of our senior players were not there," he said on Star Sports. Dravid disclosed that some senior players, such as Rohit Sharma, missed the series. Despite this, India held their own against the Proteas in both matches. However, the Proteas ultimately limited India to low scores when it mattered and comfortably chased down the targets. "Rohit Sharma was injured, and we didn't have some senior players in that series. But we were very close, and in both the Test matches—the second and the third test matches—in the third innings, we had a big opportunity. We could have set a decent score and won the game, but South Africa played well. They chased back in the fourth innings. — Agencies

Kennedy advances to Olympic gold medal

PARIS: Kennedy Blades, the 20-year-old American wrestler, has made it to the final gold-medal match at the Paris Olympics, overcoming tough competition with a series of victories. Her latest triumph in the women's freestyle semifinal at 76kg saw her defeat Kyrgyzstan's Aiperi Medet Kyzy in an 8-6 decision on Saturday night at Champ-de-Mars Arena. Blades, clearly moved by her achievement, was seen collapsing to the mat and burying her head in her hands, overwhelmed by the significance of the moment. Reflecting on her journey, she said, "We're so close. Just one more sleep, and then my body's gonna be feeling really good — although it is right now. But just the rest is gonna make a huge difference. So I'm ready to just blow it through the water." — Agencies

USA's Gymnast asked to return bronze medal

PARIS: USA gymnast Jordan Chiles has lost her bronze medal in the Paris Olympics women's floor exercise after the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled Saturday that the judging panel improperly granted an inquiry that moved her up from fifth. As a result 18-year-old Romanian Ana Barbusu was awarded the floor medal by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) later on Saturday. A devastated Chiles took to Instagram to post four broken hearts, adding: "I am taking this time and removing myself from social media for my mental health thank you". USA superstar teammate Simone Biles said: "Sending you so much love Jordan. Keep your chin up Olympic champ! We love you!" In response to applications filed by the Romanian gymnastics Federation and gymnasts Barbusu and Sabrina Maneca-Voinea, CAS ruled that the appeal of Chiles's degree of difficulty was submitted past the one-minute deadline for such inquiries and should not have been granted. After the review, the score for Chiles, who won team gold with the United States, was upgraded to 13.766. That was enough to earn bronze behind Brazil's Rebeca Andrade and Biles. But it was a devastating blow for Barbusu who thought she had bagged bronze with her score of 13.700. Both she and Maneca-Voinea, who was pushed into fifth, departed the competition in tears. "I can barely express my emotions, I can't believe it," Barbusu told Romanian media on Saturday after she was awarded her country's only medal in the gymnastics competition. "When I heard the news, I was afraid it wasn't true, and once I was sure, I hugged my parents and called everyone who had helped me." Such scoring inquiries are regularly lodged during gymnastics competition, some are rejected and others are upheld, resulting in a change of score. Romanian prime minister Marcel Ciolacu called it a "scandalous situation" and said he would boycott the Olympic closing ceremony. The drama unfolded in the final event of gymnastics competition at Bercy Arena on Monday. CAS said in its statement that its ruling applied to Chiles's score, which it said should be reinstated to its original 13.666. But CAS didn't rule on the final floor exercise ranking, saying FIG would have to sort out the medals. USA Gymnastics and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee issued a joint statement saying they were "devastated" by the ruling. "The inquiry into the difficulty value of Jordan Chiles's floor exercise routine was filed in good faith and, we believed, in accordance with FIG rules to ensure accurate scoring," the governing bodies said. — Agencies

Anisimova shocks Aryna Sabalenka in Toronto

Amanda Anisimova cruised to a stunning 6-4, 6-2 sweep of No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka to reach WTA Toronto semi-final

SPORTS DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States' Amanda Anisimova cruised to a stunning 6-4, 6-2 sweep of No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the quarterfinals of the National Bank Open in Toronto. Anisimova saved 5 of 5 break points in the first set, then trailed 2-1 in the second before capturing the final five games of the match to advance to her first WTA 1000 semifinal. "She's an amazing player, so it's always really tough playing against her. I played her earlier this year at the Australian Open when she was on fire," Anisimova said of Sabalenka. "But I went in with a little bit of a different game plan, and I was really happy with how I was able to execute that today." Next up for Anisimova is countrywoman and No. 8 seed Emma Navarro, a 6-3, 7-6 (5) winner over another American, Taylor Townsend, on Saturday. It's also the first WTA 1000 semifinal for Navarro. "She's a player who is definitely on fire right now, she's playing some great tennis," Anisimova said of Navarro. "I'm sure it will be

a tough match (Sunday). I'm going to talk a little bit with my coach about it, because

it's been awhile since I've played her. ... I'm just looking forward to it." Refreshed Anisimova enjoying herself at Australian Open



after burnout break Townsend had nine aces and one double fault while Navarro finished with zero and eight, respectively, for the match, but it was the latter who came out on top thanks to a scrappy second-set victory. Despite facing deficits of 1-0, 2-1, 3-2, 4-3, 5-4 and 6-5, Navarro never let the set slip away, going on to force a tiebreaker, where Navarro fell behind 2-1 before flipping a switch to jump up 5-2, and she never faltered the rest of the way, another all-American battle. No. 3 seed Jessica Pegula suffocated any chance of an upset with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Peyton Stearns. Pegula knocked off Stearns in 89 minutes. is headed to her fourth consecutive National Bank Open semifinal. In the semifinals, Pegula will take on Diana Shnaider, the No. 14 seed, who upset No. 6 seed Liudmila Samsonova 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in an all-Russian matchup. Shnaider, who took out No. 1 seed Coco Gauff on Friday, recovered from a tough first set by breaking Samsonova twice in the second set. Tied 3-3 in the decisive third set, Shnaider broke Samsonova to go up 4-3 before closing out the match.

Officer embraces martyrdom after...

FROM PAGE 01

"At one of the locations in Bagh, Lieutenant Uzair Mehmood Malik, leading his troops from the front, fought bravely and sent four Khawarij to hell. However, during intense fire exchange, the officer got critically injured," it said. "Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave officers and soldiers further strengthen our resolve," it added. The military's media affairs wing said on August 9 that three Pakistan Army soldiers embraced martyrdom during shootouts with terrorists at three different locations in Tirah Valley. According to the ISPR, the fire exchange had taken place at three different locations in Tirah Valley. During the intense fire exchange, three brave soldiers — Havildar Inam Gul, 37, resident of District Mianwali; Sepoy Muhammad Imran, 29, resident of District Tank and Sepoy Iltaf Khan, 22, resident of District Mardan, — having fought gallantly embraced Shahadat, ISPR had said.

6 passengers arrested over fake visas

FROM PAGE 01

The immigration officer over suspicion, checked the luggage of the travelers and recovered fake European visas from the possession of the accused. The FIA spokesperson stated that the accused belong to Gujranwala, Gujrat and Kotli Azad Kashmir. According to the preliminary investigation, the accused were trying to go to Europe from Saudi Arabia over of fake visas and other bogus traveling documents. FIA further informed that the accused obtained the said visas from various agents against huge amounts, accused were transferred to Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Islamabad for identification of the agents and further legal action.

'Stolen polls undermine political...

FROM PAGE 01

He said when "judges are corrupt, electricity bills issues will not solve. He said IPPs was a big issue but the failure of the economy was more serious matter. He demanded that the national economy should be strengthened. The former Prime Minister said that "Our greatest strength is human resource. We have to increase it while Karachi give Rs7 billion the human resource to the country". Abbas said Karachi being a mega city has number of crisis. He said his party has given solution of the problems being faced by the resident of Karachi. He said in this country, military, judges and politicians break law for their personal interest. He said political parties made struggle for their own interests.

Judges, generals imposed...

FROM PAGE 01

generals imposed an amateur on the country." The federal minister made these remarks referring to the beleaguered and incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. Iqbal emphasized the potential of Pakistan's agricultural sector, stating that billions of dollars could be added to the nation's resources through agricultural exports. "Pakistan is a country with immense potential in every sector. If we are to move forward, we must increase our exports," he noted. He drew a parallel with the recent historic achievements of Pakistani athlete Arshad Nadeem in the Paris Olympics 2024, saying, "We must progress just as Arshad Nadeem raised the flag of Pakistan". "His story teaches us that success is possible even with limited resources," Iqbal further remarked. "If Arshad Nadeem can win a gold medal, why can't this resource-rich country achieve the 'gold medal' in development? Last night, Arshad Nadeem's father told me, 'I have raised my children on halal earnings.'"

Briefs

Death toll rises after landslide at Uganda rubbish dump

KAMPALA: The death toll from a landslide at a vast rubbish dump in Uganda's capital Kampala has risen to 13, according to police, as rescue personnel continued to dig for survivors. After torrential rain in recent weeks, a chunk of rubbish from the city's only landfill site broke off late on Friday, crushing and burying homes on the edge of the site as residents slept. On Saturday, the Kampala Capital City Authority had put the death toll at eight. "The latest we have is 13 dead, but rescue services are continuing," police spokesman Patrick Onyango said on Sunday. At least 14 people have been rescued so far, he said, adding that more could still be trapped but the number is unknown. Tents have been set up nearby for those displaced by the landslide, the Uganda Red Cross Society said. The landfill site, known as Kiteezi, has served as Kampala's sole rubbish dump for decades and had turned into a big hill.—APP

30 killed in armed attack in Nigeria

ABUJA: A recent armed attack in Nigeria's Benue State has killed at least 30 people, according to an official. Matthew Aboh, the commissioner for information in Benue State, reported that the attack occurred in the village of Ayati on Friday night when armed assailants opened fire on residents. Aboh confirmed that at least 30 victims were killed and many were injured. Some reports suggest the death toll could be as high as 50. Crimes become common Benue State has seen intermittent armed violence, with a similar attack last month resulting in 25 deaths. Nigeria has been plagued by violence from armed groups and terror organisations like Boko Haram and ISWAP, the West African branch of Daesh. Despite the death penalty for kidnapping, such crimes are common, with attackers targeting villages, schools and travelers, primarily in the northern regions.—DNA

Gambia arrests ex-general for alleged role in death squad

BANJUL: The Gambian military has said it had arrested a former general who was an alleged member of a death squad under former dictator Yahya Jammeh. Former brigadier general Bora Colley is alleged to have belonged to a paramilitary unit nicknamed the "Junglers" which has long been accused of carrying out extrajudicial killings and torture by the United Nations and rights groups. "Ex-General Colley was arrested on Friday 9 August 2024 around midnight when he voluntarily surrendered himself to the GAF Military Police in Yundum Barracks," near the capital Banjul, the Gambia Armed Forces said in a statement on Saturday. Intelligence services had conducted surveillance operations around his residence in Banjul on the day of his arrest, the statement said. Colley "is currently detained and cooperating with the Military Police in their investigations". Fled the country The Gambian government in 2022 endorsed the recommendations of a commission that looked into atrocities perpetrated under Jammeh, with authorities agreeing to prosecute 70 people, including the former president, who came to power following a coup in 1994. Jammeh, whose 22-year rule of the tiny West African country was marked by numerous human rights violations, lost the presidential election in December 2016 to opposition leader Adama Barrow. He fled the country in January 2017 for Equatorial Guinea, where he finally conceded and handed over power.—Agencies

Spirit of Indonesian Independence festivities continue in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: More than three hundred Indonesian nationals along with their families gathered this morning at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad. Despite rain, they remained enthusiastically join the pre-event series to celebrate the 79th anniversary of the Indonesian Independence Day on 17 August 2024. "Thank you for coming to all Indonesian nationals from Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gujrat, Sialkot, Faisalabad, and Abbottabad," said Mr. Ferry J. Murtiansyah, Chief of the Indonesian Embassy's Committee of the Independence Day 2024 in his welcoming remarks. He also appreciated the presence of all coordinators who have helped the Embassy in protection mission towards its nationals in Pakistan. The pre-event is marked by great festivity. A highly anticipated, joyful aspect of the Independence Day celebration is the indispensable tradition of the sports events and fun games that take place nationwide and across the



globe supported by the Indonesian missions abroad. In Islamabad, the pre-event begins with fun walk at the Diplomatic Enclave. All participants wear T-Shirt in national fervor and spirit of red and white representing the colors of the Indonesian flag. Regardless of age, there are fun activities for everyone. Covering a distance of 3 kilometers the fun walk finished back at the Embassy where the participants were greeted

by refreshments and surprise gifts. Later, various games described as 'Lomba 17an' in the Indonesian language got underway featuring hotly contested various events such as badminton, table tennis, volleyball, and futsal. The Indonesian traditional popular games like Tug of War (Tarik Tambang), Wooden Clog Race (Lomba Bakiak), Sack Race (Balap Karung), Spoon-Marble Race (Lomba Kelereng), and coloring

competitions for the kids were special features of the day. These games highlight the playful and amusing nature of the celebrations not only greatly entertained the participants and spectators but showcased Indonesia's rich cultural heritage as well. Apart from physical activity and amusement, the sports and fun games essentially symbolize the spirits of unity, friendship, and collaboration among Indonesian nationals. "With the funwalk under



rain, we are expected to feel the hard struggle of our nation founding fathers and mothers to reach the independence for us. However, the independence is not the end of our journey. As the first Indonesian President Sukarno declared that the independence is the golden bridge towards justice and prosperity," explained Chargé d'Affaires Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma. Moreover, the Indonesian Chargé d'Affaires while introducing

the Indonesia's 79th Independence Day Logo and Theme, "New Nusantara, Advanced Indonesia", he further illustrated the momentous transition and the ambitious project of shifting the Indonesian capital city and administrative heart from the bustling city of Jakarta to Nusantara City which is greener and sustainable. "Nusantara is conceptualized and designed to be more than just a new capital city but it essentially repre-

sents a long term vision for the nation," he concluded. "For sure, I am very happy. Meeting with my Indonesian friends and having traditional meals together are such blessing for me," said Muna, an Indonesian national married to Pakistani from Kasur, Punjab. "I am coming to the Embassy not alone, but along with my Pakistani families. We really enjoy the event," added Andalusia from Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Venezuelan opp leader calls for mass protests

Venezuelan opposition insists their party's candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez, won the presidential election with 67 percent of the vote

WEB DESK

CARACAS: Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado has urged citizens to participate in mass protests on August 17 to challenge the results of the July 28 presidential election. Machado accused the National Electoral Council of fraud in statements to the media, claiming that her party's candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez, won with 67 percent of the vote. She vowed to continue the fight against what she described as an authoritarian regime, insisting that the opposition would not allow the election to be stolen. "This coming Saturday, August 17, Venezuelans will unite from all over the

world to raise our voices for the truth: on July 28, #VenezuelaWon," she wrote on X. "Let the world see, with the records in hand, that we will not let them steal our victory." "We WON, everyone knows it, and we have the records to prove it," said Machado. Venezuela's National Electoral Council announced on July 29 that President Nicolás Maduro had secured a third term with 51.2 percent of the vote—a result rejected by Gonzalez and Machado. What happened before? Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro has won re-election to a third six-year term with 51.2 percent of votes cast, the electoral council has announced. Elvis Amoroso, president of the CNE electoral body loyal to the

government, told reporters 44.2 percent of the vote had gone to opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia who had been leading in polls. Reacting to the electoral council's announcement, Venezuela's opposition coalition rejected President Maduro's election victory claim, saying it had garnered 70 percent of the vote, not 44 percent as reported by the authority. The Supreme Court summoned all presidential candidates, but only Maduro appeared, while Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia refused to attend. The opposition leader, on the other hand, Machado called for greater support from the international community. Meanwhile, Venezuela believes diversifying trade

currencies is essential for achieving greater freedom and mitigating the effects of sanctions, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Joaquin Perez Ayestaran told Sputnik. "We do believe that the time has come to diversify the basket of currencies in which we conduct legal trade in our nations, it will liberate us and it will also serve as a way to overcome the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures that affect many of our countries, including some that are part of BRICS," Perez Ayestaran said. He further noted that the dominance of a single currency has compelled countries to subordinate themselves, highlighting the need for diversification.

Chinese netizens celebrate Nadeem's gold medal in PO

BEIJING: Chinese netizens joined their Pakistani brothers and sisters celebrating Arshad Nadeem's historic gold medal's win in Paris Olympics, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday. The Stade de France witnessed Pakistani javelin star Arshad Nadeem's remarkable throw of 92.97 meters in the Olympic Games Paris 2024 men's javelin throw final. In a thrilling performance, Nadeem secured the first-ever individual gold medal for his country, setting a new Olympic record to beat defending champion Neeraj Chopra from India. Nadeem's achievement resonated far beyond the stadium, capturing the hearts of sports enthusiasts worldwide, including Chinese netizens. Chinese viewers expressed their joy and admiration for the "Ba Tie" - meaning "Pakistani Iron Brother" - on social media platforms. A China Central Television commentator enthusiastically shouted out Nadeem's monster throw, and comments flooded in, saying, "He has given wings to the javelin!", "Incredible! He's a hero!" "92.97 meters! Bravo! Congrats Iron Brother! First gold! NEW OLYMPIC RECORD!"... Chinese netizens on Weibo, China's version of X, even created a trending tag: "Nadeem surprises his coach's sunglasses off". The tag garnered tens of millions of views, with one user humorously remarking, "OMG the coach's reaction is adorable; he couldn't believe his eyes!" Since its Olympic debut at the London Games in 1948, Pakistan has earned a total of 11 medals over a span of 76 years. However, the last time Pakistan claimed gold was four decades ago, during the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, when the men's field hockey team secured the top prize. Arshad Nadeem's remarkable victory in the javelin throw at the Paris Olympics finally breaks the country's 40-year wait for a prestigious gold medal.—APP

Australian leaders urge govt to ban gambling ads

SYDNEY: An alliance of leading Australians has demanded the government impose a total ban on gambling ads in a country that racks up some of the biggest losses per person in the world. Gambling losses in Australia, with a population of just 27 million, are estimated at Aus\$25 billion a year (US\$16 billion). Adverts enticing people to risk their cash are widespread on television, radio and billboards. Slot machines known as "pokies" are installed in many pubs, too, drawing more to part with their money. "Gambling advertising in Australia is out of control with one million gambling ads being aired on free-to-air television and radio in just one year," said a letter signed by more than 60 prominent Australians to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and the opposition leader. Signatories to the letter released at the weekend included former political, union, sports and faith leaders. They urged Albanese's Labor government and the conservative opposition to agree to outlaw all gambling advertising within three years, in line with the recommendations of a 2023 report into gambling harm.—APP

Meta meets demands, Turkiye unblocks Instagram

ANKARA: Turkiye announced on Saturday that it had restored access to Instagram after the social media company agreed to meet the Turkish authorities' demands. The platform had been blocked on August 2 for failing to comply with Turkey's "laws and rules" and public sensitivities. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's communications director, Fahrettin Altun, had accused Instagram of blocking condolence messages for martyr Ismael Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' Political Bureau, who was assassinated in an Israeli operation in the Iranian capital, Tehran. "Following our negotiations with representatives of Instagram, we will unblock access starting from 9:30 pm (1830 GMT) after they agreed to respond to our demands," Transport and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu confirmed on X. "Since the beginning, we have wanted social media platforms to respect the laws of the Republic," he indicated. Uraloglu cited "violations linked to content," adding that Instagram had refused to delete thousands of posts involving "gambling, drugs and abuse of children." Meta, Instagram's parent company, denied any lack of cooperation, stating that it had removed nearly 2,500 posts at the request of Turkish authorities in the first half of the year.—DNA

BMP seeks steps for \$60b export target

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel has stressed the need for taking practical steps to achieve the government exports target of \$60 in next three years, putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory by providing incentives to the industry. FPCCI former president and Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar lamented that the economy is facing multiple challenges of stagnant exports, high inflation, low growth and declining foreign reserves, with fiscal accounts under immense pressure on account of heavy interest payments. He said that the present situation shows the government would find it difficult to achieve the industrial growth and export target, leading to more pressure on foreign exchange reserves of the country. He asked the government to address the underlying structural vulnerabilities through smooth energy supply at competitive rates, as country's overall export proceeds continued to shrink. As imports fell more than the decline in exports, the trade balance of goods and services improved. Exports are constrained by domestic production issues related to the slowdown of demand in the main export markets and high domestic production costs. Imports are currently constrained by sluggish domestic demand and administrative measures to protect the official foreign reserves level. Since no immediate reversal of these developments is envisaged, the trade balance may further stabilize or further improve somewhat in the upcoming months. He observed that the low textile and clothing exports is gaining momentum over the past five months owing to multiple factors including high energy costs, stuck-up refunds and a slump in global demands despite the massive depreciation of the rupee.—DNA



DKAHA: Pakistan Ambassador to Bangladesh Absolute honor to meet H.E. Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the Oath taking Ceremony at the Presidential Palace.—DNA

Indonesia, Malaysia urge UN action against Israel

Indonesia and Malaysia, both of which are vocal supporters of Palestine and have been critical of Israel since the beginning of its invasion of Gaza in October, called on the international community to hold Tel Aviv accountable

FOREIGN DESK

JAKARTA: Indonesia and Malaysia have called on the UN to unite against Tel Aviv to stop the mass killing of civilians in Gaza, after the latest Israeli attack on a school — at least the 21st in the past 40 days — left more than 100 people dead. At least three Israeli missiles struck the Al-Tabin school in Gaza City — which was sheltering displaced Palestinians — in the early hours of Saturday, targeting people performing dawn prayers at a mosque inside the educational facility. Early reports citing paramedics and

witnesses said that identification of the victims was impossible as "bodies were ripped to pieces" in the attack. Following the massacre, Indonesia and Malaysia, both of which are vocal supporters of Palestine and have been critical of Israel since the beginning of its invasion of Gaza in October, called on the international community to hold Tel Aviv accountable. "The international community should no longer tolerate and accept the belligerence of Israel," the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on Sunday. "Malaysia continues to call for Israel's allies to compel Israel

to immediately stop the killings of innocent Palestinians, and to stop providing Israel with the tools to continue this genocide. An immediate, urgent and decisive action by the UN Security Council is needed to enforce a permanent ceasefire." Malaysia said that Israel has shown "that it has no desire for peace" and urged other Muslim countries under the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation to come together and work with UN member states to demand Tel Aviv comply with the UN Security Council resolution passed in June, which called for a ceasefire in Gaza. Israel's ground and

air attacks over more than 300 days have killed almost 40,000 Palestinian citizens in the besieged strip, according to official estimates, though a study published in the Lancet journal last month estimated that the actual death toll could exceed 186,000. Israel's airstrike on Saturday has sparked a new wave of international condemnation, with the UN Human Rights Office saying that it was at least the 21st attack on schools-turned-shelters that it has recorded since July 4. The strikes have killed at least 274 Palestinians in total, including women and children, the agency added. Israel has defended

its latest operation and claimed that the school was a "command and control center" that "served as a hideout for Hamas terrorists and commanders." Indonesia has also joined growing calls for the UN Security Council to "immediately conduct a comprehensive investigation" into the Al-Tabin school massacre. "Indonesia also calls upon the international community to unite in stopping the crimes against humanity and genocide committed by Israel," the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. "Israel must be held accountable for all these crimes, and all forms of impunity must be brought to an end."

Briefs

Hamas rejects Israeli claim of having command center in bombed school

DOHA: The Palestinian Hamas resistance group has dismissed the Israeli military's allegations that it had set up a "command and control center" at a school compound housing displaced Palestinian families in Gaza City, where more than 100 people were killed and dozens wounded in a dawn strike. The Gaza-based group, in a statement, also denied the Israeli claim that 19 resistance fighters from Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements were killed in the assault on the al-Tabin school in Gaza City's al-Daraj neighborhood as "false and baseless." "Such claims have made been in an attempt to justify the heinous crime amid widespread international criticism," the statement read. "We emphasize there was not a single armed individual among those martyred in Saturday's massacre. They are all civilians who were targeted while performing morning prayers. The victims include children, civil servants, university professors and religious figures, most of whom have no connection whatsoever to any political or military party," Hamas noted. The Palestinian resistance group went on to describe the Israeli attack on the Gaza school as "among thousands of massacres committed by the criminal and Nazi Israeli regime in the Gaza Strip. The Zionist entity deliberately and intentionally targets unarmed civilians," in the coastal sliver. -Agencies

Dozens of Rohingya killed in drone attack

BANGKOK: A drone attack on Rohingya fleeing Myanmar killed many dozens of people, including families with children, several witnesses said, describing survivors wandering between piles of bodies to identify dead and injured relatives. Four witnesses, activists and a diplomat described drone attacks on Monday that struck down families waiting to cross the border into neighbouring Bangladesh. A heavily pregnant woman and her two-year-old daughter were among the victims in the attack, the single deadliest known assault on civilians in Rakhine state during recent weeks of fighting between junta troops and rebels. Three of the witnesses told Reuters on Friday that the Arakan Army was responsible, allegations the group denied. The militia and Myanmar's military blamed each other. Reuters could not verify how many people had died in the attack or independently determine responsibility. Videos posted to social media showed piles of bodies strewn across muddy ground, their suitcases and backpacks scattered around them. Three survivors said more than 200 had died while a witness to the aftermath said he had seen at least 70 bodies. -Agencies

5 killed in armed clash over land dispute

SUKKUR: Five individuals has been reportedly dead in a violent armed clash between two groups over land dispute in Sukkur's Bagarji police station limits. According to police officials, the dispute, rooted in a long-standing land conflict, escalated into a deadly exchange of gunfire between the rival groups. The rescue spokesperson disclosed that the four members of the same group were killed on the spot, three belonged to the same family, while another injured individual succumbed to his injuries during treatment at the hospital. The police also reported that this is not the first violent encounter between the groups; a previous altercation had already claimed the lives of three people. -Agencies

Free online visas for people of Turkiye from Aug 14: Naqvi

Mohsin Naqvi meets Turkish ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçaci

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met with Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçaci at the Ministry of Interior. During the meeting Pakistan-Turkey bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail. Furthermore, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of security, police, and civil armed forces. It was also decided to send Pakistani police officers to Turkey for training under the exchange program. On the occasion, the minister said that from August 14 this year, Turkish citizens will be able to obtain free online visas. He added that this step will make it much easier for Turkish brothers and sisters to visit Pakistan. He stated that he will visit Turkey in October at the invitation of the Turkish Government, where productive steps will be proposed to increase mutual cooperation. The minister mentioned that Pakistanis consider Turkey as their second home. "Both countries have long-standing religious, cultural, and trade ties and we are desirous of further strengthening these relations", he added. The release of Pakistani prisoners in Turkey was also discussed in the meeting and it was agreed to soon finalize the agreement in this regard. Turkish Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Paçaci said that Turkey renders huge importance to the brotherly relations with Pakistan and will continue the cooperation with Pakistan in various fields. Federal Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha and Additional Secretary Interior Riffat Mukhtar Raja were also present on the occasion.



Expatriates call for intervention to stop the crimes of colonialist gangs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Gangs of extremist colonialists continue to commit more crimes, attacks and violations against Palestinian citizens, their land, homes, property and crops throughout the length and breadth of the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem, in a continuing racist colonial escalation under the protection of the occupation army and the political level in the Israeli government, especially with the support, support and instigation of Ministers Smotrich and Ben Gvir. Whether it is related to burning agricultural lands and trees, or throwing stones at citizens' vehicles, breaking them and burning them, or controlling the main roads, closing them and preventing citizens from using them in full view of the occupation army, as the crimes of the occupation forces and colonists during the month of last July, according to the report of the Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission, amounted to about 1,110. While the Ministry condemns in the strongest terms the crimes of the occupation forces and colonizers, it emphasizes that their continuation is clear evidence of the failure of the international community to respect and implement its relevant resolutions, especially Security Council Resolu-

tion 2334, and also reflects the weak level of international reactions towards settlement and the attacks of settlement associations and their elements, including: This is due to the inadequacy of the sanctions taken by some countries against a number of these terrorist elements. The Ministry calls on the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures imposed by international law to ensure the implementation of its decisions. It also calls on countries to place colonial associations on their terrorist lists and to prosecute and hold accountable colonial war criminals, especially those who hold the nationalities of those countries. In this context, the Ministry continues its efforts at all international levels to expose these violations and crimes, and demands real international pressure on the occupying state to rein in the colonists and put an end to their escape from any law. It reaffirms the illegitimacy of the settlement and its racist colonial system and calls for the rapid dismantling of its terrorist organizations that commit attacks against Our people, drying up their sources of funding, and removing political and legal protection for them, and believes that stopping the war of genocide against our people and stopping settlement is the correct approach to restoring the political horizon for resolving the conflict.

Jl warns of nationwide protest if govt fails to adhere agreement

Baloch emphasized that if the government fails to implement the agreement, the next phase of their protest will involve a nationwide mobilization towards the capital

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami has issued a stern warning that if the government does not adhere to the agreement made with the party, caravans from all over the country will march towards Islamabad for protest. Speaking to the media, the Naib Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan, Liaqat Baloch, expressed dissatisfaction with

the government's handling of the recent sit-in, stating that while negotiations and agreements have been made, the rulers often make decisions under external pressure. He revealed that a task force has been established for the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), which is expected to submit its findings within a month. Baloch emphasized that if the government fails to implement the agreement, the next phase of their protest will involve a nationwide mobilization towards the capital. Praising Arshad Nadeem, who won a gold medal for Pakistan in the Paris Olympics, Baloch welcomed him back to the country, highlighting that his success demonstrates the immense potential of Pakistani youth. He urged the government to invest in sports beyond cricket to nurture such talent. On the subject of minority rights, Liaqat Baloch reiterated that minorities in Pakistan are respected and have full rights, including representation in the assemblies. He emphasized that Islam is a strong advocate for the protection of minority rights and affirmed that no one should be coerced into changing their beliefs.

JUI-F ready to work with all stakeholders: Fazl

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Sunday that his party was ready to work with all stakeholders to steer the country out of crisis. He made this remark while addressing the traders convention where he said the JUI-F was proud to represent people from all backgrounds. The JUI-F said the country has been blessed with a plenty of resources but due to bad governance, its potential has been ruined. "In the whole south Asia, Pakistan is the only country whose economy has been continuously shrinking and the biggest reason behind this mess is the parliament full of people who do not represent the ordinary masses," he added. He said he informed the PML-N leadership that the economy is troubled, and while policies have been implemented, they have exacerbated the situation.

Israel will pay for acts of aggression: Iran

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's interim Foreign Minister says the Islamic Republic will "legitimately" and "decisively" make Israel pay for its crimes, including the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. In a telephone conversation with Belgian Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib on Saturday evening Ali Bagheri Kani said that the Israeli regime has destabilized West Asia with its strikes on Gaza and Lebanon and the "coward" assassination of Haniyeh on Iranian soil. "In line with the defense of its national security, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty, the Islamic Republic of Iran will legitimately and decisively make the oppressive Israeli regime pay the price for its aggression under the international law and procedures as well as the UN Charter," he pointed out. For her part, Lahbib voiced deep concern over the unfolding developments in West Asia, saying, "Brussels is worried about the deterioration of the situation in the region as lack of control over the state of affairs will result in a full-blown war."

Israel broadens evacuation orders after deadly Gaza school strike

NEWS DESK

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip: The Israeli military ordered more evacuations in southern Gaza early Sunday after a deadly airstrike on a school-turned-shelter in the north killed at least 80 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. Israel said it targeted a militant command post, killing at least 19 fighters. Israel has repeatedly ordered mass evacuations as its troops have returned to heavily destroyed areas where they had previously battled Palestinian militants. The vast majority of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced by the 10-month old war, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands have crammed into squalid tent camps with few public services or sought shelter in schools like the one struck on Saturday. Palestinians say nowhere in the besieged territory feels safe. The latest evacuation orders apply to areas in Khan Younis, including part of an Israeli-declared humanitarian zone from which the military said rockets had been fired. Israel accuses Hamas and other militants of hiding among civilians and launching attacks from residential areas. Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city, suffered widespread destruction during an air and ground offensive earlier this year. Tens of thousands fled again last week after an earlier evacuation order. Hundreds of families carrying their belongings in their arms left their homes and shelters early Sunday, seeking elusive refuge.

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