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Over allegations of land grabbing

Ex-ISI chief Faiz taken into custody by military; court martial initiated

Process of "Field General Court Martial" initiated against former spy master, says military's media wing



STAFF REPORT / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hamid has been taken into custody by the army over allegations of land grabbing and snatching valuables from the owner of a private housing society, the military's media wing said in a statement on Monday. "Complying with the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by the Pakistan Army to ascertain the correctness of complaints in Top City Case made against Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz

'This is just a beginning' Faiz, PTI two sides of same coin: Vawda

Rana Sanaullah welcomed Hamid's arrest, saying the step will help enhance Army's goodwill and respect

ISLAMABAD: Independent Senator Faisal Vawda has linked the arrest of former Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lieutenant General (ret'd) Faiz Hamid by the military with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying that the arrest is just a beginning with many more to come. Giving his reaction to the development, Senator Vawda said: "This is just the beginning; many big figures are about to fall." Terming the development as "excellent decision" taken for the sake of the country, Vawda said whoever caused any harm to the country will be held accountable. "The process of accountability will be seen in the country," he noted. He also claimed that the PTI and the former spy chief are two sides of the same coin, claiming that the incarcerated party founder Imran Khan and his party will face the music in the coming days. The former PTI leader underscored the need for everyone to let institutions to do their official work. — DNA

Hamid," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. Consequently, the ISPR said appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against the former spymaster under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act. It added that multiple instances of violation of the Pakistan Army Act post-retirement have also been established against the former general, who also served as Peshawar corps commander. "The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hamid has been taken into military custody," the ISPR said in the communique. The arrest was made in connection with a petition filed by a housing

society's chief executive officer (CEO) in the Supreme Court last year, wherein the former ISI director general (DG) was accused of land grabbing and stealing valuables during a raid. In a plea filed with the apex court's human rights cell (HRC) in November last year, the petitioner sought action against the former DG ISI. "After the raid, I along with my five other colleagues were kept in confinement. The federal government should take action against Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hamid, his brother Najaf and others," the petitioner Moez Ahmed Khan had stated in his petition.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visits various stalls setup by young entrepreneurs at the International Youth Day ceremony. — DNA

PTI demands issuance of notification

Imran threatens protests if CJP tenure extended

Khan further accused authorities of orchestrating crackdown on PTI under false pretenses

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, has warned of potential protests if the government disregards decisions concerning reserved seats and attempts to extend the Chief Justice's term. During an informal discussion with journalists in Adiala Jail, Khan expressed his discontent with the current political climate, comparing Pakistan's situation to that of Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina. "Our conditions are worse than Bangladesh's," Khan claimed. Describing the conditions, the PTI's supremo noted that Hasina Wajid had appointed her own Army Chief, Chief Justice, and police chiefs while sidelining opposition parties.

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PTI decries SC ruling SC overturns LHC verdict, restores 3 PML-N MNAs

Justice Aqeel Abbasi of the top court dissented with the decision

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday overturned Lahore High Court's (LHC) verdict declaring a recount of votes in three National Assembly constituencies null where

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Briefs

Murad Sadpara passes away on Broad Peak
Sadpara, who rescued several mountaineers, led K2 cleanup expedition this year to retrieve body of mountaineer

DNA

SHIGAR: Mountaineer Murad Sadpara, who was leading the K2 cleanup expedition this year, has passed away after getting seriously injured during his way back from Broad Peak, the Broad Peak Rescue Team confirmed. The rescue team, which left the base camp earlier today, has reached Camp One and confirmed Sadpara's death. Days after successfully retrieving the body of Hasan Shagri, a mountaineer who had died last year, from the extreme height of K2 and bringing it to the base camp, Sadpara had embarked on another expedition to summit K2's Broad Peak, with a Portuguese mountaineer.

NAB court acquits Khaqan

Abbasi insists that NAB should be abolished for the betterment of the country

COURT REPORTER

KARACHI: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Monday acquitted all accused including former premier Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in case of illegal appointments in the Pakistan State Oil (PSO). The hearing was held in the NAB court Karachi in which court accepted application of the NAB authorities of taking back the case and acquitting all those accused. Others who were acquitted included former managing director of PSO Imranul Haq, former petroleum secretary Arshad Mirza and Yaqoob Sattar.

Ambiguity over Sindh governor

MQM-P threatens to quit coalition govt

"It was decided [in meetings] with PML-N that Kamran Tessori will remain governor," says Farooq Sattar

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Amid the ongoing ambiguity surrounding the future of Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, the Muttahi Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has said that it will have no reason to be part of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government if any unilateral decision is made regarding the said Constitutional post. "The Sindh governor belongs to the MQM-P. It was decided [in meetings] with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) that Tessori would remain the governor," senior MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar said. The Karachi-based party's warning comes as last week sources told Geo News that the PML-N-led federal government has come to terms with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which rules

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Sheikh Rashid predicts technocrat govt by Sept 20

Says Nawaz Sharif will not give extension to anyone and govt is almost over

MEHTAB PIRZADA

RAWALPINDI: Former federal minister Sheikh Rashid on Monday predicted that the government would be sent packing soon as technocrats would hold the reins on Sept 20. Speaking to media outside the Adiala Jail,

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PM unfurls initiatives for youth

PM also launched the nationwide registration for the National Volunteer Corps

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif today inaugurated several initiatives for youth, including Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance Secretariat, Digital Learning Portal, AI for Youth Programme, Smart Youth Smart Pakistan, and National Volunteer Corps. He inaugurated these initiatives at a ceremony in Islamabad. The Commonwealth Secretariat and Intel Corporation have collaborated for the introduction to AI for self-paced modules, including AI Introduction,

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Petroleum prices may see drop from Aug 15

OGRA currently finalising its recommendations, which will be submitted to Fin Minister Ishaq Dar

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A sigh of relief for inflation-hit masses as the federal government is expected to announce a reduction in the prices of petroleum products in the upcoming fortnightly review on August 15, 2024. According to sources within the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), petrol, diesel, and kerosene prices are likely to see a substantial decrease. The price of petrol is anticipated to drop by more than Rs9 per litre, while diesel may witness a

reduction of approximately Rs8.5 per litre. Kerosene, used primarily in rural areas, is expected to see the largest decrease, with prices potentially falling by over Rs12 per litre. The OGRA is currently finalising its recommendations, which will be submitted to Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. The minister, in consultation with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is expected to make the final decision on the new rates. The revised prices will take effect from August 16, 2024. As of the first

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ASEAN-Pakistan relations continue to flourish

Chairman of the ASEAN Islamabad Committee (ASI) and High Commissioner of Brunei Haji Kamal Bashah says this year's theme, "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience," was particularly timely and significant as we try to navigate ourselves within the complexities of this modern world

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the ASEAN Islamabad Committee (ASI) and High Commissioner of Brunei Haji Kamal Bashah has said since its establishment on 8 August 1967, ASEAN has been a cornerstone of regional stability and growth. With a combined population of over 690 million people and a combined GDP surpassing 3.6 trillion USD, ASEAN has emerged as one of the significant political and economic player in the global stage. He expressed these views on the occasion of the 57th ASEAN Day celebrations, held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. This annual celebration stands as a testament of our collective achievements based on our shared vision for a united and prosperous Southeast Asia. The High Commissioner further said, this year's theme, "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience," was particularly timely and significant as we try to navigate ourselves within the complexities of this modern world. "Today, we have undoubtedly been facing numerous global challenges, including the aftermath of the pandemic, regional conflicts, economic uncertain-

ties, and the urgent need of combating the climate change phenomena. In these challenging times, regional organization like ASEAN will continue to play a crucial role in fostering multilateral cooperation in the effort of effectively addressing these issues'. ASEAN, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to be known, is a regional organization which currently comprising of the ten member states: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. We have also recently been welcoming Timor-Leste to be our ASEAN member as they have now been conducting their intensified efforts in implementing the roadmap criteria towards their full membership, he added. High Commissioner Kamal said, their commitment to dialogue, consultation, and cooperation based on the ASEAN Way principle, had been instrumental in maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. This was particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when ASEAN's coordinated efforts were vital in mitigating the virus's socio-economic impacts. Talking about the community vision he said, they took pride in progress to-



wards the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which encompassed political-security, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions. This vision underscored our cooperation in critical areas such as defense, counterterrorism, peacekeeping,

economic integration, climate action, and disaster risk reduction. Dilating upon relations between ASEAN and Pakistan the High Commissioner said, the partnership between ASEAN and Pakistan was rich in history and continues to flourish, grounded in mutual respect and shared goals. Since Pakistan was accorded sectoral dialogue status with ASEAN in 1993, our cooperation has expanded across numerous sectors, including trade, investment, science and technology, environment, tourism, and human resources development. "This relationship can be seen in many different forms over the years, including Pakistan's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in 2004 and the establishment of the ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (APJSCC) which has been instrumental in enhancing our collaboration'. 'Adding to this, just earlier this year, we also welcomed the adoption of the Practical Cooperation Areas between ASEAN and Pakistan for the period of 2024 - 2028, which we are confident will be an instrumental overall framework to advance ASEAN-Pakistan cooperation over the next four years'. Unfurling details of the trade and invest-

ment cooperation he said, the preliminary data indicated that the total two-way trade between ASEAN and Pakistan was growing admirably, rising from USD 10.22 billion in 2021 to USD 10.62 billion in 2022, amounting to about 3.84% increase for that period. These numbers are expected to continue of increasing, particularly as ASEAN is also projecting an economic growth of 4.6% in 2024 and 4.7% in 2025 respectively. "The ASEAN tourism industry is a vital economic sector for many nations in the region, is anticipated to continue for its recovery in 2024 as international tourism flows normalize towards pre-pandemic levels across Southeast Asia. This positive trend has been reflected in the number of Pakistani tourists visiting ASEAN countries, which had surged to approximately 131,000 in 2022, marking a more than 50% increase from the 2021 figure of around 5,100'. 'As we celebrate ASEAN's 57th anniversary, allow us this opportunity to reaffirm our dedication toward peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. I also wish to thank my fellow ASEAN Heads of Missions, ACI Committee members, Serena Hotel, participants, and all those who have contributed to making this event into a reality, he concluded.

BISP, PSDF discuss progress on skill training programme

Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of offering top-quality training courses that are recognized internationally

MEHTAB PIERZADA

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Punjab Skill Development Fund (PSDF) held an important meeting at BISP Headquarters to discuss the progress of the BISP Skill Training Programme. The meeting was attended by Chairperson of BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid, Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmad and CEO of PSDF,

Ahmed Khan. The meeting focused on the progress of the Skill Training Programme, which aims to provide skill development opportunities to BISP beneficiaries and their family members across various trades. Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of offering top-quality training courses that are recognized internationally. She pointed out that such training could help beneficiaries find jobs abroad, improving their economic situation and allowing them to

contribute to the country's economy. She also mentioned the increasing need for skilled workers in areas like hospitality management, home care, and receptionist roles. She stressed that trainees should learn basic work ethics and hygiene practices. Ahmad Khan assured full support from PSDF in providing assistance for the skill training of BISP beneficiaries and their family members. He reiterated PSDF's commitment to ensuring the success of this programme.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes awards among young entrepreneurs and high achievers in various fields at an event organized to celebrate the International Youth Day.—DNA

PRCS commemorates International Youth Day

PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari remarked, "On this International Youth Day, we stand with the global community in celebrating the remarkable achievements of our youth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) celebrated International Youth Day with a vibrant event at the Fatima Jinnah Auditorium, located at the PRCS National Headquarters, on Monday. The event was attended by PRCS staff, representatives from Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, students from various educational institutions, and a large number of volunteers. International Youth Day, observed annually on August 12, highlights the

contributions of young people to societal development and raises awareness of the challenges they face. In his address, PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari remarked, "On this International Youth Day, we stand with the global community in celebrating the remarkable achievements of our youth. This year's theme, 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development,' emphasizes the vital role that digital literacy and innovation play in building a more equitable and sustainable future."

Chairman Laghari affirmed PRCS's commitment to creating an environment where youth can thrive, innovate, and lead. He noted that through various programs, initiatives, and capacity-building trainings, PRCS equips the younger generation with the tools and knowledge necessary to overcome challenges and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. "We take great pride in our youth, and their significant contributions across all sectors of society are well recognized," he added. He also urged all stakeholders, governments, civil

society, the private sector, and educational institutions to invest in enhancing the digital skills of young people. "Let us work together to ensure that the digital pathways they pursue today lead to a more prosperous and sustainable future for all," Chairman Laghari concluded. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and the distribution of certificates to outstanding young participants. The PRCS Youth and Volunteer Department continues to run mentorship programs throughout the year, with active participation from students across various educational institutions.

NUST awarded STZ status

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark development, the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) has been awarded the Special Technology Zone (STZ) status, further reinforcing its role as one of the key drivers of Pakistan's knowledge economy. The National Science and Technology Park (NSTP), a flagship project of NUST, will be the primary beneficiary of this status, marking a significant milestone in the university's mission to advance innovation and technological advancement. NSTP not only capitalizes on the university's core strengths and competencies but also avails robust support from the Government of Pakistan. Since its inception in 2019, NSTP has achieved remarkable milestones, including generating over PKR 20 billion in revenue, creating more than 6,000 high-tech jobs, and securing over PKR 10 billion in funds raised by its resident firms. This success highlights NSTP's pivotal role in promoting a dynamic ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan. The STZ status has been conferred on two distinct land parcels within the NUST campus. The first parcel, covering approximately eight acres, will house the NSTP Towers, which will accommodate startups, SMEs, and anchor tenants focused on AI, Chip Design, and other emerging verticals. This strategic development is set to create a thriving ecosystem for AI innovation, enabling Pakistan to make significant strides especially in the field of Artificial Intelligence.—APP

Kundi thanks center to allocate funds for lift canal

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday paid thanks to federal government for allocating funds for the long-standing demand of the Chashma project Dera Ismail Khan that will not only resolve the water problem but to increase in agriculture sector. He said this during a meeting with a delegation of senior journalists from Dera Ismail Khan led by senior journalist Muhammad Saleem Qureshi and the Chief Editor of a local daily, Chaudhry Asghar at the Governor's House Peshawar. The governor said that he always raised the issue of the lift bank canal at every forum. He said that the Chashma Lift Canal is a crucial irrigation project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, designed to enhance agricultural productivity by diverting water from the Chashma Barrage to the arid lands of Dera Ismail Khan. This ambitious project involves lifting water from the barrage through a series of pumps and canals,

providing a reliable water source to areas previously affected by water scarcity, he remarked. Governor Kundi emphasized that the development and prosperity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are among his top priorities. He highlighted the need for collective efforts to ensure peace and stressed the importance of the media's role in promoting messages of peace, unity and tolerance.

He acknowledged the public's concerns about the state of education and healthcare in the province, admitting that there has been insufficient progress in these sectors. Governor Kundi revealed that a provincial council of political parties is being formed to negotiate with the federal government for the province's rights. Ongoing discussions with various political leaders are in the final stages and he expressed hope that a unified approach would strengthen their case for provincial rights. The governor also lauded media's role, saying that media plays a crucial

role in highlighting public problems by serving as a bridge between the public and the government. He said that the media not only informs the public but also fosters dialogue and encourages action among policymakers, activists, and the general population. This visibility can drive change by amplifying the voices of those affected and holding relevant stakeholders accountable. Governor Kundi added, "Meanwhile, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi during a Jirga with Orakzai people led by Malik Iqbal Hussain said that the district is full of natural resources, tourism spots, and cultural slogans and is in need of the hour of government's attention. The governor expressed grave concerns about the security situation in the province, emphasizing that without ensuring peace, development and prosperity are unattainable. He stressed the need for collective responsibility to safeguard the area from anti-Pakistan elements."

Over 1 million trees to be planted to celebrate Independence Day

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's Forest Department has launched a massive tree plantation campaign to mark the 78th Independence Day of the country. Over 100,000 trees will be planted across the province, with a target of 6 million trees by the completion of the Monsoon Tree Plantation campaign. The campaign will start with tree planting ceremonies in Peshawar, where children and adults will be encouraged to plant trees along with hoisting the national flag. Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, and other high-ranking officials will participate in the central Independence Day ceremony by planting trees. According to Latif ur Rehman, Spokesperson for the Department of Climate Change, Forests, Environment, and Wildlife, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the campaign aims to promote a green and lush environment in the province.—APP

Gilani calls upon youth to equip themselves with skills

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Monday called upon the youth to equip themselves with the skills and knowledge necessary to create a sustainable future. In his message on International Youth Day, he extended heartfelt greetings to the vibrant and dynamic youth of Pakistan. He said

that Pakistan is a country blessed with talent and potential. Quoting an example of the recent record-breaking success Arshad Nadeem brought to the country, he said, "Young blood with its valour and determination can achieve great things and make the nation proud." He added that youth are the real agents of change, and their role is crucial for the country's progress and prosperity. The chairman said that

youth participation in the democratic process is vital for the continued growth and stability of Pakistan. Gilani said that Pakistan faces many challenges on the socio-economic front. "With youth constituting more than 60% of the total population, they have the potential to contribute significantly towards the country's progress, overcoming challenges, and working together for a brighter future" he added.

Punjab cabinet to approve LG law draft soon: Minister

LAHORE: Provincial Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that the legislative process is underway to conduct local bodies elections in Punjab. There is ambiguity in the law made by the former government. He was addressing a round table conference on the topic of local democratic governments. Civil society representatives, senior journalists and others also participated in the conference. The participants emphasized the need for early holding of local body elections in Punjab. Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that the Local Government Act 2019 called for the abolition of the Union Council, the basic unit of local bodies. He regretted that elected local bodies were not allowed to flourish in the past decades, but Muslim League-N has a track record of conducting local bodies elections during its tenure. Zeeshan Rafiq reminded that Muhammad Nawaz Sharif strengthened the local bodies during his prime ministership, but the government that came after him sent the local bodies of the Muslim League-N government home. He said that under the supervision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the preparation for holding local body elections in Punjab is proceeding ahead. "Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has set up a high-level committee within a month of assuming power, which has studied various systems and sent the recommendations of the new bill to the cabinet," he said. The Minister expressed the hope that the provincial cabinet will soon approve the draft law after which the matter will go to the Punjab Assembly. He termed the Local Government Act of the previous government as unworkable, adding that the division between cities and villages was abolished in this law, which created complexity in the system.—DNA

Concluding ceremony of summer art camp, 2024

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Puppet Theatre & Children Art Workshop (NPT & CAW) was established by PNCA in 1975-76 to promote and revive traditional puppetry, develop and promote artistic skills in children and youth. Since then, PNCA has organized hundreds of workshops, classes and competitions through its NPT & CAW to promote various genera of visual & performing arts including drawing, painting, crafts making, calligraphy, singing, violin, guitar, keyboard playing, puppetry. Among some major initiatives, NPT & CAW had started Summer Art Camp comprising a series of two months short courses in Visual & Performing Arts since 1998 during summer vacations of children. PNCA has trained thousands of students in drawing and paintings, music and calligraphy classes during its annual Summer Art Camp over the last three decades. This year, during the summer vacations of students, PNCA has arranged art & crafts classes for children aged 4 to 10 years, drawing & painting classes for children aged 11 to 18 years, guitar & keyboard classes for children aged 7 to 18 years and calligraphy classes for children aged 5 to 18 years. Besides, this PNCA has also collaborated with Federal Directorate of

Education, Islamabad in their initiative Summer Fiesta, 2024 where drama workshops, singing workshops, calligraphy classes and puppet making workshops were held from June 26,

certificates distribution was held on Monday 12th August, 2024 at 04:00 pm at PNCA, Gallery No. 10. While addressing the closing ceremony, Mr. Muhammad Ayoub Jamali, Director

addressing best such a short span of time starting their learning from scratch to draw still life painting, produce print making and painting in water colours. Parents while



2024 to July 09, 2024 at IMCG (PG) F-7/4, IMS (IV), Sector F-6/3, IMCG, Sector F-10/2, IMCB G-6/2, and IMCG Sector I-10/4 which were highly applauded by students and FDE Management. Concluding ceremony of the Summer Art Camp, 2024 followed by display of the exhibits of students and



General PNCA thanked parents to bring students at PNCA encouraging them to develop artistic skills and utilize their vacations in learning art of music and drawing, crafts making. He warmly congratulated students, organizers and teachers who have put their efforts in pro-



addressing to the media thanked PNCA's management for provision of comforting atmosphere for their children while attending courses at PNCA during Summer Vacations. Parents urged PNCA to arrange training programs on regular basis at PNCA.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

Aug 01/China
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzerland
National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01 /Syria
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Bukino Faso
National Day

Aug 09 /Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea
Independence Day

Aug 15/India
Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17 /Indonesia
Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine
Independence Day

Aug 25/Uruguay
Independence Day

Aug 30 /Turkey
Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/Kyrgyz Republic
Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia
National Day

Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
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Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad.....1122 & 16
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& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
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Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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MH.....5611116
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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

Global security implications and Pakistan's agri crisis

The UNFCCC defines climate change as “a change in climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, in addition to natural climate variability

ISLAMABAD: Once considered an environmental issue, climate change has now become a critical security threat as over half of the global economy grows increasingly reliant on natural resources. This shift is reshaping geopolitical dynamics and prompting nations to revise their sustainability strategies. The UNFCCC defines climate change as “a change in climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, in addition to natural climate variability.” Sudden climate changes can lead to catastrophic events that threaten human survival, increasing vulnerability to non-traditional security threats like resource scarcity and flash floods. Resource scarcity is a significant way climate change threatens international security. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), India's economy, heavily reliant on nature, is extremely vulnerable to climate risks. A third of its GDP

comes from nature-dependent sectors, and the climate crisis could cost the country between 6.4% and 10% of its national income by 2100, potentially pushing 50 million more people into poverty. Climate change has already impacted regions in Africa and reduced water levels in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which could heighten tensions between Middle Eastern countries such as Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. Additionally, climate change has driven up cocoa prices, affecting regions like Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire that produce two-thirds of the world's cocoa. Intense heat waves and frequent droughts have severely impacted cocoa harvests, driving up global prices. Non-traditional security threats have altered dynamics over time, disrupting chemical and biological processes. Rising global temperatures, new disease emergence, and changing precipitation patterns are becoming increasingly alarming. Human-induced disturbances, driven by

current demands, are creating problems for future generations. The release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from industries and appliances damages the ozone layer, contributing to global warming. This underscores the need for nations to adopt climate-friendly strategies promptly, as climate change now poses both environmental and economic challenges. Pakistan's agricultural sector, a cornerstone of its economy, faces severe vulnerabilities due to climate change. Contributing about 24 percent of GDP, employing half the labor force, and serving as the largest source of foreign exchange earnings, agriculture is crucial for Pakistan. Frequent and intense weather events, such as floods and droughts, directly impact crop yields and food security. Changes in precipitation patterns and rising temperatures contribute to these vulnerabilities, threatening livelihoods and economic stability. Furthermore, climate change transcends national borders,

involving international security issues such as transboundary water disputes and migration due to environmental stress. As Pakistan grapples with these challenges, it underscores the broader global implications of climate change and highlights the need for international cooperation and strategies. Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy-2012 (NCCP) provides a critical framework for tackling climate challenges through adaptation and mitigation strategies, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive action. “Mitigation” involves reducing the intensity of global warming effects through measures that keep climate change within tolerable limits, while “Adaptation” involves adjusting to the existing impacts of climate change, such as saving water during heavy rainfall for future use and implementing green economy techniques to reduce land erosion. The updated 2021 policy aligns with interna-

tional agreements like the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), integrating recent initiatives such as the “Ten Billion Tree Tsunami” and advancements in renewable energy. While these efforts are commendable, continued and expanded action is essential to address emerging climate issues and ensure Pakistan's development remains climate-compatible. The incumbent government has recently launched several key climate initiatives, including a large-scale tree-planting campaign to enhance forest cover, advanced water conservation projects to improve irrigation efficiency, and efforts to support sustainable agriculture and reduce carbon emissions. As climate change presents increasingly complex challenges, it is crucial that national policies and international collaborations not only strengthen but also translate into actionable measures.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Minister of State of Japan Toshiko Abe. —DNA

Kids lead patriotic fervour on Independence Day

ISLAMABAD: As the 14th of August approaches, patriotic fervour grips the nation, specially kids who are at the forefront of the celebrations and seen enthusiastically engaging in various patriotic activities such as setting off vibrant fireworks that illuminate the evening sky, decorating their homes, cars with colorful flags, balloons, and streamers. As the excitement builds up and air is filled with the sweet scent of traditional sound of laughter and chatter, the anticipation growing among kids' who are enthusiastically spreading the spirit of patriotism to all those around them, said a report aired by a private news channel. “The enthusiasm of kids for 14th August is truly infectious,” said Mrs. Khan, a local resident. “My own kids have been preparing for weeks, making flags, decorations, and practicing their patriotic songs. It is heartwarming to see them so excited about their country's independence,” said another woman. “I was walking down the street and saw a group of kids setting off fireworks and chanting ‘Pakistan Zindabad,’” said a vendor lady, adding, it brought tears of joy to my eyes. Our future generations are the true custodians of our nation's spirit and pride.” “I am so glad to see kids taking an interest in our country's history and heritage,” said Mr. Hussain, a retired government employee. “It is our responsibility to pass on the torch of patriotism to the next generation, and they are certainly carrying it with pride.” “The excitement of kids for 14th August is a testament to the national spirit that runs through our veins,” said Ms. Ali, a journalist. “It is a reminder that our country's future is bright, and our children will carry the torch of progress and prosperity.” “Our store is like a kingdom for kids this time of year,” said a toy shop owner. “We are selling patriotic toys, stickers, and coloring books. Kids are so excited to buy things that show their love for Pakistan. It's a joy to see.” “We have never sold so much green and white merchandise in our lives” said Mr. Ahmed, a souvenir shop owner. “Kids want everything from green and white candies to white shoes with green laces. We are doing our best to keep up with the demand.”—DNA

Change your lifestyle and stay healthy

TANVEER HUSSAIN



CURRENTLY, the majority of people around the world are suffering from diabetes, blood pressure and obesity. Medicines for these diseases are the best sellers worldwide. That is why the hospital and pharmacy sector is developing rapidly. Treatment of any disease after its onset is very important, but what is more important is prevention before the disease. If children are taught about good food and healthy lifestyle from school age, the number of people living healthy life in the future will be much higher. Having accurate information about any problem is very important for solving it. When you want to work out on a matter, your concept about it should be very clear. The important question is how sugar and fat are made in the body? The food we eat every day includes carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. Our body separates the different components by breaking down this food. After that, the work of the pancreas begins. The main function of which is to make insulin needed by our body.

Insulin is one of the most important hormones in the human body. The function of which is to manage or regulate blood sugar in our body. That is, the insulin produced by the pancreas converts the food eaten into glucose or sugar, which provides the body with energy to perform various functions. This sugar is transported throughout the body through the blood. The glucose acts as a sort of gasoline that drives the vehicle. This energy is consumed during walking, moving of joints, speaking, hearing, heart pumping, stomach digestion etc. Even thinking of the mind as well as blinking of the eyelids also uses this energy. Energy is measured in calories.

Each person's energy needs are different depending on their lifestyle, work and age. Suppose if your body requires 2000 calories of energy per day and if you keep the daily food intake to the same amount that will meet your body's requirement, there will be no major problem. The real problem starts when you add large amounts of carbohydrates, drinks and sweets to your diet. Eating several times a day makes the pancreas work harder. It quickly converts the day's food into sugar. The more carbohydrates you eat, the more sugar your blood will produce. Remember that fiber-rich foods are not converted into glucose, so you should consume more fiber-rich foods. Similarly, proteins, vitamins and minerals are also very important for health. If you use up that extra sugar through exercise, walking, jogging, weightlifting or other strenuous activities, a lot of that extra glucose is wasted. But if you don't use this extra glucose and eat more carbohydrates and sweets, the glucose in

the body starts to rise. If the amount of glucose in the blood becomes high, it causes damage to health, it is called diabetes. Our body does not dispose of excess glucose but stores it as fats for future use. An example of this is that when a household starts getting more ration, instead of throwing it away, the householders save the ration so that it will be useful later. But if more rations start arriving before it is spent, that too will accumulate. When the space in the kitchen becomes less, they start keeping this stuff in other rooms. In this way other rooms also start filling up. In the same way, the body stores this excess glucose in the form of fat instead of wasting it. If your diet is high in fats then this process is faster. This fat causes many problems. This causes the person to gain weight, the stomach starts to protrude. Then he starts having difficulty in walking and breathing. Similarly, a large amount of glucose in the blood leads to diabetes, which has many disadvantages. Excess fat increases cholesterol, which causes narrowing of blood vessels. Due to this, blood flow is affected and blood pressure increases. Similarly, the consequences of fatty liver are also dangerous. These diseases then lead to more diseases. Being overweight puts more weight on the legs, which causes joint problems. Sugar weakens bones and vision. If a wound occurs in the body, it does not heal quickly and sometimes that part of the body may have to be amputated. With the continuous use of various medicines, digestion and kidneys become affected. In this way, the patient's life gradually becomes more and more difficult. A healthy lifestyle is required to avoid all these problems.

Swat valley's hidden gem 'Madyan town' opens its doors for tourists

ISLAMABAD: Madyan town, cradled in the majestic Swat Valley is emerging as Pakistan's newest tourist spot this season where the town is welcoming an influx of travellers to indulge in its mesmerizing natural beauty, rich cultural tapestry and warm hospitality of locals. Madyan is offering an unforgettable experience, allowing visitors to unwind, rejuvenate, and connect with nature's splendor, said a report aired by a Private news channel. Madyan is a popular hill station located in the Swat district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. It is situated at a distance of about 55 kilometres (34 mi) from Mingora and it is a best tourist destination, said a local. “We are absolutely thrilled to be here in Madyan,” said Sarah, a tourist from Lahore, adding, the natural beauty of this place is simply breathtaking. The people are so warm and welcoming, and the food is delicious. We feel like we have discovered a hidden gem.” “Madyan is our pride and joy,” said Faisal, a local resident. “We are so happy to see tourists coming here and experiencing the beauty of our town. We are doing our best to ensure they have a comfortable and memorable stay.” “Madyan is a paradise for nature lovers,” said Dr. Khan, a botanist from Islamabad. “The variety of flora and fauna here is incredible. I have been studying the local plant species and I am amazed at the diversity.” “We were a bit sceptical about coming to Madyan at first, but now we feel like we are home,” said Emily, a foreign tourist. “The locals have been so kind and hospitable. We have made some wonderful friends here and we can't wait to come back.” “We are happy to share our culture and traditions with visitors,” said Nadeem, a local shopkeeper. “Madyan has a rich history and heritage, and we are proud to showcase it to the world.” “I came to Madyan for a week, but I've fallen in love with this place,” said Ahmed, a tourist from Dubai. “The scenery is breathtaking, the people are friendly, and the atmosphere is peaceful. I am planning to come back soon.” “We are trying our best to promote sustainable tourism in Madyan,” said a local tour operator.—DNA

Independence Day function at Girls College 18/4

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Principal Islamabad model college for girls I 8/4 Prof Shagufta Awais said that independence is truly no lesser than a great blessing. We can freely feel a sense of independence and freedom while breathing under the fresh air. We all stand protected because of this independence. It was Quaid e Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah who Faught the case of our country and by the blessing of Almighty Allah and with the great struggles and endeavors of our forefathers we got our separate country. While talking to students the principal told that In the debilitating journey of 77 years we suffered many strokes, various conspiracies were hatched but the history was made on 14th August 1947 and separate free nation was formed. Now it our duty to identify and stand against all of those odds to make our country strong and superior. We are facing numerous challenges like Poverty, terrorism, unemployment, youth frustrations, resources mismanagement, and corruption are to name a few. We have to work out against all of these challenges. Being guardians of freedom, we are responsible for working for tomorrow. The hard tasks always require great sacrifices.

Commencement of Tigt Gas Production

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Monday announced the successful commencement of early commercial production of Tigt Gas from Pakistan's first-ever Tigt Gas project, Nur West Well-1 at the Nur Development & Production Lease (D&PL), located in the Sujawal District of Sindh. The Nur West Well-1 is currently producing 1.5 Million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas with a wellhead flowing pressure of 1050 PSI. The gas is sourced from the Lower Guru formation ('A' Sand) and has been seamlessly integrated into the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) network. This integration will strengthen the national gas supply infrastructure and contribute to the stability of Pakistan's energy supply.—APP

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Briefs

Pakistan exports lag behind all regional countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt, said on Monday that continued exports of sugar have increased its price across the country. He stated that the Cabinet should ban sugar exports because they will cause a national crisis. Shahid Rasheed Butt said in a statement issued here today that since the government allowed the export of sugar, the price of sugar has been continuously increasing across the country. He stated that the government had decided to halt sugar exports if the country's sugar price rose, but this has not happened, and the market price of sugar has already risen by five rupees per kg. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the sugar mills had assured the government that there is a large quantity of surplus sugar in the country, and that exports will not increase prices in the local market. He stated that if the government grants the sugar mills permission to export 15 lakh tonnes of sugar, it will lead to a serious sugar crisis in the country. He said that the wrong decisions are continuously harming the economy. Every sector of the economy is in decline, and people are suffering because of inflation and inflated power bills. —APP

ANF seizes 157.8 kg drugs; arrests six accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations managed to recover 157.8 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that 194 grams ice was recovered from a passenger going to Bahrain from Faisalabad Airport. In second operation, 86.4 kg hashish and 34.8 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle intercepted on Lahore-Sargodha road. 30 kg hashish was recovered from two suspects arrested near Rahman Garden Lahore. 5 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Hyderabad. 950 grams hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused netted near Sohrab Goth Karachi while in sixth operation, 500 grams hashish was recovered from a foreign resident arrested near G-10 markaz Islamabad. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and investigations are under process. —APP

President mourns passing of Murad Sadpara

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Pakistani mountaineer Murad Sadpara. In his condolence message to the bereaved family, the president offered his deepest sympathies on Sadpara's passing. The president recognized Murad Sadpara's achievements in mountaineering and offered prayers for his forgiveness and strength for his grieving family. —APP

Pak exhibitors tap into potential at imports expo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lhasa, the capital of the Xizang Autonomous Region, China, was abuzz with excitement as it hosted the first-ever Lhasa Shoton Imports Expo 8n the recent week. The event featured 246 enterprises from 31 countries and regions, marking it the largest expo of imported goods in the region in over a decade. Among the diverse range of participants showcasing over 1,000 types of goods, Pakistani exhibitors stood out with four handicraft enterprises presenting their exquisite creations to a captivated crowd, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Pakistani stalls decorated with intricate jade

Parliament championed critical legislation on gender violence

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq lauded PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam for her tireless efforts in organizing the international meeting with a very timely and pertinent agenda synchronized with the national sustainable development goals

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday said the path to sustainable and inclusive development sans women empowerment and gender equality was elusive whereas the Parliament of Pakistan had championed critical legislation barring gender violence and supporting women empowerment in the country. In his keynote address at the inaugural session of the two-day meeting of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) on 'Gender Empowerment and Green Economy', the Speaker underscored that the presence of high-level dignitaries depicted great leadership and partnership of regional parliamentarians in achieving gender equality and women empowerment goals. As many as 15 Asian countries' parliamentarians and others from Pakistan, diplomatic community, high level political figures, government officials, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), members of international donor organisations, and academia participated in the event. Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq lauded PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam for her tireless efforts in organizing the international meeting with a very timely and pertinent

agenda synchronized with the national sustainable development goals. The parliament of Pakistan has played a crucial role in ensuring well guided legislation on gender equality, reproductive health, and established women caucus, youth parliamentarians committee, and other parliamentary forums for inclusive engagement of all stakeholders in policy making initiatives, he added. "The Parliament of Pakistan became the first public building for securing net metering license to promote green economy and renewables. The Speaker National Assembly's residence and the Parliament building were first converted over solar energy when there was no public building with solar power in the country," he mentioned. Pakistan, he said, had prepared billions of rupees project for solarization of Balochistan that would not only help reduce power leakages, but also ensure renewable energy rollout in the biggest province of the country by territory. "Climate Change is a present reality affecting our day-to-day life. We are disproportionately affected due to increased intensity of disasters and violence against gender in the aftermath of climate catastrophes. The 2022 floods alone rendered \$30 billion in infrastructure losses and numerous precious lives lost in the devastation deluge," Speaker

Ayaz Sadiq said. He underlined that women lack equal access to resources like land and finance despite generating 80% of the food globally, whereas the Parliament of Pakistan was mulling over a dedicated committee to look after women rights and development status across the country. "Women have equal representation in parliamentary bodies where they are slightly performing well. However, there is zero tolerance against objectional language against women and any other parliamentarian in the legislature," he said. He added that green economy was the pathway to economic justice and societal resilience and women were the stewards of environment and green initiatives at household levels. "We will use parliament's forum for youth and gender empowerment," he vowed. In her welcome remarks, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam said the forum was a unique opportunity to redefine the region's approach towards sustainable development. Green development, she said was a transformation which was not possible without addressing societal inequalities mainly gender imbalance and women discrimination. "It's imperative to recognize women's

dual role as the most impacted due to climate change and the main driver of sustainable development. We will have to move towards more equitable and sustainable society," she added. Romina Khurshid highlighted that Pakistan has developed a new reformed agenda under its green vision with out of the box initiatives like Living Indus Initiative and Recharge Pakistan. Recharge Pakistan, she said, involved women through training and employing for managing wetlands. "Pakistan is working on managing GLOFs, integrated resource management, climate smart agriculture that are generating millions of jobs particularly for women in the rural areas," she added. The legacy of late Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto for the AFPPD forum held in Cairo 1994 served as a proactive policy for Pakistan, she added. "When women are empowered then communities are more resilient. It's our duty to legislate and ensure opportunities for women in green economy. Our government is working to provide education for women to benefit green economy. Pakistan is committed to play active role in this regional dialogue," she said. Secretary General, AFPPD, Dr Jetn Siranthranon and Member of the Parliament, Thailand in his special remarks said the Assem-

bledy of AFPPD have been playing an active role in SDGs implementation role with a priority focus on gender equality which was not the fundamental need of human life but also crucial for sustainable development and green society. He added that traditional stereotypes were leading to gender inequalities for women and special groups, whereas countries with greater gender equality perform well in the development goals. "Gender equality and women empowerment are a catalyst to development. Women in politics, economy, gender equality and other areas need equal representation and Thailand has developed great models in this regard," he added. Minister of State for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, Toshiko Abe in her guest remarks said the ICPD programme of action and sustainable development goals (SDGs) 2030 agenda could not be achieved without gender equality and women empowerment. "Worldwide gender equality and diversity are recognized as beneficial for economy and departments. But women lack role in decision making forums globally, whereas access to education and girls' empowerment is important," Abe underscored. She added that the Asia Pacific region made progress in addressing gender equality but it was uneven.

President grants 90-day remission to elderly, juvenile prisoners

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday granted a 90-day remission of sentence for the prisoners of life imprisonment - males of 65 years and above and females above 60 - who have served one-third of their term. The president granted the remission of sentence under Article 45 of the Constitution on the occasion of the country's 77th Independence Day, a President House press release said. The remission will not apply to the prisoners involved in murder, espionage, anti-state activities, rape, theft, robbery, kidnap and terrorism. Those involved in financial crimes, causing loss to the national exchequer, and convicted under the Foreigners Act 1946, and Narcotics Control (Amendment) Act 2022 will also be ineligible for the remission. The remission will apply to female prisoners serving the sentence with their children and individuals under 18.

Water management solutions for Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD: Rawalpindi Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Managing Director Muhammad Saleem Ashraf Monday has embarked on an ambitious project to install rain harvesting systems at 30 different buildings across the city in collaboration with UN-HABITAT to conserve rainwater, reducing the demand on clean drinking water and promoting sustainable water management practices. "Our partnership with UN-HABITAT will enable us to leverage cutting-edge technology and expertise to transform Rawalpindi's water landscape," MD WASA said in an interview with PTV news channel. Under the project, rooftop rainwater will be channeled into underground tanks, where it will be stored for non-potable uses such as horticulture, he said, adding, by harnessing the power of rainwater, WASA hopes to alleviate the pressure on the city's water resources, ensuring a more resilient and water-secure future for Rawalpindi's growing population. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq receives Ambassador of Belarus, Andrei Metelitsa at Parliament House.—DNA

ICT admin bans horns

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has imposed a complete ban on the sale and use of horns/whistles on the eve of Independence Day in the Federal Capital. On the special Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, the ban aimed to address public safety concerns and maintain order on the streets and roads, said the spokesman of ICT administration. He said the authority banned the sale, stock, and use of horns/whistles following the reports of disturbances caused by hawkers selling horns in public spaces. Meanwhile, in a recent notification, the administration highlighted that the sale of horns at stalls was causing disruptions to traffic flow and creating noise pollution, which could lead to breaches of public peace. To counter this, the district administration has invoked Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which allows for preventive measures to maintain public order. The ban would be in effect for the next 10 days, during which time Assistant Commissioners have been ordered to conduct operations to seize horns/whistles and take legal action against violators. DC Islamabad has directed all Assistant Commissioners to launch a crackdown on hawkers selling horns across various parts of the city. In the past few days, several operations were carried out in different areas, including I-8, Lehtar Road, Ghori Town, and Kural. These operations led to the confiscation of horns from various stalls, sending a clear message that the sale and purchase of horns would not be tolerated. DC Islamabad also urged citizens to refrain from buying or selling millet and warned that legal action would be taken against those who continue to violate the ban. He emphasized that the peace and comfort of the public were priority for the administration. —DNA

Naqvi extends heartfelt message on International Youth Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi, extended heartfelt tributes to Pakistan's youth, highlighting their immense potential and contributions to the nation, on the occasion of International Youth Day. He paid special homage to Arshad Nadeem, the Olympic champion in the javelin throw competition, who has become a symbol of hope and inspiration for the country's younger generation. "Arshad Nadeem, by winning the gold medal, has proven that Pakistani youth are not only hardworking but also fully capable of achieving greatness," stated Naqvi. He emphasized that Nadeem's extraordinary performance at the Paris Olympics has

infused new energy and enthusiasm among the youth, encouraging them to strive for excellence in all spheres of life. Naqvi underlined the crucial role of youth in shaping the future of Pakistan. "Youth are the greatest strength of Pakistan, and they possess the full potential to change the destiny of our nation. The talents bestowed upon our youth by God have brightened the name of Pakistan across every field," he remarked. He further added that the youth represent the bright future of Pakistan, and that investing in them is synonymous with investing in a prosperous and radiant future for the country. "Empower the youth as much as possible today, and our tomorrow

will be just as beautiful," Naqvi urged. The minister called for the creation of an equitable environment where young people can leverage their creativity for national development. He highlighted that a significant portion of Pakistan's population consists of youth, and emphasized the need for both the private sector and the government to collaborate in developing their skills. Concluding his message, Mohsin Naqvi reaffirmed the government's commitment to implementing more effective measures to empower the youth. "On International Youth Day, we reiterate our dedication to taking further steps to ensure our youth are empowered and equipped to lead Pakistan towards a brighter future," he said. —APP

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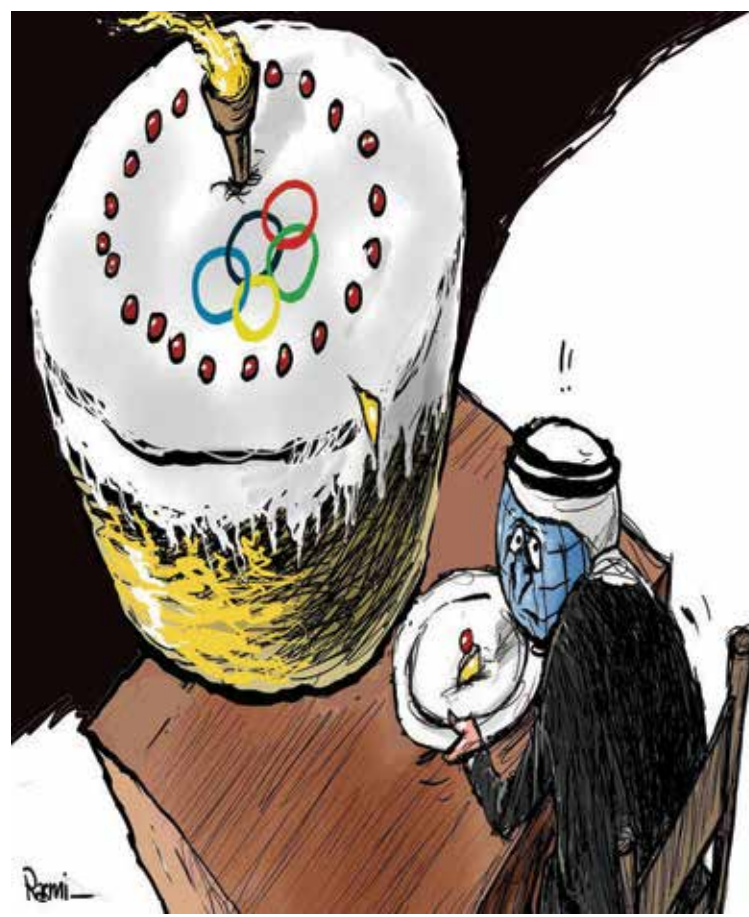
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Israel killed 1.8% of Gaza's population

THE Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics reported that the Israeli occupation forces have killed, in the ongoing genocide war on the Gaza Strip over the past 10 months, around 1.8% of Gaza's population, 24% of them from the youth category. This came in a press statement on the occasion of the International Youth Day, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999 on August 12 of each year. The Bureau explained that more than 39,000 Palestinians from the Gaza population have been martyred since the start of the Israeli occupation's aggression on the Strip. It added that the number of those who fell due to hunger reached 34 martyrs, noting that "about 3,500 children are at risk of death due to malnutrition and lack of food." It also stated that the number of wounded from Gaza's population "exceeded 95,000, 70% of them women and children, in addition to about 10,000 missing." The Central Bureau pointed out that on the eve of the Israeli occupation's aggression on the Gaza Strip, there were around 5.6 million Palestinians residing in the State of Palestine, including 1.2 million youths (18-29 years) who constitute 22% of the total population. The Bureau highlighted the displacement of around two million Palestinians from their homes out of the 2.2 million Palestinians who were residing in the Strip on the eve of the war. In the same context, the Bureau indicated that the number of martyrs in the occupied West Bank reached 620 Palestinians, mostly young people and children. The Palestinian Central Bureau expected a decline in the estimated growth rate in the Gaza Strip from around 2.7% according to the Bureau's estimates for 2023 to only around 1% in 2024. The Bureau stated that the number of martyr students enrolled in higher education institutions in Palestine reached 653 students, 619 of them in the Gaza Strip and 34 in the West Bank, in addition to the martyrdom of 105 employees in higher education institutions in the Gaza Strip. The Central Bureau, in its statement, referred to the deprivation of 88,000 students in the Gaza Strip of their right to university education. It also indicated that out of every 100 youths aged 18-29 years, there are 18 who hold a bachelor's degree or higher according to 2023 data. The Bureau also addressed unemployment, explaining that it reached 56% in the occupied West Bank in 2023, and 75% in the Gaza Strip in the fourth quarter of the same year, noting that the unemployment rate among young people with an intermediate diploma or higher qualification reached about 91% in the Gaza Strip.



Fear of migrants around globe

THIS year's global convergence of democratic elections – with more than 80 countries worldwide testing their respective democratic systems – is likely to be dominated by one issue above all others: migration. That is not to say that inflation, economic turmoil, food and energy prices, climate change and stern audits of governmental incompetence will not also play a massive part. However, it seems that wherever you look, the issue of migration is up there among the primary drivers of controversy and discontent, inflaming and empowering right-wing politicians across the globe. This perturbs me not just because of the abhorrent racist prejudices being trumpeted and the counterproductive xenophobic and protectionist policies that are poisoning international economic cooperation and globalisation. International migration is – and has been for centuries – an overall force for good almost everywhere and could play an indispensable part in helping us manage the global demographic shocks that are rapidly unfolding around us today. I am among those who believe the coming sharp decline in populations worldwide – driven in part by a collapse in women's willingness to have large numbers of children and revealed in stark detail in the UN's recently released World Population Prospects report – is something to be welcomed rather than feared. Our world is overpopulated. We overconsume and overproduce in pursuit of infinite economic growth on an all-too-finite planet in which resources are being rapidly depleted and essential biodiversity is under threat. The sooner our human population begins to contract and we manage to constrain our urge to consume "stuff", the better. However, I recognise at the same time that the coming sharp contraction in population will provoke shocks that will be difficult to manage. Intelligent management of migration is likely to play a critical role in helping us manage those shocks. The trouble is that worldwide migration gets a terrible press in many countries. A January report from the European Council on Foreign Relations elaborated on how a "migration crisis triggered an identity panic centred on questions of multiculturalism and the meaning of nation-states". A Gallup poll from February found that 55 per cent of US respondents said "large numbers of immigrants entering the United States illegally" was a critical threat to vital US interests. That rises to 90 per cent among Republicans versus just 29 per cent among Democrats. A Republican majority in the House of Representatives has thwarted US President Joe Biden's efforts to put in place a "fair and humane" immigration regime. In the UK, racist street riots across the country show that the rightwing's obsession with "taking back control" of the country's borders during Brexit burns as hot as ever. Whether it is French President Emmanuel Macron being assailed by his country's far-right, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz being undermined by populists clustered around Alternative for Germany or Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni seizing power in Italy, there is an unpleasant sense that migration is an issue derailing governments across the world.

Why Israel's strategy of fear, humiliation is destined to fail

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

Netanyahu's own ominous biblical reference, urging Israeli soldiers to seek revenge on Palestinians with the statement: "Remember what Amalek has done to you," was also a blank check for mass murder. While choosing not to see Palestinians as human, innocent, and worthy of life and security, Israel has given its army carte blanche to do as it sees fit to those who, in the words of Israeli Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, are "human animals." The mass killing, starvation, and widespread rape and torture of Palestinians are a natural outcome of these shocking dialectics. But the overall purpose of Israel is not simply to exact revenge, though this has been important to its desire for national recovery

IN an interview in late October, Israeli politician Moshe Feiglin told ArutzSheva-Israel National News that "Muslims are not afraid of us anymore." It might sound odd that the former Knesset member saw fear as critical to Israel's well-being, if not its very survival. But, in reality, the element of fear is directly linked to Israel's behavior, and is fundamental to its political discourse. Historically, Israel has carried out massacres with a specific political strategy in mind: to instill the necessary fear to drive Palestinians off their land. Deir Yassin, Tantara, and the more than 70 documented massacres during the Palestinian Nakba, or Catastrophe, are cases in point. Israel has also utilized torture, rape, and other forms of sexual assault to achieve similar ends, to exact information, or to break down the will of prisoners. UN-affiliated experts said in a report published on Aug. 5 that "these practices are intended to punish Palestinians for resisting occupation, and seek to destroy them individually and collectively." Israel's war in Gaza has manifested all these horrific strategies in ways unprecedented in the past, both in terms of widespread application and frequency. In a report entitled "Welcome to Hell," published on Aug. 5, the Israeli rights group B'Tselem said that Israel's detention "facilities, in which every inmate is deliberately subjected to harsh, relentless pain and suffering, operate as de-facto torture camps." A few days later, the Palestinian rights group Addameer published its own report, documenting "cases of torture, sexual violence, and degrading treatment," along with "systematic abuses and human rights violations committed against detainees from Gaza." If incidents of rape, sexual assault, and other forms of torture are marked on a map, they would cover a large geographical area in Gaza,

the West Bank, and Israel itself – mostly notably in the notorious SdeTeiman detention camp. Considering the size and locations of the Israeli army, well-documented evidence shows that the use of rape and torture is not restricted to a specific branch of the military. That means the Israeli army uses such tactics as part of a centralized strategy. A similar policy has been associated with Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's national security minister. His aggressive statement that Palestinian prisoners should be "shot in the head instead of being given more food," for example, is perfectly aligned with his equally violent actions: the starvation of prisoners, normalization of torture, and defense of rape. But Ben-Gvir did not institute these policies. They predated him by decades, and have been used against generations of Palestinian prisoners granted few of the rights enshrined in international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. Why does Israel torture Palestinians on such a large scale? Israeli wars against Palestinians are predicated on two elements: material and psychological. The former has manifested itself in the killing and wounding of tens of thousands of people in Gaza, and the near destruction of the enclave. The psychological factor, however, is intended to break the will of the Palestinian people. Law for Palestine, a legal advocacy group, published a database of more than 500 instances of Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, inciting genocide in Gaza. Most of these references seem to be centered on dehumanizing Palestinians. For example, the Oct. 11 statement by Israeli President Yitzhak Herzog that "there are no innocent civilians in Gaza" was part of the collective death sentence that made the extermination of Palestinians morally justifiable in the eyes of Israelis. Netanyahu's own ominous biblical reference,

urging Israeli soldiers to seek revenge on Palestinians with the statement: "Remember what Amalek has done to you," was also a blank check for mass murder. While choosing not to see Palestinians as human, innocent, and worthy of life and security, Israel has given its army carte blanche to do as it sees fit to those who, in the words of Israeli Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, are "human animals." The mass killing, starvation, and widespread rape and torture of Palestinians are a natural outcome of these shocking dialectics. But the overall purpose of Israel is not simply to exact revenge, though this has been important to its desire for national recovery. By trying to break the will of the Palestinians through torture, humiliation, and rape, Israel wants to restore a different kind of deterrence, which it lost on Oct. 7. Having failed to restore military or strategic deterrence, Tel Aviv is invested in psychological deterrence, as in restoring the element of fear that was breached that same day. Raping prisoners, leaking videos of such gruesome acts, and repeatedly carrying out the same horrific deed are all part of the Israeli strategy – that of restoring fear. But Israel will fail, simply because Palestinians have already succeeded in demolishing Israel's 76-year matrix of physical domination and mental torture. The assault on Gaza has proven to be the most destructive and bloody of all Israeli wars. Yet, Palestinian resilience continues to grow stronger, because Palestinians are not passive, but active, participants in shaping their own future. If popular resistance is, indeed, the process of the restoration of the self, Palestinians in Gaza are proving that despite their unspeakable pain and agony, they are emerging as a whole, ready to clinch their freedom, no matter the cost.

Building a brighter future: Overcoming Pakistan's challenges for prosperity and growth

Muhammad Faiq Shah

Pakistan's prosperity is inextricably linked to regional stability, particularly in areas such as Balochistan, which has been plagued by unrest and underdevelopment. The lack of meaningful dialogue with local communities and the failure to address their grievances have exacerbated the situation, hindering both regional and national development. The path to regional stability lies in inclusive dialogue and meaningful engagement with local communities. By addressing the root causes of discontent—such as economic marginalization, lack of...

PAKISTAN stands at a critical juncture in its history, facing a host of challenges that impede its path to prosperity and development. While the nation has enormous potential, the realization of this potential requires addressing key issues that have long hindered progress. As a nation, we must acknowledge these challenges and work collectively to implement sustainable solutions that will secure a brighter future for all Pakistanis. One of the most pressing issues Pakistan faces is economic instability. Persistent fiscal deficits, low foreign exchange reserves, and a growing debt burden have severely constrained our ability to invest in critical infrastructure and social services. The frequent balance of payments crises, coupled with reliance on external borrowing, have created a vicious cycle that hinders long-term economic growth. To address economic instability, we must focus on broadening our tax base and improving tax collection mechanisms to increase government revenue. At the same time, we need to reduce our dependence on external debt by promoting export-led growth and encouraging foreign direct investment (FDI). The development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a crucial step in this direction. By fast-tracking SEZ development, we can attract both local and international investors, create jobs, and stimulate economic activity across the country. Energy shortages have long been a significant obstacle to Pakistan's industrial growth and overall economic development. Frequent power outages and the high cost of energy have made it difficult for industries to operate efficiently, leading to reduced productivity and competitiveness. To overcome energy shortages, we must invest in diversifying our energy mix and enhancing the capacity of our energy infrastructure. Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind

offer a sustainable solution to meet our growing energy needs. Additionally, improving energy efficiency across industries can help reduce consumption and lower costs. The government's focus on developing energy projects under CPEC, including coal and hydropower plants, is a positive step. However, we must also prioritize the expansion of renewable energy initiatives to ensure long-term energy security. Pakistan's prosperity is inextricably linked to regional stability, particularly in areas such as Balochistan, which has been plagued by unrest and underdevelopment. The lack of meaningful dialogue with local communities and the failure to address their grievances have exacerbated the situation, hindering both regional and national development. The path to regional stability lies in inclusive dialogue and meaningful engagement with local communities. By addressing the root causes of discontent—such as economic marginalization, lack of infrastructure, and inadequate social services—we can foster peace and development in these regions. The CPEC projects, particularly those focused on infrastructure development in Balochistan, offer an opportunity to uplift these communities. However, it is crucial that these projects are implemented in a way that benefits local populations, creating jobs and improving access to essential services. Education is the cornerstone of any nation's development, yet Pakistan continues to face significant disparities in educational access and quality. Millions of children remain out of school, and those who are enrolled often receive substandard education. This educational deficit not only hampers individual potential but also undermines the nation's ability to compete in a globalized world. To bridge the educational gap, we must invest in both expanding access to education and improving its quality. This requires a multi-faceted approach, including increasing funding

for public education, providing teacher training, and integrating modern technology into the classroom. Moreover, we must focus on vocational and technical education to equip our youth with the skills needed for the modern workforce. Through the Friends of Society Organization (FSO), we are committed to enhancing educational opportunities for underprivileged communities, recognizing that education is the key to unlocking Pakistan's full potential. Effective governance is essential for the implementation of policies that drive development. However, Pakistan has long struggled with issues of corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and a lack of transparency. These governance challenges have stymied progress and eroded public trust in state institutions. To improve governance, we must prioritize institutional reforms that enhance accountability, transparency, and efficiency. This includes implementing e-governance initiatives to reduce bureaucratic red tape and increase transparency in public administration. Furthermore, regulatory reforms are needed to create a business-friendly environment that encourages investment and innovation. By moving from a permission-based to a rule-based economy, we can reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and foster economic growth. Pakistan's journey toward prosperity and development requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society. The challenges we face are formidable, but they are not insurmountable. By implementing the solutions outlined above, we can pave the way for a stable, prosperous, and inclusive Pakistan. As Chairman of the Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) and Founding Chairman of the Friends of Society Organization (FSO), I am committed to working with all stakeholders to achieve these goals. Together, we can build a Pakistan that is not only economically vibrant but also socially just—a nation where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive.

Briefs

Ex-ISI chief
Faiz taken
into custody
by military,
court martial
initiated

FROM PAGE 01

A three-member bench led by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa and comprising Justice Athar Minalah and Justice Aminuddin Khan heard the matter. The bench disposed of the petition on November 8, 2023 and directed the petitioner to approach the relevant forum against the retired general. In the written order, the bench stated that the applicant had alleged that Lt Gen (ret'd) Hamid, who was then serving in the armed forces and working with the ISI, misused his office, and on his directions crimes were committed against the applicant and his family, as under:

- Personnel of ISI and Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) raided the applicant's residence and business offices
- Detained the applicant and his family members
- Robbed the applicant and his family members of their properties
- Robbed the applicant of his business properties; (5) Compelled the applicant to transfer his business - Dynast Associate/Top City Housing Scheme - into his nominees names
- Had false cases registered against the applicant, his family and employees; and, He and those under his command and Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) abused the powers of their offices while serving in the Armed Forces.

The written order further stated the learned additional attorney general (AAG) stated that there are a number of remedies available to the applicant, including approaching the Ministry of Defence as the complaint/grievance pertains to a period when the said respondents were serving officers in the Armed Forces and/or to file a criminal case, including one for malicious prosecution, and/or to file a suit for damages, or to do all these."

"The learned AAG also stated that if a complaint is addressed to the Ministry of Defence of the Government of Pakistan it will be given due consideration," says the order, adding "the allegations are of an extremely serious nature, and if true, undoubtedly would undermine the reputation of the Federal Government, the Armed Forces, ISI and Pakistan Rangers, therefore, they cannot be left unattended." Lt Gen (ret'd) Hamid had sought early retirement in November 2022 and his request was approved by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in December. He was among the six senior-most army generals who were nominated by the General Headquarters in the list of potential candidates for the two top military offices, chief of army staff (COAS) and chairman joint chiefs of staff committee (CJCS). The ex-DG ISI had served as Peshawar and Bahawalpur corps commander before his retirement.

PM unfurls
initiatives
for youth

FROM PAGE 01

AI Ethics, AI project cycle and no-code approaches. Similarly, one million tabs and smartphones will be given to talented students of intermediate level on merit. The Prime Minister also launched the nationwide registration for the National Volunteer Corps, becoming the first volunteer of this initiative. Speaking on the occasion, Shehbaz Sharif expressed the determination to make available all possible resources for the country's youth, enabling them to make Pakistan a developed and prosperous country. He expressed confidence that Pakistan's youth has the potential to steer the country towards progress and development. Responding to a point raised by the captain of the National Hockey Team, the Prime Minister said no stone will be left unturned to revive the national sports in the country.

Arshad pledges to shine,
thanks nation for support

Arshad Nadeem said that I am focused on continuing my training and improving my performance. I want to win more medals for Pakistan and make my country proud again and again

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's gold medal winner Arshad Nadeem, fresh from his triumphant return from the Paris Olympics Monday has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the nation, his family, and his fans for their unwavering support and love where he reiterated his commitment to continue working hard and making country proud. In his exclusive interview with a private news channel, Arshad acknowledged that his success has brought a sense of responsibility, saying, "I feel a deep sense of responsibility to continue making Pakistan proud. I want to inspire the next generation of athletes to work hard and chase their dreams." When asked about his future plans, Arshad revealed that he is already setting his sights on the next Olympics. "I am focused on continuing my training and improving my performance. I want to win more medals for Pakistan and make my country proud again and again."

Responding to a query, Nadeem said that he sets a new Olympic record of 92.97m to win the men's javelin throw gold at the Paris Olympics, adding, India's Neeraj Chopra won silver whereas Grenada's Anderson Peters won bronze. "Neeraj and I are good friends, but when we stepped onto the javelin throw field, our friendship took a back-seat," Arshad Nadeem said with a smile. "We were no longer just friends, but rivals representing our respective countries. We both knew what was at stake our country's respect and pride," he said. "Our friendship remains



strong, but when it comes to representing our countries, we give it our all," he added. To another question, Arshad Nadeem also took the opportunity to express his gratitude to WAPDA (Water and Power Development Authority) for their unwavering support. "I am not just thankful to WAPDA for providing me with a job and facilities, but also for supporting other national heroes like me," he said. "WAPDA has been a constant source of encouragement and support, allowing us to focus on our training and competitions without worrying about our livelihood. Their contribution to the development of sports in Pakistan is immense, and I am proud to be associated with them," he mentioned. Arshad Nadeem's eyes also lit up with gratitude as he spoke about his mother's encourage-

ment and family support. "My mother has been my biggest inspiration and strength," he said, adding, she always encouraged me to pursue my passion for javelin throw, even when I faced setbacks and injuries. Her unwavering belief in me and my abilities kept me going, and I am forever grateful to her." Arshad also praised his family's support, saying, "My family has been my rock throughout my journey. They have made countless sacrifices to help me achieve my dreams, and I am thankful to each and every one of them, he added. Arshad Nadeem, basking in the glory of his historic gold medal win, also used the opportunity to urge the government to promote athletes' talent and provide more facilities. "I am grateful for the support I received from the government and sports authorities, but I believe more needs to be done to promote sports in Pakistan," he said. "We have immense talent in our country, but lack of facilities and infrastructure hinders our progress. I request the government to invest in sports infrastructure, provide better training facilities, and support athletes financially so they can focus on their training without worrying about their livelihood." Arshad emphasized, "If we provide our athletes with the right resources and support, I am confident we can produce more Olympic medalists and make Pakistan proud globally. He also suggested, "The government should establish sports academies, provide scholarships to young athletes, and organize international training camps to help us compete with the best in the world, he concluded.

MQM-P
threatens
to quit...

FROM PAGE 01

Sindh, to replace Tessori with the former's leader and ex-Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) chief Bashir Memon. However, the rumours didn't sit well with the MQM-P as Tessori doubled down on those spreading such reports and said that he enjoyed the confidence of PM Shehbaz, President Asif Ali Zardari and his own party and would continue to serve the people till the time he is in office. "I would tell those behind these reports that I am not the one who gets panic [by such reports]," he said. Meanwhile, Sattar outrightly dismissed the rumours, saying: "No one talked to us nor did any consultation take place."

Sh. Rashid
predicts...

FROM PAGE 01

Rashid said the government was preparing to step down and interviews for new set-up were being taken. He also announced that he would fully participate in political activities from Aug 31. He said former premier Nawaz Sharif would not give extension to anyone whereas Shehbaz Sharif didn't have any power as the government had come to nought. "I am facing 14 cases but I haven't uttered a single word against Imran Khan and his wife unlike others who made statements under section 164 after remaining in jail for less than four days," he remarked.

Imran
threatens...

FROM PAGE 01

He drew parallels between these events and Pakistan, stating "These events have occurred and are occurring in Pakistan as well." In a critique of the government's handling of the 9 May incidents, Khan accused the authorities of orchestrating a crackdown on PTI under false pretenses. "The same people who stole footage of 9 May were responsible for the events of that day. Half of our leadership was jailed, while the rest went underground or were coerced out of the party," stated Khan. The former premier warned that any attempt to extend the Chief Justice's term or disregard Supreme Court decisions would result in widespread protests. The former Prime Minister further condemned the alleged electoral fraud, stating that the government's fear of exposure is leading them to place their own judges in tribunals and violate the constitution by not holding elections in two provinces.

SC overturns
LHC...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidates had won. A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, delivered the reserved verdict by a majority of 2-1 on the pleas filed by the PML-N leaders. Justice Aqeel Abbasi of the top court dissented with the decision in favour of PML-N candidates Azhar Qayyum Nahra, Abdul Rehman Kanju and Zulfikar Ahmed. I am of the opinion that the impugned judgments/orders passed by the LHC in the aforesaid Writ Petitions do not suffer from any factual error or legal infirmity, therefore, do not require any interference by this Court, under Article 185(3) of the Constitution. Accordingly, the above civil petitions are dismissed and leave to appeal refused," said the verdict.

Petroleum
prices may...

FROM PAGE 01

fortnight of August 2024, the price of petrol stands at Rs269.43 per litre, following a reduction of Rs6.17 on July 31. High-speed diesel is being sold at Rs272.77 per litre. The potential new rates could see petrol priced at Rs260.43 per litre, and diesel at Rs264.77 per litre, providing some respite to consumers amid rising inflation. The final announcement is awaited, with many hopeful that the anticipated reductions will help alleviate the financial burden on the public.

Basti makes big prediction
about Babar Azam

Basti believes that Babar will get back to his best soon and will score five centuries in five months in Test cricket

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan cricketer Basit Ali made a big prediction about star batter Babar Azam saying that the 29-year-old will score five centuries in the five coming months. Azam, 29, has been struggling to score for some time as Pakistan's white-ball skipper had disappointing performances in the ODI World Cup 2023 and the T20 World Cup 2024. However, Basti believes that Babar will get back to his best soon and will score five centuries in five months in Test cricket as there will be no pressure of captaincy. "Babar Azam will score five centuries in the coming five months. Babar has the best chance to leave the top batters behind, whether it is Kane Williamson or Joe Root. It is a very easy chance," said Basit on his YouTube channel. "However, now that the pressure of captaincy is off from him, he should forget about the captaincy. He should remove the thought of captaincy from his mind and just focus on scoring runs." Basti also talked about Babar's ongoing

struggle and suggested that he should change his wide batting stance. The former cricketer then went on to draw comparisons between Virat Kohli and Babar's height. "Babar Azam still has seven to eight days. He should start skipping ropes. I am giving him this advice which was given to me by Asian Bradman, Zaheer Abbas. It helps in feet movement," Basit added. "Also, Babar needs to shorten his stance by a few inches. If he does these things, he will leave the top batters behind in five months. If you want to see someone's stance, look at Virat Kohli. Both of them have the same height." Meanwhile, Former Pakistan cricketer Basit Ali advised Shan Masood ahead of the two-Test series against Bangladesh which is set to begin on August 21 in Rawalpindi. The Test matches will be played as part of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 as both teams are eager to perform and strengthen their position on the WTC points table. This will be Masood's second series as Pakistan's captain as his first assignment as red-ball skipper was against Australia last year. Basit has

shared his thoughts ahead of the series that Masood should change his batting number, and promote himself to the opening position as it will suit him and Pakistan more. "Shan Masood sahab, stop playing at No. 3. When I saw you for the first time, I gave you the advice that the bat's length should be long. Today, I am giving you the advice to stop playing at No. 3. You should open the batting in all three formats. If you come at No. 3, you will harm yourself and Pakistan," Basit Ali said. Masood held a presser on Sunday where he discussed his time with Yorkshire and opened up about the experience of playing with the Kookaburra ball in some County matches. However, Basit believes that Pakistan's skipper should keep his focus on the issues that lie within the national team rather than comparing things with Yorkshire. "He gave an example of Yorkshire in his press conference. He spoke about how rain is a factor there, and Joe Root and Harry Brook are also part of that team. I just want to say two things to Shan Masood. You are the captain of Pakistan, not Yorkshire," Basit said.

Nadeem's success
a new chapter
for
Pak sports: DG PSB

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Director General of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Muhammad Shahid Islam on Monday warmly congratulated Arshad Nadeem's ground breaking gold medal win, terming it as a "new chapter for Pakistan sports" and reaffirmed the PSB's unwavering commitment to equipped athletes with resources and support needed to dazzle on the global stage. In an interview with PTV news channel, PSB DG praised remarkable achievement of Pakistan's golden boy, Arshad Nadeem and termed his success as a beacon of hope and inspiration for young athletes who clinched the top honour and inspired our new generation to strive for excellence. Arshad Nadeem's success is a testament to his unwavering commitment and passion for athletics," Islam said. "His down-to-earth nature and humility, despite achieving greatness, is a quality that sets him apart and makes him a role model for our youth," he added. Islam emphasized that Nadeem's triumph is not just a personal achievement but a milestone for Pakistani sports, and his legacy will continue to motivate and inspire future generations of athletes to strive for excellence. Responding to a query, DG said the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to provide top-notch training to athletes. As part of its endeavors, the PSB is arranging for qualified and certified coaches to work with athletes and organizing training sessions in foreign countries to expose them to international standards, he mentioned. Islam cited the example of Arshad Nadeem, who was sent to various countries for training, which ultimately contributed to his remarkable success in winning the gold medal at the Paris Olympics. - DNA

Naqvi pays tribute
to Nadeem on
Int'l Youth Day

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of International Youth Day, Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi has paid tribute to national hero Arshad Nadeem and entire youth of the country. He said that Javelin throw Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem has proved by winning the gold medal that Pakistani youth are hardworking and talented. He highlighted that Arshad Nadeem's extraordinary performance in the Paris Olympics has given new enthusiasm and passion to the youth. He said that youth is Pakistan's greatest asset and have the full potential to change country's destiny. Interior Minister said that Pakistani youth have brought laurel for the country in every field with their God-gifted talents. He pointed out that Youth is Pakistan's bright future, investing in youth is investing in a prosperous and rising Pakistan. He said that the more we empower youth today, the more beautiful our tomorrow will be. Interior Minister said that we need to create an conducive environment where youth can contribute to national development with their creative talents. He emphasized that a large portion of Pakistan's population consists of youth and the private sector along with the government needs to come forward to nurture their talents. On International Youth Day, Interior Minister reiterated his commitment to take more effective measures to empower youth. - DNA

Alcaraz aims
to dethrone
Sinner as
world No. 1

PARIS: Carlos Alcaraz revealed what his next goals are as he looks to dethrone Jannik Sinner as the world No. 1 by the end of the year after losing the Olympic gold medal to Novak Djokovic. Alcaraz is 450 points behind the Italian and with Djokovic almost out of the race as he has started to play fewer and fewer competitions, the rivalry for the world No. 1 will be between the two youngsters. "Obviously, being ATP number 1 is a goal every time. I am behind and the Race is an important ranking. At the end of the year, if you end the season at the top of the Race, the ranking becomes quite similar," Alcaraz said. - Agencies

UAE Consul General praises
Arshad Nadeem's success

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Arab Emirates (UAE) Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al-Romaithi in Karachi praised the victory of Pakistani athlete Arshad Nadeem, terming his success a triumph for the entire Muslim community and noted that Arshad's achievement brought joy not only to Pakistan but also to the people of the UAE. In an interview with a private news channel on Monday, he highlighted the strong bonds of solidarity and shared celebration between the two nations. The two countries have a long history of cooperation and mutual support, with the UAE being one of

Pakistan's largest trading partners and a significant source of foreign investment, he remarked. He underscored the deep cultural and people-to-people ties between the two nations, which go beyond mere diplomatic relations. Responding to a query, he explained that Pakistan has played a pivotal role in the UAE's development and progress, with Pakistani professionals and workers contributing significantly to the country's growth and prosperity. From the early days of the UAE's formation to the present day, Pakistan has been instrumental in shaping the country's infrastructure, economy, and society, he acknowledged. He said that the Pakistan-UAE trade volume has

surpassed a record \$8 billion, a testament to the robust economic ties between the two countries. This significant milestone highlights the growing bilateral trade and investment cooperation, with the UAE emerging as one of Pakistan's largest trading partners, he added. He highlighted that the increasing trade volume results from the strong economic bonds and strategic partnerships between Pakistan and UAE, with both countries exploring new avenues for collaboration and mutual benefit. To another query, he said the UAE has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting the Pakistani nation, with the country always opening its doors to welcome Pakistani citizens.

Business communities adopt resolution
against the closure of Monal. La Montana

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The business leaders of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have sought the review of the supreme court of Pakistan decision pertaining to the closure of Monal and La Montana. The largely attended convention of business communities from all the tiers of the twin cities held here in Islamabad on Monday which unanimously adopted a resolution pleading the apex court to review the closure verdict in the interest of the community as well as the country. In his address Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry by urging the need of unity in the ranks of the business community for the solution of its problems emphasised the government to regulate both the entities instead of their closure. He said that both Monal and La Montana are the highest tax payer organizations of the capital and that when the local

investors are meted out such a humiliating attitude how the foreign investors will come forward for investment. He added that till the holding of the local bodies election in Islamabad the government should grant an extension to both the iconic identities of Islamabad. President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saqib Rafiq said that the government should facilitate the business

community and give protection to entities like Monal and La Montana for the promotion of the soft image of Pakistan in the world. He expressed the hope that some viable and amicable solution of the issue will be found which will also save 2200 families from unemployment and starvation. Vice President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tariq Jadoon said that

the business community of the entire country is already suffering from the illogic decisions of the government and the closure of these two most visited sites of the capital will add to their miseries. Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is the blessing of Allah Almighty which was

created by our forefathers after immense sacrifices and that he was sure that we will pull it out unitedly from all the odds. He said that he is optimistic that both the restaurants will not be closed and we will find out a solution by exercising wisdom and insight without indulging into any disruption. Former President ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas by terming Monal as the international brand of hospitality said that the government should provide a level playing field to the business community and that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, SIFC and other stakeholders should sit together to find out a solution of the matter. President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan Ajmal Baloch said that Monal and La Montana are brand names which are paying Rs. 300 million annually as tax. He impressed upon the CJP, PM and Army chief to pay heed to the problems of the business community because more than 1.6 million people have already left the country in sheer disappointment



Briefs

More injured
Rohingya
arriving
in BD

More Rohingya are arriving in Bangladesh from Myanmar with war-related injuries amid escalating conflict between the military and the Arakan Army (AA) in western Rakhine State, according to international medical group Doctors without Borders, known by its French initials MSF. MSF said its teams in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, treated 39 people for conflict-related injuries including mortar shell injuries and gunshot wounds in the four days leading up to August 7. More than 40 percent of the injured were women and children, it added in a statement.

Staff at its clinic said it was the first time in a year that they had seen serious injuries on such a scale. "Considering the rise in the number of wounded Rohingya patients crossing from Myanmar in recent days, and the nature of the injuries our teams are treating, we are becoming increasingly concerned about the impact of the conflict on Rohingya people," said Orla Murphy, MSF's country representative in Bangladesh. "It is clear that safe space for civilians in Myanmar is shrinking more each day, with people caught up in the ongoing fighting and forced to make perilous journeys to Bangladesh to seek safety." The mostly Muslim Rohingya have long been a target of discrimination and ethnic violence in Rakhine. In 2017, at least 750,000 Rohingya fled into Bangladesh after the Myanmar military launched a brutal crackdown that is now being investigated as a genocide. Many of the thousands who remain continue to live in camps where their movements are restricted.—APP

X faces
privacy
complaints
in Europe

LONDON : A privacy advocacy group based in the Austrian capital Vienna, filed complaints in eight European countries on Monday against Elon Musk's X, accusing it of "unlawfully" using users' personal data in its AI technology without their consent. The complaints filed by the European Center for Digital Rights - also known as Noyb ("None of Your Business") - come after Ireland's Data Protection Commission (DPC) earlier this month took court action against X over its data collection practices to train its artificial intelligence technology. X had recently started "irreversibly feeding" the personal data of more than 60 million European users into its Grok AI technology "without ever informing them or asking for their consent," according to Noyb. Noyb slammed X for "never proactively informing" its users that their data is being used for AI training, saying many people appeared to have "found out about the new default setting through a viral post on 26 July."—Agencies

Turkish
airstrikes
kill 17
more PKK
terrorists

ANKARA : Turkish military conducted airstrikes in northern Iraq and "neutralised" 17 members of the bloody-minded PKK terror group, the defence ministry said in a statement on Monday. Türkiye, which typically uses the term neutralised to mean killed, has been carrying out a cross-border operation called Claw-Lock in Iraq as part of its offensive against PKK terrorists. The PKK, which has been waging an armed campaign against the Turkish state since 1984, is designated a terrorist organisation by Türkiye, the United States and the European Union. Türkiye has also launched military incursions in Syria against the YPG terrorists, a wing of the PKK.—app

Putin says Ukraine attacks
civilians, sees no point in talks

"It is now clear why the Kiev regime refused our proposals to return to the plan for peaceful settlement," the Russian leader underlined

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Ukraine's armed provocation on the Russian border aims to bolster Kiev's position in future talks, but talks with a government that attacks civilians make no sense, Russian President Vladimir Putin said. He made the statement when opening a meeting on the situation on the Russian border. "It is now clear why the Kiev regime refused our proposals to return to the plan for peaceful settlement," Putin said. "The enemy, with the help of its Western masters - it is doing their bidding, and the West is waging war against us using Ukrainians - <...> seeks to improve its negotiating position in the future." "But what kind of negotiations can we even talk about with peo-

ple who indiscriminately strike civilians, civilian infrastructure or try to create threats to nuclear power facilities," the president went on to say. "What can we even talk about with them?"

Ukraine's armed provocation on the Russian border is intended to slow down the pace of the Russian troops' advance, but Kiev is failing at this, as the territories of Donbass and Novorossiia are being liberated 50% faster than before, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting on the situation on the border.

Such actions (as in the Kursk Region - TASS) certainly pursue a central military goal - namely, to stop the advance of our troops for complete liberation," Putin noted. "So what?" the head of state asked rhetorically. "Not only has the pace of



offensive operations by Russian armed forces, volunteers, and veterans <...> not slowed down, but on the contrary, it has accelerated by one and a half times. Russian troops are confidently advancing forward along the entire battle contact line," the President added. Earlier, the

Russian Defense Ministry reported that the battlegroups West, Center, South and East were occupying increasingly advantageous positions. Russian forces have been advancing for several weeks, pushing back the enemy. According to data from the Donetsk People's Republic, the Ukrainian group between Dzerzhinsk (Ukrainian name - Toretsk) and the village of Novgorodskoye (Ukrainian name - New York) has come into operational encirclement. Meanwhile, Moscow's special military operation in Ukraine is actually an armed conflict with the US-led collective West, Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov said at the opening ceremony of the Army 2024 forum.

"I welcome you all at the opening ceremony of the Army 2024 International Military-Technical

Forum. As you know, the event is taking place amid the special military operation. In fact, it is an armed conflict between Russia and the collective West," he pointed out. According to Belousov, the armed confrontation "is driven by the desire of the US and its allies to maintain their dominance and prevent the construction of a new multipolar and equitable world order." "In this regard, the confrontation affects the interests of every country," the Russian defense chief stressed. The Army 2024 Forum is taking place at the Patriot Congress and Exhibition Center outside Moscow on August 12-14. The event's participants and guests will be able to see a wide range of weapons, military and special equipment. TASS is the forum's strategic media partner.

UN chief 'deeply alarmed'
over situation in Sudan

Antonio Guterres is deeply alarmed at the evolving situation in El Fasher, North Darfur, where fierce fighting has been reported between the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Forces and elements of the Armed Struggle Movements," Farhan Haq

WEB DESK

GENEVA : The UN expressed concern over the ongoing fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in North Darfur. "The Secretary-General (Antonio Guterres) is deeply alarmed at the evolving situation in El Fasher, North Darfur, where fierce fighting has been reported between the Sudanese Armed Forces, the Rapid Support Forces and elements of the Armed Struggle Movements," Farhan Haq, a UN spokesman, said in a statement. "These



clashes have devastating consequences for the civilian population," he added. The fighting will also further exacerbate humanitarian needs in and around El Fasher at a time when famine conditions have been confirmed in Zamzam camp

south of El Fasher and is likely prevailing in other displacement sites in the city, Haq said. "The Secretary-General calls on all parties to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect and allow safe passage for civilians and facilitate rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access," he added. Reiterating his call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and lasting cease-fire, Haq said that Guterres also urged the parties to return to political dialogue as the only path to a negotiated settlement. Sudan has been mired by fighting between

the army, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who is the head of the ruling Sovereign Council, and the RSF led by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. At least 12,260 people have been killed and more than 33,000 injured in the conflict that started in April 2023, according to UN figures. A humanitarian crisis continues to worsen as nearly 6.8 million people have fled their homes seeking safety in Sudan or neighboring countries. Several ceasefire agreements brokered by Saudi Arabia and US mediators have failed to end the violence.

Turkiye's Consul
General invites FPCCI
for \$5 Billion trade

KARACHI: Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, has apprised the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan that H. E. Mr. Cemal Sangu, Consul General of Turkiye in Karachi, has invited a multi-sectoral business delegation from the apex platform of FPCCI to explore the avenues for trade and economic cooperation. The two countries have an evident bilateral trade potential of \$5 billion; but, at present, we are only at \$1 billion per year, he added. Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, reiterated that both sides have agreed that we should take tangible steps to realize the trade potential - whereas, Pakistan stands to gain tremendous foreign earnings through exports of value-added textiles; leather goods; processed foods; IT & IT-enabled services; sports goods and surgical equipment. Mr. Asif Sakhi, VP FPCCI, reiterated that Turkiye has world-class expertise in manufacturing and engineering products; specifically, electric vehicles (EVs); renewable energy (RE); avionics & drones; robotics & machine learning; artificial intelligence (AI); space sciences and agriculture & food technologies. Pakistan should go for industrial collaborations with Turkiye through offering its land coupled with a huge pool of young but cheap labor, he added. Mian Zahid Hussain, Chairman of FPCCI's Policy Advisory Board (FPCCI-PAB), maintained that Pak - Turkiye Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) is a very positive development as Pakistan achieved a bilateral trade surplus of over \$100 million in 2023 - underscoring the strengthening economic partnership and mutual benefits fostered by this agreement.—DNA

US sends
submarine to
ME as
tensions
grow

WEB DESK: The US has sent a guided missile submarine to the Middle East, as tensions grow in the region. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin also said an aircraft carrier which was already heading to the area would sail there more quickly. The move comes in response to fears of a wider regional conflict, after the recent assassination of senior Hezbollah and Hamas leaders. It signals the US's determination to help defend Israel from any attack by Iran - with Mr Austin saying US would "take every possible step" to defend its ally. Iran is being closely watched for any indication of how and when it might respond to the assassination of Hamas's top political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on 31 July. The Iranians blamed Israel for the assassination of Mr Haniyeh on their soil, and have vowed to punish it. Israel has not commented but is widely believed to have been behind it. In a statement on Sunday, the Pentagon said Mr Austin had sent the USS Georgia guided missile submarine to the region. It had also ordered the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group, which is carrying F-35C fighter jets, to accelerate its journey there.—APP

DR Congo,
Zambia begin
talks after
border
closure

KINSHASA: Democratic Republic of Congo has said it had begun talks with Zambia a day after its southern African neighbour sealed their common border, blocking a key export route for Congo, the world's second-largest copper producer. Zambian Trade Minister Chipoka Mulenga announced a temporary border closure on Saturday after a Congolese ban on imported soft drinks and beer led to demonstrations by Congolese transporters in the town of Kasumbalesa on the Zambian border. "Talks between the Congolese and Zambian governments have started since this Sunday via videoconference to lead to the rapid reopening of the borders," the Congolese trade ministry said in a statement on Sunday. "In the hours that follow, the two parties will meet in Lubumbashi in Haut-Katanga to find a lasting solution regarding trade." Congo's Trade Minister Julien Paluku Kahongya said in a statement earlier on Sunday that his ministry had received no formal notice of a trade dispute from Zambia before it announced the closure. In the statement, he detailed the two countries' trade agreement and its dispute settlement mechanisms. "There is to date no dispute brought to (the ministry's) attention in writing or through diplomatic channels," he said.—DNA

Thousands
flee as
wildfires
bear down on
Greek capital

PENTELI : Thousands of people fled their homes around Athens on Monday, including in the historic town of Marathon, as strong winds fanned a wall of wildfire flames closer to the Greek capital. A 30-kilometre (20-mile) long frontline of fires, more than 25 metres (80 feet) high in places, was moving towards Athens, the ERT public broadcaster reported. Nearly 700 firefighters and over 30 aircraft battled the blazes that had advanced into the city's outer suburbs near Mount Pentelikon.

Authorities opened the Olympic stadium in northern Athens and other stadiums to house those fleeing. Three major hospitals have been placed on standby. One firefighter suffered serious burns, another was hospitalised with breathing trouble and 13 other people were treated for milder respiratory problems, fire brigade spokesman Hallandri became the latest suburban municipality to order a partial evacuation of areas threatened by the flames.—Agencies

Indonesian
president holds first
Cabinet meeting

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo held on Monday his first Cabinet meeting in the country's new capital of Nusantara, showing the latest progress in the ambitious \$33 billion megaproject just a few months before the end of his presidency. Widodo formally launched the capital relocation project in 2019, in what has been widely viewed as an attempt to seal his legacy before the end of his second and final term in October. The outgoing leader has been working since late July from the city, located in the East Kalimantan province on Borneo island, which will hold its first Indonesian Independence Day celebration in less than a week. "The Nusantara capital is a canvas that carves the future. Not all countries have the opportunity and the ability to build their capital city starting from zero," Widodo told his ministers during a livestreamed meeting held in the massive, eagle-shaped new state palace. "Nusantara is developed with a forest city concept, a city filled with greenery. It is not a concrete city or city of glass. It is also a smart city, supported by technology across all the city's activities, and a livable city." Located more than 1,200 km away from the current capital Jakarta, the move to Nusantara was intended to ease the burden on the old center of government, which faces chronic traffic congestion, overpopulation, and heavy pollution and is one of the world's fastest-sinking cities. It is also aimed at redistributing wealth across Indonesia, as Java, the island on which Jakarta is located, is home to around 56 percent of the country's population and nearly 60 percent of economic activity. The relocation process is scheduled for completion by 2045. Widodo said investors have so far committed about IDR 56.2 trillion (\$3.53 billion) in investments across various projects, including in transportation, housing and education. Last month, Widodo secured a deal to involve Dubai's financial hub in developing Nusantara's financial center.—DNA



Islamabad : Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema is presenting souvenir to United Nations Resident Coordinator in Pakistan Muhammad Yahya.—DNA

Borrel urges bans on Israeli ministers for war crimes

EU foreign policy chief calling it "incitement to war crimes" and urging the EU to consider sanctions against Israel

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS : The European Union foreign policy chief says the bloc should consider sanctioning far-right Israeli ministers Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, after they said aid to Gaza should be blocked and the starvation of two million people in the territory could be justified. Israel's so-called national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said in a post on social media platform X on Sunday that the transfer of humanitarian aid and fuel to the Gaza Strip should be stopped "until all our captives" held by Hamas are released. In the same post, Ben-Gvir also called for the permanent occupation of Gaza. His comments after Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said last week that he believes blocking humanitarian aid to Gaza is "justified and moral" even if it causes two million civilians to die of hunger in the coastal Palestinian sliver. Earlier on Sunday, Ben-Gvir called any

France, Germany, UK
call for negotiations in ME

PARIS: France, Germany, and the UK said Monday they welcome efforts from Qatar, Egypt, and the US "towards an agreement on a ceasefire and the release of hostages." A joint statement signed by French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said they endorsed a joint statement of Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, and US President Joe Biden "calling for the immediate resumption of negotiations." "We agree that there can be no further delay," it said, adding that they "have been working with all parties to prevent escalation and will spare no effort to reduce tensions and find a path to stability." It further said: "The fighting must end now, and all hostages still detained by Hamas must be released. The people of Gaza need urgent and unfettered delivery and distribution of aid. "We are deeply concerned by the heightened tensions in the region, and united in our commitment to de-escalation and regional stability. In this context, and in particular, we call on Iran and its allies to refrain from attacks that would further escalate regional tensions and jeopardise the opportunity to agree a ceasefire and the release of hostages.—APP

"They will bear responsibility for actions that jeopardise this opportunity for peace and stability. No country or nation stands to gain from a further escalation in the Middle East."

cease-fire and prisoner swap deal with Hamas a "grave mistake." "If we cut off their fuel, within a week they would be on their knees. And if we stop the (aid) trucks, within two weeks they would be on their knees. So why are we going to do a deal, especially such an irresponsible deal?" he said. For months, Egypt, Qatar, and the US have led indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas, but no agreement has been reached due to Israel's refusal to meet Hamas' demands to end the war, withdraw troops from Gaza, and allow displaced Palestinians to return to northern Gaza. Israel has continued a devastating military offensive in the Gaza Strip since an Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas attack despite a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire. Nearly 39,800 Palestinians have since been killed, mostly women and children, and over 92,000 injured, according to local health authorities. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which

ordered it to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where more than 1 million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6. Meanwhile, The Israeli army launched a series of raids across various cities and towns in the occupied West Bank early Monday morning, arresting more Palestinians. The raids sparked armed clashes with Palestinian residents. Witnesses also described hearing explosions intermittently throughout the operation. One person was injured by live fire during the military's incursion into the city, medical sources in Jenin informed Anadolu. In a separate operation, the Israeli army raided the city of Ramallah in the central West Bank, targeting the Tira neighborhood. According to witnesses, the raid led to confrontations with dozens of Palestinians. The army also arrested a resident after assaulting him and allowing police dogs to attack him, the witnesses said.

Briefs

Javad Zarif resigns as vice president

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's former foreign minister Javad Zarif, who negotiated a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with major world powers, on Monday announced he had resigned from his new post as vice president. "I resigned from the position of vice president for strategic affairs last week," Zarif said in post on X, less than two weeks after the newly-elected reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian chose him as his deputy. Zarif cited several reasons for his resignation, most notably his disappointment with the line-up in the newly-proposed 19-member cabinet. "I am ashamed that I could not implement, in a decent way, the expert opinion of the committees (responsible for selecting candidates) and achieve the inclusion of women, youth and ethnic groups, as I had promised," he said. Pezeshkian on Sunday presented his cabinet, which included one woman, to parliament for approval.

Court denies Bushra's bail plea

ADIL SHAHEEN

RAWALPINDI: A court in Rawalpindi has rejected Bushra Bibi's bail application in 12 cases related to the events of May 9 on Monday. An anti-terrorism court, presided over by Judge Malik Ejaz Asif, stated that it is necessary to conduct a thorough investigation when an individual is implicated in multiple cases. Consequently, the court dismissed Bushra Bibi's bail application. The court, during a hearing at Adiala Jail, ordered the investigation into these cases to be completed within seven days. The incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan was presented in the courtroom. Other PTI leaders including Sheikh Rashid, Shibli Faraz, Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Sadaqat Abbasi, Shireen Mazari, and Azam Swati, appeared in court, over 500 accused individuals connected to the May 9 incidents were also presented in the court.

Naqvi vows not to allow anti-state rhetoric

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Strongly condemning the propaganda unleashed against the state institutions, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Monday categorically stated that no one would be allowed to indulge in such activities. Speaking to MQM-P Chairman Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, who called on him in Islamabad, the interior minister described the conduct of such individuals as anti-state.

US delivers lifesaving food to combat malnutrition in Pakistan

"This considerable amount will save tens of thousands of young lives here in southern Pakistan," US ambassador stated, highlighting that more than half of the aid will be directed to Sindh province, with the remainder going to Balochistan

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: In a significant humanitarian gesture, U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome officially handed over 486 metric tons of ready-to-use therapeutic food at a ceremony held today at the Maersk Warehouse in Port Qasim, Karachi. The aid is expected to treat approximately 29,000 Pakistani children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, providing a vital lifeline for those in the most vulnerable communities. Ambassador Blome emphasized the scale of the contribution, likening the amount of food provided to the weight of a fully loaded 747 jumbo jet. "This considerable amount will save tens of thousands of young lives here in southern Pakistan," he stated, highlighting that more than half of the aid will be directed to Sindh province, with the remainder going to Balochistan—areas severely affected by the catastrophic floods of 2022. Since 2022, the United States has provided extensive assistance to Pakistan to help the poorest and hardest-hit communities, particularly in meeting acute water, education, and health needs. The ambassador noted that nearly \$100 million has been allocated to address acute malnutrition in

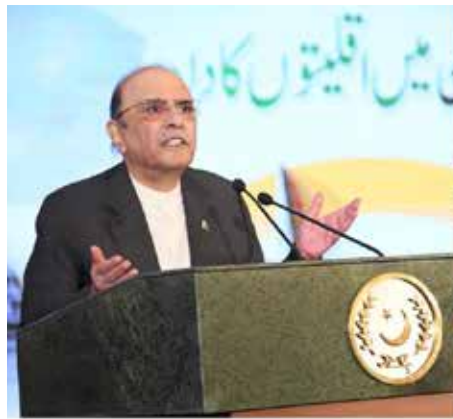
the country, with \$15 million specifically dedicated to treating severely malnourished children. Today's donation is part of a broader effort by the United States to provide emergency food and healthcare to over 317,000 Pakistani mothers and children. This support has included collaboration with UNICEF and local Basic Health Units to improve the health of children under five years old and pregnant or breastfeeding women. Additionally, U.S. assistance has enabled more than 779,000 frontline healthcare workers to offer nutrition counseling to caregivers, aiming to prevent malnutrition from occurring in the first place. Ambassador Blome reaffirmed the United States' commitment to standing with Pakistan as millions of its citizens work to recover and rebuild. This includes efforts to combat malnutrition, enhance education facilities, improve access to clean water and sanitation, and provide essential equipment to ensure better health outcomes for women and children. "The first 1,000 days after a child's birth are the most critical to their cognitive and physical development," Ambassador Blome stressed. "Nutrient deficiencies during this period can have lifelong consequences."

Pak committed to protection of minorities' rights: President

The president further stressed upon enhancement of jobs opportunities for the minorities in different government's departments on merit basis besides, increasing the existing jobs quota

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated that Pakistan was committed to protection of the rights of minorities and provision of equal opportunities to them to excel in every walk of life as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan. Addressing a ceremony to mark the celebrations of Minorities' Day at the Awan-e-Sadr, the president said, "Under the Constitution and under the onus of oath of my office, I have the duty to protect all rights of the minorities and provide all kind of facilitation". He said that the objective behind the observance of Minorities' Day at the official level was to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by the members of different communities living in Pakistan. The president further stressed upon enhancement of jobs opportunities for the minorities in different government's departments on merit basis besides, increasing the existing jobs quota. Lauding the role of the minorities in the national progress and prosperity, he said that they were the equal citizens of Pakistan and future builders of the nation. Stressing upon the significance of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, the president said they were required to fully emulate his message aimed at fostering unity, brotherhood and religious tolerance in society. The event arranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was attended by members of parliament, ulama,



religious leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, media and representatives from different minorities. Comparing the current situation in India, the president said "Modi's India is not a safe haven for the minorities," and lauded Quaid's farsightedness and leadership who had realized the future fate of minorities in India. President Zardari said the people of Pakistan always felt the pains of sufferings of humanity and for those lying lowly in society and accorded due respect and space to all the minorities living here because such a message of human consideration had been embedded in their religion and culture. He also recited a verse of famous Sindh poet, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, in this regard to emphasize his point of view. While recollecting the events of Pakistan Movement, he said that his father in his youth



took active part for the creation of Pakistan. President Zardari referring to the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza, said that atrocious and indiscriminate strikes were targeting all Palestinians and people from different faiths. Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Chaudhry Salik Hussain felicitated the minorities on the observance of national day and said that all communities living in the country enjoyed religious freedom and were bonded with affection, tolerance, peace and brotherhood. He underlined that they were ought to spread this message across the globe. Citing different constitutional articles, he said minorities' rights had been guaranteed under the constitutional provisions, besides the Islamic teachings had also laid emphasis upon such rights. Archbishop Rawalpindi and Islamabad Dr

Joseph Arshad, Haroon SarbDiyal representative of Hindu community, Sardar Gural Singh representative of Sikh community, Dr Seema Farzad representative of Bahai community and Isphandiyar M. Bhandra, a member of National Assembly and representative of Parsi community, also expressed their views on the occasion. The speakers appreciated the government's steps for the protection of their rights, welfare and well beings, besides according them equal opportunities in different walks of life. They said nation's founder Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his historic speech of August 11, 1947 had stressed upon the religious freedom and rights of all communities. The speakers also lauded the president for the observance of Minorities' Day at the national level and the recent signing of Christian Marriage Act (Amended) 1872.

PTI hints to move no-trust motion in NA

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: Senior Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan on Monday hinted to move no-trust motion in National Assembly. Talking to media outside Adiala Jail, PTI leader said that no-confidence motion may be moved against the prime minister if their mandate isn't restored. He said that the elections were held on the direction of Chief Justice of Pakistan on Feb 8 but the mandate of PTI was stolen that day. He also demanded a judicial commission to probe the alleged rigging into Feb 8 elections. "We'll not move the no-trust motion on the orders of United States or Ambassador Donald Lu," said Ali Muhammad Khan. He added that the government is standing on Form-47 and there is no democracy in the country these days. According to PTI leader, there will be anarchy in the country if the verdict of Supreme Court isn't implemented on reserved seats. He also demanded to investigate the May 9 vandalism. He added that PTI is ready to tender an apology if its party workers were involved in the May 9 riots.

Petition filed against approval of Election Act amendment

Request made to restrain ECP from allocating reserved seats to any other political party

COURT REPORTER

LAHORE: A writ petition was filed in the Lahore High Court challenging the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024 with a request to not only declare it as ultra vires the Constitution but also restrain the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) from allocating the reserved seats for women and non-Muslims to any other political party in the national assembly and the provincial assembly of Punjab. The petition, filed by through advocate Azhar Siddique, contended that it is respectfully prayed that an instant writ petition may be allowed, and the Elections (Second Amendment) Act, 2024 may kindly be declared to be ultra vires the

Constitution in its entirety and of no legal effect whatsoever, of course, in the best interest of justice, equity, and fair play. The counsel further maintained that Sections 66 and 104 are procedural laws and, based on judicial/constitutional interpretation, cannot take retrospective effect. Thus, the recent amendments are ultra vires the Constitution. He submitted that the role of the ECP and the previous government, including the caretaker government, has not allowed the process of free, fair, and transparent elections, including but not limited to the issuance of detention orders, registration of cases, and the culmination of different trials based on concocted and fake evidence. In two such cases, the cypher and iddat cases, Imran Khan has been acquitted of the charges.

Hamas demands obliging Israel to bide by mediators' truce plan

NEWS DESK

GAZA: The Hamas Movement asked the Egyptian and Qatari mediators to implement a ceasefire plan based on Biden's vision and the Security Council resolution, instead of holding more negotiations. In a statement, Hamas called on the mediators "to submit a plan to implement what they presented to the Movement and approved on 2/7/2024, based on Biden's vision and the Security Council resolution, and to oblige the Israeli occupation to do so, instead of going to more rounds of negotiations or new proposals that provide cover for the occupation's aggression and give it more time to perpetuate the war of genocide against our people." Hamas explained its position by stating, "We have held many rounds of negotiations, and we have provided all the necessary flexibility and positivity in order to achieve the goals and interests of our people, stop their bloodshed, and stop the genocide against them." The Movement noted that it provided flexibility "in a way that facilitates exchange of prisoners, relief for our people, the return of the displaced, and reconstruction."

IOF raids different West Bank areas, kidnaps Palestinians

WEST BANK: The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) launched last night a large-scale campaign in the West Bank, where they raided dozens of homes, kidnaped a number of citizens and clashed with local youths and resistance fighters. Several citizens were also injured during this IOF campaign, which continued into Monday morning. According to local sources, Israeli troops stormed Jenin City at dawn and clashed with resistance fighters in its streets. Eyewitnesses said that the IOF entered Jenin City through an-Nasira street and embarked on opening fire at local youths, injuring two of them. - Agencies

Imran's inciting speeches led to May 9 riots: Azma

Says, Maryam has zero-tolerance policy against women violence

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Information Azma Bokhari claimed that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's public gatherings, inciting speeches, and long marches led to the May 9 riots. During her press conference along with PML-N leader Hina Pervez Butt, she insisted that intolerance was prevailing in society. The minister disclosed government plans for women safety and security, saying virtual

police stations cater to women issues. She shared Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz zero-tolerance policy against women violence as it was her red line. Azma Bokhari stressed that criminals would be brought to justice and violence against women couldn't be tolerated. She highlighted the provision of justice in the Sania Zehra case and vowed to provide justice in every case. She stated Sania Zehra didn't commit suicide instead her husband and mother-in-law murdered her and portrayed it as suicide. She questioned the May 9 judicial commission demand by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She claimed that May 9 wasn't planned in a day but planned for one year. She alleged that PTI leaders Hassan Niazi and Yasmin Rashid were involved in the riots, stating that Rashid led the protest.

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