



# Islamabad POST

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**Iran rejects Western calls to refrain from attack on Israel**

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**Empowering women vital for economy**

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**James Anderson considering white-ball return**

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**Fetes Olympic Champion Arshad Nadeem**

## PM Shehbaz vows to sacrifice everything for national stability

Prime Minister announces Rs 15 crores for Arshad; announces to establish Arshad Nadeem academy in Islamabad; Rs 1 billion sports endowment fund crated

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: During a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, members of the federal cabinet reaffirmed their commitment to national stability and expressed their readiness to sacrifice everything for the country's well-being. The cabinet meeting also discussed preparations for celebrating Independence Day with enthusiasm and a renewed pledge to transform the nation into the Pakistan envisioned by its founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Prime Minister Shehbaz emphasised the need for all sectors of society to work tirelessly to make Pakistan stronger. "We will sacrifice everything for national stability, and, Insha'Allah, this country will become Quaid-e-Azam's Pakistan," he stated. He highlighted the importance of reducing production costs to revitalise key sectors such as industry, agriculture, and trade. "Efforts in the power and energy sectors will benefit the nation," the prime minister added. Shehbaz Sharif also praised Olympian Arshad Nadeem for doubling the joy of Independence Day celebrations with his historic gold medal win at the Paris Olympics. "Nadeem is an exemplary figure for the nation," he remarked, noting that his dedication and perseverance have elevated Pakistan's name on the global stage. The cabinet expressed admiration for Nadeem and has recommended him for a presidential award. The prime minister has also invited Nadeem to the Prime Minister's House to highlight the importance of honouring national heroes. In his address, the prime minister discussed the steps taken to improve the economy, including efforts in the energy sector. He stressed the need to reduce production costs to boost exports and make them more competitive. Shehbaz Sharif emphasised the importance of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in improving tax collection

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## No compromise on Discos' performance

Says newly appointed chairmen and members had great challenges ahead

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday the power distribution companies (Discos) will have to improve their performance as power theft has swelled to Rs500 billion per year. The prime minister stated this while addressing the newly appointed chairmen and board members of Discos, adding that no compromise will be made on their performance. He told the participants that the government would publicly recognise the Discos members and heads who would put in their maximum efforts to bring improvements, but those failing to do so would neither be spared nor would remain part of the team. The prime minister said through a lengthy process, the government had appointed highly competent and experienced people in Discos purely on merit by doing

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting a cheque of Rs.150 million to Mr Arshad Nadeem for winning gold medal in javelin throw at Paris Olympics 2024.— DNA

## Govt splits CAA into three bodies

Ministry of Aviation announces establishment of PAA, BASI in separate notifications dated August 9, 2024

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has been divided into three departments — PCAA, Bureau of Aircraft Safety Investigation (BASI) and Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) — and they have been assigned different jobs. Henceforth, all the commercial airports have been made a part of the PAA, while BASI will investigate aircraft accidents. Meanwhile, all the regulatory departments will be

Continued on Page 06

## Govt decides to amend passport issuance rules

The amendments would allow citizens to apply for new or renewal of passport in any city of Pakistan

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to amend the passport rules in order to extend more facilities to applicants across the country. The amendment, if approved, would allow the citizens to get their new passport or apply for

Continued on Page 06

## Pressurizing SC unacceptable

## Imran demands judicial commission if Faiz's arrest is linked to May 9

PTI founder labels ex-spy-master's arrest as military's internal matter, with no links to PTI

COURT REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has labelled the arrest of former director general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt-Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed as an internal issue of the military, distancing his party from the matter. Following a meeting with senior lawyers at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, Khan's legal representative, Intezar Panjutha, addressed the media on Tuesday. He disclosed that the PTI founder had urged the public to peacefully protest tonight for the sake of freedom, stressing the importance of taking to the streets for the country. Panjutha conveyed Khan's concerns over the mounting pressure on the Supreme Court,

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## Bilawal urges Sindh govt to take measures against corruption

'Corruption is a cancer,' PPP chief says in a meeting with Nisar Khuhro and Muhammad Bakhsh Khan Mahar

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has directed the Sindh government to take decisive action against corruption, labelling it a "cancer" that

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## Visa fee for 126 countries waived under new policy

Information minister says the residents of gulf countries would get visa on arrival

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday announced launch of a new visa policy under which visa fee for the nationals of 126 countries would be waived in order to boost tourism and attract foreign investment in the country. Addressing a news conference, the minister said

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## Briefs

### BLF terrorist shot down by fellow comrade

Shabmin was involved in attacks on security forces

DNA

QUETTA: A key commander of the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), identified as Shabmin alias Shahak, was reportedly killed by one of his own comrades, sources confirmed on Tuesday. The incident highlights growing internal discord within the BLF, a terrorist group allegedly funded by India. According to sources, the assassination of Shabmin, who was a highly sought-after militant leader involved in multiple terrorist activities, underscores a deepening rift within the group. The BLF, along with other India-funded terrorist organisations, is said to be embroiled in an escalating power struggle over funding and authority. Shabmin alias Shahak was reportedly wanted by law enforcement agencies for his involvement in attacks on security forces and the targeted killings of former associates who had surrendered.

### Massive cut in petrol, diesel prices

PM assures electricity prices will also come down

ISLAMABAD: The government has announced a significant cut in petrol prices. Petrol has been reduced Rs 8.47 per liter and diesel prices are reduced by Rs 6.7. The new petrol prices shall be Rs 260.96 and diesel prices shall be Rs 266.6 per liter. The government says the prices have been reduced as an independence gift for the people of Pakistan. The prime minister added that the government is committed to serve the masses. — DNA

## Asks govt to stop smuggling

## 'We will force Govt to implement accord: JI'

"Consultations are underway with traders. We have several options [...] Will call for peaceful demonstrations together with trade bodies," Naeem said

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Days after his party deferred its two-week-long Rawalpindi sit-in, Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has announced another protest, saying that the JI would give a call for peaceful protest by joining hands with trader groups. "Consultations are underway with traders. We have several options [...] Will call for peaceful demonstrations together with trade bodies," Naeem said while speaking to the media in Islamabad on Tuesday. The fresh protests' announcement comes after the party postponed its 14-day long sit-in last week following successful negotiations with the government over demands including slashing high power tariffs and reviewing agreements with independent power producers (IPPs) which have been under the spotlight as people are paying hefty bills blamed on capacity payments being made to independent power producers.

Continued on Page 06

## Opp mulls joint strategy against govt

Fazl convinced to join forces with opposition alliance against govt

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the opposition parties was held on Tuesday and pledged to give a tough time to the government. Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Chairman Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman,

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## Pak concerned over illicit sale of nuclear material in India

Islamabad demands Delhi conduct probe into "theft and illicit sale" of radioactive materials

FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed grave concerns over the reports of recurring incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in India, reiterating the call for independent probe into such incidents. "Pakistan is gravely concerned at the reports of recurring incidents of theft and illicit sale of nuclear and other radioactive materials in India. In the latest incident, a gang of individuals were found in illegal possession of a highly radioactive and toxic substance Californium, worth \$100 million in quantity," Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said this in response to a question on Tuesday. The Indian media reported last week about the arrest of another gang possessing a highly radioactive and toxic substance Californium. Islamabad demanded New Delhi conduct a probe into the frequent instances of "theft and illicit sale" of nuclear and other radioactive materials in India. "Three incidents of

Continued on Page 06

## US rejects involvement in Hasina's ouster

Report cited Hasina as accusing the US of playing a role in ousting her

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States has dismissed the allegations of its alleged involvement in the ouster of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who recently fled the country after resigning from her position following deadly protests. "We have had no involvement at all. Any reports or rumours that the US government was involved in these events is simply false,"

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# Shaza, Korean envoy discuss digitalization, IT Park project

Shaza Fatima said that both Pakistan and Korea can benefit from each other's experiences in the field of IT and Telecommunication

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan on Tuesday discussed matters of mutual interest, digitalization and Islamabad IT Park project. During a meeting with the Ambassador, the minister said Pakistan greatly values its ties with Republic of Korea.

She said both Pakistan and Korea can benefit from each other's experiences in the field of IT and Telecommunication. She said on the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, steps are being taken for digitalization in the country. Governance, economy and services are being digitized, she added. Shaza Fatima also emphasised upon exchanging tech experts between the two countries and starting joint training program in the field of

IT & Telecom. The minister offered thanks to the government of Korea for cooperation in construction of IT Park in Islamabad. "Islamabad IT Park is very important project and government wants its completion as soon as possible", she added. The Ambassador said that Korea wanted to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in the field of IT and Telecommunication. Secretary IT Aisha Humera Chaudhary was also present in the meeting.

## Ambassador emphasises importance of constructive engagement among Pakistani expatriates in UAE

"This extraordinary celebration is a testament to the deep-rooted and enduring partnership between Pakistan and the UAE," Ambassador Tirmizi stated. "A relationship firmly established by the visionary leadership of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, has encouraged Pakistani residents to be exemplary ambassadors of their country while abiding by local laws. Speaking to the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on the sidelines of the "Emirates Loves Pakistan" event marking Pakistan's

78th Independence Day, the diplomat expressed his admiration for the event's grandeur. "This extraordinary celebration is a testament to the deep-rooted and enduring partnership between Pakistan and the UAE," Ambassador Tirmizi stated. "A relationship firmly established by the visionary leadership of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan." The event, which drew a crowd of over 20,000 attendees

representing diverse nationalities, showcased Pakistani culture, music, and cuisine. He emphasised the Pakistani community's role as a source of pride and strength. He urged Pakistani residents in the UAE to respect the country's laws and develop their skills, acknowledging their significant contributions to the UAE's development. The diplomat extended his gratitude to the Pakistan Association Dubai, Emirates Loves Pakistan, and the UAE Government Media Office for their support in organising the successful event. Ambassador Tirmizi concluded his remarks by congratulating Pakistani javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem on his historic victory at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.



LALAMUSA: Director Naveed-e-Sahar School Lalamusa Tanvir Akhtar and Principal Rashida Tanvir presenting shield and certificate to Rayyan Sabir for getting 518 out of 555. Rayyan clinched first position in his school.— DNA

## IRS seminar on 'Glacier Lake Outburst Flood and its Impact'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: At a discussion organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), on Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) and their impact on northern areas of Pakistan, Dr. B. Sidney Smith, a climate expert from the US, said that we were passing through a civilizational decline which was rooted in unsustainable resource consumption. He said that there were no immediate solutions to tackle climate change consequences, adding that, adaptively was said to be the only option left. He stressed the importance of regional cooperation and solidarity. Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Ismail, Country Rep, Pakistan, at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) highlighted that impacts of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) on the northern region of Pakistan or in the Upper Indus Basin (UIB) was grave and need immediate attention. He said that due to the current flash floods and GLOF events in UIB, the out-migration occurred at a massive level. He added that the increasing frequency of GLOF in the northern region posed a significant threat to the region's internal stability.

## HPVTC cultivating talent, benefiting local community

ISLAMABAD: Huaneng Pakistan Vocational and Technical College (HPVTC) set up inside Sahiwal Coal Power Plant is cultivating talent, benefiting the local community, promoting a positive image, culture of the workplace and fostering harmony. Focal person of Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, said that a technical training agreement was signed between the Punjab Government and the Power Plant, leading to the establishment of a well-developed, clean, and green vocational and technical college. Technical education is the cornerstone of a skilled workforce, especially in industries requiring specialized knowledge and practical expertise, the Focal person said in a statement issued here Tuesday. The establishment of Huaneng Pakistan Vocational and Technical College (HPVTC) brings substantial benefits to local students by providing access

to specialized education, opening up career opportunities, and fostering economic growth within the community. This institution also offers opportunities for fresh graduates from universities and college students nearing the end of their academic programs. Each new batch of students is enrolled based on a rigorous selection process, with training sessions starting consecutively as each previous batch completes their program. Huaneng Pakistan Vocational and Technical College (HPVTC) offers a variety of technical courses, including computer skills, electrical and mechanical training, safety and rescue procedures, welding, Chinese and English language studies, and basic knowledge of power plant operations. HPVTC also offers internships programs to fresh graduates and university students, allowing them to come and gain technical education

and practical skills during a specified internship period. As a key player in energy production and distribution, Sahiwal Coal Power Plant relies on a workforce proficient in various technical disciplines. This technical training college equips students with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in this industry. For local students, the ability to gain valuable expertise close to home offers a significant advantage, paving the way for personal success and the overall betterment of their community. They also experience a collaborative learning environment, a positive and enriching culture, and teamwork. A technical education training college focused on power plant operations offers college students, university students, and fresh graduates an unparalleled opportunity to gain the specialized skills and practical experience essential for success.—APP

## National Roaming Services launched

ISLAMABAD: To mark the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan Ministry of IT & Telecom, PTA and USF in a groundbreaking initiative aimed at enhancing connectivity and public service in Balochistan, launched National Roaming Services along Makran Coastal Highway today. The milestone achievement launched during a ceremony held at PTA headquarters is a result of collaborative efforts among the Universal Service Fund (USF), Jazz, Ufone, under the patronage of PTA.—APP

## CM's aide inaugurates Eco-tourism Campaign

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Tourism, Zahid Chan Zaib on Tuesday planted a sapling and inaugurated Eco-tourism Campaign in Headquarters of Swat Development Authority. Speaking on the occasion, Tourism Advisor said that government desires to promote tourism and introduce scenic beauty of Swat at international level. He said tree plantation campaign is part of Independence Day celebration and reflect our vision and aim to protect environment and ecosystem through coordinated efforts. CM advisor also highlighted the significance of people to achieve the objective and urged locals to support efforts of government in preserving and protecting natural beauty of the area.— APP

## ISSI Roundtable proposes strategic path for Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In the backdrop of far-reaching transformations occurring in South Asia, including recent changes in Bangladesh, the India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Round-table discussion, titled "Recent Developments in South Asia." The RT was attended by diplomats, practitioners, academics, heads of think-tanks and area specialists. The participants reviewed the domestic, regional and global dynamics of the recent developments in several South Asian states and highlighted their wider implications. They emphasized the importance of recognizing the local

dynamics of each situation and the need for deeper understanding of the political culture and traditions of each state. In the case of Bangladesh, the salience of the 'people's movement', spearheaded by the students, was underlined. It was also stressed that there were obvious limitations to any given state's attempts to establish its domination over the region and that the recent turn of events showed that the policies of direct or indirect interference had backfired. The layer of complexity added by the global geo-politics and major-power contestation to regional politics in South Asia was also underscored. The participants highlighted a range of policy actions for Paki-

stan - envisioning strategic balance in South Asia; adopting multi-pronged regional engagement; promoting robust bilateral relations with South Asian partner countries; strengthening civilizational linkages; adopting a pro-active approach in the evolving geo-strategic environment; and prioritizing trade and economic ties within and beyond the region. Participants also underscored the importance of connectivity and economic integration, including reinforced regional cooperation process. The participants concluded that Pakistan recognizes the pivotal importance of South Asia in the Asian balance-of-power and supports sustainable peace and stability in the region.

## Empowering women vital for economic growth: Gilani

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani Tuesday said that empowering women to take leadership roles in climate action will lead to more innovative and comprehensive solutions, driving progress in environmental conservation and sustainability. "The impacts of rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, and natural disasters disproportionately affect women and marginalized communities and it is imperative that response to these challeng-

es is inclusive, equitable, and transformative" he expressed these views at a reception hosted in honor of the delegation of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). The delegation was led by Secretary General of AFPPD Dr. Jeth Sirathranout. He felicitated Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, the Ministry, Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, and all the stakeholders for organizing such a significant and impactful

conference on an issue that resonates deeply with our national and regional priorities. The diverse gathering of parliamentarians from Cambodia, Egypt, Japan, Jordan, Indonesia, Iraq, Lao PDR, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam and Turkmenistan is a testament to Pakistan shared commitment to addressing the critical issues of climate change, green economy, gender equality and sustainable development. He also admired dedication to integrating gender perspectives into environmental and economic policies, which would

help build a sustainable and inclusive future for our peoples. "Pakistan, like many of our neighboring countries, faces significant vulnerabilities to climate change", he added. The Chairman observed that empowering women is not only a matter of social justice but also a strategic imperative for achieving economic growth and environmental sustainability. He said that women, who make up nearly half of the country's population, have always been key players in managing natural resources and advocating for sustainable practices.

## FDIs vital for Gilgit-Baltistan tourism growth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Governor Gilgit-Baltistan, foreign ambassadors and business leaders declared internal and external investment as essential for the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and explore the new potential of indigenous culture of Pakistan. On this occasion, they said that Gilgit Baltistan is the Jewels of Pakistan, where there is full potential of all major forms of tourism including traditional, agricultural, medical and cultural tourism, which can attract the foreign tourists with its unique indigenous culture and real heritage of Pakistan. Meanwhile addressing the Pre-Tourism summit session and luncheon hosted, by President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Governor Gilgit-Baltistan, Syed Mehdi Shah said that the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan is the top priority of the provincial government and Islam Chamber of Commerce and Industry has taken an pivotal step in the Gilgit-Baltistan region by organizing the Tour-

ism Summit. Governor GB said that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce President Ahsan Bakhtawari is a young and dynamic business leader whose efforts for this region of GB will always be remembered. He said that last year a direct flight started from Dubai to Pakistan, which should now also start from China, Iran, Azerbaijan and Central Asian states. Meanwhile, while speaking on the occasion, the European Union Ambassador, Dr Riina Kionka said that the European Union is committed to start many projects for the promotion of tourism and energy projects in GB. The Ambassador said that Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the most famous regions of Pakistan for tourism, which has its own indigenous culture, which can create a soft image of Pakistan in front of the world. She said that by increasing tourism facilities in Gilgit-Baltistan, this region can be made a center of international tourism. Meanwhile, the ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Ihab Abdel Hamid Hasan praised the steps taken by Islam Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the promotion of tourism in Pakistan and said that Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the most beautiful

regions of the world. He said that he is working for the VISA on arrival for the business community in Pakistan, which will strengthen the economic relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, the ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov said that there is a lot of potential in agriculture in Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is a beautiful country and Azerbaijan and Pakistan can do a lot to promote tourism and also enhance the bilateral economic trade ties. Meanwhile, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzan Kistafan said that he intends to resume direct flights between Kazakhstan and Pakistan to enhance the connectivity between both brotherly countries. The Ambassador said that the two countries have vast opportunities for cooperation in tourism and other sectors to enhance air connectivity. In his address on this occasion, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President Ahsan Bakhtawari said that there are vast tourism opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan which need to be explored. The President ICCI said that there are also ample opportunities in tourism, hydro-

power, gems and stones and marble for local and foreign investors in Gilgit-Baltistan. Ahsan said that today's tourism summit is significant for the promotion of tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and also explore the new avenues for regional economy. He said that local investors should invest in local GBs economy, then "We can attract the foreign investors to invest in the potential sector of the region. Meanwhile, Secretary General, United Business Group, FPCCI and farmer President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari said highlight the dynamics of the tourism potential in GB. He said that Gilgit Baltistan is the most beautiful region of the world where foreign investors should invest in potential areas. Vice President, FPCCI Ms Quratun Ain said on the occasion that tourism can change the local economic landscape and contribute to the country's economy in this economic crisis. Ambassador of Malaysia to Pakistan, Azher Malan, Ambassador of Myanmar and Ambassador of Yemen also present on the occasion.

یوم آزادی پاکستان کے پر مسرت موقع پر میں تمام اہلیان پاکستان کو ملی مبارکباد پیش کرتا ہوں۔

بلاشبہ 14 اگست ہماری قوم کی بہت بڑا اور عزم صمیم کی علامت ہے۔ یہ اہم دن ہماری تاریخ میں خاص اہمیت کا حامل ہے جب فقید المثل جدوجہد آزادی ایک گلیڈیوئر ریاست کے حصول پر منہم ہوئی۔ درحقیقت پاکستان کا قیام قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح کے غیر متزلزل ارادے اور پختہ عزم کے ساتھ ساتھ مسلمانان برصغیر کا قانوقی ولولہ انگیز قیادت میں متحد ہونے کا مظہر ہے۔ یوم آزادی کے موقع پر ہم اپنے آباؤ اجداد کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہیں جن کی جدوجہد اور بے مثال قربانیوں کی بدولت ہمیں انمول تحفہ آزادی نصیب ہوا۔

میرے عزیز ہم وطنو! یقیناً یوم آزادی ہمیں ملک کی موجودہ ترقی، اور پیش پلینجز اور مستقبل میں کامیابیوں کی نئی رفتوں کے حصول پر غور کرنے کا موقع فراہم کرتا ہے۔ مزید برآں، یہ دن ہمارے لیے ایمان، اتحاد اور تنظیم کے سبھی اصولوں پر کاربند رہ کر تعمیر وطن کا اعادہ کرنے کا سبب بھی ہے۔ اس موقع پر میں آپ کو یقین دلاتا ہوں کہ پاک فضائیہ ملک کی فضائی سرحدوں کی حفاظت کے لیے ہمہ وقت تیار ہے۔ یہ امر باعث مسرت ہے کہ حال ہی میں پاک فضائیہ قائد کے خود اٹھاری کے تصور پر گامزن ہو کر جدت اور مقابلیت پروری کے ذریعے ایک جدید، باکفایت اور پیشہ ورانہ قوت بن کر ابھری ہے۔ خوشی کے اس موقع پر ہم اس عزم کا بھی اعادہ کرتے ہیں کہ ہمیشہ اپنے شہری بھائیوں کی آزادی اور حق خود ارادیت کی جدوجہد میں ان کے شانہ بشانہ کھڑے رہیں گے۔

میری دعا ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ہمیں استقامت اور رہنمائی عطا فرمائے تاکہ ہم اپنے سادہ و سخی کی حفاظت پاک فضائیہ پر قوم کے اعتماد اور فخر کے شایان شان طور پر کر سکیں (آئین)۔

پاک فضائیہ زند جاوید  
پاکستان پائند جاوید

ایئر چیف مارشل  
ظہیر احمد بابر سرو، شان امتیاز (ملٹی)  
چیف آف دی ایئر سٹاف، پاکستان ایئر فورس

پاکستان ایئر فورس  
قوم کاسیما، ایف، فتحخار

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### AUGUST

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

### Hotels & Restaurants



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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

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



### Enquiry

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



### Hospitals

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



### Departments

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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# PM reaffirms commitment to building a strong Pakistan

Paying high tribute to Olympian javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem, he said that Nadeem's hard work and dedication have added even more significance to the Independence Day celebrations. Despite numerous challenges, Arshad excelled through his unwavering effort. His success was also a testament to the support of his parents and coach, which helped him secure the gold medal

### FARRUKH SHEHZAD

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed his strong commitment to transform Pakistan into a prosperous and robust nation through the collective efforts of all segments of society, working together as a united team. In his opening remarks at the federal cabinet meeting, he expressed his deep belief that teamwork is essential for achieving success. He emphasized the importance of learning from past mistakes and moving forward with relentless day-and-night efforts to build the nation envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This year on Independence Day, he said, the entire nation will reaffirm its commitment to work tirelessly for the country's progress. Paying high tribute to Olympian javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem, he said

that Nadeem's hard work and dedication have added even more significance to the Independence Day celebrations. Despite numerous challenges, Arshad excelled through his unwavering effort. His success was also a testament to the support of his parents and coach, which helped him secure the gold medal. He said Arshad has emerged as a symbol of unity and national pride and announced that he has recommended the nation's highest honors be awarded to Arshad Nadeem in recognition of his hard work and service to the country. He also mentioned that he has invited Arshad and his family to the prime minister's residence in Islamabad for dinner today, as a gesture of appreciation from both the government and the entire nation. He praised the power minister, his team, and other cabinet members for their efforts to make electricity more affordable. He emphasized that it was crucial to remember that industrial revival was

impossible without reducing production costs, particularly electricity charges. He discussed his goal of revitalizing the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) by cutting red tape, streamlining routine paperwork, and digitizing the entire process. He mentioned that consultants have already been appointed to help achieve this objective. He also directed that every ministry should go paperless, as success was unattainable without embracing innovation. He further noted that the stay sought by some FBR officers has been vacated thanks to the government's proactive approach. Meanwhile, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday renewed his commitment to place the country on a national growth trajectory and include it among the world's top ten economies. "We will once again turn the wheel of the economy and give the youth a Pakistan that will be among the

top ten economies of the world by 2047," he said, promising a future where the country's youth would inherit a thriving and prosperous state. The minister expressed this resolve while addressing the Iste-hkam-e-Pakistan seminar organized by the Islamic International University Islamabad (IIUI) in connection with the 78th Independence Day. He highlighted the crucial role of peace, political stability, consistent policies and continuous reforms in achieving national development and prosperity, adding that no country in the world has ever attained progress without adhering to these principles. Ahsan Iqbal said it was a universal reality that no policy in any country bore fruit before a timeframe of ten years and that no one would invest a single penny in a country lacking political stability. He observed that nothing weakened the country economically more than political instability, long marches, sit-ins and unrest. Whenever the Pakistan

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government came into power and set the country on the path to economic stability and development, he said, unfortunately, obstacles were created, causing harm to democracy and the national economy. He noted that the PML-N government had presented Vision 2010 in 1998 and Vision 2025 in 2013, but it bore the brunt of 'so-called change' in 2018. Following this, he said, state affairs were handed over to a person who had never been involved in even union council-level matters, which caused severe damage to the national economy, and the nation was still facing its negative impact. The minister said Pakistan was established after great sacrifices, with its founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, envisioning it as a developed nation despite having meager resources. He paid tribute to the national leadership that, in the first ten years of Pakistan's creation.

## NIHCR Director pays tribute to founding fathers

ISLAMABAD: Director of the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR) at Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad Dr. Sajid Awan Tuesday urged the younger generation to remember the monumental efforts and sacrifices of those who fought tirelessly for the freedom of Pakistan, where millions of lives were lost in the struggle for a separate homeland. In an interview with PTV news channel, he emphasized the significance of understanding and honoring the country's rich history, cultural heritage, and the unwavering resolve of its founding fathers, to inspire a sense of ownership and responsibility among the youth to take the nation forward. The Director of NIHCR also stressed the need for the younger generation to recognize the immense efforts of those who fought for Pakistan's independence, including the likes of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and countless others who laid down their lives for the cause. Dr. Awan's message served as a reminder to the youth to stay connected to their roots and take pride in their national identity. He encouraged them to draw inspiration from the country's rich history and cultural heritage to become active contributors to Pakistan's progress and prosperity. By remembering and honoring the sacrifices of those who came before us, Dr. Awan believes that the youth can develop a deeper sense of ownership and responsibility towards their country, ultimately leading to a brighter future for Pakistan. Dr. Sajid Awan also congratulated the nation on the occasion of Independence Day and urged the youth to move forward with positivity, hope, and a sense of purpose. He emphasized the importance of respecting and learning from their elders, who have played a significant role in shaping the country's history. Dr. Awan also highlighted the significance of preserving Pakistan's cultural heritage and promoting its rich history, literature, and arts. He urged the youth to take pride in their national identity and work towards creating a vibrant and progressive society. By moving forward with positivity and respect for elders, Dr. Awan believes that the youth can play a vital role in building a stronger, more resilient Pakistan, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. —APP

## OGRA launches "Plant for Pak" initiative

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In commemoration of Pakistan's 77th Independence Day, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has launched the "Plant for Pakistan" initiative, reflecting the nation's commitment to combating the adverse impacts of climate change. The eco-friendly drive was inaugurated by OGRA Chairman, Masroor Khan, who planted a tree alongside Members of the Authority and OGRA employees. The initial phase saw the planting of over 200 trees on the green belt in front of the OGRA Headquarters in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Capital Development Authority (CDA). Chairman Masroor Khan commended the Capital Development Authority for its support during the drive. He emphasized the importance of collective efforts in safeguarding the environment, stating, "As we celebrate our Independence Day, let us pledge to serve our nation with dedication and to protect our environment from the dangers of climate change. Together, we can make a difference



by planting as many trees as possible," Masroor Khan also called upon all OGRA licensees to actively participate in the "Plant for Pakistan" drive, reinforcing the organization's commitment to environmental sustainability.

## All set to celebrate 77th Independence Day

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district administration, police and the citizens are all set to celebrate the 77th Independence Day on August 14, Wednesday with great enthusiasm and national zeal as all the preparations including tight security arrangements have been finalized. Rawalpindi District Administration, District Police, City Traffic Police, Punjab Emergency Service, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence and other departments concerned have finalized all the arrangements in this regard. Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak had directed all the departments to ensure Independence Day celebrations in a dignified manner. Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of the Commissioner was also finalizing all the arrangements to celebrate the Independence Day. Director General (DG) RDA Kinza Murtaza had directed the authorities concerned that the markets, plazas, shops and roads particularly Murree Road from Chandni Chowk to Faizabad and Airport Road should be decorated with national flags, bunting, paintings and colourful lights. She directed all RDA and WASA officers to finalize the best possible arrangements for the day. With the start of August, Jashan-e-Azadi preparations were started here in every nook and corner of the city to celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm and national fervour. All the main buildings including Rawalpindi Railway Station, Rawalpindi and Chakdala Cantonment Board offices, Askari Plaza, Mall Road, Metro Track, Murree Road, RDA, WASA and PHA buildings, National Bank Saddar Main Branch, Bank Road, Mall Road and several other areas have been beautifully decorated to mark the Independence Day. The business community was also actively taking part in the Independence Day celebrations and decorating markets and roads. The buildings have been illuminated and a number of colourful activities have also been planned to mark this occasion with great enthusiasm. Different public and private departments would hold special functions and activities including seminars, discussion programmes, photographic exhibitions, painting, poetry, national songs and debate competitions with the focus on acknowledging the contribution of leaders of Pakistan movement and sacrifices of national heroes. The printers and makers of bunting, flags, banners and badges are fully engaged in their business. Jashan-e-Azadi preparations reached at its peak on Tuesday as the citizens were getting ready to celebrate the Independence Day with zeal and zest. —Agencies

## QAU Alumni to plant ten thousand trees

ISLAMABAD: The Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Alumni Association Founders Group successfully organized a Quaidians Meet-up and Mango Party, bringing together old students of QAU from across Pakistan. The event, which celebrated the enduring bond among alumni, was a vibrant gathering marked by camaraderie and shared memories. During the meet-up, it was announced that like the previous years, in celebration of the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan, the QAU alumni, in collaboration with its partners, will plant approximately ten thousand trees across the country. This initiative is part of the alumni's commitment to environmental sustainability and the well-being of future generations. Additionally, the association plans to establish three fruit orchards within the premises of QAU, further contributing to the university's green environment. The gathering also focused on the collective responsibility of supporting young Quaidians in their professional journeys. It was vowed that the QAU alumni will intensify its efforts in providing continuous mentorship, internships, and job opportunities to young graduates, ensuring they have the resources and guidance needed to succeed in their careers. —APP

**FREE ENTRY**  
BY GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

**AUGUST 2024**  
**13<sup>th</sup> | 14<sup>th</sup>**  
04:00 Pm | 12:00 Pm  
F-9 Park, Islamabad

DAY-1		DAY-2	
Gates Open		Gates Open	
National Anthem		National Anthem	
Tree Plantation		Tree Plantation	
Interaction with Top influencers		Interaction with Top influencers	
Live Food Stations		Live Food Stations	
Cultural Stalls		Cultural Stalls	
Live Performance by Singers		Live Performance by Singers	
Ranis		Ranis	
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm		12:00 pm to 3:00 pm	
7:15 pm	Zonaib Zahid	4:00 to 6:00 pm	Cultural Dances
7:45 pm	Tahir Abbas	6:00 pm	Live Performance by Singers
8:20 pm	Yashal Shahid	6:30 pm	Nouman Ali
9:00 pm	Sajjad Ali	7:00 pm	Nimra Mehra
9:45 pm	Young Stunners	7:30 pm	Jabar Abbas
11:00 pm	Countdown	8:00 pm	Soch Band
11:59 pm	Fireworks	8:30 pm	Shamoon Ismail
12:00 am		8:40 pm	Umar Jaswal
Hosts		9:30 pm	Asim Azhar
Ali Safina   Sophiya Anjum		10:30 pm	First Ever Drone Show by Government of Pakistan
		Hosts	
		Ali Safina   Sophiya Anjum	

## Briefs

## Chinese Scholarship Program for University of Sargodha launched

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Lahore has launched a new scholarship program for students at the University of Sargodha. Gwadar Pro reported it on Wednesday quoting a statement from the university. The "Consular General Scholarships" were announced by Zhao Shiren, the Chinese Consul General, during a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas.

To mark the program's commencement, Mr. Zhao presented a cheque for Rs. 1 million. The scholarships are designed to support both merit-based and financially disadvantaged students, according to the university. The initiative aims to alleviate financial burdens, enabling students to pursue their academic ambitions without hindrance. Vice-Chancellor Abbas expressed deep gratitude for the generous contribution, noting its significant impact on the educational experiences of the recipients. The announcement is seen as a testament to the strong educational ties between China and Pakistan and reflects a shared commitment to fostering academic excellence. The "Consular General Scholarship" is part of a broader effort by China to support education in Pakistan. Moreover, under the Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Program, the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad has extended similar support to various universities across the country. These scholarships are awarded on a merit-cum-need basis, with 50% allocated specifically for female students to help bridge the gender gap in higher education.

## IRSA releases 405,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 405,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 446,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1546.00 feet and was 148.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 283,600 cusecs and 254,600 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1210.55 feet, which was 162.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 22,300 cusecs.—APP

## ICT admin gears up for Independence Day events

The Chief Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic recently visited the park to review the preparations. District officials are closely monitoring the arrangements to ensure everything goes smoothly

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has planned a series of events to celebrate Independence Day in a significant way, with both large and small events throughout the city to ensure widespread participation and enjoyment. According to the spokesperson of the ICT administration, officials are working to ensure a memorable and well-coordinated celebration, emphasizing the spirit of freedom and unity. A special focus

is being given to F9 Park, where a major event is being organized for the citizens.

The Chief Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic recently visited the park to review the preparations. District officials are closely monitoring the arrangements to ensure everything goes smoothly. During their visit, they received a detailed briefing from the concerned staff about the planned events and decorations. Meanwhile, preparations for August 14 were also discussed in a

meeting chaired by the DC Islamabad. Key officials, including the SSP Traffic, SP Dolphin, and all Deputy and Assistant Commissioners, attended the meeting to review the progress and finalize plans for the celebrations. They decided to decorate and light up various buildings across the city. National flags will be hoisted along key roads, and arrangements for August 13, the night before Independence Day, were thoroughly reviewed.

The DC Islamabad has called on building owners to decorate high-rise buildings across the city, emphasizing the importance of a unified and festive appearance. He also warned that those engaging in unruly behavior, such as playing drums and whistles in an uncontrolled manner, will face action. Similarly, a joint strategy with the traffic police is being finalized to maintain order during the celebrations, as confirmed by DC Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon. As preparations continue, public and private buildings across the city are being adorned with colorful lights. These decorations are intended to enhance

the city's beauty, especially at night when the green and white lights will illuminate the skyline. The DC urged all building owners to contribute to this effort by ensuring their properties are well-lit and decorated. Memon expressed the administration's commitment to making this year's Independence Day celebration one to remember. The district administration's efforts are focused on bringing the community together to celebrate the nation's freedom in a meaningful and unified manner.

## No harm will come to Pakistan, says Army Chief

"Pakistan came into being to stand out among the comity of nations. Pakistan is a fait accompli and it cannot be undone," the army chief stated

DNA

KAKUL: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir is addressing the Azadi Parade at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul on the eve of Independence Day. The parade is being held at Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul to mark the 78th Independence Day.

"Pakistan came into being to stand out among the comity of nations. Pakistan is a fait accompli and it cannot be undone," the army chief stated. The army chief is the chief guest of the Azadi Parade ceremony.

The cadets of the Pakistan Military Academy presented a spectacular demonstration of their skills in the drill parade. On this occasion, a special tribute was presented to the martyrs of the land.

## Gang busted: 3 arrested, 20 stolen bikes retrieve

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Aabpara Police team have arrested three members of an inter-provincial bike thief gang involved in numerous bike theft activities and recovered twenty stolen motorbikes and arms along with ammunition from his possession. An ICP public relations officer said on Tuesday that, following the special directions of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Police Syed Ali Raza the Islamabad Capital Police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Aug11-Citizens taking interest in Flags and other stuff road stalls in the Federal Capital in celebration of August 14 Pakistan Day.—ONLINE

## Chairman flood commission vows smart solutions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: With monsoon rains expected to continue until August 18, Federal Flood Commission Chairman Ahmed Kamal Tuesday vows to bolster defenses, assuring rigorous coordination, strategic water management, and cutting-edge drainage solutions to safeguard Pakistan's most vulnerable populations and infrastructure.

Under the strict instructions of the Prime Minister, the Commission is prioritizing strong coordination among institutions, implementing critical water management projects, and developing innovative drainage systems to mitigate the impact of floods and protect vulnerable communities, he said while talk-

ing to PTV news channel.

Additionally, early warning systems and evacuation plans are being put in place to facilitate swift action in case of an emergency, he added. As the nation braces for the monsoon season's peak, Chairman Kamal urged citizens to remain vigilant and cooperate with authorities in flood-prone areas, adding, together, we can mitigate the impact of floods and ensure a safer future for all, he appealed. Chairman warned that scattered rain and landsliding are expected to pose a significant threat until August 18, particularly in vulnerable regions. However, he expressed confidence in the strong coordination between district and federal authorities, which he believes will be crucial in responding to emerging challenges. Re-

plying a query, Ahmed Kamal praised the collaborative efforts of various agencies, including the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), SPARCO, and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), in enhancing the country's disaster response capabilities. He noted that these departments are now equipped with cutting-edge technology and equipment to assess and mitigate natural calamities. "With the latest technology at our disposal, we are better positioned to predict, prepare for, and respond to natural disasters", he added. This includes advanced flood monitoring systems, drones, and satellite imaging, which enable us to make data-driven decisions and take proactive measures, he mentioned. "Flood commission under the dedicated

leadership of PM Shahbaz Sharif is committed to embracing innovation and best practices to safeguard our communities and infrastructure from the impacts of climate change and natural hazards," he emphasized. To another question, Kamal also underscored the importance of natural-based solutions to control flooding. He emphasized that relying solely on infrastructure-based approaches is not enough and that a more holistic approach is needed to mitigate the impact of floods. "Nature-based solutions, such as restoring wetlands, afforestation, and preserving natural waterways, can play a vital role in absorbing excess water and reducing the risk of flooding," Chairman Kamal explained.

## S K Hydropower Station to generate up to 3.212 billion KWH of electricity

ISLAMABAD: The Suki Kinari (S K) Hydropower Station is estimated to generate up to 3.212 billion KWH of electricity annually after being put into operation. Besides this, it will provide affordable clean electricity to more than 1 million households in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the first unit of Pakistan's Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Station successfully achieved synchronization and began generating power. According to a Gwadar Pro's report, this significant milestone represents the most crucial step toward the Commercial Operation Date (COD) of Energy China's largest overseas hydropower project. As one of the flagship projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and a key priority of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the SK Hydropower Station is equipped with four impulse turbine units, boasting a total installed capacity of 884MW. The first unit, with a capacity of 221MW, has now commenced transmitting clean energy to local users via power transmission lines. At the site, He Xiongfei, Chairman of SK Hydro (Private) Limited, emphasized that the project has entered its critical final phase, thanks to the collaborative efforts of all involved stakeholders and team members. He further noted that the successful synchronization and power generation of the first unit signified the project's imminent achievement of COD. Expecting to achieve COD soon, the S K Hydropower Station is estimated to generate up to 3.212 billion KWH of electricity annually after being put into operation and provide affordable clean electricity to more than 1 million households in Pakistan. It is of positive and far-reaching significance to Pakistan's effort in adjusting its electric power energy structure, easing the contradiction between supply and demand, and promoting the transformation of infrastructure and economic development. Earlier, on August 7, 2024, the double-circuit energization of the ADB-401A 500kV Transmission Line from SK Hydro Power Station to the Neelum Jhelum Interconnection Point was successfully completed, marking a major achievement in providing back feed supply to the Suki Kinari Hydro Power Station.—DNA

## DC for resolution public complaints under 'open door policy'

ISLAMABAD The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has introduced an open door policy, making it easier for citizens to have their concerns heard and resolved quickly. Under the new open door policy, citizens are encouraged to visit the District Commissioner's office in Islamabad during office hours with any concerns or complaints, said the spokesman of ICT administration. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon has assured that issues brought forward by citizens would be addressed on the spot. This policy is now in effect across all district administration offices in Islamabad.—APP

## China market carries vast potential

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China market carries Vast Potential for Pakistani meat exports particularly beef, says a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Pakistan's meat and meat products exports have reached new heights, surpassing \$512 million in the fiscal year 2024—a remarkable 20 percent increase from the previous year. This growth, driven by a 24 percent rise in export volume to 123,515 tonnes, was fueled by strong international demand and competitive pricing, aided by the depreciation of the Pakistani rupee. While the UAE and Saudi Arabia remain the top destinations for Pakistani meat exports, Kuwait and Qatar are emerging as promising markets. China, with its 1.41 billion consumers and growing demand for imported food products, is also poised to become a key market for Pakistani meat exports. China's meat consumption is forecasted to reach 102.53 million tons by 2033, with annual growth of 0.3 percent, according to projections from the 2024 China Agriculture Outlook Conference in Beijing. Within this, beef and

lamb consumption is expected to reach 11.1 million and 6.46 million tonnes, respectively, with average annual growth rates of 1.2 percent and 1.4 percent. Bilal Tata, CEO of Tata Best Foods—a pioneering Pakistani company licensed by the Chinese Customs Administration to export cooked beef to China since last year—emphasized the significance of the Chinese market for Pakistan's meat exports. "China's role in driving Pakistan's meat export growth cannot be underestimated," said Mr. Tata. "Pakistan is well-positioned to offer high-quality chilled meat from young cattle at competitive prices, helping us maintain a significant share in chilled meat markets, including China." However, Mr. Tata acknowledged the challenges Pakistan faces in expanding its market share in China due to current restrictions limiting exports to cooked meat products. To address this, Tata Best Foods and other Pakistani meat exporters are actively seeking to attract Chinese brands to set up production facilities in Pakistan. "Instead of merely exporting generic boiled beef, we are exploring collaborations with Chinese brands to bring their expertise to Pakistan.



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## Cash shortage crisis in Gaza

FOR the past two months, I've been struggling immensely to obtain money to provide for my family's basic needs and secure the essentials for living, due to the severe cash shortage in the markets," said Bilal Ibrahim to the Palestinian Information Center (PIC). His complaint highlights just a small part of the "cash shortage crisis" that Israel has sought to turn into one of the harshest tools of collective punishment against the people of Gaza amidst the ongoing genocide. Ibrahim confirms that "the economic conditions have become extremely dire for most Palestinian families due to the cash shortage and the difficulty in accessing money, with high fees imposed by money changers." He notes that at the beginning of the war on Gaza, the money changers were charging a fee of 1-2% at worst, but this percentage gradually increased, reaching 20% by the end of April this year. Since the beginning of its aggression on Gaza on October 8, 2023, the Israeli occupation forces have sought to destroy all aspects of life. High-level political statements have dehumanized the residents of Gaza. As part of their attempt to exterminate the population or force them to leave, they have employed various means, policies, and procedures to undermine the residents' ability to survive. The Al Mezan Center confirms in a recent report that this crisis has become one of the tools used by Israel to cripple the banks' ability to provide financial services to the public. This is part of the genocide, with the occupation authorities preventing the necessary cash, especially the Israeli shekel (the main currency in the occupied Palestinian territories), from reaching the banks. As a result, they have created an unprecedented cash shortage crisis in Gaza. This cash shortage directly impacts the population, exacerbating daily challenges and preventing them from withdrawing their money from banks, whether it's salaries, savings, or funds sent by relatives and friends abroad. Since the start of the Israeli aggression on Gaza, Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich stated in a tweet on his X account that he refuses to transfer tax revenues to the Palestinian Authority until further notice. He also said he would not renew the licenses for banks dealing with Palestinian Authority banks. According to the geographical distribution by the Palestinian Monetary Authority, there are 10 banks, 56 branches and offices, and 84 ATMs operating in Gaza. In a press statement issued in the first week of May, the Palestinian Monetary Authority noted that there are no official statistics on the partial and total damages inflicted on the banking sector in Gaza. However, field data indicates that all branches and offices of Palestinian banks in Gaza and Northern Gaza have been out of service since the first day of the aggression. Al Mezan Center for Human Rights emphasizes that destroying essential resources for the population's survival, including denying access to salaries and wages, undermines their ability to live and provide for essential needs. Al Mezan Center calls on the international community to pressure Israel to halt the genocide and implement an immediate ceasefire, compelling it, as an occupying force, to comply with the International Court of Justice's rulings that imposed temporary measures to prevent genocide.



## China's shuttle diplomacy on Ukraine

BEIJING'S diplomats have continued to be active on the international stage, keen on positioning China as a global peace mediator. On July 28, China's special representative on Eurasian affairs Li Hui embarked on his fourth round of shuttle diplomacy on the Ukraine war, travelling to Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia. China's renewed attempts at shuttle diplomacy offer insights into Beijing's intensified interest in resolving the Russia-Ukraine war. Li conducted his first round of shuttle diplomacy in May last year and his second round in March this year. Both rounds involved trips to Russia, Ukraine and European nations which have been supporting Ukraine. In his third round of shuttle diplomacy in May, Li travelled to Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He also had discussions with officials from Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa and Kazakhstan. A new six-point consensus statement emerged as a result of the third round of shuttle diplomacy which to some extent attempted to develop China's controversial 12-point peace plan of February 2023. This consensus was further formalised after Celso Amorim, chief adviser to the president of Brazil, met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on May 23. But, in a change from the previously published statement, the two officials outlined in the second point that they "support an international peace conference held at a proper time that is recognised by both Russia and Ukraine, with equal participation of all parties as well as fair discussion of all peace plans". They remained less specific on the nature of these negotiations and whether any preconditions ought to be met before such talks can commence. The agreement on holding a peace conference came just three weeks before the peace summit held in Switzerland in June. While Beijing initially communicated with Switzerland on the conference, in the end Beijing did not attend it as Russia had not been invited to participate. While the summit saw attendance by 92 countries, including almost 60 heads of state and government, it proved rather fruitless. The shuttle diplomacy conducted by Chinese diplomats within the last 14 months has also included bilateral meetings at ministerial level. On July 24, Wang met Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba in Guangzhou. They discussed the "search for ways to stop Russian aggression and China's possible role in achieving a lasting and just peace", according to Ukraine's foreign ministry. However, Lavrov did not mention the role Russia as the aggressor could play in ending the war. He also did not mention any territorial concessions Russia might be ready to make. China's at times hectic diplomatic activities related to the Ukraine war offer three insights into Beijing's possible future role as mediator. First, Chinese diplomacy on the Ukraine war has intensified. It took Beijing until the first anniversary of the war to conduct its first round of shuttle diplomacy, but since March this year, over the course of four months, China has conducted three more rounds of it. Finally, Beijing is attempting to build up its image as a global security actor and peace mediator. China's recent hosting of 14 Palestinian factions, including Fatah and Hamas, which led to the signing of "Beijing Declaration" on July 23, is a case in point.

# From Papua to Gaza, military occupation leads to climate catastrophe

David Whyte & Samira Saunders

The wholesale destruction of the water supply and sanitation facilities and the ongoing threat of starvation across the Gaza Strip are also not unwanted consequences, but deliberate tactics of war. The Israeli military has weaponised food and water access in its unrelenting assault on the population of Gaza. Of course, none of this is new to Palestinians there, or indeed in the West Bank. Israel has been using these same tactics to sustain its occupation, pressure Palestinians into leaving their lands, and expand its illegal settlement enterprise for many years. Since October 7, it has merely intensified its efforts. It is now working with unprecedented urgency to eradicate little capacity the occupied...

MANY in the international community are finally coming to accept that the earth's ecosystem can no longer bear the weight of military occupation. Most have reached this inevitable conclusion, clearly articulated in the environmental movement's latest slogan "No Climate Justice on Occupied Land", in light of the horrors we have witnessed in Gaza since October 7. While the correlation between military occupation and climate sustainability may be a recent discovery for those living their lives in relative peace and security, people living under occupation, and thus constant threat of military violence, have always known any guided missile strike or aerial bombardment campaign by an occupying military is not only an attack on those being targeted but also their land's ability to sustain life. A recent hearing on "State and Environmental Violence in West Papua" under the jurisdiction of the Rome-based Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT), for example, heard that Indonesia's military occupation, spanning more than seven decades, has facilitated a "slow genocide" of the Papuan people through not only political repression and violence, but also the gradual decimation of the forest area – one of the largest and most biodiverse on the planet – that sustains them. West Papua hosts one of the largest copper and gold mines in the world, is the site of a major BP liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility, and is the fastest-expanding area of palm oil and biofuel plantation in Indonesia. All of these industries leave ecological dead zones in their wake, and every single one of them is secured by military occupation. At the PPT hearing, prominent Papuan lawyer Yan Christian Warinussy spoke of the connection between human suffering in West Papua and the exploitation of the region's natural resources. Just one week later, he was shot and injured by an unknown assailant. The PPT Secretariat noted that the attack came after the lawyer depicted "the past and current violence committed against the defenceless civil population and the environment in the region". What happened to Warinussy reinforced yet again the indivisibility of military occupation and environmental violence. In total, militaries around the world account

for almost 5.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions annually – more than the aviation and shipping industries combined. Our colleagues at Queen Mary University of London recently concluded that emissions from the first 120 days of this latest round of slaughter in Gaza alone were greater than the annual emissions of 26 individual countries; emissions from rebuilding Gaza will be higher than the annual emissions of over 135 countries, equating them to those of Sweden and Portugal. But even these shocking statistics fail to shed sufficient light on the deep connection between military violence and environmental violence. War and occupation's impact on the climate is not merely a side effect or unfortunate consequence. We must not reduce our analysis of what is going on in Gaza, for example, to a dualism of consequences: the killing of people on one side and the effect on "the environment" on the other. In reality, the impact on the people is inseparable from the impact on nature. The genocide in Gaza is also an ecocide – as is almost always the case with military campaigns. In the Vietnam War, the use of toxic chemicals, including Agent Orange, was part of a deliberate strategy to eliminate any capacity for agricultural production, and thus force the people off their land and into "strategic hamlets". Forests, used by the Vietcong as cover, were also cut by the US military to reduce the population's capacity for resistance. The anti-war activist and international lawyer Richard Falk coined the phrase "ecocide" to describe this. In different ways, this is what all military operations do: they tactically reduce or completely eliminate the capacity of the "enemy" population to live sustainably and to retain autonomy over its own water and food supplies. Since 2014, the bulldozing of Palestinian homes and other essential infrastructure by the Israeli occupation forces has been complemented by chemical warfare, with herbicides aerially sprayed by the Israeli military destroying entire swaths of arable land in Gaza. In other words, Gaza has been subjected to an "ecocide" strat-

egy almost identical to the one used in Vietnam since long before October 7. The occupying military force has been working to reduce, and eventually completely eliminate, the Palestinian population's capacity to live sustainably in Gaza for many years. Since October 7, it has been waging a war to make Gaza completely unlivable. As researchers at Forensic Architecture have concluded, at least 50 percent of farmland and orchards in Gaza are now completely wiped out. Many ancient olive groves have also been destroyed. Fields of crops have been uprooted using tanks, tractors and other vehicles. Widespread aerial bombardment reduced the Gaza Strip's greenhouse production facilities to rubble. All this was done not by mistake, but in a deliberate effort to leave the land unable to sustain life. The wholesale destruction of the water supply and sanitation facilities and the ongoing threat of starvation across the Gaza Strip are also not unwanted consequences, but deliberate tactics of war. The Israeli military has weaponised food and water access in its unrelenting assault on the population of Gaza. Of course, none of this is new to Palestinians there, or indeed in the West Bank. Israel has been using these same tactics to sustain its occupation, pressure Palestinians into leaving their lands, and expand its illegal settlement enterprise for many years. Since October 7, it has merely intensified its efforts. It is now working with unprecedented urgency to eradicate the little capacity the occupied Palestinian territory has left in it to sustain Palestinian life. Just as is the case with the occupation of Papua, environmental destruction is not an unintended side effect but a primary objective of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. The immediate damage military occupation inflicts on the affected population is never separate from the long-term damage it inflicts on the planet. For this reason, it would be a mistake to try and separate the genocide from the ecocide in Gaza, or anywhere else for that matter. Anyone interested in putting an end to human suffering now, and preventing climate catastrophe in the future, should oppose all wars of occupation, and all forms of militarism that help fuel them.

# 60 million facing starvation in six Southern African countries

Yril Zenda

Namibia was to follow, declaring a food disaster, and appealing for assistance to feed 340,000 households (1.4 million people). Botswana also made a similar appeal. While other countries in the 16-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) have not declared their food situations disasters, some of them also have varying degrees of food shortages. As a result, SADC as a regional economic bloc has made a separate \$5.5 billion food aid appeal on behalf of its members

MORE than 60 million people in southern Africa are experiencing severe food deficit, half of them facing a real threat of starvation, governments and humanitarian aid agencies say. An El Niño-induced drought ravaged food crops in six southern African nations resulting in the growing hunger that is expected to last until the first quarter of 2025. In what is regarded as the region's worst drought in more than three decades, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe have all declared national state of food disasters and are scrambling for aid to avert mass-starvation. "As a result of the El Niño droughts, it is projected that about 700,000 Basotho will need support to have food," Lesotho prime minister Sam Matekane said as the tiny southern African country of 2.3 million became the sixth country to declare a national food insecurity disaster. "The situation is critical, and we must take immediate action to alleviate the suffering of our people. We are appealing to national, regional, and international humanitarian organizations, as well as our friends and development partners, to join hands in this effort to support our citizens during this difficult time," Matekane said. Zambia was the first country in the region to declare a state of food disaster in February when Hakainde Hichilema announced that the severe drought had affected nearly 10 million people in 84 of the country's 116 districts. Hichilema appealed for \$940 million to feed his nation. In March, Malawi followed suit when President Lazarus Chakwera

appealed for humanitarian assistance amounting to \$447 million to feed 9 million people in 23 of the country's 28 districts that have been affected by the drought. President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe followed in April by announcing that 2.7 million people in the country were in immediate need of food, and he appealed for \$2 billion to fund a multi-pronged strategy to address the situation. In May, after the completion of a comprehensive assessment of the situation, Zimbabwe revised its figures, increasing the number of needy to 9 million, with \$3.3 billion required to mitigate the disaster. Namibia was to follow, declaring a food disaster, and appealing for assistance to feed 340,000 households (1.4 million people). Botswana also made a similar appeal. While other countries in the 16-member Southern African Development Community (SADC) have not declared their food situations disasters, some of them also have varying degrees of food shortages. As a result, SADC as a regional economic bloc has made a separate \$5.5 billion food aid appeal on behalf of its members. This is the second time in a decade that the El Niño phenomenon has caused a drought after also affecting the 2015/2016 farming season, leaving 40 million people in the region without food. In the case of Zimbabwe, which suffered 80% crop failure, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FewsNet) says many rural communities have resorted to skipping meals as a coping mechanism as food prices have increased substantial-

ly. "Currently, there is an above-normal reliance on markets for staple cereals, mainly maize meal, when most households should be relying on own-produced stocks," the network noted. "Prices range from \$9-\$12 per 17.5 kg bucket of maize, compared to the typical \$3-\$5 per bucket following a good season. There are currently very small to no price differences in surplus- and deficit-producing areas, with prices in some typical deficit areas marginally lower than in typical surplus areas." UNICEF says 7.4 million children in these six southern African countries are living in child food poverty – of which over 2 million are surviving on extremely poor diets that include at most two food groups. The agency says vulnerable children are heavily impacted by climate shocks that dramatically lower the quantity, diversity, and quality of available food thereby negatively affecting the care of children and disrupting access to clean and safe water, exposing children to life-threatening childhood diseases including diarrhoea. "The humanitarian needs children are facing due to El Niño are extremely concerning," said UNICEF regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa, Eteva Kadilli. "Increasing food insecurity and malnutrition, challenges in accessing safe water and sanitation, as well as risks to disease outbreaks such as cholera are a serious threat. Thousands of children are on the brink of being irreversibly impacted in their health and growth because of the climate-related crisis and this warning should not go unheard by the international community."

## Briefs

## PM Shehbaz vows to sacrifice...

FROM PAGE 01 and ensuring financial stability. He urged ministers to eliminate delays in decision-making and to continue efforts to digitise governance, aiming to make all ministries paperless. He concluded by urging the cabinet to work collectively towards a stable Pakistan, reiterating their commitment to sacrifice for the country's future.

## No compromise on Discos'...

FROM PAGE 01 away with the political appointees. He said the newly appointed chairmen and members had great challenges ahead which necessitated working hard day and night to purge the Discos of mismanagement and corruption. He said the power theft had swelled to around annual Rs500 billion mainly due to connivance with the Discos staffers who were also the reason behind destroying the institutions. "This is the greatest challenge for you. The government has made deliberations as to how the system should be improved. You will have to show your best," Prime Minister Shehbaz said. He said that the circular debt had touched Rs2300 billion - almost one-third of the country's total receipts of Rs9 trillion last year. Can a country be run with such a huge burden?" he questioned.

## Pakistan concerned over illicit...

FROM PAGE 01 theft of Californium were also reported in 2021," the FO spokesperson said, adding that five individuals with a radioactive device reportedly stolen from Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) were also found from Dehradun last month. Islamabad also called into question the measures taken by New Delhi for the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive substances, stressing that these incidents also suggest the existence of a black market for sensitive, dual-use materials inside India. After the substance was seized from the smugglers, the Indian authorities informed the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) - the central authority responsible for overseeing nuclear materials in India - to step in for a thorough investigation, given the critical nature of the substance, according to NDTV.

## US rejects involvement in Hasina's..

FROM PAGE 01 White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said at a press briefing. Earlier on Sunday, Hasina accused the US of playing a role in ousting her as they have a keen interest in controlling Bangladesh's Saint Martin Island in the Bay of Bengal, as mentioned in a report in the Economic Times. Additionally, the report highlighted that the former Bangladesh PM conveyed that message through her close associates. Hasina's son, Sajeeb Wazed, wrote in a post on X on Sunday, that her mother never made such statement.

## 'We will force Govt to implement...

FROM PAGE 01 "We are deferring and not ending the sit-in," the JI chief said while warning that they would stage a sit-in again if the government didn't go through with their agreement. The announcement came after the JI delegation led by Liaquat Baloch held multiple rounds of talks with the government team which eventually culminated in an agreement signed by Information Minister Ataullah Tarar and Interior Minister Moshin Naqvi. Continuing on in his presser today, Hafiz Naem fired a broadside at the ruling elite for worsening the law and order situation in the country.

## Maryam presents Rs100m, 'PAK 92.97' car to Nadeem

Punjab CM also gives cheque of Rs5m to javelin star's coach Salman Iqbal Butt as well, lauds him for training



DNA

MIAN CHANNU: In appreciation for the national hero, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday presented a cheque of Rs100 million and key of Honda Civic car with a number plate "PAK 92.97" to Olympian gold medalist Arshad Nadeem. The Punjab chief minister presented the more-than-promised reward to the athlete at his home village in Mian Channu, as the Punjab government had announced Rs100 million for him while the car came as the cherry on top. Not only this, she gave a cheque of Rs5 million to Nadeem's coach Salman Iqbal Butt as well and lauded him for training the athlete. The javelin superstar on August 8 finally ended Pakistan's 40-year-long gold medal drought with a record-breaking 92.97 metres throw, setting a new

world Olympic record. After arriving at the Olympian's home, Maryam embraced his mother Razia Parveen and congratulated her upon her son's once-in-a-lifetime achievement. Then, the CM sat down with the mother and talked at length with her. Family members of the javelin thrower took selfies and pictures with Maryam, while Nadeem reminisced the moments of his Olympic competition. The Punjab CM said he had brought unprecedented happiness to the nation. Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Sports Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar, Special Assistant to CM Zeeshan Malik, MPA Sania Ashiq, and others were also present on this occasion. On the other hand, Nadeem called on celebrated scholar Maulana Tariq Jameel at the Mian Channu Tableeghi Markaz and collected Rs0.5 million as a reward from him.

## England great James Anderson considering white-ball return

"I know it's a while since I played it and my age will get brought up again but I really feel I'll be good enough to play that form of cricket." Anderson added he would make a decision on his future at the end of the summer and he is "not shutting myself off to anything"

LONDON: James Anderson says he is "still fit enough" to continue his cricket career and will consider a move into white-ball cricket. The 42-year-old, the most prolific fast bowler in Test history, announced his retirement from international cricket after England's win against the West Indies at Lord's in July. While Anderson stopped short of announcing his retirement from cricket, his immediate transition into a coaching and mentoring role with England suggested that his playing days were over. But Anderson, who took 704 wickets in 188 Tests, says he is "open" to prolonging his career by playing short-form cricket. "I might be in a bit of denial because I'm well aware I won't play for England again, but I've still not made a decision on my actual cricket career," Anderson said, speaking at the launch of a new campaign by the England and Wales Cricket Board to get more children playing the sport. "There's definitely a bit of intrigue with the shorter formats because I've not played any franchise stuff before. Watching The Hundred this year, seeing the ball swing around, it makes me feel like I could do a job there. "I know it's a while since I played it and my age will get brought up again but I really feel I'll be good enough to play that form of cricket." Anderson added he would make a decision on his future at the end of the summer and he is "not shutting myself off to anything". Anderson's last T20 match was in 2014 as he dedicated the last 10 years of his career to red-ball cricket. England are keen to tap into Anderson's expertise before the 2025 Ashes series in Australia by retaining him in a coaching role. The ECB campaign which Anderson was supporting is encouraging more people to find their way to play, no matter if that is casual cricket at home, in the street, at the local park, at school, or at a local club or community project. - Agencies

## PCB to appoint Akram Cheema as team manager

THE Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to appoint Naveed Akram Cheema as team manager ahead of the two-Test series against Bangladesh, local media reported on Tuesday. Cheema recently served as the team manager on Australia's red-ball tour last year and New Zealand's white-ball tour, where Pakistan suffered defeat. After the series, when Mohsin Naqvi was elected as the Chairman of PCB, Cheema was replaced by Mansoor Rana as the team manager while former pacer Wahab Riaz was named senior team manager. Pakistan suffered a group-stage exit at the T20 World Cup 2024 under the captaincy of Babar Azam as they lost

to the United States and India in the group stage. Following Pakistan's exit from the World Cup, Riaz and Rana were removed from their respective positions and now the Mohsin Naqvi-led board has decided to bring Cheema back. The PCB is expected to announce the team management for the Bangladesh series in the coming days. The two-Test series 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.

Squads: Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Mahmudul Hasan

Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumar Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Tajul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed Pakistan: Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal (subject to Fitness), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraira, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicket-keeper) and Shaheen Shah Afridi.



ISLAMABAD: Arshad Nadeem, Pakistan's Olympic gold medalist, addressing the media at the Islamabad Marriott Hotel. - DNA

## Sri Lanka appoint Ian Bell as batting coach

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka Cricket (SCL) announced former cricketer Ian Bell as their batting coach for the upcoming Test tour of England. The three-Test tour is set to begin on August 21 and will continue till September 10. The Test matches will be played as part of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 and both teams will give their all.

Sri Lanka are placed fourth on the WTC points table with 50 PCT while England are ranked sixth with 36.54 PCT. Bell, 42, played for England from 2004-2015 in 287 international matches including 118 Tests, where he scored 7,727 runs in red-ball cricket

which included 22 hundreds and 46 half-centuries. Bell will begin his coaching career with Sri Lanka on August 16 and will remain with the team until the Test series ends. "We appointed Ian to bring in a person with local knowledge to help the players with key insights on the conditions there. Ian has a lot of experience playing in England, and we believe his input will help our team in this crucial tour," said Ashley De Silva, CEO of SLC.

Sri Lanka Squad: Dhananjaya de Silva (c), Dimuth Karunaratne, Nishan Madushka, Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis (vc), Angelo Mathews, Dinesh

Chandimal, Kamindu Mendis, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Asitha Fernando, Vishwa Fernando, Kasun Rajitha, Lahiru Kumara, Nisala Tharaka, Prathab Jayasuriya, Ramesh Mendis, Jeffrey Vandersay, Milan Rathnayake England squad to face Sri Lanka: Ben Stokes (c), Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Jordan Cox, Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood

Series schedule: First Test: Old Trafford, August 21-25 Second Test: Lord's, August 29-September 2 Third Test: The Oval, September 6-10.

## Federer reveals favourite match of his career

PARIS: Legendary tennis star Roger Federer revealed that his five-set victory against Pete Sampras at the 2011 Wimbledon was the "favourite match of his career". Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam winner, stated that it was the first time he cried after winning before labelling the match "perfect". A 19-year-old Federer stunned Sampras 7-6(7), 5-7, 6-4, 6-7(2), 7-5 in a classic encounter that ended the latter's 31-match win streak at Wimbledon. Federer made his way to the 2001 Wimbledon quarter-final after his win against the then-world No. 1 for the first time but he was beaten by Tin Henman there. In an interview with Vogue, Federer, who has the most Wimbledon titles, revealed that his only contest with Sampras as his favourite. "I don't know the date, per se - it's not ingrained in my brain - but that match against Sampras is my favourite match of all time," said the former world No 1. - Agencies

## Ponting backs Gillespie to succeed with Pakistan

The Australian great was recently appointed as Pakistan's Test coach

SPORTS DESK

SYDNEY: Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting backed Jason Gillespie's appointment as Pakistan's Test coach saying that his record has been very good as a coach at every team he worked. Gillespie was appointed as Pakistan's red-ball coach before the T20 World Cup 2024 and the upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh will be his first assignment as the coach. Ponting, who led Australia to two World Cup glories, compared Gillespie with India's head coach Gautam Gambhir before adding that the Aussie will have some challenges with the Pakistan cricket team. "Jason Gillespie is a bit like Gautam Gambhir. Pretty much everywhere he has been, his coaching record has been very, very good. He will have some challenges I got no doubt about it. But he is a deep thinker and as I said, a quiet person that goes about it in his own way," Ponting said. "We've got a few WhatsApp groups over the years, all of our old guys that have played together. So

everyone's congratulated him (Gillespie) and wished him luck in that role." He then added that the changes in Pakistan's coaching setup were not surprising following their abysmal T20 World Cup campaign where the Babar Azam-led unit

suffered a group-stage exit for the first time in the tournament's history. "And look, to be honest, I am not surprised at all by the amount of changes in that group. I know it is a different format but they had a very disappointing T20 World

Cup. If you are not willing to make some changes, you're expecting similar results to come your way," he added. SQUADS: Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumar Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Tajul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed.

Pakistan: Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal (subject to Fitness), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraira, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wicket-keeper) and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

Series schedule: 1st Test: August 21 - 25 @ Pindi Cricket Stadium. 2nd Test: August 30 - 4 September @ National Bank Stadium.



## Opp mulls joint strategy...

FROM PAGE 01 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Barrister Gohar and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan attended the meeting. Members of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal and the Jamaat-e-Islami also took part in the meeting. According to sources, terms of reference for joint strategy of the opposition were discussed. Sources said the participants unanimously agreed that the government was unable to control inflation, lawlessness and economy. PTI leader Asad Qaiser told reporters that Maulana Fazl was also ready to join forces with the opposition to give a tough time to the government.

## Imran demands judicial...

FROM PAGE 01 the disillusionment among the youth, and the deteriorating conditions in Pakistan, comparing them unfavourably with those in Bangladesh. He added that Khan believed it was time for Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa to step back, highlighting that PTI's three seats were allegedly taken away the previous day. Regarding Gen Faiz's arrest, Panjutha quoted Khan as saying it was purely a military matter, with no links to PTI.

## Bilawal urges Sindh govt to...

FROM PAGE 01 must be eradicated without hesitation. Bilawal met with Sindh PPP President Nisar Khuroo, Provincial Minister for Anti-Corruption Muhammad Bakhs Khan Mahar, and other officials at Bilawal House in Karachi on Tuesday. According to the party's statement, Nisar Khuroo briefed the PPP chairman on the political and organisational situation in Sindh and provided details on the performance of various institutions after assuming the chairmanship of the Public Accounts Committee in the Sindh Assembly.

## Visa fee for 126 countries...

FROM PAGE 01 Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would launch the new visa policy tonight which would allow 126 countries' residents to visit Pakistan in hassle-free manner. The new visa policy which is aimed at simplifying the visa process would come into effect tonight," Tarar said. According to him, the nationals of these countries would get their visas within 10 minutes after filling an online form which had only 30 questions. "The visa would be valid for 3 months and could be renewed in no time," he added.

## Govt splits CAA into...

FROM PAGE 01 part of the PCAA and the departments comprising flight standard, pilot licensing, aerodrome airspace, airworthiness, air transport and aeromedical will too be part of the aviation authority. The Ministry of Aviation has announced establishment of the PAA and BASI in separate notifications dated August 9, 2024. It should be noted that the federal government had received a bill pertaining to the PCAA, PAA and BASI passed from the parliament in 2023.

## Govt decides...

FROM PAGE 01 renewal in any city. Furthermore, the applicants would also be enabled to submit passport fee of all categories at a branch of the national Bank of Pakistan (NBP). The Ministry of Interior has issued the summary for amendment in the passport rules to the federal cabinet for approval. The Government of Pakistan issues passport to its bonafide citizens to facilitate their journey and provide them protection while travelling in foreign countries through the good offices of Pakistan Diplomatic Missions.

## Briefs

X faces  
Austrian  
complaint  
over  
AI data use

SYDNEY : Austrian advocacy group NOYB on Monday filed a complaint against social media platform X accusing the Elon Musk-owned company of training its artificial intelligence (AI) with users' personal data without their consent in violation of EU privacy law. The group led by privacy activist Max Schrems announced that it had filed General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) complaints with authorities in nine European Union countries to ramp up pressure on the Irish data protection authority DPC. Ireland's Data Protection Commission, the lead EU regulator for most of the top US internet firms due to the location of their EU operations in the country, has sought an order to suspend or restrict X from processing the data of users for the purposes of developing, training or refining its AI systems. X has agreed not to train its AI systems for now using personal data collected from EU users before they had the option to withdraw their consent, an Irish court heard last week. However, NOYB said the DPC complaint is mainly concerned with mitigation measures and a lack of cooperation by X, and does not question the legality of the data processing itself.—APP

Crews battle  
scattered fires  
in Athens  
suburbs

ATHENS: Firefighters in Greece battled scattered fires as Tuesday broke, hoping to contain the remains of a major wildfire that burned into the northern suburbs of Athens, triggering multiple evacuations and leaving at least one person dead. With strong winds that had fanned the flames on Sunday and Monday dying down overnight, the fire department said the fire no longer had any active, advancing fronts and firefighters were concentrating their efforts on extinguishing the flames in hundreds of slow-burning areas. Reinforcements of water-dropping aircraft and firefighters were expected to arrive from other countries after Greece requested assistance from Europe's joint disaster response mechanism. Authorities were racing to extinguish as much of the blaze as possible ahead of Tuesday afternoon, when winds were predicted to pick up again, with a forecast of gusts reaching up to 60-70 kilometers (37-43 miles) per hour. Helicopters, planes and hundreds of firefighters and vehicles were arriving from France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Türkiye, Serbia and Romania. Türkiye's Agriculture and Forestry Minister Ibrahim Yumaklı said two firefighting planes and one helicopter had taken off Tuesday morning headed to Greece.—DNA

Indian's  
doctors protest  
against alleged  
rape

KOLKATA: Hospital services were disrupted in several Indian cities on Tuesday, after the nationwide spread of a doctors' protest against the alleged rape and murder of a 31-year-old doctor in the eastern city of Kolkata, authorities and media said. Television images showed thousands of doctors marching on Monday to protest the incident at a government-run hospital, calling for justice for the victim and better security measures, paralyzing health services in West Bengal state. The protest rippled nationwide on Tuesday, joined by more than 8,000 government doctors in the western Maharashtra state, home to the financial capital of Mumbai, halting work in all hospital departments except emergency services, media said. In the capital, New Delhi, junior doctors wearing white coats held posters that read, "Doctors are not punching bags," as they sat in protest outside a large government hospital to demand an investigation, Reuters Television images showed.—APP

## Putin tells Abbas 'concerned' about Palestinian civilian toll

Russian President Vladimir Putin also said that We are doing everything ... to support Palestine and the Palestinian people

## NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday told Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas that Moscow was "concerned" about civilian deaths in Gaza. "We are concerned above all about civilian losses," Putin said, according to images shown on Russian state television. "We are doing everything ... to support Palestine and the Palestinian people," he said. The only way to create "long-lasting, reliable, stable peace in the region" is implementation of all UN resolutions and the "creation of a fully-fledged Palestinian state," he added. Abbas told Putin: "We feel that Russia is one of the dearest friends of the Palestinian people." The leaders held talks after a weekend strike on a Gaza school building left at least 93 people dead, including 11 children, according to the Gaza civil defense agency. Israel's military said the raid had "eliminated" 31 militants. Moscow for years tried to balance relations with all major players in the Middle East — including Israel and the Palestinians. But since the Israel-Hamas war and Russia's own offensive on Ukraine, Putin has moved closer to Israel's foes, Ha-



mas and Iran.

The Gaza war began with the Hamas October 7 attack on Israel which resulted in the deaths of

1,198 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures. Israel's military offensive in Gaza has killed

at least 39,929 people, according to a toll from the territory's health ministry, which does not provide a breakdown of civilian

and militant deaths. The Kremlin has repeatedly criticized Israel's response to the October 7 attacks and called for restraint.

## UN chief welcomes efforts for Bangladesh elections

Antonio Guterres urges interim government in coming weeks to continue to make every effort to be inclusive, official says

## FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomes efforts to restore calm and organize parliamentary elections in Bangladesh, his deputy spokesman said Monday. "He urges the interim government in the coming weeks to continue to make every effort to be inclusive, including by taking into account the voices of women, youth and people across the country, as well as that of minority and indigenous communities, as the country moves towards parliamentary elections," Farhan Haq said in a statement. Guterres stands in full solidarity with the people of Bangladesh and calls for the full respect of their human rights, Haq said, adding he continues to underscore the need for a "full, independent, impartial and transparent" investigation into all acts of violence. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took the oath of office last week to lead a 17-member

transitional administration in Bangladesh. It came after weeks of protests which led to the fall of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government. Bangladesh had witnessed large-scale student protests against controversial civil service job quotas since July that killed more than 400. Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Monday over "cracks" in the Security Council's foundation contributing to ongoing crises and "a broader crisis of credibility and legitimacy" in multilateralism. Emphasizing the urgent need to reform the Council with African representation, Guterres told a Security Council session that "since 1945, the United Nations Security Council has been a bedrock of global peace and security, but the cracks in its foundation are becoming too large to ignore." "They are contributing to deadlock, stalemate and stagnation around today's most pressing crises. They are feeding a broader crisis of credibility and legiti-

imacy that is affecting multilateralism itself," he added. Noting that the Council "was designed by the victors of the Second World War and reflects the power structures of that time," Guterres said the world has changed significantly since 1945 and the composition of the Council has not kept pace. "In 1945, most of today's African countries were still under colonial rule and had no voice in international affairs," he said. This, he argued, has led to a "glaring omission" that remains unresolved: the lack of a permanent member representing Africa on the Security Council. Guterres emphasized the importance of Africa's role in global peace and security, adding that nearly half of all country-specific or regional conflicts on the Council's agenda concern Africa. "Africa is underrepresented in global governance structures, from the Security Council to international financial institutions, but overrepresented in the very challenges these structures

are designed to address. Conflicts, emergencies and geopolitical divisions have an outsized impact on the African continent," he said. Acknowledging Africa's significant contributions to UN peacekeeping, with over 40% of UN peacekeepers being African, Guterres called for democratizing the Council's working methods, including more systematic consultations with host states and regional organizations. He urged all member states to participate in the upcoming Summit of the Future, insisting that "African voices, African insights and African participation must be brought to bear across the Council's deliberations and actions." The Council session comes after Sierra Leone, the president of the Council for August, organized a high-level debate titled "Maintenance of international peace and security: addressing the historical injustice and enhancing Africa's effective representation on the Security Council."

## N. Korea warns against regional military expansion

PYONGYANG: North Korea on Tuesday warned of a "strong counteraction" against what it called "reckless expansion of the military bloc system" in the region. "The reckless expansion of the military bloc system based on the US nuclear weapons that wrecks the balance of force in the region is bound to invite strong counteraction of independent states possessed of nuclear weapons," state-run KCNA said in a report. It added that the tripartite security cooperation with the US has "only made the peoples" of Japan and South Korea "cannon fodder of nuclear war, rather than giving benefits to the two states," it said. Pyongyang was responding to a joint article by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, and national security adviser Jake Sullivan, who touted "unprecedented" trilateral cooperation with Seoul and Tokyo. According to Pyongyang, the trumpeting of the "nuclear threat" posed by North Korea "is an inevitable result" of the US' "deep-rooted hostile policy." "As recognized by the international community, it is the US that compelled the DPRK (North Korea) to have access to nuclear weapons and it is none other than the successive US administrations that have pushed the DPRK into bolstering its nuclear war deterrence," it added. Pyongyang's statement came as US forces deployed in South Korea held live-fire drills near the border with North Korea last week. The drills were designed to "check its readiness to swiftly deploy from the US mainland." Last week, North Korea also slammed Germany's joining the US-led UN Command as an "Asian version of NATO." The UN Command was established on July 24, 1950 following the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25, 1950, with China on the side of North Korea. The war ended in 1953 in armistice, after which the US deployed around 28,500 soldiers in South Korea. It is headquartered in the US Army Garrison Humphreys in South Korea. Besides South Korea, its members include the US, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, and Türkiye, which also fought in the Korean War, with hundreds of Turkish soldiers giving their lives. Germany joined the command last Friday.—APP

## Zambia, DRC agree to reopen borders Tuesday

LUSAKA: Zambia agreed with the Democratic Republic of Congo that three border gates connecting them would be reopened Tuesday following their closure over the weekend. Delegations led by trade ministers from the two countries held talks Monday in Kinshasa, Congo's capital. The talks convened after Zambia announced the closure of the Kasumbalesa, Mokambo and Sakania borders Sunday due to protests over a ban on imports of beverages and lime by its neighbor. "The two countries further agreed to respect the rules governing trade as supported by regional bodies and the World Trade Organization," said a communique following the talks by Zambia's Commerce, Trade and Industry Permanent Secretary Lillian Bwalya. The communique was signed by Zambia's Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister Chipoka Mulenga and his Congolese counterpart Julien Paluku Kahongya, with Mulenga expressing happiness that Zambian products would enter Congo without any restrictions. Paluku said the two countries had further agreed that all the goods in transit should be cleared within 30 days. Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo share a longstanding trade partnership in the region, dealing in various commodities, including beverages and lime. Earlier on Monday, Zambia Association of Manufacturers President Ashu Saga expressed concern over the ban on imports of the commodities by Congo from Zambia, calling for the two states to address the underlying issues that led to the ban.—Agencies

## Tanzania's opposition leaders freed on bail

LONDON: Senior leaders of Tanzania's main opposition Chadema party - including its chairman Freeman Mbowe and his deputy Tundu Lissu - have been released on bail, after they were detained ahead of a youth rally. About 520 people were arrested in a nationwide crackdown to prevent Chadema from holding a parade through the south-western town of Mbeya on Monday. Police said some of them remained in custody as they had failed to meet the requirements for bail. The arrests raised fears that Tanzania was returning to the repressive rule of late President John Magufuli, despite his successor Samia Hassan lifting a ban on opposition gatherings and promising to restore competitive politics. Police banned the Chadema rally, saying it was intended to cause violence. They cited the party's rallying call for people to come together like the "youth in Kenya" - apparently referring to the weeks of deadly anti-government demonstrations in the neighbouring East African country.—APP

## Meta welcomes Turkiye lifting access ban on Instagram

ANKARA: Instagram parent Meta said on Tuesday that the company welcomed Turkiye's reopening of access to the social media platform and said it continued to remain in dialogue with Turkish authorities for violating content and accounts. "We are pleased to see that Instagram is back up and running in Turkiye. We remain in dialogue with the authorities and will continue to take action on any violating content and accounts," the spokesperson said in a statement. Turkiye blocks access to Instagram "This includes removing content that violates our Dangerous Organizations & Individuals policy and applying newsworthiness allowances where appropriate."—APP

## Pelosi slams Keating for saying Taiwan is Chinese territory

WASHINGTON: Former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are taking jabs at each other over Taiwan after the latter criticized Keating's recent comments regarding its status. The controversy began when Pelosi, during an interview with Australia's ABC network, condemned Keating's description of Taiwan as "Chinese real estate," calling it a "stupid statement." Pelosi emphasized that Taiwan was a democracy governed by its people and not just a territory of China. "Taiwan is Taiwan," she said. It is noteworthy that the US, as per agreements with China, must abide by the One-China Principle, in accordance with which the People's Republic of China is seen as the sole representative of China and the Chinese people, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. "I've no idea about Keating, but I think that it was a stupid statement to make, and I don't know what his connection is to China that he would say such a thing," Pelosi added.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Netherlands to Pakistan, Henny Fokel de Vries called on Federal Minister for Privatization, Board of Investment and Communications Abdul Aleem Khan.—DNA

## Ukraine urges Russia to accept 'just peace' amid incursion

Ukrainian forces entered Russia's Kursk region last Tuesday, taking over two dozen settlements in the biggest attack by a foreign army on Russian soil since World War II

## FOREIGN DESK

KYIV: Ukraine said Tuesday it would not hold on to Russian territory captured in its surprise cross-border incursion and offered to stop raids if Moscow agreed a "just peace." Ukrainian forces entered Russia's Kursk region last Tuesday, taking over two dozen settlements in the biggest attack by a foreign army on Russian soil since World War II. Russia said Tuesday it had fended off new attacks in Kursk. More than 120,000 people have fled the area and Ukraine's military chief Oleksandr Syrsky said Monday that his troops controlled about 1,000 square kilometers of Russian territory.

At least 800 square kilometers was under Ukrainian control as of Monday, according to an AFP analysis of data from the US-based Institute for the Study of War. Foreign ministry spokesman Georgiy Tykhy on Tuesday said Kyiv was not interested in "taking over" Russian territory and defended Ukraine's actions as "absolutely legitimate." "The sooner Russia agrees to restore a just peace... the sooner the raids by the Ukrainian defenses forces into Russia will stop," he told reporters. Ukraine meanwhile said it was imposing movement restrictions in a 20-kilometer zone in Sumy region along the border with Kursk region due to an "increase in the intensity of hostilities" and

"sabotage" activities. Russia's defense ministry said it had "foiled" new Ukrainian attacks in Kursk by "enemy mobile groups in armored vehicles to break through deep into Russian territory." Alexander Bortnikov, head of Russia's FSB security service, also said in a statement that Ukraine had carried out the attack "with the support of the collective West." "Since launching its invasion in February 2022, Russia has captured territory in southern and eastern Ukraine and subjected Ukrainian cities to missile and drone barrages. Ukraine's offensive was the biggest cross-border action since the invasion and it caught Russia off guard. "They didn't protect the border," a Ukrainian ser-

viceman who took part in the offensive and identified himself as Ruzhnyk told AFP in Sumy region. "They only had anti-personnel mines scattered around trees at the side of the road and a few mines that they managed to quickly throw along the highways," he said. A 27-year-old squad leader, who identified himself as Faraon, was sparing but direct in his description of battles in Kursk. "I saw a lot of death in the first few days. It was terrifying at first but then we got used to it," he told AFP. "There have been many deaths," he repeated standing next to a forest road leading to the frontier, without elaborating. Ukrainian military analyst Mykola Bielieskov told AFP: "Russian complac-

cy prevailed." "Russia assumed that since it had initiative elsewhere, Ukraine wouldn't dare to do things we've seen," he said, referring to months of Russian advances along the front. ISW figures also showed that Russian troops had captured 1,360 square kilometers of Ukrainian territory since the start of 2024. Russian President Vladimir Putin has vowed to "dislodge" Ukrainian troops. Putin told a televised meeting with officials on Monday that "one of the obvious goals of the enemy is to sow discord" and "destroy the unity and cohesion of Russian society." Putin also said Ukraine wanted to "improve its negotiating position" for any future talks with Moscow.

Regional governor Alexei Smirnov told the same meeting that Ukrainian forces had entered at least 12 kilometers into the region and the new front was now 40 kilometers wide. Russia had conceded earlier that Ukrainian forces had penetrated up to 30 kilometers (20 miles) into Russian territory in places. A Ukrainian security official told AFP, on condition of anonymity, that Ukraine sought to "stretch the positions of the enemy, to inflict maximum losses and to destabilize the situation in Russia as they are unable to protect their own border." The Ukrainian official said thousands of Ukrainian troops were involved in the operation.

## Briefs

### One killed, six injured in Quetta blast

QUETTA: One person was killed and six were seriously injured following a bomb blast that took place at the China market near the city's Liaquat Bazaar. The police have started the investigation of the incident which was so severe in lethality that even the nearby buildings were shaken. The rescue operation started shortly and the injured had been shifted to the civil hospital. Meanwhile, the security forces cordoned off the area and the investigation team had also started collecting evidence from the site. - DNA

### IHC grants protective bail to Sanam

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has granted protective bail to PTI activist Sanam Javed, preventing her arrest by the police. Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the bail application, with Sanam Javed appearing before the court alongside her lawyer, Ahad Khokhar. During the hearing, Javed's lawyer informed the court that there was a pending case in Mianwali and a risk of arrest, requesting the court to grant protective bail to allow Javed to present herself in the relevant court. The court approved a one-week protective bail and issued an order prohibiting the police from making an arrest. Additionally, the Islamabad High Court directed Sanam Javed to appear before the relevant court within the week.

### Saif lambasts Punjab CM Maryam

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Saif said on Tuesday Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was trying to give religious touch to her fake government. Reacting to Punjab CM's statement of running Punjab in line with Hazrat Umar's teachings, Saif said Maryam Nawaz stood first in making hollow claims. He asked the CM to form a government on actual mandate instead of Form 47. He said Hazrat Umar's rule was premised on rule of law and justice whereas the Punjab government was committing travesty of justice. "The Sharif family is responsible for the Model Town massacre where women were murdered as a result of indiscriminate firing on them. The Sharif family is corrupt," he said.

### Bangladesh court opens murder case against Sheikh Hasina

DHAKA: A court in Bangladesh opened Tuesday a murder investigation into ousted ex-premier Sheikh Hasina and six top figures in her administration over the police killing of a man during civil unrest last month. Hasina, 76, fled by helicopter a week ago to neighbouring India as protesters flooded Dhaka's streets in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted tenure. "A case has been filed against Sheikh Hasina and six more," said Mamun Mia, a lawyer who brought the case on behalf of a private citizen. He added that the Dhaka Metropolitan Court had ordered police to accept "the murder case against the accused persons", the first step in a criminal investigation under Bangladeshi law. Mia's filing with the court also named Hasina's former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan and Obaidul Quader, the general secretary of Hasina's Awami League party. In addition it named four top police officers appointed by Hasina's government who have since vacated their posts, including former police inspector general Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun. - Agencies

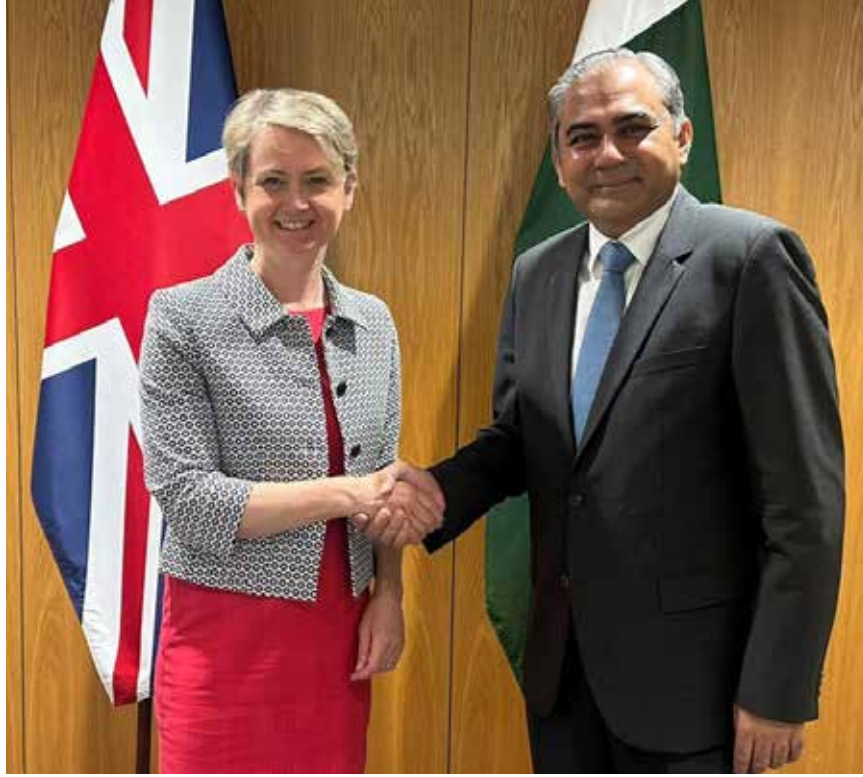
# Pakistan, UK to lay focus on curbing illegal immigration

## Mohsin Naqvi holds talks with UK Home Secretary, expresses eagerness for Pakistani police officers to receive training in UK

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi called on UK Home Secretary Ms Yvette Cooper during his visit to the United Kingdom and discussed a raft of issues related to immigration control and legal assistance in criminal cases. Mohsin Naqvi congratulated Ms Cooper on assuming her new role and extended his best wishes. The meeting focused on key issues of mutual inter-

est, including legal assistance in criminal cases, effective border management, and measures to curb illegal immigration. The discussion between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Home Secretary Yvette Cooper also covered the training of Pakistani police officers in the UK. Naqvi expressed his enthusiasm for this opportunity and welcomed the UK's support. He emphasised the importance of enhancing cooperation to tackle illegal immigration, stating that both developed and developing countries must work together on this issue. Naqvi highlighted Pakistan's desire to strengthen collaboration with the UK in border management, legal assistance in criminal cases, and combating illegal immigration. He also stated that there should be no leniency for those who incite violence through social media, condemning such actions as unacceptable. In response, the UK Home Secretary assured continued cooperation with Pakistan across various sectors. Mohsin Naqvi extended an invitation to Cooper to visit Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Pakistan's High Commissioner to the UK, Dr Muhammad Faisal, and senior officials from the UK Home Office.



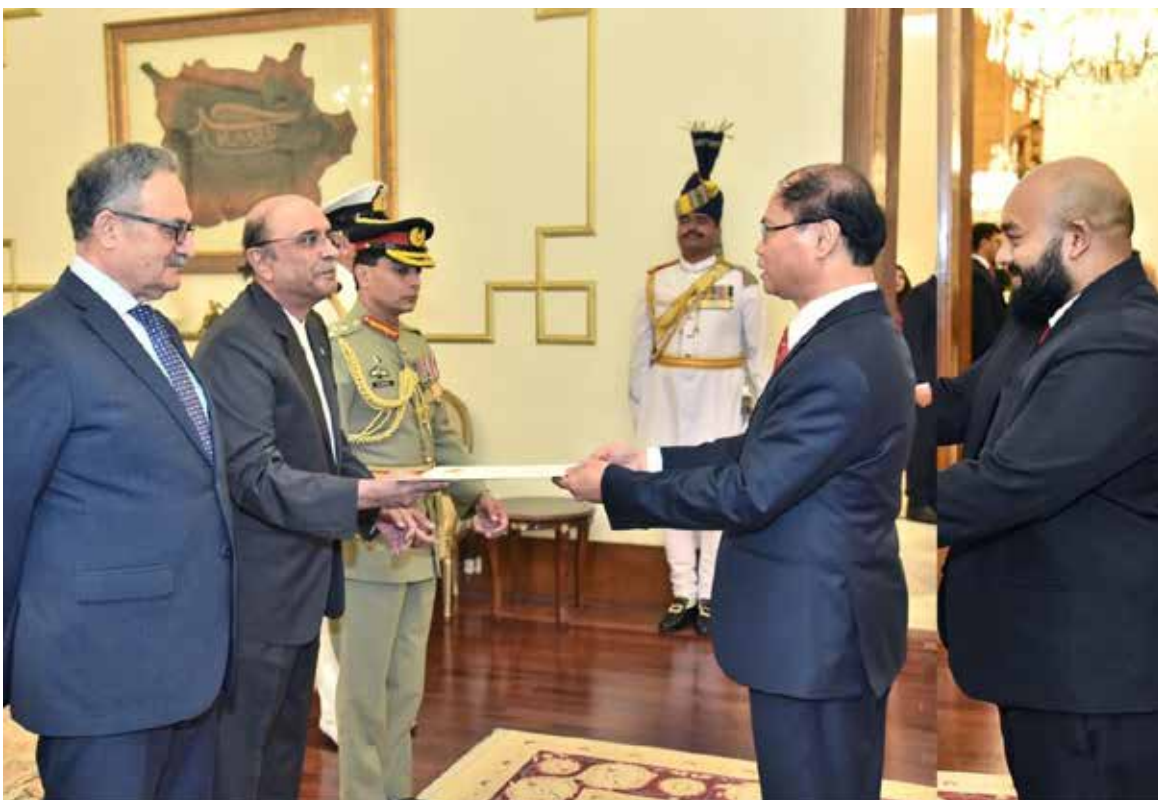
# Kabul investigating alleged airspace violation by Pakistan

## Taliban say Afghanistan will take serious action if reports of Pakistani fighter jets in its airspace are verified

DNA

KARACHI: Afghanistan said on Tuesday that it is investigating reports of Pakistani fighter jets violating Afghan airspace while patrolling. Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesperson for the interim Afghan government, said Kabul will respond "seriously" if Afghanistan's airspace is violated, the local broadcaster Tolo News reported. "The patrolling of Pakistani aircraft has not yet been confirmed," the broadcaster quoted Mujahid as saying: "We are investigating this matter, and if such a thing has happened, we will take serious action." The statement came on the heels of the latest clash between Pakistani and Afghan border forces along the northwestern Torkham border on Monday that caused a brief closure of the key crossing. The Torkham border, which connects Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, reopened on Tuesday following a "flag meeting" between the two sides, a Pakistani security official told Anadolu on condition of anonymity. Mujahid's reaction came in response to unconfirmed reports of Pakistani fighter jets patrolling the airspace of Nangarhar and neighbouring Kunar province. Islamabad accuses "Afghan-based" Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan militants of carrying out militant attacks inside Pakistan, while Kabul denies the allegation that such attacks are launched from its soil. In response to militant attacks, Defense Minister Khawaja Asif in June had threatened to launch cross-border strikes to elim-

inate the militants. No country has the right to violate Afghanistan's airspace, Mujahid added. Separately, Afghanistan's Interior Ministry said two border outposts on the other side of the "hypothetical Durand Line" were destroyed during clashes between Afghan and Pakistani forces. Abdul Matin Qani, spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, claimed in a post on X on Tuesday that Pakistani forces targeted civilian homes, killing a woman and two children. He claimed that Pakistani forces opened fire on Afghan border forces on Monday in the Ghoriki area near the "Durand Line" in Torkham, prompting a response from the Afghan side. Islamabad did not immediately respond to Kabul's allegations. When Anadolu contacted Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mumtaz Zahra Baloch for comment, she did not respond. Sporadic clashes between troops at the Pakistan-Afghan border have been ongoing for a long time, with no respite even after the Taliban took power in the war-torn country in August 2021. Pakistan shares 18 border crossing points with landlocked Afghanistan, the busiest of which are Torkham and Chaman in Balochistan. Afghanistan does not recognise the Durand Line - the de facto border between the two countries - on the grounds that it was created by a British colonial "to divide ethnic Pashtuns." However, Islamabad maintains that the Durand Line is a permanent border between the two neighbouring countries. The 2,640-kilometer-long (1,640-mile) border was established in 1893 in line with an agreement between India under British colonial rule and Abdur Rahman Khan, the then-ruler of Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Vietnam Amb. Pham Anh Tuan and High Commissioner of Maldives Mr. Uz. Mohamed Thoha presenting their credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari. - DNA

# West's support for Israel jeopardizes regional security

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has censured certain international bodies for their silence vis-à-vis the unprecedented Israeli crimes as well as Western states' support for the Tel Aviv regime, saying the practices encourage further perpetration of atrocities and jeopardize regional and international security. Pezeshkian made the comments in a phone call with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday evening, as the two sides exchanged views on how to establish peace and stability in West Asia and elsewhere in the world, and discussed ways to improve mutual ties between the two nations. "The silence of international bodies towards the unprecedented and inhumane crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza and the terrorist acts of the regime in the region, in addition to certain European countries' support for the entity are irresponsible and in violation of international regulations," the Iranian president said. He noted that such practices have emboldened the Zionist regime to continue its crimes, and have threatened regional and international peace and security. Pezeshkian emphasized that while the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that war is not in anyone's interest, it views punitive response to aggression as the legitimate right of world states and a proper mechanism to stop atrocities and brutalities. The Iranian president also welcomed expansion of bilateral relations between Tehran and London and resumption of talks on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal - officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), stressing that all parties must comply with their obligations in order for the negotiations to yield favorable results. Iran has emphasized its "recognized right" to defend national sovereignty and create deterrence against Israel as the source of terrorism in the region, saying the country "does not seek permission from anyone" on the matter. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani made the remarks on Tuesday.

# Hundreds die in Pakistan, India, Nepal's devastating monsoon

NEW DELHI: Torrential storms lashing South Asia have killed hundreds of people since June, official data showed Tuesday, with flooding and landslides causing widespread devastation during the treacherous monsoon season. Weather-related disasters are common during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity. The deaths include at least 250 in India, 171 in Nepal and 178 in Pakistan, according to official data in each country. In India, just months after the country baked in its longest-ever heatwave, according to government weather experts, ferocious rainstorms have triggered widespread flooding and landslides. The crushing heatwave in May and June saw temperatures in New Delhi match the capital's previous record high: 49.2C (120.5F) clocked in 2022. Now the heat has been replaced by rains. India's weather department this week warned of "heavy rainfall" over much of the south and northeastern states. - Agencies

# PN C&SC reviews maritime situation

ISLAMABAD: Command and Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy concluded here on Tuesday at Naval Headquarters chaired by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf that reviewed maritime situation in North Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden and deliberated on measures for safety and security of national sea trade passing through the region. During the conference, matters related to geo strategic milieu, national security, operational preparedness, training and welfare of troops were reviewed. Comprehensive briefing on important on-going and future developmental projects of Pakistan Navy was also given to Chief of the Naval Staff, a Pakistan Navy news release said. The Naval Chief expressed confidence over combat readiness and significant contribution of the Navy in maritime domain. Chief of the Naval Staff emphasized on strengthening maritime security and maintaining combat readiness. - DNA

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